

Three Realms 801

Chapter 801: Long Xiaoxuan's Human Form

The Coiling Dragon Clan had no need to fear retaliation from the Murong Clan when they had sufficient evidence. Young master Ji San's face was quite calm as he looked on as those from the Murong Clan left with resentful expressions. Only when they disappeared did Ji San address Jiang Chen, "Brother, I almost arrived too late. This Murong Clan are in-laws to the Majestic Clan and have always been their faithful allies. You'll have to be wary of them in the future. This Murong Qiu is a petty and lecherous character."

At this, young master Ji San glanced momentarily at Huang'er as a subtle warning. He had seen Huang'er before and naturally knew who was behind the mask. Jiang Chen flashed a wide grin. "Brother Ji, I owe you again this time."

"There's not need for such words between us." Young master Ji San waved his hands as he looked towards the formation bound area, "Brother, did that bastard disturb your cultivation?"

Jiang Chen laughed, "It's no big deal."

Young master Ji San nodded, "I still don't feel at ease. I'll have Captain Mo station his men within fifty kilometers. That way they can avoid disturbing your cultivation, but will still be able to reach you if any untoward situation arises."

Jiang Chen truly hadn't expected to be disturbed at such a remote place either. He looked towards Captain Mo. "Captain Mo, I'll have to trouble you then."

Captain Mo laughed expansively, "This is within Ole Mo's scope of duty. Please rest assured, Pill King Zhen. I won't even let a fly enter within fifty kilometers of you."

It wasn't simple bragging when a sixth rank emperor realm cultivator gave such a promise. Young master Ji San remarked, "Brother, Murong Qiu will definitely make a malicious report when he returns. I'll have to go back and make some arrangements to counter him. Although I don't particularly fear him, some preparations are necessary for the upcoming battle. We will have to take the initiative in order to avoid a passive defense."

It wasn't the Coiling Dragon Clan's style to wait passively for the enemy to arrive. It had to exert dominance in every battle as the top clan, charging offensively and demonstrating the Coiling Dragon's ferocity! Passive defense wasn't ferocious at all!

"Brother Ji, Captain Zhang is truly loyal and worthy of an important position." Jiang Chen glanced at Captain Zhang momentarily.

Young master Ji San had also noticed Captain Zhang's abilities and responded with a smiling nod. "True gold truly does stand the test of fire. Ole Zhang, I trust your talents, since even Pill King Zhen has praised you. Come see me at the clan manor after all this."

As honest and straightforward as Captain Zhang was, he still understood that the young master was hinting at a promotion and hurriedly bowed. "This subordinate understands." He then cupped his fists towards Jiang Chen. "Many thanks for Pill King Zhen's high regards."

Jiang Chen laughed in reply—he admired this Captain Zhang quite a bit—the Coiling Dragon Clan would be as sturdy as a steel plate if all its subordinates were like this captain. The Majestic Clan would then be hard pressed to overtake the Coiling Dragon Clan even if they upped their aggressiveness.

Jiang Chen's rhythm was largely unaffected by this momentary disturbance. The formation was still in perfect condition and Long Xiaoxuan's breakthrough remained unaffected.

Long Xiaoxuan broke through after three more days. It was fortunate that Jiang Chen had set up a formation to conceal the enormous amount of untamed energy released from such a breakthrough. But even with such precautionary measures in place, Captain Mo was still able to detect some wild tremors, which greatly alarmed him. However, he understood his role very well. He knew what he was responsible for, what he should be doing and what he shouldn't do. Thus he kept to his own post despite his curiosity and refrained from going over to investigate. But he was inwardly puzzled, "Pill King Zhen was not only a talent in pill dao but also outstanding in martial dao? What level of breakthrough did he achieve to produce such powerful waves of energy?"

Captain Mo was full of questions. According to his observations, Pill King Zhen should only be in the sage realm. But a sage realm breakthrough shouldn't have generated such a powerful pressure.

Jiang Chen knew Long Xiaoxuan's breakthrough had been successful when he noticed the disturbances within the formation. He entered and found the post-breakthrough Long Xiaoxuan. The scales on his whole body were glistening brightly and he was enshrouded by a mysterious radiance. He appeared mysterious and dignified, with ancient dragon runes crawling lazily across his scaled armor. Long Xiaoxuan's body had evidently grown stronger.

"Brother Long, congratulations on your advancement!" Jiang Chen sincerely gave his regards.

Long Xiaoxuan appeared to be in great spirits after breaking through. His body flashed as a number of mysterious lights shot towards Jiang Chen. "This is for you."

Jiang Chen caught them and found them to be dragon crystals. These crystals were not on the same level as those from before. They'd undergone substantial upgrades and shone with alluring luster.

"You did very well as my protector this time. These crystals are the first few that I produced after my breakthrough and are the most valuable of all. Consider this as a token of my gratitude." Long Xiaoxuan was the same as ever; cold in appearance but friendly and passionate inside.

Jiang Chen laughed and accepted them without being overly polite. "Well, it seems I received a valuable prize without doing much."

These dragon crystals would definitely raise his cultivation efficiency. It was hard enough to find one dragon crystal, not to mention so many. Many dragon descendents could secrete dragon crystals, but the dragon blood within normal descendents was too diluted. Their dragon crystals were all appearance and not much use. Only crystals produced by one of true dragon blood would contain such rich spirit energy. Long Xiaoxuan's dragon blood was incomparably pure and was virtually free of impurities. These were priceless treasures.

His dragon crystals, especially the ones he'd produced during his emperor realm breakthrough, were the absolute best. They can easily produce ten times the result when used for a sage realm breakthrough. One day of cultivation would equal ten.

"Brother Long, you should now be able to use the true dragon transformation arts now that you've broken through to the emperor realm." Jiang Chen smiled at Long Xiaoxuan with great anticipation.

Long Xiaoxuan's body suddenly shone bright, filling the whole area with dazzling radiance akin to the sparkling of the waves in the sun before fading into nothingness. A strand of mist descended to the ground and revealed a Long Xiaoxuan who'd transformed into a youth clad in black robes. His complexion was somewhat pale and almost translucent, the veiny patterns beneath his skin vaguely visible. But his sharply contoured features and, his somewhat cold and aloof demeanor both pointed towards his identity. He possessed a certain grave and solemn elegance.

Jiang Chen and Huang'er glanced at each other and nodded delightfully. This transformed appearance was apparently quite similar to what they'd imagined. A gentle appearance coupled with his proud and untamed facial features bestowed a rather unique temperament upon him.

"A faint draconic aura still lingers around you, but many cultivators who refine dragon blood have a similar air around them. It can even be said that they actively release such an aura to show their outstanding qualities. Brother Long, congratulations. From now on you can boldly appear in public." Jiang Chen truly felt happy for Long Xiaoxuan.

Long Xiaoxuan replied slowly, his mastery of the human tongue not perfect enough to hide an accent. "My transformation has yet to reach perfection. Once it does, I'll be free of my draconic aura."

"It isn't a bad idea to let a little leak to frighten thieves and rascals. No one will be able to guess your identity as long as you don't reveal your true body. Furthermore, it's common knowledge that the human domain is devoid of those with dragon blood. People might not believe it even if you announce yourself as a true dragon." Jiang Chen laughed. After the breakthrough, Jiang Chen put away the formation and spoke to Long Xiaoxuan, "Brother Long, there were only two of us when we set out, so it'll look suspicious if we returned as a group of three. So, I'll have to trouble you again for the moment."

Long Xiaoxuan didn't actually mind. With a flicker of his body, he concealed his form and transformed into a tiny speck of light, which attached itself to Jiang Chen's body. Long Xiaoxuan's breakthrough gave Jiang Chen even more confidence. Another powerful arrow had been added to his quiver.

The lake surface returned to its previous serenity as he retrieved the wood spirit spring. Captain Mo had already been waiting for quite some time when they reached the outskirts of the territory. When he saw Jiang Chen, a flash of peculiarity appeared in his eyes as he scanned the latter a couple of times with his gaze. There wasn't the slightest trace of a breakthrough on Jiang Chen. The captain felt it odd because there'd normally be some residual energy after a breakthrough, but he could detect nothing of the sort.

"Captain Mo, I've troubled you quite a bit during this period."

"Haha, it's not trouble at all! I'm just sitting here effortlessly. On the contrary, it's rare to be able to enjoy some peace and quiet." Captain Mo definitely knew what to say.

Captain Zhang had also been following Captain Mo on this mission and was in charge of patrolling the perimeter. He was delighted after seeing Jiang Chen emerge. "Pill King Zhen, congratulations on the breakthrough."

Everyone thought Jiang Chen had broken through. He didn't refute this and simply nodded, a mysterious smile on his face. "Captain Zhang, I'm sure you'll be promoted when you call upon young master Ji San this time."

Captain Zhang laughed out loud as he scratched his head, "I only fear I'll fail to accomplish big things with my meager talents."

Captain Mo laughed from the side. "Skills can be learnt and strength can be trained. Your devotion, however, is something many people lack. Pill King Zhen's insightful eyes burn as bright as torches. Anyone he recommends is certainly good enough."

Captain Mo had inadvertently praised Jiang Chen once again. He'd apparently obtained some news regarding this Pill King Zhen's significance to the Coiling Dragon Clan.

The group laughed and chatted on their way back to Veluriyam Capital. Huang'er was extremely good at understanding others. She knew it wasn't necessary for her to remain beside them during a conversation between men. As such, she intentionally walked on ahead for a short distance to give them some space.

After they entered the city, Jiang Chen had originally planned to let Captain Mo and the rest return to the Coiling Dragon Manor. But Captain Mo insisted on fulfilling his responsibilities by escorting them back to Taiyuan Tower. Jiang Chen didn't protest much since he couldn't convince the captain otherwise.

Farmer God Market was, as always, bustling with activity. However, people had odd expressions on their faces as Jiang Chen's entourage walked past, although they still greeted him. It wasn't that these people weren't enthusiastic. But their expressions seemed to communicate different attitudes. Some appeared to be sympathizing while others appeared to be gloating...

"Pill King Zhen, it's been quite a while. Why haven't you returned until now?"

"Pill King Zhen, haven't you heard of what happened at Taiyuan Tower?"

"Pill King Zhen, you've finally returned! Taiyuan Tower has been seized and business has stopped for several days."

Jiang Chen's expression froze as he heard that particular tidbit. Seized? Taiyuan Tower has been seized? What kind of sick joke is this? We've just started doing business!

He looked at Captain Mo and realized the latter knew nothing of this. However, the captain had frequently been exposed to grand spectacles, so he calmly responded, "Pill King Zhen, don't be too anxious. Let's go and ascertain the situation first."

It wasn't quite possible for Jiang Chen to not be anxious. He'd put everything into Taiyuan Tower and it was his first step towards gaining a foothold in Veluriyam Capital. But his very first step was being met with so much resistance! Which idiot had come to stir up trouble this time?

Chapter 802: Emperor Shura's Interference?

A group of well equipped soldiers stood at the entrance of Taiyuan Tower, looking like fearsome wolves. The main entrance of the door was tightly shut, and seals coldly plastered all over the door. Thankfully, Taiyuan Lodge hadn't been marked as Taiyuan Tower's property yet, so it hadn't been sealed along with Taiyuan Tower. Everyone in Taiyuan Tower had been chased into Taiyuan Lodge.

Fury rose up in Jiang Chen's heart when he saw this scene from afar. However, Captain Mo's sharp eyes quickly discerned the soldiers' identity, and immediately restrained Jiang Chen before he could unleash his wrath. The captain said in a soft tone, "Control yourself, Pill King Zhen. These soldiers are under the direct command of a great emperor."

A great emperor? Jiang Chen's mind shook. Why was a great emperor attracted by a pill force that had barely established itself not long ago? Also, didn't the seven great emperors normally keep their hands out of Veluriyam Capital's worldly affairs? Distress battered Jiang Chen, but was quickly surmounted by his growing anger. So what if they work for a great emperor? How can a great emperor seal my store without good reason? Jiang Chen was absolutely certain that Taiyuan Tower had obeyed and executed every procedure to the letter of the law. With how cautious Wei Tianxiao was, there was no way he would make a mistake either.

There was no doubt that today's incident wasn't Taiyuan Tower's fault. Jiang Chen didn't even need to think to know that this was a malicious scheme against his store. Someone was attacking him on purpose! It didn't matter if it was an attack by a great emperor or a great clan. "Let's head over and take a look," Jiang Chen had calmed down after learning that those soldiers belonged to a great emperor. He understood that he couldn't clash head on against a great emperor's force with his current strength. That would be rather unwise. However, that didn't mean he could just ignore this affront and do nothing. Jiang Chen wouldn't submit even to an empyrean expert without good reason, much less one of the great emperors!

Captain Mo was afraid that something might befall Jiang Chen. Therefore, he forced himself to follow behind Jiang Chen even though he didn't wish to clash against a great emperor's men. On the other hand, Captain Zhang hadn't thought that far ahead. He could only feel the blood rushing to his head when he saw Jiang Chen being bullied. He thought that this world was truly unfair if even someone as good as Pill King Zhen was oppressed like this! Right now, Captain Zhang only had one thought in his mind, and that was to give his utmost, even his life, to take down those bastards if Pill King Zhen were to give the order.

"These are sealed grounds. All unrelated personnel are to leave immediately!" A soldier immediately yelled at Jiang Chen the second the latter walked close to his property. The soldier never even bothered to look at him, and his tone sounded as disdainful as someone who was chasing away a group of flies.

Jiang Chen stared darkly at the group of soldiers. Captain Mo hastily pulled him to the side. It was at that moment a person ran out of Taiyuan Lodge and grabbed Jiang Chen, "Come this way and talk, brother." This person was actually young master Ji San.

He was currently looking completely serious, without a hint of his usual confidence and ease. With hushed words in a heavy tone, he immediately dragged Jiang Chen into Taiyuan Lodge regardless of the

latter's will. The moment he went through the door, young master Ji San waved his hands and ordered, "Close the door!"

Captain Mo himself hastily went over to shut the door.

The group of emperor soldiers standing at the entrance of Taiyuan Tower laughed disdainfully upon seeing the closely shut door on the opposite side of the street. Their noses rose even higher at the outcome. "Everyone says that young master Ji San of the Coiling Dragon Clan is a great person, but I guess he's really just a cowardly boy."

"How dare a mere great clan call themselves king of the world? There's no room for their arrogance before an emperor's soldiers!"

"Speaking of which, who was that group of people just now?"

"Who knows? I think I heard Ji San calling him 'brother' just now, right?"

"Could he be that Pill King Zhen?"

"You mean Taiyuan Tower's Pill King Zhen? We have orders to arrest him and bring him back for interrogation immediately if we see him!"

"Is he really that Pill King Zhen?"

"We'll know that if we charge inside and catch him, won't we?"

"We better not. Our orders are only to seal Taiyuan Tower, and that store hasn't broken any rules. We'd be crossing a line if we force our way in, not to mention that the Coiling Dragon Clan's men are there too. If they escalate this up to Emperor Peafowl, our great emperor would be inconvenienced too."

"Yeah, we shouldn't force our way in. He'll come out eventually, and when he does, we'll question his identity. If he really is Pill King Zhen, we'll just capture him then. We're just following orders, and I doubt that young master Ji San would dare stop us."

"Mm, that's settled then. Look sharp and watch them closely." These warriors belonged to Emperor Shura, one of the seven great emperors of Veluriyam Capital. Ranking wise, Emperor Shura sat in third place among all seven great emperors. However, he was firmly in second place in terms of strength and closing in on the number one great emperor, Emperor Peafowl. Moreover, Emperor Shura was a man of swift and decisive conduct. In the past few years, Emperor Shura had invaded and won many territories for Veluriyam Capital. He had strong support inside Veluriyam Capital, and was a new and rising power. The Majestic Clan and Murong Clan were all great clans serving directly under Emperor Shura. Together, they represented a powerful faction inside Veluriyam Capital.

Jiang Chen met his brother with a dark face after he was pulled into the store by young master Ji San, "Why the haste, Brother Ji?"

Jiang Chen was obviously still angry. He couldn't stand seeing his territory violated and these soldiers arrogantly ridiculing him with their master's authority. He might be good tempered, but even he couldn't stand this nonsense.

“It’s a long and complicated story, brother. This had happened a few days ago, and the reason I hadn’t told you about this was to ensure that you didn’t worry during your breakthrough!” Young master Ji San said solemnly.

Jiang Chen understood that the situation was not as simple as it seemed after seeing how serious young master Ji San looked. He looked around and frowned, “Where are the Wei father and son?”

“They were captured,” Young master Ji San sighed softly, “They and a Pill Master Yan of Taiyuan Tower were all captured.”

“What?” Jiang Chen was shocked when he heard this. Pill Master Yan [1] was in fact his peer from the Regal Pill Palace, Shen Trifire. Jiang Chen paid great attention to his growth because Shen Trifire absolutely possessed the qualities to become an initial level pill king, even if he hadn’t taken the examination yet. Jiang Chen had intended for Shen Trifire to be capable of holding down the fort himself, but hadn’t thought that he would be captured as well.

“It all happened very suddenly. These soldiers suddenly barged into Taiyuan Tower one fine day and asked for the person in charge to step forward immediately. Since you weren’t around, Pill Master Yan stepped up and claimed responsibility. He was shackled on the spot and hauled away. Since young master Wei Jie was present at the time, he too was taken away. At the same time, they also sealed off House Wei’s residence and took away the house lord.”

The person who said this was Wei Qixia—Wei Jie’s trusted aide. He had been watching over Taiyuan Tower all this time. The more Jiang Chen heard, the angrier he grew. “Did they state any reason as to why they took them away?”

Wei Qixia said angrily, “None. They just flashed Emperor Shura’s warrant, took our people away and sealed the store. They didn’t care to talk at all.”

“They’re capturing people without giving a reason? Are they bandits? Is this the conduct of a so-called force of a great emperor? Is this what they call non-interference of all worldly affairs?” Jiang Chen was furious when he heard this. He could just barely swallow this if the fault really lay on Taiyuan Tower’s side. But wasn’t it pure nonsense to seal off his store for no reason at all?

Young master Ji San was also smiling bitterly at this whole predicament as he tried to comfort Jiang Chen. “Calm down, brother. This entire matter is very strange. I suspect that they have some crucial information that can be used against us, but are withholding it for now due to certain reasons. I’m guessing that this isn’t the end of the whole matter, and that more trouble is heading our way.”

“Information, you say?” Jiang Chen sneered, “I may not know about the rest, but I’m absolutely sure that Taiyuan Tower possesses no such skeleton in our closet!”

Young master Ji San sighed, “Maybe there isn’t one, but that doesn’t stop them from trying to frame us. After all, there are at least hundreds of ways for a great emperor’s force to seal off a store.”

Jiang Chen smiled and nodded, his anger fully stoked. He actually stopped trying to argue with Ji San. He would be a fool if he hadn’t figured out what was going on at this point. There was no point arguing with them; they were all in the same boat. Jiang Chen looked around once before asking, “Everyone else is fine, right?”

“They took away only the Wei father and son and Pill Master Yan. Everyone else is safe. There’s no way a great emperor’s force would act disgracefully enough to capture everyone. It also wouldn’t be easy to deal with the aftermath if they caused too big of a commotion.” Ji San sighed resignedly.

“Emperor Shura...” Jiang Chen breathed the words softly between his teeth as a hint of killing intent flashed in his eyes. All he wanted to do was to establish a firm footing in Veluriyam Capital and slowly build his power base. There was nothing he’d done that would possibly affect the emperor in any way. The emperor hadn’t given him any reason either. They’d captured his people and sealed his store as they liked, with no room for negotiation. This code of conduct soured Jiang Chen’s impression of Emperor Shura immediately. Did he think that an emperor was unrivalled in this world? Did he think that he could do whatever he wanted to? Even the Celestial Emperor, the ruler of a realm, hadn’t been so tyrannical that he would screw over someone just because he felt like it.

“The situation is complicated, brother, and you are not safe. I heard that your name is on their list of targets, so I suggest that you head to the clan manor and lay low for a time. This matter is most certainly going to turn into an extended battle that won’t be settled in just a day or two.” Ji San had stayed at Taiyuan Lodge for the past few days because he was afraid that Jiang Chen would stumble head first into Emperor Shura’s trap. If even Jiang Chen was captured by Emperor Shura’s men, then they would have an utter field day. Not even the Coiling Dragon Clan dared claim for sure that they could rescue Jiang Chen from Emperor Shura.

Captain Mo also advised, “Pill King Zhen, you can’t win against them as you are now, and these people are not good people. There is always hope as long as you aren’t captured.”

Jiang Chen understood the sense in their words. He might not even be able to duel the Majestic Clan without external help in his current condition, much less Emperor Shura. Unless he was willing to sacrifice the final charge of the empyrean level restriction inside his palace, he wouldn’t be able to kill a great emperor.

However, it was obviously an unworthy trade. Not only was it Jiang Chen’s most powerful trump card to date, it was one-time use strike. Even if he did decide to use up his final trump card, he’d have to first set a trap for Emperor Shura himself!

The “yan” character is three of the character for “fire”

Chapter 803: When Kings Fight, Vassals Suffer

Jiang Chen didn’t think that Emperor Shura would attend to him personally. In fact, he should’ve been an insignificant small fry in the emperor’s eyes. Emperor Shura had countless experts working for him, with even the soldiers standing in front of Taiyuan Tower’s door either peak sage realm cultivators or emperor realm cultivators. And those were just the normal soldiers.

The great emperor possessed countless powers beneath him, there was no need for him to personally take the field in order to act against Jiang Chen. While Jiang Chen was furious, he vaguely realized that the raid on Taiyuan Tower might not be just a simple attack on the shop. Perhaps it was an unfortunate casualty of Veluriyam Capital’s internal strife. It could be a conflict between aristocratic families, great clans, or even a tiny clash between great emperors. He and Taiyuan Tower were but small pawns used

by top forces to cross swords with each other! Jiang Chen calmed down when his thoughts travelled to that point.

Although he was angry, Jiang Chen also understood that the first priority right now was to secure Shen Trifire and the Wei father and son. If those three people were to perish from this calamity, then it would be too late even if he made a comeback in the future. "Their rescue comes first," Jiang Chen had finally reached equilibrium. He looked at Wei Qixia and everyone from Taiyuan Tower with unusually determined eyes, "Everyone, I give you my word that Taiyuan Tower will open for business once more, and that no one will stay our footsteps. Anyone who dares stands in our way will be annihilated!"

Everyone was shocked to hear his declaration. It was obvious that Jiang Chen wasn't joking. However, his words were a little hard to believe. After all, the person who was standing in Taiyuan Tower's way right now was the great Emperor Shura! He was a great emperor who commanded great power and authority. A person like him could cause the entirety of Veluriyam Capital to tremble with a simple stamp of his foot. He was one of the cultivators who stood at the very top, even in the entire human domain. Although Pill King Zhen was a pill genius and an outstanding talent, they couldn't help but feel that his boast went a little over the top this time.

However, young master Ji San felt an odd sense of excitement. He didn't understand why himself, but his emotions had been ignited by Jiang Chen's passionate words too. Not only did he think that Jiang Chen was sincere, he even sensed that Jiang Chen had reasons to be confident in his ability to succeed. He also nodded, "Don't be pessimistic, everyone. Veluriyam Capital is not under the control of just one power. I have brought this up to my clan lord, and he is certain to report this to Emperor Peafowl and request help. The emperor will definitely uphold justice for us!"

Emperor Peafowl was the foremost great emperor in Veluriyam Capital. He had risen to power three thousand years ago and become the number one emperor in Veluriyam Capital. To that very day, there was no one who could replace him. Three thousand years later, Emperor Peafowl had shed all superficialities and was no longer as unbridled as he'd been when he was still young. However, the accumulations of eons was also a kind of enlightenment, foundation and symbolization. As compared to the time he was showing off his capabilities three thousand years ago, the current Emperor Peafowl was mysterious, abstruse, and enigmatic.

The current Emperor Peafowl was a figure of legends in Veluriyam Capital a living monument and totem in the minds of the populace. Every descendant of Veluriyam Capital looked up to Emperor Peafowl as an idol and Veluriyam Capital's greatest expert. After all, his three thousand years of accumulation wasn't something any one of the six emperors could replace. That was why everyone had become spirited the moment Emperor Peafowl was brought up. Wei Qixia, especially, was overjoyed, "If Emperor Peafowl were to hear about this, he will definitely uphold justice for House Wei and Taiyuan Tower!"

"Yeah, there's no way Emperor Peafowl would sit by and watch others abuse their power!" The crowd all grew excited when they heard this.

"You should leave soon, brother. Those people were watching you when you came in, and if my guess isn't wrong, they have their eyes set on you already. Therefore, you must come back with me to the

Coiling Dragon residence for now. Emperor Shura's soldiers are domineering, but I doubt they would dare head into the Coiling Dragon residence to cause trouble."

At this point, even Jiang Chen knew that he had to protect himself first no matter how displeased he was. He might have plenty of ways to escape Emperor Shura's men, but the foundation he'd worked this hard to establish would be gone in an instant if they found his real identity. For the sake of this base, he had to endure this. It was at this moment that Huang'er smiled and walked over. "Brother Chen, why don't you lay low for a moment at the clan lord's residence? This matter can only be solved by the Coiling Dragon clan lord anyways."

Huang'er understood that Jiang Chen's character to be staunch and unyielding. She was worried that he would tear down any semblance of politeness between him and Emperor Shura and erupt into open hostility.

Jiang Chen felt warm on the inside when he saw the care brimming in Huang'er's eyes. He nodded, "Then I shall trouble you, Brother Ji."

"Come on, you're not troubling me at all. Also, your establishment of Taiyuan Tower and your success in thwarting the Majestic Clan has benefited the Coiling Dragon Clan as well. We have dominated Veluriyam Capital for many years, and we are not a power who only knows how to take advantage of others and skirt responsibilities. We are in the same boat here, so don't worry too much. If my guess isn't wrong, this incident doesn't just involve Taiyuan Tower. In fact, Taiyuan Tower may even be an innocent victim of a larger scheme."

When kings fight, vassals suffer. The clash of big forces often start from the small powers beneath them. Taiyuan Tower was that small power right now. It was small but whole, and currently the hottest topic on the streets. At the moment, there was no better pig to slaughter than Taiyuan Tower.

Jiang Chen and Huang'er disguised themselves slightly and changed into new outfits before leaving Taiyuan Lodge, following young master Ji San's team of attendants. Although Emperor Shura's soldiers were domineering, it was ultimately not a wise choice to stop young master Ji San's group from leaving publicly. After all, Ji San was not a member of House Wei. They weren't directly related to Taiyuan Tower either. Moreover, the number one clan in Veluriyam Capital wasn't something that they could offend however they liked. They might represent Emperor Shura himself, but just because Emperor Shura could offend a certain person easily didn't mean that they could do the same. In the end, they were just a group of law enforcers.

These soldiers were a little displeased to see young master Ji San leaving without acknowledging their presence at all.

"Hmph, what's up with this act! What's all this strutting around when your clan is about to collapse?"

"This Ji San really thinks that his clan is the number one clan in Veluriyam Capital!"

"So what if it is? They are nothing before the great emperors. Just wait, he won't be able to maintain that facade the moment the Coiling Dragon clan lord loses his power. His clan will collapse instantly."

"That's true. But say, do you think that Pill King Zhen would slip into Ji San's team and sneak away?"

"Ah? Weren't you guys paying attention just now?"

“What’s the point? A cultivator can easily disguise themselves.”

“Then what should we do? Should we stop them and inspect everyone thoroughly?”

“Absolutely not. We’ll be in great trouble if he isn’t among them. If the Coiling Dragon Clan were to make a final strike before their demise and bring this up all the way to Emperor Peafowl, it would become an enormous problem. In fact, it may even drag our emperor into a mess.”

“Yeah! There’s no need to use force against a power that’s about to die real soon. It won’t be worth it if they decided to make one last struggle.” The warriors ultimately decided against taking the risk.

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Inside the Coiling Dragon residence, Jiang Chen met the clan lord once more. At the moment, the clan lord’s spirit and qi were much improved after being treated with the Five Elements Augmentation Art. He didn’t look much different from his peak condition. “The direction of the winds changed faster than even I would expect, young friend.” The clan lord sighed. Jiang Chen nodded and said nothing.

“Can they be saved, clan lord?” Ji San asked curiously.

The clan lord shook his head slightly, “For now, it is impossible. But this is not the end of the story. According to my investigation, Emperor Shura didn’t personally give the order.”

“Oh?” Ji San grew interested, “Could this whole thing have nothing to do with Emperor Shura at all?”

“That’s not entirely true either. Emperor Shura might not have been personally involved, but his underlings wouldn’t dare act recklessly without his permission. Therefore, Emperor Shura must have said something, but the executor of the order was his vassal, the Moon Monarch.”

“Moon Monarch?” Ji san was shocked. “Do you mean the sworn brother of the Majestic clan lord?”

“That’s the one. This person is one of the three monarchs who currently serve under Emperor Shura and is very active. He is a particularly ruthless and overbearing man. There were plenty of incidents in Veluriyam Capital that were masterminded by him.” It was obvious that the clan lord weren’t too pleased with this Moon Monarch.

“So in the end, this is just the continuation of that bet during Taiyuan Tower’s opening day, isn’t it?” Ji San exclaimed with surprise.

“It would seem that way.” The clan lord’s tone was heavy.

Jiang Chen suddenly asked, “Do they have any strong justifications for arresting our people and sealing off our store?”

The clan lord nodded, “That is the crucial point. From what I heard, they do have a strong justification to do so. It sounds like they found fatal toxins in a certain kind of Taiyuan Tower pill. It is even rumored that a descendant of a big power died from poisoning because they consumed the pill you made.”

“What?” Ji San paled, “Who?”

But Jiang Chen shook his head firmly. “It’s a lie. It doesn’t matter what the charge is since they’re going to frame us anyways.”

The clan lord asked, "Are you absolutely sure that Taiyuan Tower's pills are perfectly fine, young friend?"

Jiang Chen said, "I am the one who created the recipes of Taiyuan Tower's pills, and those who worked under me are all my trusted aides. There's absolutely no chance that the problem originates with us. I can guarantee it."

The clan lord nodded, "In that case, this is probably a ploy by the Majestic Clan. They're purposely framing you for a crime you didn't commit!"

"Maybe the Murong Clan is involved too," Ji San spoke in frustration.

Although Jiang Chen hadn't said anything in reply, his expression had turned even darker. It was impossible that Taiyuan Tower's pills would be defective. This was absolutely a false charge. To put it bluntly, the Majestic Clan was purposefully burrowing Emperor Shura's title to suppress and take revenge against Taiyuan Tower.

Once he understood this, Jiang Chen actually felt a lot easier. He had a clear opponent and target to work against. He also knew their intentions now. So they wanted to oppress him, huh? This wasn't the first time Jiang Chen was oppressed since he'd started cultivating. None of his oppressors had managed to have the last laugh yet. He was facing a more fearsome oppressor this time, but since when had he ever feared them?

Chapter 804: Jiang Chen Sets A Plan In Motion

"Clan Lord, did you see His Majesty the Great Emperor Peafowl?" Ji San asked.

"Alas, that's why I said they prepared their scheme with meticulous care. His Majesty is in seclusion right now, he'll only come out in another half a month. Half a month is enough to put us on the back foot."

A gloomy Ji San asked, "Then does that mean we can only turn the other cheek and let them act as outrageously as they want? If no one reins them in, will the Capital ever know peace and order?"

The clan lord's chuckle was cold and grim. "There's an even more wonderful piece of news! Tomorrow, the Majestic Clan's Taiyuan Lodge reopens for business. They chose an even more popular address and is planning on promoting the Longevity Pill as their main product!"

"What?" Ji San's face sank even further. "Are they reopening shop while stepping on Taiyan Tower's dead body? The Majestic Clan goes too far!"

Even Jiang Chen's mind went blank when he heard the clan lord. This Majestic Clan was thick-faced enough to reopen Taiyuan Lodge, and still had the guts to use the word "Taiyuan!" However, thinking on it, was there anything the Majestic Clan wouldn't do? Right now, Taiyuan Tower had been seized and become an object of ridicule. Under such circumstances, the reopening of the Majestic Clan's Taiyuan Lodge was a declaration to the world that the ones who had the last laugh were the Majestic Clan and Taiyuan Lodge. As for Taiyuan Tower, they could only be the butt of the joke! This was where the Majestic Clan's true scheme lay. Three birds with one stone! The reopening of Taiyuan Lodge, trampling Taiyuan Tower's carcass, and finally giving the Coiling Dragon Clan a slap in the face in passing! One had to admit that the Majestic Clan's maneuvers were ruthless to the extreme.

Ji San was furious. "Clan Lord, even with His Majesty Great Emperor Peafowl in seclusion, he still has four exalted emperors under him. Are they all good-for-nothings? Are they just going to watch and sit by while Great Emperor Asura's men run wild?"

"Ole Third, quit talking nonsense! The four exalted emperors aren't happy either. However, Emperor Asura's men obtained so-called evidence this time. So even if they want to get involved, they can't do so recklessly. It would be difficult even for Great Emperor Peafowl to extricate himself if they go parading around this so-called evidence. Perhaps him getting involved is precisely what Great Emperor Asura's men are waiting for."

Ji San spoke with a bitter smile, "Then what should we do? If we let them get away with it this time, it's going to be even more difficult to stop it from happening again in the future. Don't tell me Great Emperor Asura's men can just defecate on Great Emperor Peafowl's people whenever they like? Who gave them that right?!"

Ji San couldn't hold back his anger. He thought that the current situation was utter bollocks. Great Emperor Peafowl was clearly the real number one power in the Capital, so why did it look like Great Emperor Asura was even more overbearing? Why was the Coiling Dragon Clan, a clan in Great Emperor Peafowl's faction, on the defensive on every front? Why were they continuously provoked and taking one punch after another?

In the end, Ji San was full of the vigor of youth. It would have been one thing if such situations only happened once or twice, but seeing them happening in sequence left him thoroughly exasperated.

The clan lord heaved a soft sigh. "Ole Third, it's not as simple as you think. First, His Majesty Great Emperor Peafowl is well aware of our clan's recent straits. They're also in a wait and see approach when it comes to our clan's future. Second, young lord Fan, His Majesty's most powerful disciple, unexpectedly passed away recently. This was a colossal blow for Great Emperor Peafowl. His Majesty hasn't recovered yet from the shock of losing his disciple."

"That's why Great Emperor Asura took advantage of this weakness?" Ji San snorted. "This Emperor Asura rose to prominence a mere eight hundred years ago, but he already wants to challenge Great Emperor Peafowl's position? Is it really Great Emperor Asura who's becoming restless, or is it the curs and mongrels under him becoming restless?"

"Probably both." The clan lord said with a sigh. "Ole Third, stay cool-headed. I will continue to think of a way to deal with this matter. House Wei is our clan's people, it's out of the question for us to simply sit idly by and watch."

All of a sudden, Jiang Chen spoke up, "Since Great Emperor Asura's side can act like this, then why can't we reply in the same fashion?"

"What do you mean?" the clan lord blinked.

"They have the goods on my Taiyuan Tower. Even if it's mere fabrication, they can still arrest my people. In that case, why can't Great Emperor Peafowl give them a taste of their own medicine?"

The clan lord's smile was wry. "It's easy enough to say but hard to put in practice. If we use the same pretext and arrest some of their men, wouldn't that clearly signify the beginning of open conflict? Great

Emperor Peafowl might not be afraid, but it would still be beneath his dignity to do something like that, except if the pretext is foolproof enough.”

“What kind of pretext would be foolproof enough?” Jiang Chen asked.

“A reason that can’t be doubted even at a mere glance.”

“Then what should I do if I can find such a pretext?” Jiang Chen asked, his voice grave.

“Oh? Do you have a plan?” The clan lord’s eyes suddenly shone bright. If they really had such a pretext, then Great Emperor Peafowl’s people could definitely dose the other side with their own medicine. From the very beginning, an eye for an eye was a fundamental rule of the martial dao world.

If Emperor Peafowl’s faction came off worse in the exchange this time, it would be a tremendous blow to his prestige and authority, even if nothing transpired on the surface. Emperor Peafowl’s men would definitely be unwilling to accept that. The reason why they hadn’t acted yet was merely because of the great emperor’s seclusion. Without his orders, they couldn’t just take the initiative without permission. However, a pretext that was beyond doubt would be justification enough to go into action. Even without the great emperor’s nod, the four exalted emperors under Great Emperor Peafowl could still pass down the order.

Of course, the pretext needed to be rock solid, strong enough to stop the rumors and blabbering of the people. And it also had to be foolproof enough that Great Emperor Asura and his men couldn’t say anything! It was a high bar to reach. The clan lord looked at Jiang Chen expectantly, obviously waiting to hear what brilliant idea Jiang Chen had in mind. After all, this young man had brought him so many pleasant surprises in the past few days. He might very well have a solution to this issue.

With a cold smile, Jiang Chen spoke. As he spoke, the clan lord and Ji San’s eyes shone bright. Neither the old nor young man spoke for a moment after he was done. But soon enough, many emotions surged through their eyes. They contemplated for a long while before surprised delight slowly emerged on their faces.

Ji San slapped his thigh. “Not bad! This method is definitely feasible. And we’ll hit them where it hurts! This time, we must strike where they’re most vulnerable! Hit them ‘til they’re left looking for their teeth on the floor, hit them until they have nightmares as soon as they close their eyes. Until they have lingering trauma whenever as they think back on it!”

The clan lord was also beaming with delight. “This method is indeed possible. However, little friend, are you certain about this pill recipe...”

Jiang Chen interrupted with a nod. “There is no need to worry about that. There won’t be any issue whatsoever as long as it’s a pill king doing the refining. Of course, the higher the level the better!”

The clan lord let out a boisterous laugh. “You don’t need to worry about that. Would a pill king under Great Emperor Peafowl be mediocre? Also, if you gift them with this pill recipe, the great emperor and his men will definitely see you in a favorable light!”

“Time waits for no man. Should we go right now?” Jiang Chen didn’t want to wait one second longer than necessary.

The clan lord nodded. "Very well, we'll go right now. We'll need to hurry. The Majestic Clan's Taiyuan Lodge is opening tomorrow."

"Mhm." Jiang Chen nodded.

With the clan lord leading the way, Jiang Chen arrived at the rumored Sacred Peafowl Mountain. This was the place where the great emperor imparted his teachings. As a great emperor, his teaching site was naturally not something an ordinary sect could compare to. However, Jiang Chen was in no mood to admire the mountain's luxurious landscape. The clan lord was taking him to pay a formal visit to the four emperors.

Each of these four exalted emperors had a cultivation at ninth level emperor realm, all equally matched with the Coiling Dragon Clan's clan lord. Only, the clan lord was a little older and his foundations and accumulation deeper. In theory, he should be a little stronger than the four exalted emperors. However, it was difficult to tell if that would truly be the case when it came to real combat. After all, the four exalted emperors had followed Emperor Peafowl for a long time and benefited from the great emperor's guidance. It wouldn't be surprising if they possess some overwhelming abilities when it came to real combat.

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On the other side of the city, the Majestic Clan's residence was brightly lit, a picture of liveliness and harmony.

At the banquet, the clan lord and a man with an aquiline nose occupied the main seats. Other guests of honor sat in front of them in the guest seats and kept them company. There were more than five lords of great clans present, to say nothing of others.

The Majestic Clan's clan lord offered a toast and smiled, "My sworn brother, no words can express my gratitude this time. Your little brother will empty his cup first to thank his brother for helping us uphold justice. Taiyuan Lodge reopens its doors tomorrow. If you are free, I would like to invite you for a visit."

The one he was calling brother was the man with an aquiline nose sitting at his side. This man was the Moon Monarch, one of the three emperors under Great Emperor Asura. The Moon Monarch responded with an indifferent smile, "I'm merely carrying out my duty, why talk about gratitude? As for tomorrow, I have some business elsewhere, so I won't go personally. But I will instruct my men to stay on alert."

The Majestic clan lord was a little disappointed, but his smile never faltered. "Brother, of course I can't force you if you're busy. With your fame, which hoodlum would dare stir up trouble?"

"Right, who would dare challenge the Moon Monarch?"

"Come come come, let all of us drink a cup in homage to the Moon Monarch." These clan lords were all from clans under Emperor Asura, and all of them were Emperor Asura's diehard followers.

In theory, the Moon Monarch's status was about equal with these men, so he naturally couldn't deny them face. He toasted them with a faint smile, "Let us all drink a cup together."

Everyone's mood turned for the better after the Moon Monarch took a drink. The atmosphere immediately became harmonious.

“Brother, how are you planning to handle the father and son pair from House Wei?” the Majestic Clan’s clan lord asked all of a sudden.

“Manufacturing fake pills and endangering the lives of cultivators in the Capital, of course this sort of miscreant has to be eliminated. After these matters are settled, I’ll report to His Majesty and personally behead those pests in Farmer God Market for all to see!” The Moon Monarch’s icy, arrogant eyebrows shot up with disdain. His words were eerie and sinister, without a hint of human warmth. Even though those present were all in the same faction, they still felt their scalps go numb.

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Chapter 805: Taiyuan Lodge Opens Once More

The Farmer God Market resumed its hustle and bustle in the early morning of the next day. Countless busybodies knew Taiyuan Lodge’ was having their reopening ceremony that day. Everyone was curious as to what would happen this time. Would there be a dramatic wager like last time? They all felt it was over for Taiyuan Tower. Even the Wei father and son had been captured and their superior, the Coiling Dragon Clan, was at their wit’s end. Whether the whole of the Veluriyam Capital approved or not, they had to acknowledge that House Wei and Taiyuan Tower were done for. Therefore, they also felt that it was highly unlikely that Taiyuan Lodge’s opening day would involve any interesting drama this time. Yet, it was especially crowded at Farmer God Market. Everybody wanted to witness how grandiose the triumphant Majestic Clan would act in their moment of victory.

In truth, at least three quarters of Veluriyam Capital’s population felt indignant at the Majestic Clan’s unjust behaviour. The clan’s actions had, after all, crossed Veluriyam Capital’s bottom line. It was the Majestic Clan who’d initially provoked and made a great fuss about Taiyuan Tower. They had only themselves to blame for their eventual loss. But they were not resigned to their loss and had come back with a full-court press. Who didn’t know that the Moon Monarch, the orchestrator of this incident, was the Majestic clan lord’s sworn brother? Such a nefarious collusion couldn’t escape the eyes of the conscientious, who subsequently revealed their plot to the whole of Veluriyam Capital. This kind of behaviour was rather taboo.

But unfortunately, most of the discontent souls held no significant sway in such matters and could only feel upset at heart. The world of the martial dao had always been a place where the strong made the rules. Sympathy from the weak did little to change anything. Taiyuan Lodge’s new location was even more famous. It was almost nudged the most central area of Farmer God Market. Bright lanterns and banners adorned the splendidly decorated store. The valuable property extended thousands of meters to reach the door of the closed Taiyuan Tower. The newly crafted signboard above the main door appeared even more lavish and imposing than before, lending the storefront the majesty and spirit of a conqueror. This attitude was as if they’d already considered themselves to be the number one pill shop in Veluriyam Capital.

No one below eighth rank aristocratic families had been qualified to be invited to the ceremony and could only observe from the street. The only ones invited were the most influential people of Veluriyam Capital. Many of these people felt a degree of honor in receiving the invitation because the Taiyuan Lodge’s grandeur this time seemed unprecedented. Not only would the Majestic Clan Lord be present,

but its allied clan lords would also be appearing in person. It was to be a grand ceremony attended by several clan lords, something that hadn't happened during its previous opening. And thus, all the invited parties valued this opportunity.

"Screw this tripe! I don't give a rat's arse about an opening!" Despite the hullaboo, a certain pill king threw his invitation on the ground and spat on it before stomping on it a few more times. Only after venting his anger in this manner did he smile oddly and disappear into the crowd. Pill King Lu Feng had had no choice but walk about in disguise. He'd been entirely infuriated lately. As Jiang Chen's disciple, he couldn't help but feel enraged at the thought of Taiyuan Tower's recent fate. But his foundation in Veluriyam Capital was mediocre at best. It wasn't quite possible for him to do anything for Taiyuan Tower.

He also knew that this was a confrontation between great emperors. He might have some repute in Farmer God Market, but he was not even worthy of being cannon fodder in conflicts of such a level. Therefore, he could only trash the invitation to vent his frustration and satisfy himself a bit. Although he knew his actions wouldn't hurt Taiyuan Lodge in the slightest, it still felt satisfying to vent some of his ill will. He would rather observe the ceremony from the crowd than put on airs to participate in such a charade.

Pill King Lu Feng was a man who valued tradition and moral integrity, despite his eccentric and somewhat comical behaviour. He'd firmly decided not to step one foot into the enemy's doors now that he'd inherited the Deviant Pill Faction's teachings. The invitation that Pill King Lu Feng had discarded into the street was stepped upon by many a foot. Coincidentally, it stuck to the shoe of one of the patrons who walked along. This passerby, it turned out, was headed for Taiyuan Lodge, and soon walked through its doors.

"Heh heh, congratulations, Clan Lord! Taiyuan Lodge's opening is truly fulfilling the hopes of the masses and destined to be one of the grandest occasions in Veluriyam Capital. It'll also serve to bolster the spirit of the entire alchemy world! This is truly worth of celebration!" An obvious bootlicker, a waterfall of words couldn't disguise the oozing flattery.

Those standing outside without an invitation hissed and booed at the sight. They could no longer stand to listen to such goosebump-inducing, shameless toadiness. It was public knowledge that the speaker used to be from an eighth rank aristocratic family under the Coiling Dragon Clan. It was only in the recent times that they'd switched allegiances and entered the Majestic Clan's protection.

The head of this eighth rank aristocratic family wasn't actually invited to the ceremony, but that had done little to hamper his urge to offer congratulations. Furthermore, he had brought valuable gifts. "Clan Lord, this is an earth rank spirit herb which our humble house obtained recently. Much like making an offering to Buddha with borrowed flowers, I hope to present it to Taiyuan Lodge instead of keeping it for personal use, hopefully contributing what little I can to its grandeur!"

The Majestic Clan Lord was busy receiving the numerous guests that had arrived. He wasn't too keen on entertaining this uninvited guest that hadn't been part of his camp to begin with. However, his expression softened somewhat after seeing the earth rank spirit herb. He gestured for his subordinates to receive the gift.

The head of this eighth rank aristocratic family stepped forward delightfully after seeing that his gift had been accepted. But, he was stopped at the door, "Where's your invitation?"

The head of that eighth rank aristocratic family was startled, but replied with a smile, "This humble one came to congratulate the clan lord with great sincerity." He even shot a glance at the earth rank spirit herb as he explained, implying that he shouldn't need an invitation card since the gift had already been accepted.

"Please stand to one side if you don't have an invitation. Don't bump into the honored guests!" The guard discourteously pushed the speaker out. The Majestic Clan Lord flashed a cold smile, but did nothing to intervene. Now you want to express your allegiance? Too late!

"Clan Lord, noble Clan Lord, please speak a few words for me!" The head of the eighth rank aristocratic family called out.

The Majestic Clan Lord turned a deaf ear and continued to chat merrily with the other clan lords. At that moment, a guard exclaimed, "What's that under your foot?"

"Eh? It looks like an invitation."

"Bastard, you dare step on our invitation?!"

"Eh, there are so many footprints and even phlegm! You dog-spawn, are you trying to humiliate our Majestic Clan?!"

"This bastard must've been sent by a rival faction! Beat him to an inch of his life!" The guards crowded around him and pulled the man into the corner before giving him a wild beating. n)/0V**elb1n**

Thus, a completely unexpected catastrophe descended onto the head of the eighth rank aristocratic house lord. He didn't even know what had happened before countless blows had already started to rain down on him. He could only beg for mercy as he was beaten to the point of vomiting bile. These guards were likely even weaker than him, but he dared not retaliate, lest he lose his life within minutes.

"Tsk tsk, you reap what you sow!"

"Exactly, a fate worthy of a traitor! You're so easily swayed, you're no different from grass growing on the fence. Keep on beating! It's best that we beat such a despicable person to death!"

"The Majestic Clan is simply too narrow-minded! Other potential defectors will definitely think twice if they beat all their defectors like this."

"Tsk, what do you know? Those with true intentions to defect will negotiate in private. Why would they only come at such a time? This fencesitter has been hesitant all along and now it's too late for him to defect!" The nearby audience wasn't sympathetic towards this clan lord. All of them felt that he deserved the beating.

Taiyuan Tower was becoming increasingly lively with the arrival of even more guests. The Majestic Clan was indeed formidable. With the clan lord personally overseeing the reception, all of the invited dignitaries were obligated to attend, and were forced to attend in person. Most of the arrivals were the representatives of various powers. No one was willing to offend the Majestic Clan at such an occasion

and leave a bad impression on the clan lord. It seemed that the clan's grandeur within Veluriyam Capital had reached an unprecedented level.

"Sigh, could it be that the position of foremost clan of the Veluriyam Capital is about to change?"

"It appears that the Coiling Dragon Clan no longer has the power to retaliate. How sad!"

"What are you sighing about? The next wave will always push the one ahead of it. So it's no surprise that the new will replace the old eventually. It wouldn't be surprising for the Coiling Dragon Clan to be eliminated if they can't keep up with the circumstances."

"What do you mean by 'can't keep up with the circumstances'? The Coiling Dragon Clan is the model clan of our Veluriyam Capital. Do you see them bullying people? Do you see them monopolizing markets?"

"That's true. I feel that only the Coiling Dragon Clan is worthy of being the foremost clan. I won't be satisfied if the position changes hands."

"I feel the same, but what can we do? Now that the Majestic Clan's influence has been established, it's only a matter of time before it replaces the Coiling Dragon Clan."

"Sigh, I was hoping for a pleasant surprise with the appearance of Taiyuan Tower. But it proved quite short-lived in the end. How unfortunate." Ever increasing discussions and debates were taking place as the crowd in the vicinity grew larger. But none of these affected Taiyuan Lodge in the least. With their imposing signboard, the splendid storefront along with the powerful clan at its back, this was definitely one of Veluriyam Capital's most extravagant events in recent years!

Chapter 806: Free Longevity Pills

"Everyone, the Majestic Clan has been planning to open Taiyuan Lodge for many years. Unfortunately, its opening was met with many twists and turns due to some insignificant troublemakers. However, the road to good things are often strewn with setbacks, and no force was able to prevail against the tide. On this fine day, we open Taiyuan Lodge for the very first time..." The Majestic clan lord made his speech loudly, full of vim and vigor. His voice enveloped every corner of Farmer God Market. "Today, we are honored to welcome several clan lords of Veluriyam Capital to partake in our opening ceremony. Moreover, I have a piece of good news to share with you all -" The Majestic clan lord paused for a moment before continuing, "I believe you've all heard about the Longevity Pill, haven't you? Yes, you guess correctly! Today, Taiyuan Lodge will officially launch the Longevity Pill!"

Cheers filled the entire scene. Of course, most of the cheering were shills hired by Taiyuan Lodge to liven up the atmosphere and improve the mood. These people felt very honored to be able to work on behalf of a great clan. Therefore, they worked hard to put on a good performance.

"Clan Lord, the Longevity Pill is unparalleled in this world! It's said to be a pill that can snatch life from the heavens themselves, and moreover, its effects are immediate! Is it really true? Can it turn back time for one's life on the spot?"

"Yeah, why don't you put on a live demonstration for us, Clan Lord!"

“That’s right, seeing is believing. We all know that the Longevity Pill is amazing, but we haven’t actually seen its effects with our own eyes!” The voices of the paid promoters were particularly shrill. Those who didn’t know the truth would be hard pressed to identify them as props hired by the Majestic Clan themselves.

The Majestic clan lord smiled, “Everyone, please rest assured. I have taken your concerns into consideration already. It is true, as these friends have said. Seeing is truly believing, and rumors remain simply as whispers in the wind. Therefore, the Majestic Clan will give out, for free, two Longevity Pills to perform a live demonstration today. Moreover, to ensure that we’re not just putting on a fake show, we’ll be selecting a candidate from the crowd gathered here today.”

“What?!”

“Giving out pills for free? The Majestic Clan is certainly deserving of its reputation. They truly are an impressive clan!”

“Tsk tsk, the Majestic Clan is looking more and more like the foremost clan considering their level of generosity. How unfortunate that I’m not old enough to test the Longevity Pill myself!” $n/)\alpha((V--E).1/(b/-l..n$

“Mm, a great clan should be this magnanimous. These two Longevity Pills are worth tens of millions, and they’re just going to use them for a live demonstration? The Majestic Clan is full of sincerity!” The props worked hard and coordinated well with each other. The fawning talk fell like rain, as each strove to drum up support for the Majestic Clan.

Pill King Lu Feng was still watching the charade from within the crowd, and almost threw up a little when he heard the props trying to one up each other in flattery. How could he possibly miss the fact that these people were all skills the Majestic Clan had secretly hired? How was this not unlike the actions of a shameless certain “sect” in the community?

Generous? Magnanimous? The Majestic Clan? It was a line that could arguably be the best punchline of the year. There was no one in Veluriyam Capital who didn’t know the Majestic Clan as the most unscrupulous clan who’d sell their own mothers for profit.

That being said, there was no doubt that the hard work of the skills had an effect on the crowd. Many of the neutral parties were drawn by this announcement of a live demonstration. Those who were slightly prejudiced against the Majestic Clan were also slightly adjusting their viewpoints a little. They all thought that the Majestic Clan was finally doing something that was deserving of a top rank clan.

The Majestic clan lord smiled, “My friends, if any who are sage realm cultivators and of elderly age care to show themselves, perhaps the chance to try out the Longevity Pill for free will be yours!”

There were only too many sage realm cultivators in Veluriyam Capital, and solo cultivators the most numerous among them. These people had been waiting at the scene for a very long time ever since they’d heard rumors of Taiyuan Lodge bringing out the Longevity Pill. Although they didn’t have an invitation and thus weren’t qualified to enter Taiyuan Lodge, there were no rules that forbade them from waiting outside. It was all to get in queue and buy a Longevity Pill first. Cultivators with such needs and wants numbered in the several hundreds, even at a conservative estimate.

When these people heard the clan lord's words, they pushed their way into Taiyuan Lodge with all their might. It was obvious that none of them were willing to give up the chance to obtain a Longevity Pill for free. After all, it was impossible for a miraculous pill like the Longevity Pill to be sold at a cheap price, especially considering how much effort had been put into crafting the crowd's atmosphere. Solo cultivators were a poor lot to begin with. They were worried that their personal wealth might not be enough to make a purchase, and they were also worried by the fact that they might not get a turn to buy the Longevity Pill. Therefore, when they heard that there was a chance they might get the Longevity Pill for free, they went crazy trying to get to the front and improve their chances! As a result, the scene grew even livelier than before.

Hundreds of sage realm cultivators with white beards, white hair, or both scrambled and jockeyed or an advantageous position. Jabs and subtle elbows were the norm as the morass of cultivators threatened to escalate out of control. It took a lot of effort and even the interference of Emperor Asura's soldiers before the situation finally stabilized once more. But even then, the solo cultivators were glaring at each other and showing no signs of backing down at all.

The Majestic clan lord seemed to find such a scene very pleasing, his face split by a large smile. "There's no need to fight with each other. There are so many people, and only two free spots. Therefore, let us draw straws for fairness sake. Luck will decide who will get the Longevity Pills, and we shan't blame either the heavens or men when the results are made clear. What do you all think?"

"Alright, let's draw straws!"

"Clan lord, we trust in the Majestic Clan's integrity, so you absolutely mustn't rig the drawing, alright?!"

"Yeah, we poor solo cultivators hate unfairness the most. We hope that you can give us true impartiality, clan lord."

"As long as the process is truly fair, I will do free promotion for Taiyuan Lodge even if I don't get a chance to buy the Longevity Pill!" These solo cultivators all cried out.

The Majestic clan lord smiled, "I swear on the Majestic Clan's name that the process will be absolutely fair, and that there will be no rigging whatsoever. Everyone, please relax."

When the total number of participants were tallied, they discovered that there were actually more than five hundred solo cultivators participating.

"Alright, as you have observed with your own eyes, every one of these lots were made on the spot. If you have any objections to the process, you may put them forth now." The Majestic clan lord smiled faintly.

It was quite difficult to rig something under so many pairs of eyes, not to mention that anything so hastily set up would be easy enough to see through and therefore tough to fool a crowd's eyes. The solo cultivators said, "Clan lord, why don't you make the draw? It'll be our fortune if you draw our number, and if you don't, we will truly accept the result as our fate."

"Yeah, this is a fair competition. There's nothing we can complain about if we lose."

The Majestic clan lord smiled and nodded. He put his hand into the draw and grabbed a straw, "Number 33? May I know who this is?"

A short cultivator on the scene trembled all over before he cried out in joy. "It's me! Haha, it's me! I'm number 33! Haha, who knew that I, You Laosan would have a lucky break today? This is great! This drawing process really is fair!" The short cultivator obviously couldn't wait to get his hands on the pill. He rolled his way to the front like a melon and passed his numbered token to the Majestic clan lord. "This is my number, clan lord. Please, check it."

The Majestic clan lord didn't accept it. Instead, he allowed the cultivator next to him to take the token and inspect it. "It is him."

The Majestic clan lord smiled, "Very well, congratulations! You're You Laosan? You are our first customer, and you will be gifted one Longevity Pill for free! Bring forth the pill!"

His attendants immediately brought up the Longevity Pill they'd prepared earlier and passed it to You Laosan, "You're a lucky man! Take it and consume it on the spot. Let everyone see the might of the Longevity Pill!"

You Laosan beamed and hastily wiped his hands repeatedly on his clothes before he finally accepted the pill. "Of course, of course, I'll eat it now. Is there anything I need to pay attention to before I eat it?"

"Nothing. You may eat it directly. Refine the pill so that it merges with every part of your body. When the merging process is done, the effects will show itself!"

You Laosan was overjoyed to hear this. Unable to wait even a second longer, he threw the Longevity Pill into his mouth and swallowed it post haste. He ignored the countless eyes staring at him and threw all ideas of courtesy to the back of his head, sitting on the floor. He began refining the Longevity Pill on the spot. It didn't take long before the effects of the pill started to appear on every part of You Laosan's body. A faint halo started to rise from his body.

"Everyone, look! What's that on the surface of his skin?"

"Eh? It looks like a halo. I think it's You Laosan's qi and blood being expelled outwards!"

"Is this pill really that magical?" The onlookers' discussion grew louder and louder. They were all very surprised by the halo that was growing increasingly brighter with every passing second.

As the halo grew stronger and stronger, You Laosan's skin began to undergo a transformation. His face, neck, the back of his hand and all other parts of his skin that were exposed actually began to crack. Soon enough, the old skin was falling off his body like bark being shed by a tree. Soon, his skin had been entirely replaced. The new skin from below seemed to brim with life. All kinds of impurities continued to be expelled from You Laosan's seven orifices. Almost all of these transformations were visible to the naked eye.

"He really has become younger. How miraculous!"

The pill actually turns back time! I can't believe that there really is such a pill in this world! This is a fortune to all sage realm cultivators!"

"What a miraculous creation! Just who on earth is the genius who created this pill? They're literally robbing fortune from heavens' grasp!"

The Majestic Clan is going to be rich this time!"

“This is a benefit to the people and the entire world of martial dao. There is nothing better than the Majestic Clan!”

“They truly deserve the title of foremost clan in Veluriyam Capital!” The flattering words came in waves and droves, but this time it didn’t grate on the ear as they did before. It was obvious that the people’s disgust towards the Majestic Clan had been greatly dispelled by the effects of the Longevity Pill.

“Haha! I can’t believe that I would get a new lease on life today. And moreover, be able to enjoy being young once more. This is too wonderful. Clan Lord, from today onwards, You Laosan’s life belongs to the Majestic Clan!” You Laosan suddenly leaped to his feet. His movements was as light as a sparrow’s, and he looked like an entirely changed person. He exuded an incredibly lively feeling. Moreover, You Laosan was no longer the shortie he used to be. He seemed to have grown a lot taller than before, and his spirits had become noticeably vigorous. Moreover, the vanishing of the wrinkles and lines all over his body made him look a lot younger than he’d first looked. His transformation won many cries of surprises from the scene.

“My lord, isn’t there still a free spot left? Let’s get on with the next draw already! That free spot is absolutely going to be mine!”

“Hmph, that free spot is definitely mine!”

“A fortune teller once told me that great fortune would befall on me when I was young. Therefore, this free Longevity Pill is absolutely mine. No one can take it from me!” The last chance to grab the Longevity Pill for free had grown even more tantalizing.

Chapter 807: Whetting One’s Appetite

It had to be said that the Majestic Clan’s marketing was quite successful. You Laosan’s on-the-spot sampling was more effective than any advertising. Who wouldn’t want to keep one or two pills like that around? Emperor realm cultivators were in the minority, after all. Tens of billions of cultivators lived within the several million miles of land that made up the Veluriyam Capital’s ruled territories. How many of those had actually reached emperor realm? For the masses, being able to reach even sage realm was quite a feat already.

The Longevity Pill was suitable for anyone in the sage realm. It could extend their lives by at least five hundred years, and even up to eight hundred if the effects were good. No marketing effort was as striking as the change in You Laosan. The second free Longevity Pill was drawn. The person who drew it this time was an old lone cultivator, on the verge of cultivation dissipation. Yet again, the effects of the Longevity Pill were miraculously displayed. After he took the pill, the old cultivator in the dusk of his years regained his youthfulness in less than a quarter-hour.

The event’s visual and psychological impact completely overturned conventional wisdom. It was truly miraculous. There scant existed any language that could describe the spectacle. It dumbfounded everyone present, including the others in the pill industry at the Veluriyam Capital. It was a long while before they recovered from the shock.

Pill King Lu Feng was surprised as well, and cursed internally. What in f*cking hell?! What is this pill, and why is it so amazing? With this pill in their possession, isn’t the Majestic Clan going to roll in the dough from now on? He felt dissatisfaction, frustration, even jealousy. His heart was filled with a variety of

emotions. Though he'd taken Jiang Chen for his master and the latter had taught him a few techniques from the Deviant Pill Sect, he wasn't yet privy to Jiang Chen's true identity. Thus, Pill King Lu Feng knew nothing of the connection between Jiang Chen and the Longevity Pill, that it was the work of his new master.

The two free pills had been distributed, yet several hundred cultivators who thirsted for the pill still remained. They could only watch, wide-eyed, as others enjoyed the pill free of charge.

"Clan Lord, there are no more free pills, but surely we can pay for them? I'd like to buy one, so how much are you selling this Longevity Pill for?"

"That's right, me as well! A single Longevity Pill is all I want!"

"Clan Lord, is the store open today? Surely those of us already here have priority in purchasing the pill?"

"Clan Lord..." The rogue cultivators were indescribably anxious. Their bloodshot eyes were filled with desire, and they edged forward in a throng. There was a very real concern that there'd be no pills leftover. The lord of the Majestic Clan was greatly pleased at the proceedings. He'd known far earlier that the Longevity Pill would have astounding effects, but not necessarily to this degree. He pressed a palm downwards in the air. "Everyone, calm down and let me speak."

The people present did as he said. In that instant, the words of the Majestic Clan lord seemed to carry a hitherto unperceived clout. "We have a reasonable amount of the pill in stock. However, first things first: it is not easy to refine this pill. Therefore, our supply is not unlimited."

His listeners panicked at the clan lord's words. Since the pills weren't limited, there'd be a severe shortage. That meant the only chance they had at getting one would be to buy it first.

"Majestic Clan Lord, save a few pills for me!"

"Clan Lord, House Nanguo would like to reserve ten!" The people made their orders without even asking the price.

The Majestic clan lord was secretly delighted and his son Wang Teng overjoyed off to the side. From the looks of it, the Longevity Pill would definitely become a pillar of financial support for the clan. It wouldn't be long until they recovered from the loss they had sustained from losing the store! The entire Majestic Clan was excited at their future prospects. Their joy was contagious. They had discussed several tiers of pricing before today's grand opening. If the atmosphere was especially good, they would name the highest tier. The atmosphere evidently far exceeded their wildest expectations. There was no reason to set the price any lower than that.

His thoughts coming to a pause, the Majestic Clan lord laughed. "Thank you for your love and support! We will have a new batch every half month, with two hundred pills per batch."

There was an uproar even before he fell silent. Only two hundred pills every half-month? Was this an artificial shortage?

"Clan Lord, how can you stock only four hundred pills a month? Isn't that number too low? In the several million miles of land under Veluriyam Capital's jurisdiction, there are tens of billions of cultivators. There is huge demand for the Longevity Pill!"

"That's right, four hundred is a drop in the bucket. That number is way too small, and it would be even so if it were four thousand. I think that at least a hundred thousand a month would be reasonable as a baseline."

"Clan Lord, can you increase that number even a little? Otherwise, us nobodies will never have a chance to buy it!" Wails of anguish filled the air. The people's worries were only exacerbated after hearing the bad news. If there were only four hundred Longevity Pills per month, the highborn of the Veluriyam Capital could line up for several years before they were satisfied with their purchases. Who knows when it would be possible for lone cultivators to buy the pill?

The Majestic Clan lord couldn't do anything about it, either. He wasn't keeping any pills in reserve by selling only four hundred a month. It wasn't hunger marketing at all. They really didn't have the supply to keep up. The Eternal Celestial Capital only gave them five hundred a month. Of these, a hundred was set aside for internal affairs, only sold to those closest to the clan. It was the most they could do to sell four hundred to the public.

If he could, he would have no problem with selling a hundred thousand a month. Where could they find a supply like that, though? It wasn't easy to refine the Longevity Pill. It wasn't suitable for mass production. It was taxing even for a pill king to refine a single batch of them. Moreover, the success rate wasn't particularly good. It was a problem that the Eternal Celestial Capital themselves had as well.

Understandably, the Eternal Celestial Capital had received none of Jiang Chen's optimizational advice for refining the pill, and grasped few of the key tricks of the trade. Because of this, they experienced higher difficulty both in terms of the refining process and the resulting success rate. This prevented the Eternal Celestial Capital from the bulk production of the pill. Despite their recent mobilization of all of the sect's pill kings, the refinement of the Longevity Pill was still limited. It couldn't be like other pills that could be made in volumes of hundreds of thousands, millions, even tens of millions. If the Longevity Pill could be made in those numbers, then the potential wealth would be immeasurable.

The Majestic Clan lord spread out his hands. "Gentlemen, this is the most we can do. I don't seem any improvement to this in the immediate future. The Longevity Pill is not a common product, after all, and you've all seen its effects. It wouldn't be called the Longevity Pill if everyone could buy it."

His words were harsh, but rang true. Some lone cultivators piped up nevertheless. "Clan Lord, can you prioritize selling to us lone cultivators today? After all, the nobles in Veluriyam Capital can buy it anytime, but we don't have nearly the same kind of connections. There's no chance for us after this."

"Exactly. If the clan lord is willing to give us this opportunity today, we will spread the good name of the Majestic Clan far and wide!" It must be said that the proposition was quite attractive for the clan lord.

Because of their preference for travel and tendency to mix with a large variety of people, lone cultivators carried news the fastest of anyone. If these cultivators benefited from the Majestic Clan's goodwill, and moreover put out a good word for the clan, it would be extremely beneficial for the Majestic Clan's motion to replace the Coiling Dragon Clan. This kind of hype and momentum was something that the Majestic Clan truly needed.

However, his reason won out in the end. Pleasing lone cultivators was all well and good, but the aristocracy in attendance would doubtless be offended in the process. Offending the noblemen of the

city risked destabilizing the Majestic Clan's base, and carried with it many associated troubles. Though they might not promote the Majestic Clan even if they bought the pill, they would definitely try to obstruct the Majestic Clan in secret if they lost out to lone cultivators.

"Everyone, please. I fully acknowledge your great appreciation for the pill. But, everyone who's come here today is an honored guest. We cannot favour one particular party. Therefore, we've decided to maintain our decision to sell by lottery. That way, everyone gets a fair chance at the pills. Success or failure comes down to luck alone, and there's no debate about it. I believe that all of you ultimately prefer fairness, no?" The Majestic Clan lord was an adept actor.

"Clan Lord, what price are you selling this Longevity Pill at, really? You've talked for so long, but we still don't know!"

"That's right, an amazing pill like this can't be cheap, right?"

"Personally, I think that a pill as miraculous as this must carry an exorbitant price to go with it. If everyone could buy it, then it wouldn't be called a miracle pill. Let's guess... twenty million saint spirit stones, maybe?"

At the Joined Ridges Pavilion's auction, three of the pills had been sold for the insane sum of a hundred twenty million. Of course, that was at an auction. The price wouldn't fly for ordinary sales. The Majestic Clan lord smiled. "It is not easy to refine the Longevity Pill. Each pill has been made with painstaking effort by our pill masters. The materials for the pill aren't cheap, either. The price for one pill... ten million saint spirit stones!"

Ten million million! Some rejoiced at the price, and some were downcast. The ones who were dejected by it were the lone cultivators. Their status was a mark of relative poverty, and for them, ten million was extremely difficult to bear. They'd guessed prior that the pill wouldn't be cheap, and had been prepared to buy one for several million. That it would be ten million for one pill was beyond their expectations. The price alone was enough to scare off many of that crowd.

However, the aristocrats felt safe and secure. The announced price did not exceed their estimate, and though it was a little outrageous, they could afford it. As the crowd moaned and sighed, a wave of commotion could be heard on the outside. A troop of men came through, cutting a path into the mob. The men were clad in green armor, each adorned with three distinctive plumes. It was Emperor Peafowl's personal retinue - the Peafowl Guard!

The people present suddenly became quiet. The excited mood chilled instantly. Seeing the Peafowl Guard rush in, the more thoughtful amongst those present could already smell the gunpowder in the air. It was the grand opening for the Majestic Clan's Taiyuan Lodge, and the Majestic Clan was a faction subordinate to Emperor Shura.

Logically speaking, there was absolutely no reason for Emperor Peacock's men to appear here! Their sudden appearance in the middle of the proceedings was hardly a friendly signal.

Chapter 808: The Peafowl Guard

"Everyone, please back off ten meters!" A captain of the Peafowl Guard waved his token around. "The Peafowl Guard is keeping the peace here. Your cooperation is appreciated."

The Peafowl Guard was an untouchable presence within Veluriyam Capital. They signified the most elite forces under Emperor Peafowl's command. Any position in the Guard was hotly contested for by countless people. Most remarkably, the Peafowl Guard never disturbed any of the commoners despite their strength. They took a hard line, but were ultimately fair. Thus, they were well-loved by the people.

Seeing that the Peafowl Guard had arrived, everyone was in a cooperative mood and collectively backed off ten meters or so to give sufficient room for the guardsmen to work. Two men, whose robes gave away their identities as pill kings, stood near the captain. In particular, their garments also spoke of their status as ones who answered directly to Emperor Peafowl. Either of them were heavyweights in Veluriyam Capital's pill scene, and didn't ordinarily show themselves in public. But now, both had appeared at the same time!

"What's going on?" The crowd was filled with uncertainty.

Those who couldn't stand the Majestic Clan's actions enjoyed a moment of schadenfreude. "The Majestic Clan's attack on House Wei must have angered Emperor Peafowl. This is their just desserts, eh?"

It wasn't just a few people who shared this opinion, especially after the Majestic Clan had set the price of the Longevity Pill at ten million. The slight bit of goodwill that they'd accumulated evaporated instantly. The Majestic Clan was still the bloodsucker they all knew. How could one expect sudden generosity? Selling a single Longevity Pill for ten million was tantamount to robbery. Three or five million would be an acceptable price for most people. Ten million, on the other hand... everyone knew that it was too high, and not just by a little! There were many present who were only in attendance to watch a spectacle. For them, the arrival of the Peafowl Guard was unexpected, but they had wanted to see something along those lines. Now *this* - this was the main event they had come to see.

The Peafowl Guard were hardly here to take afternoon tea. The captain who led the guardsman was a man of high standing. He walked towards the clan lord with an imposing gait. "You are the lord of the Majestic Clan, yes?"

The clan lord furrowed his brow a little, not particularly satisfied with the man's way of speaking. But, the speaker *was* a member of the Peafowl Guard though, and thus representative of the foremost faction in Veluriyam Capital. Even though the Majestic Clan had a backer themselves, this was no place for impudence. He nodded, tamping down his irritation. "Correct, that's me."

"My name is Kong Quan, First Captain of the Peafowl Guard." The captain's voice was coolly indifferent.

"What business does Captain Kong have with me?" The Majestic Clan leader had a hunch that the other man was here to pick a fight, and so chose his words carefully.

"Were you selling the Longevity Pill here just now?" the captain asked.

There was nothing for the clan lord to deny. "Yes."

Captain Kong nodded, and suddenly changed the subject. "This Taiyuan Lodge... is it property of the Majestic Clan?"

The clan lord found it difficult to contain his rising irritation, but inclined his head nevertheless. "The Majestic Clan owns this place, correct. Captain Kong, today is the grand opening for our store. If you are

willing to grace us with your presence at the festivities, then please come on in. But acting like this on our big day is a little inappropriate, don't you think?"

Captain Kong smiled faintly, neither confirming nor denying the accusation. "How many Longevity Pills has Taiyuan Lodge sold today, if I may ask?"

The clan lord made no sign to hide his anger now; this was the last straw. "Is that something I must report to you, captain?!"

The Shura Guard stationed nearby disagreed as well. One of their captains walked towards the two of them with large strides. "Ole Kong, what is the meaning of this? Are you trying to make trouble?"

Captain Kong returned a nonchalant glance. It was easy for him to identify the other man. Besides being a guard-captain, this man was also one of the Moon Monarch's most valued henchmen. However, Captain Kong was content to feign ignorance as he smirked. "And who are you?"

"Ole Kong, don't play the fool with me. If you're here to stir up trouble, then be upfront about it. What's the point of all this playing around?" The Shura guard captain retorted angrily.

Captain Kong examined the other man closely. "Your uniforms... the Shura Guard, hmm? Not impostors, are you? Men directly serving the emperors rarely meddle in worldly affairs. Has Emperor Shura not taught you the slightest tidbit of common sense? Or perhaps you really are all fakes, after all?" The captain waved a hand, completely denying them face. "Take this rabble away. Don't let them obstruct the Peafowl Guard's work."

Rabble? The Shura Guard was Emperor Shura's private army. It was astounding that they would be reduced to mere rabble in the mouth of the Peafowl Guard. Indeed, everyone was taken aback in the moment. The Peafowl Guard had clearly made ample preparations. At the command, its best experts charged forward and surrounded all of the Shura Guard in front of them. To begin with, only about a dozen from the Shura Guard were actually present. The Moon Monarch had left them there to hold down the fort against casual troublemakers. Who would dare to make trouble at the Majestic Clan's opening ceremony while the Shura Guard was present? Thus, the Moon Monarch thought that a dozen men was enough. That over a hundred men of the Peafowl Guard would appear was entirely unexpected. Moreover, they were hand-picked, elites even amongst the other guardsmen. Those from the Peafowl Guard completely outclassed the few Shura Guard that were around.

The Shura Guard captain was enraged. "Kong, don't be an ignorant fool. The Peafowl Guard is strong, but we of the Shura Guard aren't pushovers, either!"

Captain Kong's reply was just as serene as ever. "The Shura Guard? Don't make a fool out of yourselves. How could the great men of the Shura Guard disgrace themselves to the point of acting as domestic security? You riffraff, calling yourself the Shura Guard... you're besmirching Emperor Shura's reputation! Such malice must be punished by death. Even if your claim was true, you would still be scum. Otherwise, how would you not know of the pact between the seven great emperors? Those under the emperors' direct command do not participate in worldly affairs."

Clearly composed beforehand, the speech was filled with righteous indignation. The Shura Guard captain was flabbergasted, and was momentarily at a loss for words. They really were here to serve as domestic security for Taiyuan Lodge. There was nothing inaccurate in Captain Kong's words. However,

the Shura Guard weren't people who could be taken lightly, either. Though he was outnumbered, the Shura guard captain did not wish to lose this war of words. "You say that the Shura Guard is participating in worldly affairs, but what about the Peafowl Guard? Isn't this a case of the pot calling the kettle black?" He sneered.

Captain Kong didn't reply, but gave him a piteous look, as if this guard captain in front of him was truly a fool. With a wave of his hand, Captain Kong directed his subordinates, "Watch them closely. If they do anything suspicious, cut them down where they stand!"

Cut them down where they stand! The order amazed everyone present. Even the Majestic clan lord felt a pang in his heart. Everything in the Peafowl Guard's actions was directed at his clan! Had the Peafowl Emperor come out of seclusion, and personally sent men to squelch the Majestic Clan? That didn't seem likely. If so, then the four monarchs under Emperor Peafowl's command would surely have come as well. There was no reason to send just a single captain. Although he was still as perplexed as before, the Majestic Clan lord felt a little more secure with his analysis. "Captain Kong, this is just an ordinary opening ceremony for Taiyuan Lodge. What have we done to offend you that you would make such a big ruckus?" He inquired in a low voice.

Captain Kong grinned coldly. "Majestic Clan lord, there is no need to play tricks with words! You know what you have done. Personally, I do not know who you are at all, so there's no need to speak of offense. I come here today only to enforce the law."

"The law?" The Majestic Clan lord spoke in soft reply. "The Majestic Clan has always followed the rules, and we keep to ourselves. We are model citizens here in Veluriyam Capital. What law has been broken, may I ask?"

"You're not taking revenge for a private slight, are you?" The Shura Guard captain sneered from behind the Peafowl Guard.

Captain Kong burst into laughter. He gave the Shura Guard captain a hard stare. "Private slight? I'll take that to be an admission of guilt, hmm, for kidnapping the Wei father and son from earlier? How brave of you. I appreciate you being so candid. Not to worry, if it's a personal slight, it will be resolved when Emperor Peafowl leaves seclusion."

The Shura Guard captain's face instantly colored. "Don't misunderstand me!"

If that statement was taken as fact, the Shura Guard would become a public enemy. Kidnapping the Wei father and son because of a private slight was an act that would incur public resentment, even to a group as prominent as the Shura Guard.

"No need to quibble so. The truth is as plain as day in our hearts." Captain Kong did not tolerate the mincing of words, and cast the nature of the event in stone.

The Majestic Clan lord barely choked back his ire. "Captain Kong, I have no interest in private slights and revenge plots! I only ask one thing of you. What regulation has Taiyuan Lodge broken today, on our grand opening?! What is the cause for this mass mobilization? Though I am a humble man, I still know that nothing should be done without reason!"

Captain Kong snickered. "Majestic Clan lord, there's no need to bluff your innocence. We came here because we have sufficient evidence. There are so many people here, and no one is missing their eyes. Are you scared of being wronged? When has the Peafowl Guard falsified criminal proceedings?"

Hearing that their business was purely official, the Majestic Clan lord was somewhat relieved. Even taking everything he knew into account, he still didn't see anything that Taiyuan Lodge could be attacked for. They were pristine enough to withstand any test. The other party could be as unreasonable as they wanted, since the Majestic Clan had the moral high ground. The opening ceremony last time was a subversive tactic against Taiyuan Tower, and thus could be attacked. But there was no problem this time, they were on their best behaviour. The Majestic Clan lord felt immensely certain of his innocence, and with that certainty came the courage to speak. "The Peafowl Guard does not make up crimes, yes? Then, please tell me what law Taiyuan Lodge has violated."

Captain Kong's gaze was chilling, and he affixed an intense, almost piercing stare upon the Majestic Clan lord. "Taiyuan Lodge's Longevity Pill... where does the recipe come from?" His voice was sudden and lance-like.

The abruptness of the question caught the Majestic Clan lord completely off guard. He'd never imagined that Captain Kong would ask about that, and a brief moment passed as he recovered. Having thought things through, the clan lord laughed mockingly. "Captain Kong, there's no need for me to answer that question. Should the Majestic Clan's business arrangements be laid bare for you? If I remember correctly, there's no law like that here in Veluriyam Capital. Furthermore, just like you said, the great emperors cannot interfere in worldly affairs. Don't you think you're being a little hypocritical?"

Chapter 809: Take Them Down

Still concealed, Jiang Chen was amused when he heard the Majestic clan lord's words. The Majestic clan lord still thinks that the Peafowl Guard has nothing on them. In reality, Jiang Chen had been present for quite a while. It was just that he couldn't make an appearance because of what would happen next. Therefore, both young master Ji San and him had disguised themselves as solo cultivators and watched the show unfold from a hidden corner. They were extremely pleased to see the Shura Guard stumped for words at the hands of the Peafowl Guard.

As for the Majestic clan lord, he was still smiling calmly, righteous in the belief that his words had demolished Captain Kong's cause. If Captain Kong was smart, he would be taking his men away right about now. However, the clan lord didn't see the embarrassment he expected on Captain Kong's face. In fact, Captain Kong's face turned chilly, "I see the Majestic Clan isn't going to be convinced unless we show you reality! Are you still going to remain stubborn and resist to your last breath?"

His words only confused the Majestic clan lord. Do you really understand the rules, Captain Kong? Where on earth do you get your confidence? You say that I won't be convinced unless I see reality? Whatever do you mean?

The Majestic clan lord had thought the Peafowl Guard had learned of the clan's partnership with the Eternal Celestial Capital, but that was nothing to be ashamed or afraid of. It was perfectly normal to cooperate with another entity and act as an agent to sell pills. The only reason the Majestic Clan didn't want to reveal the partnership was to give Veluriyam Capital the false impression that they were the

refiners of the Longevity Pill. Although his decision was a little selfish, it was hardly an important matter, much less one that broke the law.

"I'm afraid I don't understand what you're talking about, Captain Kong. The Majestic Clan has done nothing wrong, so naturally there's nothing to admit. Please be aware that there are countless witnesses here, if you really are planning to intimidate the Majestic Clan using the Peafowl Guard's authority or frame us, Captain Kong." The Majestic clan lord was actually subtly threatening Captain Kong instead.

Captain Kong smiled eerily and nodded all of a sudden, "Very well. I will take that as an admission that you will turn down your final chance to confess your crimes. Don't say that I never gave you a chance, you hear? Men, arrest the Wang father and son and seal off Taiyuan Lodge. You have permission to kill anyone who resists!"

The open kill order that came twice in a row caused the conflict to escalate in a matter of seconds. The Majestic clan lord and his son turned deathly pale. Wang Teng especially cried out in grievance, "What the hell? This is persecution!"

Captain Kong smiled coldly, "That's your forte, no?"

Once he was finished, Captain Kong swept a glance across all other clan lords who were partaking in today's event, "Everyone, are you going to watch from the sidelines? Or are you going to step into this mess yourself?"

These clan lords were all Emperor Shura's subordinates and the Majestic Clan's diehard followers. There was no way they could allow the Majestic Clan to be detained without saying anything. Even if they couldn't resist, they had to say something in support of the Majestic Clan.

"Captain Kong, we are in no position to comment about the Peafowl Guard going about their business, but law enforcement has to have a basis in law, does it not? At least tell us what the Wang father and son did wrong, or how can the masses be convinced otherwise? We clan lords are the Majestic Clan's friends. There is no way we can let you take the Wang father and son away without good reason!"

"Yeah, there must be reason behind this!"

Captain Kong was also well aware that these people were diehard supporters of the Majestic Clan. He smiled coldly, "Everyone, my advice to you is to stay out of this business, for it won't be worth it if you accidentally get yourself involved in the ensuing mess. This is my final warning: back off. If you don't, we shall treat you as accomplices and arrest you as well."

These clan lords didn't think that Captain Kong would act this forceful. They exchanged uncertain glances with each other. Although they had the courage to speak up on behalf of the Majestic Clan, that didn't mean that they actually dared to go up against the Peafowl Guard. The Guard represented Emperor Peafowl. If they dared to offend Emperor Peafowl, the emperor himself might cause a river of blood to flow at their expense. The emperor quite literally could slap them into meat paste if he so wanted. Although these clan lords looked impressive and awe inspiring in Veluriyam Capital, their posturing was only effective to people who were beneath their stature. They were nothing but ants before a great emperor, and especially Emperor Peafowl. It was said that Emperor Peafowl was a supreme expert who could apparently handle three great emperors on his own. Even great emperors didn't dare pick a fight with Emperor Peafowl, much less the emperor realm cultivators present.

The Majestic clan lord laughed loudly at this, "Very well, very well. The Peafowl Guard truly is mighty and baleful. Everyone, I do not ask you to offend the Peafowl Guard for my sake. I only ask that you report this injustice to Emperor Shura so that he may seek out justice for me."

The Majestic clan lord also knew that enforcement carried out by the Peafowl Guard could not be stopped. If they tried, the Peafowl Guard would kill them all without mercy. Their words were definitely not empty threats, which was why he wasn't going to try at all. He was now even more certain that this was Emperor Peafowl's subordinates purposely trying to cause trouble for the Majestic Clan and take revenge for the capture of the House Wei father and son. However, while the Shura Guard had created 'evidence' before they made their arrest, the Peafowl Guard had merely ordered an arrest without producing any at all.

Not only was the Majestic clan lord not panic-stricken by the situation at hand, he was even feeling a little pleased. Come on then, arrest me. Let's see how you're going to conclude things once you've made the arrest. Of course, you can punish me first before trying me for my crimes, but if you did that, then not even Emperor Peafowl can handle the backlash!

He actually felt safe when he thought up to that point. The clan lord continued to show off his poise in spite of his arrest, "Everyone, I hereby thank you for attending today's event. I am sure that you know in your hearts who is in the right and who is in the wrong today. Some people think that they can hide the truth from the world, but they are wrong! I know that I am innocent, and although they've arrested me today, it is only a matter of time before they'll have to set me free, safe and sound later!"

His words sounded both just and forceful. The Majestic clan lord was very deft at rousing sympathy. His touching plea actually made plenty of neutral parties on the scene feel that the Peafowl Guard had acted a little overbearing this time. Perhaps it was true that the Majestic Clan was a victim of revenge. Setting aside what had happened to the House Wei father and son, it was undeniable that the Peafowl Guard's current actions seemed a little unfair.

Captain Kong paid the murmurs of the crowd no heed however. With the trace of a sneer lingering around the corner of his mouth, he oversaw his subordinates taping Taiyuan Lodge's entrance shut. In fact, some of the Peafowl Guards also took down Taiyuan Lodge's shop sign and smashed it to bits. They gave the Majestic Clan no face at all. The entire process was carried out in crisp, clean, and overbearing manner.

The Majestic clan lord was bleeding on the inside to see his beautiful shop sign being smashed into bits after it'd been just hung atop his store, but he was also sneering inwardly. You can throw your weight around all you like now, but you absolutely won't get off scot free later!

When everything was done, Captain Kong swept an indifferent glance across the Majestic Clan faction. "Who are the pill kings registered under Taiyuan Lodge?"

The Majestic Clan's pill kings all covered behind the closest piece of cover they could find. However, Captain Kong had already investigated their identities beforehand. He locked his gazes on these people as they were dragged mercilessly out into the open.

The Shura Guard commander sneered, "You may be feeling happy now, Kong, but I dare say that you won't be able to settle this later! Detaining a clan lord like this! Your gall is greater than the four monarchs under your Emperor Peafowl."

Captain Kong smiled indifferently, "I'm sorry? Did you say you wanted to join them at Sacred Peafowl Mountain?"

The Shura Guard commander simply sneered and said nothing, knowing that the odds were against them right now. It was only after Captain Kong had done everything that he needed to do that he finally cupped his fists to the crowd, "Everyone, I am sure that some of you think that we have acted a little hastily and over aggressive, didn't you? But I'm sure you won't think the same way if you knew just how angry we are right now. I am sure that you'll think even less of the Wang father and son's innocence once I tell you the truth." He stared coldly at the Majestic clan lord, "Clan Lord Wang, why did you not answer me when I asked you where your pill recipe was from? If you won't answer this question, then I'll be the one to tell everyone where you'd gotten the Longevity Pill's pill recipe!"

"What on earth are you trying to say?" the Majestic clan lord sneered.

Captain Kong declared loudly, "The Longevity Pill's pill recipe originally belonged to the Sacred Peafowl Mountain. However, not only did this Majestic Clan somehow manage to steal our pill recipe, he actually had the gall to build Taiyuan Lodge and sell the Longevity Pill openly! Now you tell me if the Majestic Clan should be punished for their crimes!"

What?! His words was a tidal wave that caught everyone by surprise.

The Longevity Pill's pill recipe was originally Sacred Peafowl Mountain's?!

The Majestic Clan had stolen the recipe from Sacred Peafowl Mountain?

Oh... no wonder the Peafowl Guard would muster so many men and make such a big fuss! The Majestic Clan had been a little too bold to pull this kind of stunt, hadn't they? How dare they steal something that belonged to Sacred Peafowl Mountain? The onlookers who hated the Majestic Clan from the start immediately started to hoot.

"I see, no wonder. Well done, Peafowl Guard! You're utterly shameless, Majestic Clan!"

"Yeah, well done! I can't believe that a great clan would commit thievery. This is an insult to our civilization!"

"I knew it, the Peafowl Guard has always been fair, so why would they suddenly oppress the Majestic Clan for no reason? Where's there's smoke, there's obviously fire!" More and more were standing up and accusing the Majestic Clan. It was obvious that the Majestic Clan's reputation had always been bad, and they had annoyed people even more with their exorbitant pricing earlier. In comparison, the Peafowl Guard maintained their image as a mysterious but fair unit. They represented the peak of Veluriyam Capital, and they had always been loved by all. Naturally, they trusted the Peafowl Guard over the Majestic Clan.

Don't tell me that the Peafowl Guard would accuse the Majestic Clan wrongly! They wouldn't make such a claim without sure evidence!

A boom resounded in the Majestic clan lord's mind. He was obviously blown a little off his feet by Captain Kong's words. However, he quickly regained his cool and laughed loudly. "What a joke, what a joke! Sacred Peafowl Mountain's pill recipe, you say? What a bold claim to make, Captain Kong! Let's not forget just how heavily guarded Sacred Peafowl Mountain is. Is it really possible for the likes of me to slip into such a place? Moreover, since when did Sacred Peafowl Mountain possess the Longevity Pill? If you did, why haven't you promoted it despite possessing such a revolutionary pill?"

One had to admit that the Majestic clan lord was very good at capturing the important points. He immediately won some support with his words. For a time, everyone's gazes were directed to Captain Kong once more. It was obvious that they were waiting to listen if Captain Kong had any further evidence to support his claim.

Chapter 810: The Domineering Peafowl Guard

Captain Kong was calm and collected. He'd long since expected the Majestic Clan to resort to quibbling.

"Everyone, we of the Peafowl Guard only ever take action when we have concrete evidence and have never acted blindly. Our capture of the Wang father and son is indicative of the fact that we have concrete evidence against them." Captain Kong continued indifferently, "We have studied this pill for several years now, and the exact recipe is still undergoing trial and revisions. Even the pill kings of our Sacred Peafowl Mountain haven't been able to ascertain whether these pills have any side-effects or not. That was why we hadn't brought them out for the benefit of the public. We'd never expected these thugs to steal our formula and refine the Longevity Pill with unproven methods just to rake in money! These are the actions of a madman!"

What?!

The Longevity Pill hasn't been tested? It's even unknown whether there are side effects? Everyone was starting to be convinced by Captain Kong's words. How could he have made it all up? The Majestic clan lord laughed coldly, "Captain Kong, please stop this malicious slander. It's useless to frame me with such a method."

Captain Kong simply ignored him and continued, "Furthermore, despite its difficult refining process, we can tell everyone with absolute certainty that the market price, when commercially available, will be at most two million saint spirit stones. It most definitely won't be priced at ten million saint spirit stones!"

At this news, the whole audience began to hiss and boo.

"Two million?! Good heavens, this Majestic Clan was actually selling it for ten million. This is daylight robbery!"

"They shamelessly stole the pill recipe and not only do they not reduce the price, but they raised it by five times! This is shamelessness at its finest!"

"And they were using an untested pill recipe! Are they trying to play around with everyone's lives?!"

"Such a lack of conscience! This kind of family isn't worthy of leading a clan. Behead them as soon as possible! Kill! Execute their whole house!" These people had long since been dissatisfied with the Majestic Clan. How could they not take this chance to chime in? There were also many from the Coiling

Dragon Clan and House Wei mixed within the crowd. These people naturally stood out to add oil to the flames.

The Majestic clan lord smirked coldly. How could he not know what was going on when things had reached such a stage? The Peafowl Guard was here to frame him. But after some thought, the Majestic clan lord concluded that it was impossible for these accusations to hold water. Such blatant boasting! Does your Sacred Peafowl Mountain even have this pill recipe? That was the minimum required if Peafowl Guard wanted to suppress him. How otherwise would they stop the masses from criticizing them? “Captain Kong, you’ve made up so many things just to set us up. How do you justify all of this?” The Majestic Clan asked with a sneer.

“Indeed. You claim to own this pill recipe but where is the proof?”

“Your babbling is worthless without any proof. The Sacred Peafowl Mountain can’t just expect something to be theirs just because they say so!” That captain of the Shura Guard began to jeer.

Captain Kong laughed, “I’d already expected such a last-ditch struggle. I’ll have you fully convinced and at the same time let everyone here know that our Peafowl Guard always upholds justice. We never wrong the innocent!”

With that, the captain pointed at the two pill kings by his side, “These two are the senior pill kings of our Sacred Peafowl Mountain. They spent meticulous effort to derive the Longevity Pill recipe from ancient records and serve as the most substantial evidence of our ownership.”

The Majestic clan lord laughed loudly, “You bring two random pill kings here and call it proof?!”

One of the two pill kings spoke with a grim voice, “Then what of the Majestic Clan? You lot fail to repent even at your last hour. The Longevity Pill Recipe is our lives’ work. Why can’t we testify?”

The Majestic clan lord laughed coldly, “Then let’s see you bring out a Longevity Pill, since you claim to be the owners of the pill recipe.”

The pill king nodded calmly, “I knew you would make such a demand. Everyone, please observe.”

With that, the pill king extended his hand to reveal an upper rank Longevity Pill. “Everyone, this is an upper rank Longevity Pill. The comparative difference is obvious—the Majestic Clan’s pills were refined with a stolen recipe—their products are absolutely incomparable to ours. This is proof!”

The appearance of a Longevity Pill shocked the entire audience. Many people bold enough stepped forth to examine the pill couldn’t help and sigh with admiration.

“This is indeed a Longevity Pill similar to that of the Majestic Clan, but the quality is much higher.”

This pill was the one Jiang Chen had given young master Ji San, which served as irrefutable evidence under present circumstances. The Majestic Clan was momentarily dumbfounded. They couldn’t accept the scene playing out before them. How had the Peafowl Guard gotten their hands on a higher quality Longevity Pill? Could it be that the Eternal Celestial Capital had given the recipe to the Sacred Peafowl Mountain in secret? That was highly unlikely. The Eternal Celestial Capital’s channels and influence could never reach the Sacred Peafowl Mountain. But what was with this pill?

The Majestic clan lord was at a loss about what to do. He vaguely sensed something was off about this incident, but couldn't put his finger on it even after racking his brains. A feeling of extreme foreboding welled up in his heart. At first, he had thought that the Peafowl Guard was here to intentionally cause trouble for them without any justifiable reason, just a simple setback to account for what the Shura Guard had done to the House Wei father and son. But things didn't seem that simple now! It appeared that the Peafowl Guard had come well prepared. The Majestic clan lord's rock-steady mindset wavered ever so slightly as a sliver of dread invaded his heart.

However, he was very clear that he would suffer dearly if he failed to offer an explanation and allowed himself to be captured. He hurriedly retorted, "It's no surprise that you have a single Longevity Pill. Perhaps you bought it from us via certain channels."

Captain Kong laughed loudly, "Are you kidding? It's not as if your Majestic Clan is doing business for the first time. There's no way you'd sell a Longevity Pill to me in secret before your shop opens. Furthermore, can your Majestic Clan even refine such a high rank Longevity Pill? Bring out a pill of the same rank for us to see!"

These words left the Majestic clan lord speechless.

"Everyone, I'm sure you've all witnessed the superior quality of our Longevity Pill and are clear regarding its implication. Everyone should already have a clear idea regarding whose Longevity Pill is the original," Captain Kong spoke loudly.

The audience was immediately swayed by the captain's words. After all, the Peafowl Guard's public reputation was at stake. Moreover, their Longevity Pill was definitely of a higher quality. If the pill really was the Majestic Clan's creation, why couldn't they bring out one of the same quality? This went against all logic. And as such, the shouts and curses rose up continuously.

"Majestic Clan, how long are you going to keep deceiving the public?!"

"Still not admitting to the theft? Are you still trying to worm your way out? Liars!"

"Everyone has seen the truth with their own eyes. The Wang Family stole the pill recipe and refined unproven pills to sell at exorbitant prices. I was wondering why they didn't test the pill on the aristocratic disciples but chose two lone cultivators instead. So it was because they feared side-effects!"

"Ah, it does feel odd now that you mention it. This Majestic Clan is too shameless! Are lone cultivators not humans?!"

"Down with the Majestic Clan! Down with immoral merchants!"

"Indeed! Overthrow them! These beasts who consider lone cultivators as test subjects are definitely bad people!" The fury of the lone cultivators was ignited as they began to curse and jeer. They were seconds away from rushing up to tear the Wang father and son to pieces.

Captain Kong raised his hand, "Everyone, I can understand your anger. But the Majestic Clan's theft of our Sacred Peafowl Mountain's recipe has infuriated our higher-ups. Rest assured that they will be punished to the fullest extent of the law!"

The Majestic clan lord was now frantic. Judging by the other party's tone of voice, they'd likely already decided upon the verdict. There'd be no return for him if he allowed himself to be taken away. He struggled and shouted loudly, "Everyone, don't fall for their tricks! The pill was indeed not refined by our Majestic Clan, but it certainly wasn't stolen from their Sacred Peafowl Mountain. Our Longevity Pills were provided by the Eternal Celestial Capital!" The anxious Majestic clan lord could no longer care about other considerations and revealed the truth in his panic.

Captain Kong laughed after hearing this, "Majestic clan lord, your shamelessness knows no bounds! You stole our recipe and cooperated with external forces but refuse to admit to the theft. This is living off the house yet secretly helping outsiders. This is a serious crime!"

The captain had long since rehearsed his words in response to the possible scenarios. The Majestic Clan's resistance and arguments were all well within his expectations. He was prepared to respond accordingly, no matter how the Majestic Clan tried to deny their crime. These words merely added fuel to the flames.

Previously, the Majestic Clan had only been accused of theft and dishonest business, but now they'd added external collusion to the list. This was much more serious, particularly of the final crime. External collusion was punishable by death. The Majestic clan lord roared furiously, "Captain Kong, this is blatant slander! Our Majestic Clan has always been devoted and loyal. How could we collude with external forces?"

"Then was it me who mentioned 'Eternal Celestial Capital'?" Captain Kong chuckled sarcastically.

"It's a simple business relationship. How does that amount to collusion?" The Majestic clan lord argued back resolutely. But to the others, it appeared as if he was trying to weasel his way out.

Captain Kong laughed disdainfully, "Stealing pill recipes and handing it to external forces—which part of that is simple business? This is leaking internal secrets! Such crime deserves exterminating nine generations of the family!"

The rapid escalation caused the Majestic clan lord's back to be drenched in sweat. He knew he'd fallen into a disadvantageous position. Even jumping into the river wouldn't be able to wash away these crimes. Wang Teng cried loudly, "Slander! Fabrications! The Peafowl Guard is concocting false accusations to frame us. Everyone, you're all forthright people. Can't you see what they're trying to do?"