

Three Realms 811

Chapter 811: Taiyuan Lodge Is Done For Again

Perhaps it would've been better if he hadn't said anything. The crowd erupted in hisses when Wang Tong turned to them.

"Motherf*cker, piss off with your trumped-up charges! Is there anyone here who's unaware of your clan's code of conduct? It's one thing to be a despotic oppressor and bully the weak, but you're even a thief who colluded with foreign scum!"

"And the most despicable is selling a Longevity Pill worth two million for ten million. Even a leech doesn't suck out the people's lifeblood like that!"

"Please, honored lords of the Peafowl Guard, you mustn't let this slimy and evil father and son duo get away with it!" The voices denouncing the Majestic Clan all of a sudden became an endless, crashing tide.

Jiang Chen's eyes were icy when he witnessed everything from the shadows. His chest was filled with elation. Weren't you very full of it? Weren't you quite adept at exploiting the situation to your own advantage? Weren't you counting on the Longevity Pill to make you a fortune? Then I'll use the Longevity Pill to bury the two of you and your Majestic Clan!

He had been the one to plan the entire scheme. The pieces had all fallen in line when he'd made the decision to gift away the Longevity Pill's recipe. To begin with, Sacred Peafowl Mountain had merely lacked an opening. They'd also thought this plan feasible after he'd shared it with them. They'd immediately inspected the recipe, and Jiang Chen had spent the entire night teaching the two pill kings how to refine the pill. The two of them were ninth-level pill kings, both outstanding in their study of the dao of pills. Together with Jiang Chen's guidance, it'd taken them very little time to learn how to produce the pill. That was how the Longevity Pill had become the Sacred Peafowl Mountain's pill recipe.

With this underlying basis, the Sacred Peafowl Mountain had more than enough justification to spring into action. This was the reason why they'd arranged such a play to back the Majestic Clan into a corner. The origin of the Longevity Pill recipe had always been a mystery to begin with. The critical part was that the Majestic Clan couldn't explain themselves fully either. They had first resorted to sophistry, then mentioned the Celestial Eternal Capital's name. Such a change of tune naturally wouldn't convince anyone.

On the contrary, the Peafowl Guard had always asserted that the Longevity Pill was the property of Sacred Peafowl Mountain. They'd never deviated from this line from start to finish. Then they'd displayed an upper-rank Longevity Pill and instantly crushed the Majestic Clan's Longevity Pill. This pill might look a minor thing in the larger scheme, but it was an extremely important piece of evidence. It instantly convinced those previously skeptical to trust Sacred Peafowl Mountain. Furthermore, the Majestic Clan's story was full of holes. Captain Kong hadn't let any of them pass by freely and constantly battered at them.

All of a sudden, the Majestic Clan side was riddled with loopholes while Captain Kong and his men pressed every opening. On top of all that, the Majestic Clan had set the price of the Longevity Pill at ten million saint spirit stones. This was a price that infuriated the public. They all heard this Longevity Pill was only worth two million! Let alone, the Majestic Clan had even stolen this pill recipe. In their rush to

rake in more wealth, they'd put it up for sale before even verifying whether there were any side effects! In comparison, the Sacred Peafowl Mountain had been very conservative while studying the recipe. They hadn't been in a hurry to sell before they collected sufficient data. This contrast made the Sacred Peafowl Mountain look serious and responsible, worried about everyone's safety, while the Majestic Clan was blinded by wealth and didn't have any scruples using the wandering cultivators as their guinea pigs. It was obvious at a glance which side was more deserving of trust.

Seeing the Majestic clan lord's speechless dismay, Captain Kong shouted, "Since you already admit your guilt, then obediently come back with us to the Sacred Peafowl Mountain!"

The clan lord shuddered from head to toe. "I'm not going with you! You're framing me! The Peafowl Guard is showing quite some daring today to frame a great clan! I won't accept this! I want to see His Majesty Great Emperor Shura!" n.(o-(v).e-/ℓ.)**B**--l)-n

"Dream on!" Captain Kong sneered. "Stealing Sacred Peafowl Mountain's pill recipe is a crime that even Great Emperor Shura can't save you from!" His face turned stern. "Attention, Peafowl Guards, take away the Wang father and son as well as the Taiyuan Lodge's pill kings. Kill anyone who resists!"

"Let's go!"

A myriad of expressions flashed in quick succession on the Majestic clan lord's face. He was clearly debating the best course of action in his mind. He knew full well he still had a lifeline left to him if he could break through from this encirclement. Perhaps he could escape disaster if he fled to Great Emperor Shura's side. However, his son would certainly be killed on the spot if he were to flee. They would also take the opportunity to execute all the pill kings. He would have no one left by then. Whatever aspirations, whatever ambitions he had, they'd scatter like smoke. The most important thing was that he might have some confidence in making good his escape, but it wasn't an absolute guarantee! Moreover, if he were to flee with his life all by himself, then the question of how much use he would be and how much value he would have for Great Emperor Shura would also arise.

After much deliberations, the clan lord clenched his teeth and announced to the great clans allied with him, "Clan Lords, you know I am innocent. Please go to His Majesty the Great Emperor and plead for me. Tell His Majesty he must save us."

To clash head-on with the Peafowl Guard right now was definitely not a clever choice. His only choice was to beg Great Emperor Shura. Only the great emperor could save him and save his son.

The Peafowl Guard wasn't planning on dilly-dallying. "We're counting to three. If you're still not leaving with us then, then there won't be any need to leave."

His eyes bloodshot, his chest filled with a feeling of humiliation, the clan lord still stood up nevertheless. "I'm coming with you! Don't feel so pleased with yourself though. Great Emperor Shura will never let you get away with your sinister plot."

"You still want to quibble even when death is knocking at your door? The evidence is foolproof. The more you argue, the more wretched your fate will be!"

"You even had the gall to steal something from Sacred Peafowl Mountain, you even dared collude with foreign powers and leak Sacred Peafowl Mountain's secret recipe. You really deserve death!"

These successive accusations were like thunderbolts striking the clan lord. He couldn't hold back the urge to twitch. The Peafowl Guard took away the father and son from the Majestic Clan, as well as the pill kings. They parted the crowd apart and left with great fanfare. Only the Shura guards and the clan lords were left behind, flabbergasted.

"Why are you still staring like fools? Hurry up and notify the Moon Monarch!"

"We must notify His Majesty Shura at once. Big trouble's brewing this time."

"Alas, who would have thought a Longevity Pill recipe would cause so many problems."

"I also thought it weird. I kept asking the clan lord where the Longevity Pill came from, but he always skirted around the subject. Could he really have gotten it from the Sacred Peafowl Mountain?" This time, even the Majestic Clan's allies were suspicious of the clan lord. After all, they'd also previously inquired about the pill's origins, but the clan lord had always acted secretive and had never been willing to reveal the truth.

"What the bloody use is there talking about this now?" The Shura Guard captain was furious. "Hurry to the Shura Palace and report to His Majesty and the Moon Monarch!"

"Right, the Moon Monarch is Lord Wang's sworn brother. He definitely won't sit by idly and watch this happen." These great clans had looked grand and imposing when they'd arrived, but now they looked like stray dogs, one and all. They were all cutting sorry figures. Their fighting spirit was obviously rock bottom after the Peafowl Guard's maneuver. It hadn't been their business to begin with. If the Majestic Clan had really stolen Sacred Peafowl Mountain's pill recipe, they would also follow suit and be covered in shame. The Murong clan lord's frown was particularly intense. He was the most nervous one, and also the most afraid. If the Majestic Clan's pill recipe had truly been stolen from Sacred Peafowl Mountain, and if they'd even smuggled it to the Eternal Celestial Capital, then the Majestic Clan was done for. This might compromise anyone associated with the Majestic Clan. With the Murong Clan so close to the Majestic Clan, they'd definitely be implicated. After all, the Murong clan lord and the Majestic clan lord were brothers-in-law!

Sacred Peafowl Mountain's paper seal was stuck to the front of the Taiyuan Lodge. It was two simple strips of paper, yet more frightening than any seal. No one even had the guts to approach within three meters of that area. The previously resplendent Majestic Clan had become so miserable and desolate in the blink of an eye. Looking at the Taiyuan Lodge's shattered signboard lying on the ground, everyone lamented.

"Retribution really comes quicker than one imagines!"

"Isn't that so? They took revenge against House Wei's father and son, but forgot their own butt wasn't clean. Serves them right!"

"House Wei is so honest, and their pill king has genuine ability. The Majestic Clan lashed out at them simply out of jealousy."

"That's right. The Majestic Clan has always been like this. They can't tolerate others. It's best to eradicate such a faction as soon as possible, or else they might become a disaster for the Veluriyam Capital in the future."

“Indeed. The Peafowl Guard’s actions are really gratifying this time!”

“Isn’t that so? The Peafowl Guard has always been fair and impartial. Otherwise, do you think they could have stayed the number one faction in the Capital for so long?”

“Right. Today showed us the Peafowl Guard’s indeed more reliable. In comparison, humph...” The crowd hadn’t yet dispersed from the street. Everyone obviously felt today’s trip had not been in vain. They’d originally planned to visit the Taiyan Lodge on the first day of their reopening and see whether something interesting would happen. Who would have thought they’d really get to see such a great drama? They had to admit it felt very satisfying. In particular, many people felt gratified when they saw the crestfallen Majestic father and son taken away by the Peafowl Guard.

Inside the crowd, Pill King Lu Feng was also delighted. Seeing the Majestic Clan in deep trouble of course made him ecstatic. He walked to the shattered signboard and viciously spat on it. He swore, “A great clan that doesn’t practice virtue and doesn’t accumulate positive karma, serves you right!”

Pill King Lu Feng’s steps became light and spry as though he’d been cleansed by the spring breeze. He walked away. The drama had about come to an end. On the way back, he suddenly ran into two people barring his path. “Pill King Lu Feng, throwing away the Majestic Clan’s invitation and secretly watching the show unfold, wasn’t it very interesting? Come, take a walk with us!”

Pill King Lu Feng suddenly grew furious. “What the hell are you, get lost!” He threw a punch, but the one in front laughed mischievously. “Hehe, you damn old man, did you really attack me? I wouldn’t have asked you for a favor last time if I’d known.”

Pill King Lu Feng froze as soon as he heard this voice. “You... Young master San?”

The other person came forward and patted his shoulder. “Ole Lu, I’m quite pleased with your attitude this time, you passed my test. I am thinking of formally accepting you as my disciple.” This voice naturally was Jiang Chen.

“Honored master?” Pill King Lu Feng was overjoyed when he heard this voice.

Jiang Chen was all smiles. “Let’s go, we’ll chat after we go back.”

Jiang Chen and young master Ji San had arrived at the scene some time ago. Only, their sole mission today was to watch the drama unfold. However, while watching, they’d also been observing the others at the same time. They’d inadvertently noticed Pill King Lu Feng throw away the invitation card, spit and step on it. Jiang Chen found it funny, and he’d also understood that Pill King’s intent to seek refuge with him was indeed sincere and genuine. Otherwise, since he didn’t know Jiang Chen was present on the scene, he naturally couldn’t have deliberately put on a front for him to see.

Chapter 812: Emperor Shura

“What did you say!? The Wang father and son were captured by the Peafowl Guard?!” At Shura hall, the Moon Monarch abruptly shot to his feet when he heard his subordinate captain’s report. His face looked as dark as black bean paste.

“Yes... Captain Kong had mobilized more than a hundred Peafowl Guards, and they were all among the best of the best. They had come prepared.”

“What was their justification? They can’t have detained them without a reason, can they?” The Moon Monarch obviously couldn’t accept this outcome.

“They said that the Wang father and son stole the Longevity Pill pill recipe from Sacred Peafowl Mountain! The evidence they provided was actually quite convincing,” This captain actually started defending the Peafowl Guard in order to exonerate himself. With this proof, he could at least prove that the Shura Guard present at the scene weren’t completely powerless!

“The Longevity Pill recipe? How does it possibly belong to Sacred Peafowl Mountain?” The more the Moon Monarch heard, the more confused he became. Did they seriously believe the other party’s claims? Just like that?

“My lord, they produced a Longevity Pill of their own which was of better quality than any the Majestic Clan’s pills. Almost no one present could debunk this piece of evidence, and that included the Majestic clan lord himself. In the end, the Majestic clan lord even brought up the Eternal Celestial Capital in an attempt to defend himself, but the Peafowl Guard accused him of colluding with foreign forces and leaking the Sacred Peafowl Mountain’s top secret pill recipe instead. Therefore, the criminal charge on him only worsened.”

The expression on the Moon Monarch’s face grew darker and darker. He cursed under his breath, “Not good enough to accomplish anything, yet good enough to ruin everything!”

No one knew if he was cursing his subordinate or the Majestic clan lord. Still, this matter was of the utmost urgency. The Moon Monarch understood that a criminal charge like this was a serious matter.

If the fake criminal charge they fabricated could enable them to arrest the Wei father and son in the first place... then the charges against the Majestic Clan were enough to doom the entire clan to death tens or hundreds of times over. This was especially true for the last charge where they were accused of colluding with foreign forces and leaking a top secret pill recipe. There was no doubt that the Majestic Clan would be exterminated down nine generations if the other party really wanted to go all the way with the sentencing. In fact, it might even drag other forces into the mess. That was why the Moon Monarch could no longer stay silent. He understood that this matter had gone out of his control, and that it was time to ask for instructions from the great emperor.

Emperor Shura was also a little surprised when he heard the Moon Monarch’s report. “How can such a thing have come to be? Tell me the details” Although Emperor Shura was a little surprised, he showed no signs of panic whatsoever. A great emperor’s bearing alone was something none of his subordinates could compete with.

The Moon Monarch responded, “Those great clan lords were all present that day. Should I call them in so that you may question them closely?”

The clan lords entered, each badly masking fear on their faces. They weren’t normally this cowed when they met Emperor Shura, but that was not the case today. They had allowed the Peafowl Guard to detain the Wang father and son right before their eyes. But despite their worries, Emperor Shura obviously wasn’t looking to place blame, merely nodding indifferently, “There’s no need to hold back. You were wise not to butt heads against the Peafowl Guard in those circumstances, for our losses would have only been bigger. They would have had even more excuses to cause trouble for us.”

Emperor Shura truly deserved to be called the ruler of a region. His words immediately dispelled their worries. "Now speak. The more detailed, the better."

And so the clan lords gave Emperor Shura a complete report of the situation that had happened. Since he was hearing this from his subordinates' point of view, Emperor Shura frowned and asked them a question, "You were there. Do you think that the Majestic Clan had stolen from Sacred Peafowl Mountain, or do you think that they were framed?"

"I think they were framed!"

"I think they were framed too." None of them were saying what they really thought of the situation.

"Speak truthfully," Emperor Shura's expression darkened.

The clan lords exchanged anxious glances with each other. The truth was, they thought that the Majestic clan lord and his son looked extremely suspicious. After all, the evidence produced by the Peafowl Guard had been extremely solid. Moreover, the Majestic clan lord and his son had sidestepped the question every time these clan lords had pressed them about the origin of the Longevity Pills. But how would they dare tell the truth to Emperor Shura?

"Your Majesty, the situation at the time was extremely disadvantageous for the Majestic Clan. In the end, not even the Majestic clan lord himself could think of something to defend himself. He simply told us to tell you that he was wronged."

"Indeed. Regardless of whether the Majestic clan lord is wronged, we can't just stand by and do nothing to help him, can we? Your Majesty?"

Emperor Shura looked indifferent, "It would seem that all of you do think that the Majestic clan lord and his son stole the pill recipe from Sacred Peafowl Mountain."

The clan lords were all stumped for words.

"Absurd!" Emperor Shura humphed coldly, "I know the Majestic clan lord. He is not such a careless person. One, if he really did steal the pill recipe from Sacred Peafowl Mountain, the first thing he would do is to report the theft to me. Two, there is no way he would openly sell the Longevity Pills. After all, is it not the same as telling Sacred Peafowl Mountain that he had stolen their pill recipe? Therefore, there is no doubt that the Majestic clan lord is being framed for a fabricated crime!"

The Moon Monarch stood up abruptly, "If this is a fabricated crime, please allow me to lead a group of men and demand the Majestic Clan's release from Sacred Peafowl Mountain, Your Majesty."

"Sit!" Emperor Shura's tone wasn't strong, but there was a dignity within it that brooked no disobedience. Even an unyielding person like the Moon Monarch had sat back down involuntarily upon hearing his words. He actually felt no annoyance or disobedience at all. "You won't get them back even if you do go. In fact, you might even be captured by them," Emperor Shura sounded as collected as ever.

"What should we do then?" The Majestic clan lord was the Moon Monarch's sworn brother. He was the most anxious person out of all present.

"We must go back to the root of the issue in order to settle this matter. Although the Majestic Clan hadn't stolen the Longevity Pill recipe, all of this started because the Majestic Clan suppressed House

Wei.” While Emperor Shura might not interfere with worldly affairs, his insight was ever clear and precise. His vassals were silent, but they all had to admit that Emperor Shura’s words were true. It was patently obvious that the Peafowl Guard was taking revenge against the Majestic Clan.

The Moon Monarch raised his eyebrows, “Your Majesty, should I do the same thing as before and return the ‘favor’ to the Coiling Dragon Clan? We’re not afraid to trade blows with each other.”

“Do you really think that a golden opportunity like that will arise again?” Emperor Shura asked indifferently.

The Peafowl Guard had planned out their scheme perfectly, with more than sufficient evidence to back it up. There was nothing they could do to prevent the capture of the Majestic clan lord and his son. It would only be foolish to return the favor to the Coiling Dragon Clan without being able to produce evidence any more convincing than what they had right now. They would definitely become a public enemy.

The Moon Monarch thought for a moment before letting out a depressed sigh, “Then what do we do?”

“How fares the Wei father and son?” Emperor Shura suddenly asked. n..p-(V))e(-l).b)-1--n

“They were interrogated for a bit, but I didn’t go too far with the torture.” The Moon Monarch replied.

“Didn’t I tell you not to torture them?” Emperor Shura frowned.

Moon Monarch’s eyes looked a little evasive, “That father and son were just too repulsive. I couldn’t stand them, so I punished them a little secretly. It didn’t leave signs that ordinary people would notice, however.”

“Absurd! The main reason we captured them is to coerce them into giving in to our interests. It was already bad that you privately tortured them, and it has only worsened with the capture of the Wang father and son!”

The Moon Monarch said angrily, “They will torture the Majestic clan lord and his son too, won’t they?”

“The evidence they have will survive an inspection, but the evidence you created to frame the Wei father and son is not nearly as solid before a public investigation. Therein lies the difference.” Emperor Shura sighed softly, “Never mind, it is already too late for recrimination. We can only contact the other great emperors and pay Emperor Peafowl a visit.”

“But I thought that Emperor Peafowl has gone into closed door cultivation.”

“Then we shall wait until he comes back out,” Emperor Shura said indifferently.

“Rumor has it that he’ll be coming out in half a month.”

Emperor Shura waved his hands, “Treat the Wei father and son well during this half month, and don’t cause any more trouble during this period. I shall resolve this personally when Emperor Peafowl surfaces.”

At this point, it was obvious that Emperor Shura’s side was at a disadvantage. Emperor Shura was a formidable character, and he was very good at taking stock of a given situation. He knew when to

withdraw when the tides were unfavorable. This incident would only grow bigger if they retaliated, and it obviously wouldn't go well for them judging from how the winds were blowing right now. After all, the source of this incident was the Majestic Clan.

Although Emperor Shura had laid down a basic response of passivity, Sacred Peafowl Mountain wasn't quite cooperative. Many pill stores in Farmer God Market found themselves in trouble after the Majestic clan lord and his son were captured. Every day, a group of mysterious pill masters would visit a pill store and destroy them. The pills provided by these pill stores would be analyzed and criticized mercilessly by this group of mysterious pill masters. All kinds of dark secrets would be spilled in the process.

The pill kings of the attacked pill stores came out to defend their reputation, but they were all beaten by a single mysterious pill master. The pill master would debate so eloquently that they could do nothing but accept their defeat in dejection. These visits quickly grew to become a daily phenomenon. Moreover, the pill stores that were attacked all belonged under Emperor Shura's subordinates. Not only were the Majestic Clan's shops attacked, other great clans' pill stores were dragged in as well. Within a short period of time, every great clan beneath Emperor Shura were scared of being the next one visited. It was obvious that this mysterious pill master and his destructive visits had become everyone's nightmare as of late. It didn't matter how powerful the pill kings they had sent were. The end result was always the same: They were completely and utterly exposed by that mysterious pill master!

These pill stores suffered horrendous blows to their reputation and lost a large majority of their business very quickly. Moreover, these defeated pill kings were so discouraged that they almost all quit their jobs. It was obvious that their defeat was so bad that they no longer had the face to keep working in Veluriyam Capital. As such, a vicious cycle began to grow. The pill stores of the great clans beneath Emperor Shura lost seventy to eighty percent of their business because of this mysterious pill master. They had practically become the joke of Farmer God Market.

Thankfully, this mysterious pill master chose his targets well and never once attacked innocents. All of the pill stores he chose belonged to Emperor Shura, and he never once went after an innocent pill store. Therefore, not only did the other forces not feel sad for their competitors, they were even rejoicing on the inside. Their business had obviously improved since so many other shops were crippled to the point of vanishing overnight. To them, this mysterious pill master and his antics was a major windfall. They only hoped that this mysterious pill master would never stop. Ideally, they hoped that he would take down all the pill shops that belonged to Emperor Shura. Unfortunately for them, after ten or so days, just when Emperor Shura was readying himself to deal with him, the mysterious pill master vanished, like he had never existed in the first place.

Chapter 813: Seething With Rage

"How wonderful! Honored master, this really feels wonderful!" Pill King Lu Feng was in an outstanding mood. He'd been posing as Jiang Chen's attendant for the past few days while they'd gone around wrecking pill shops. He was having the time of his life and couldn't help but shout his happiness. They'd visited all the pill shops belonging to the great clans, and even the ninth rank aristocratic houses under Great Emperor Shura, sent them tumbling head over heels and left in style afterwards.

A simple brush of the clothes after a done deed, an anonymous departure, their names still hidden. This was simply the peak realm of throwing his weight around. Lu Feng didn't feel like it was a crude sham at

all. On the contrary, he felt it to be an amazing pleasure. It wasn't simply the pleasure of wrecking these shops. Even more than that, it was the joy of being together with his master and immersing himself in his teacher's divine erudition in the dao of pills.

Lu Feng had first thought his master to be a mere representative of the Deviant Pill Faction, a genius of the Deviant Pill Faction. Spending these ten days as his attendant had caused Pill King Lu Feng to deeply realize how thoroughly wrong he had been! This teacher was simply an phenomenal genius. The Deviant Pill Faction was merely a small fraction of his knowledge.

Lu Feng had spent the past couple of days watching the honored master duel pill kings and destroy their shops was like it was child's play. All of his master's pill dueling knowledge, all the various techniques and tricks... they'd utterly flabbergasted Lu Feng.

Truth be told, he had been a little apprehensive at first. After all, there were quite a few formidable pill kings holding down the fort in these pill stores. However, after becoming accustomed to the situation, he'd realized how absurd his worries had been. Those hadn't been any pill duels, simply utter trampling! After ten days, the adoration he felt for this master was boundless.

"O' Lu, even I have regrets now that I see how delighted you are." The depressed Ji San said from the side. Young master Ji san had been eager to participate in the rampage, but it wouldn't have been suitable with his status. His identity was just too sensitive. It was bound to attract no end of trouble if by any chance someone were to see through his disguise. So Ji San had repressed his impulsive thoughts and refrained from going with them. As a result, listening to Pill King Lu Feng's hyperbolic recounting now, young master Ji San faintly felt he'd let a great time slip out of his hands.

Jiang Cheng merely offered a faint smile. "O' Lu, you're making a fuss out of nothing. Back then, when my own teacher taught me the art of pills, he used many surprising ways throughout the entire ten years. He taught me many petty ways to nitpick and find fault. Do you know what the old gentleman said back then?"

"What did he say?" Lu Feng brimmed with interest. Although he'd never seen his master's master, he was full of curiosity about this mysterious man, full of limitless reverence.

"The old gentleman said that he taught me these skills so that I can go ruffle other pill masters' feathers for no reason, so that others won't dare offend me. It was a self-preservation method."

Pill King Lu Feng blinked. "It's also a self-preservation method?"

Jiang Chen laughed. "That's right, if someone is afraid of you nitpicking them, won't they be forced to ingratiate themselves with you?"

Lu Feng laughed out loud. "Excellent, how right that is! What an odd, brazen notion from the grandmaster. Why is even his teaching method so bizarre?"

Jiang Chen nodded. "Mhm. Next time I see him, I'll tell him what you said."

Lu Feng's face froze as he scrambled for words, "Don't! Honored master, I didn't say anything, so don't you slander me now. I'm afraid the old gentleman will directly expel me if he gets angry."

Ji San laughed. "Brother, even my own curiosity is piqued from the way you talk about your teacher. Such an eccentric person is deserving of reverence and fascination."

Jiang Chen nodded with a smile. "Oh right, Brother Ji, how's the situation of late?"

"It's Great Emperor Shura's turn to be in a panic now. The seven great emperors have already informed each other of the situation. They're going to look for a way to settle the matter."

Ji San said, "House Wei's father and son will certainly be safe now, at the very least. Meanwhile, the Wang father and son might not escape unscathed."

"Mhm. We have to bury that particular duo deep now that we've started."

"Mhm. Leaving a snake alive would be akin to sowing the seeds of future disaster. The father and son are definitely done for this time. Only, it might not be a fatal blow for the Majestic Clan. Great Emperor Shura is certainly going to replace them," Ji San said.

"But it's still a pleasant surprise for the Coiling Dragon Clan!"

Ji San laughed. "Indeed."

If the Majestic clan lord and his son were done in this time, then the Majestic Clan would greatly suffer even if someone replaced them. Moving forward, they would naturally pose a much smaller threat to the Coiling Dragon Clan.

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The Coiling Dragon clan lord was as happy as young master Ji San. After many twists and turns, this pleasant surprise seemed like a glimmer of light at the end of a long tunnel. The Majestic Clan had long since set their sights on the Coiling Dragon Clan as prey. But now, it'd all suddenly fallen apart, just like that. Moreover, there wasn't much hope left for them to rise from these ashes either. At the very least, there was certainly no hope left for their clan lord and his son.

Since the Peafowl Guard had already gone into action, the "ironclad evidence" they'd produced would definitely doom the Majestic clan lord and his son, even if the seven great emperors were to try and smooth things over. As for Lord Wei and his son, the fabricated evidence would naturally not stand up to scrutiny. So, nothing might happen to Lord Wei and his son, but Lord Wang and his son were bound for a wretched fate. Great Emperor Peafowl was certainly going to show a personal interest in the matter after coming out of seclusion. As soon as Great Emperor Peafowl went into action, everyone would have to give him an accounting.

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Sure enough, Great Emperor Shura was seething with rage.

"All of you, don't you know how to do anything? Can't you show a little brains? Since you already knew they were coming to wreck the shops, don't you know to prepare yourself in advance? You let him run amok for ten days, are you this helpless!?" The audible anger in Great Emperor's Shura's tone skewered everyone in the room.

The continuous shop wrecking didn't have a direct connection with Great Emperor Shura, but it was definitely an indirect slap to his face. None of the shops belonging to factions under the other great emperors had been touched. The shops involved all had belonged to those under his banner. None of the clan lords had anything to say in the face of such words. They had been dead busy with the Majestic Clan's matter when this pill master had gone to town, so they hadn't spared enough focus for the Farmer God Market. Who would've thought that every pill store would be wrecked one after another in the past ten days? It was an utter disaster!

"Moon Monarch, did you find out the identity of the pill master in question?" The great emperor asked, looking at the Moon Monarch.

The Moon Monarch was crestfallen. "They'd already disappeared without a trace by the time we'd sent out our men. What's left to investigate? There isn't even the beginning of a clue to be found."

A great emperor's faction usually didn't set foot in the mundane world. By the time the Moon Monarch's men had been dispatched, Jiang Chen had long finished his shop-wrecking and face-smacking already. He had also thoroughly cleaned up after himself and left nothing behind.

"Your Majesty, there's no need to investigate. It's certainly a pill king from Sacred Peafowl Mountain under a disguise who went out to wreck our shops." One of the clan lords was bold enough to speak up.

"Do you have any evidence?" Great Emperor Shura asked, his tone cold.

The clan lord in question immediately shut his mouth. The lord of the Murong Clan suddenly spoke up, "Your Majesty, back then, the Majestic Clan and House Wei had a bet. In the end, it was that pill king from House Wei who'd come out the winner in some bizarre fashion. Even now, the origin of Pill King Zhen is unclear. Could it have been that Pill King Zhen's doing?"

"Pill King Zhen?" It was a name Great Emperor Shura had heard before, but never taken to heart. As one of the great emperors, of course he wouldn't have paid attention to a low-ranked pill king.

"Yes. That Pill King Zhen is very strange. Back then, when he defeated Taiyuan Lodge's Pill King Rong, he'd revealed quite a few abilities, all of them earthshaking in their own right. That fellow even knows the solution to the Ingenious Decan Pill Enigma and is also a representative of the Deviant Pill Faction..." As though he were pouring his heart out, Lord Murong talked on and on. It was obvious that he had carefully investigated Jiang Chen.

"Lord Murong, aren't you exaggerating? How strong is House Wei? How could they entice such a powerful pill king? The one who wrecked the shops this time is obviously a veteran and his ability in the dao of pills is beyond comprehension. None of the pill kings we had were his match. This person's pill dao is extremely profound. I'm guessing it must be an old monster recluse from Sacred Peafowl Mountain." Another clan lord objected.

"How do you know that House Wei's pill king isn't an old monster? Maybe Sacred Peafowl Mountain and House Wei has been in concert all along!" Lord Murong countered convincingly.

Seeing them argue without any coherent line of thought, Great Emperor Shura lost his temper and bellowed, "Why are you arguing!? State your proof if you have any! If you don't have any evidence, then why are you fighting amongst yourselves?"

The two of them didn't dare continue their dispute now that the great emperor had spoken. It actually wasn't out of hostility, but after holding in their dismay for so long everyone merely wanted to display their abilities in front of the great emperor.

A powerhouse dressed in daoist robes who'd been sitting below Great Emperor Shura until now suddenly opened his eyes. Calm as a placid lake, he spoke, "Your Majesty, your servant is of the belief that we have to let go of this matter even if we have to suffer a loss."

His daoist robe was embroidered with scattered five-pointed stars. This man was one of the three other monarchs beneath Great Emperor Shura, the Star Monarch. He was the wisest man in Great Emperor Shura's service, with overwhelming strength and outstanding intelligence. Moreover, he always kept the bigger picture in mind. He'd always served as a trusted adviser for the great emperor, offering plans and suggestions.

"Star Monarch, aren't you undermining our men's morale?" The Moon Monarch was quite unhappy at those words.

"Brother Moon, looking at the bigger picture, Lord Wang and his son are in a disastrous situation. We can't protect the Majestic Clan even if we stand firm behind them, and there's the possibility that we even might even drag in others. Moreover, the Veluriyam Pagoda Ceremony is soon upon us. Our first priority should be to prepare for Pagoda's competition. That's our real path to dominating the landscape in the future. Embroiling ourselves in marginal battlefields doesn't hold real meaning for us." The Star Monarch's tone was calm and kind, as though he would never let his personal feelings affect his words. This was one of the reasons why Great Emperor Shura admired him.

Great Emperor Shura glanced at the usually taciturn Sun Monarch. "Scorching Sun, what do you think?"

"I follow Your Majesty's will." The Sun Monarch was even more concise. He was loyal man who carried out his orders, a shadow following Great Emperor Shura.

Great Emperor Shura heaved a quiet sigh. "One thing the Star Monarch said is quite correct. The Veluriyam Pagoda's Ceremony is the real method to dominating the future. Everything else falls behind in comparison. Let us do as the Star Monarch said!"

Chapter 814: Fifth Level Sage Realm

Emperor Shura's words were tantamount to a declaration of concession. He was yielding not because of love of peace, nor was he taking a step back to open up easier solutions to the problem. It was, in fact, to prepare for an even more aggressive advance later on. He had painstakingly accumulated power for the past eight hundred years. He knew he was ready to strive for supremacy with Emperor Peafowl, and the upcoming Veluriyam Pagoda opening was the perfect opportunity.

Emperor Shura's compromise had effectively relinquished the House Wei father and son back to the Peafowl Guard, but not before a final episode of resistance. When the seven great emperors were seated together, Emperor Shura brought up the question as to whether the Longevity Pill indeed belonged to the Sacred Peafowl Mountain. The Peafowl Guard naturally had to present sufficient evidence before the seven great emperors. Their two pill kings refined the Longevity Pill on the spot in order to defend the legitimacy of their claim. This proved to the other imperial powers that the Majestic

Clan had in fact stolen the pill recipe, invoking the unanimous opinion that even death couldn't atone for the crimes of the Majestic Clan father and son. Now even Emperor Shura could no longer protect the Majestic Clan father and son.

Moreover, the Shura Emperor wouldn't allow the Majestic clan lord to bring up the Eternal Celestial Capital. It'd serve no other purpose than to bring shame upon their own camp. It would instead give Emperor Peafowl the opportunity to confirm the Majestic Clan's collusion with external forces. This would widen the scope of damage. Emperor Shura had no choice but to sacrifice the minority to remedy the greater cause. And thus, the Wang father and son were sentenced to death. The issue regarding the House Wei father and son was relatively simple. Detailed investigation revealed several doubtful points on their peddling of fake pills. The combination of witnesses and material evidence scarcely formed a plausible explanation.

Apparently, Emperor Shura wasn't willing to be entangled with them on this. He simply played along and released Shen Trifire and the House Wei father and son. Otherwise, he was well aware that Emperor Peafowl's mad reprisals may further expand to the Majestic Clan's collusion with the Eternal Celestial Capital. The truth would truly be difficult to explain at that point. There was obviously no such thing. But there was no way to deny anything now since they were tarred most convincingly with that brush.

The seven great emperors, once gathered, shared a mutual understanding that such a matter should no longer be extended. It was the Wang father and son shared the most tragic fate. Even their execution was carried out in one of the crowded districts of Farmer God Market. There was no shortage of people who came to witness the execution. It was quite the rowdy occasion. The Majestic Clan father and son didn't put up any form of resistance and accepted their decapitation like walking corpses. Only then did the curtains fall on this sensational case.

The implicated person, however, didn't even bother to witness the execution. Jiang Chen had been undergoing closed door cultivation since the previous episodes of disruptive gatecrashing. He had Pill King Lu Feng oversee things even after Taiyuan Tower restarted for business. Jiang Chen now had a clear understanding of the general situation after all that he had experienced. Neither the Majestic Clan nor Emperor Shura was the endpoint of his martial dao path. Strength was the ultimate deciding factor. Only those with absolute strength were qualified to speak and make it so that none dare offend them. n..o-(17))e(-l).b)-1--n

Take this counterattack for example. There'd be no possibility of turning things around if he hadn't had the Longevity Pill Recipe or summoned intervention from the Sacred Peafowl Mountain. He wouldn't even be qualified to strike back, much less launch an effective counterattack. He could at most stir up some trouble in secret if he were to depend on his own power. There was virtually no hope for him to destroy the Majestic Clan.

Jiang Chen was different from the other sage realm cultivators. He'd obtained large amounts of Sage Fledgling Grass from the restricted area back at Mount Rippling Mirage and had refined countless Heroic Sage Pills. As such, he held the absolute advantage over other sage realm cultivators in terms of resources. He also possessed a batch of Long Xiaoxuan's dragon crystals, which were powerful supplements. Jiang Chen's closed door cultivation lasted for a mere one month but within that period, he had broken through to a level that would take others several years to accomplish.

Fifth level sage realm! However, he felt no satisfaction after sensing the changes to his body after the breakthrough. After arriving at the Upper Eight Regions, he could most acutely feel the various constraints brought about by the difference in strength.

“Break through—I have to keep breaking through! The Veluriyam Pagoda opens in less than a year’s time. I have to reach seventh level sage realm before then!” This was Jiang Chen’s immediate aim. It was an ambitious target, but not impossible to accomplish. He’d mostly exhausted the potential of the Heroic Sage Pills and dragon crystals, and it would normally be difficult to use such a method to break through once again. But Jiang Chen still had the Sage Smile Pills.

The Coiling Dragon Clan Lord had granted him two Sage Smile Pills. Its appeal lay in the chance to unconditionally advance one level, although it could be used only once. Jiang Chen, therefore, would never use up such a chance during his origin realm years. He would have to cultivate by himself to reach sixth level origin realm, whereupon he would use a Sage Smile Pill and catapult himself into the seventh level sage realm. As such, his ambition to reach the sky sage realm before the Veluriyam Pagoda appeared far-fetched but it was, in truth, only dependent on whether he could reach the sixth level sage realm during this period. Eight months remained until the Veluriyam Pagoda opened. If only he could use his own palace abode to cultivate, his cultivation speed would increase to reach ten times the normal rate.

“It’s worth taking some risk in order to raise my strength.” Jiang Chen knew that it would be absurdly difficult to achieve two consecutive breakthroughs in one year. But things would be completely different if he trained inside the palace. Training within for a day would likely equate to tens, if not hundreds outside. This was the exceptional privilege afforded by such a place designed by empyrean cultivators. Utilizing the palace naturally involved certain dangers. But it shouldn’t pose much of a problem for Jiang Chen after setting up certain concealing formations.

Jiang Chen exited his isolation after stabilizing his newfound realm. He hadn’t had time to greet Shen Trifire and the House Wei father and son since their recent release. The House Wei father and son weren’t upset by their capture for they understood that it had little to do with Pill King Zhen and more to do with the enmity between House Wei and the Majestic Clan. Thus they were being apologetic instead, “Pill King Zhen, we’ve dragged you in with us once again.”

Jiang Chen laughed, “Those of us in the same boat should share the burden. It was actually the Majestic Clan father and son who had truly gone too far. Hopefully, we can enjoy a period of peace and quiet now that they’ve been executed.”

Jiang Chen didn’t say much after meeting Shen Trifire. He merely patted the pill master’s shoulder, “You’ve suffered a fair amount of injustice this time, but you performed handsomely and suffered no disgrace. From here on out, you’re my brother.”

The persistent Shen Trifire refused to undergo the humiliation of surrender even after being captured. Jiang Chen couldn’t help but have a whole new level of respect for him and felt he’d not misjudged the man. Shen Trifire’s eyes turned red after receiving a consoling slap on the shoulder—a torrent of emotions shook his heart—he’d been sold around and suffered numerous hardships since the destruction of the Regal Pill Palace. Now he’d finally found a backer. It wasn’t the steadiest of supports, but a firm one nonetheless. Jiang Chen’s clap on the shoulder was, undoubtedly, indicative of his

approval and acceptance. Shen Trifire was assaulted by a host of complex emotions brought about by this overwhelming favor.

“Senior brother, I’ll definitely work hard and not disappoint you.” Shen Trifire gave his earnest word.

The House Wei father and son made their entrance at that moment, accompanied by young master Ji San. Ji San was extremely delighted the moment he saw Jiang Chen, “Brother, I have great news I must tell you.”

“Pray tell.” Jiang Chen was somewhat puzzled.

“Come, let’s find a place to talk about this in leisure.” Young master Ji San dragged Jiang Chen by the sleeves and headed toward a relatively isolated area.

“Have you found the Invisible Chameleon Cloudpine?” Jiang Chen asked curiously.

“It’s not about that,” Ji San shook his head. “Brother, it’s a great opportunity for you! The Veluriyam Pagoda Assembly will be hosted by Emperor Peafowl this time and you’re on the list of invitees.”

“Oh?” Jiang Chen appeared distracted.

Ji San sighed after seeing that Jiang Chen wasn’t particularly amazed, “Brother, your reaction disappoints me. Don’t you know what this signifies?”

“Do elaborate.” Jiang Chen was now curious.

“It implies that you’ve been noticed by Emperor Peafowl! You might even gain his favor if you perform well in this test.”

“Oh, I see.” Jiang Chen nodded. He scarcely felt the wild joy Ji San was expecting.

“You bastard. Were you born with such a zombie face? It’s as if you don’t ever feel extreme joy or sorrow.” Young master Ji San mocked, “But thanks to you, I was also invited. You should know that apart from the clan lords, scarcely any other normal people are qualified to attend. You and I are the only two wildcards.”

Jiang Chen felt it to be a good turn of events, but was obviously far from being overjoyed. After all, it wasn’t such an ecstatic matter to be favored by a mere great emperor to him. His anticipation toward these great emperors were no longer as intense after learning about the Myriad Abyss Island.

But of course, Jiang Chen naturally wouldn’t turn down the favor of this mysterious Emperor Peafowl who’d ruled the Veluriyam Capital for nearly three thousand years. After all, he’d never made the acquaintance of such a high level expert barring Elder Shun. Perhaps he might even profit from this meeting. Seeing Jiang Chen completely unperturbed, young master Ji San said in a gloomy tone, “Brother, can you not show some spirit? This event holds extraordinary meaning for us. You know Emperor Peafowl never truly recovered from the passing of young master Fan. Perhaps this time he’ll seek a new successor! Heh Heh, I’m looking forward to it even though chances are slim at best. Brother, it’s not that I’m blaming you, but you should really be more serious about this matter if you’re to save your fellow sect disciples and find your father. Who in the Upper Eight Regions would dare go against you once you become Emperor Peafowl’s successor? All would answer to your beck and call!”

Chapter 815: Emperor Peafowl

Ji San's words had quite the impact. Though Jiang Chen had little interest in becoming someone's disciple in order to inherit their teachings, it would no doubt of great use to his future endeavors if he could create a connection to Emperor Peafowl.

"Brother, look 'ere. The Eternal Celestial Capital is chasing you everywhere right now, but if you become Emperor Peafowl's successor, then they won't dare touch you even if you stand right at their gates. That's a big difference, isn't it?" Though it was a little harsh, Ji San's words rang true. Emperor Peafowl had made a name for himself three thousand years ago, and his renown was spread across the entirety of the Upper Eight Regions. Even great emperors from first-ranked sects dared not antagonize him.

Jiang Chen laughed at Ji San's excitement. "Brother Ji, everything in the world follows the path of fate. It has guided us together as brothers, as it did for the serendipitous meeting with Wei Jie at Myriad Peoples City. My meeting with Emperor Peafowl is just another thread in fate's tangled web. As for whether I can become his disciple... well, we'll just let fate decide, hmm?"

Ji San was astonished. "Brother, do you really believe in fate, in heaven's mandate?"

Jiang Chen smiled faintly in reply. He sighed softly to himself. How can I not? In his previous life in the divine planes, he had observed the lives of countless people. The majority of lives and events he'd witnessed had been dictated by fate's interwoven threads. Two brothers from the same family and background could walk drastically different paths, simply because of differences in their fate.

Jiang Chen suspected that his reincarnation into this world had a hidden thread of fate attached as well, but didn't dare think further on it. Every time he did so, he would get a headache. The seal of chaos within his consciousness only fueled his theory—his presence here was preordained. What else would explain the chain of seals within his consciousness?

During Jiang Chen's time at the Precious Tree Sect, he had meditated on the dao beneath the sect's Precious Tree in order to break through to origin realm. Marked by natural phenomenon, it had led to the discovery of the seal within his consciousness for the first time. There were also what appeared to be nine droplets of water that surrounded the seal in a ring. Till date, it was an unsolved mystery to him. Jiang Chen hadn't been able to analyze the seal back then upon first breaking through to origin realm, and he still wasn't able to even now—though he was fifth level sage realm.

However, whenever he touched the seal during his meditation, inexplicable tremors would pass through his mind, followed by various primordial visions that ran rampant through his consciousness. Jiang Chen felt... odd, but with a dose of curiosity. However, curiosity aside, he had no intention of forcibly exploring the seal. One wrong move on his part meant the total disintegration of his consciousness, and the destruction of his soul and spirit. $n./o(V-E(\ell)-B).1/(n$

"Brother, what are you thinking about?" Seeing Jiang Chen's face full of smiles, Ji San was curious himself.

Jiang Chen maintained his expression. "Nothing much. I was reminiscing about something and lost myself for a second."

"Okay. Well, you just have to remember one thing really. This is an opportunity, and it leads to many more like it in the future. You know that the Upper Eight Regions are core to the human domain, and there are often events held to exchange information between the major factions. As long as you hold a high enough position, you'll have plenty of chances to travel as part of these exchanges, as well as meet fellow geniuses from different Upper Regions. This will make it easier for you to obtain news about your parents. If you do it yourself, it might take ten or twenty years before a lead comes up, but with the right person... well, it might only take ten or eight days, right?" From the young master's words, Jiang Chen could hear that Ji San had only his best interests in mind.

"Brother Ji, I will treat the matter with all seriousness," he nodded.

Ji San was finally satisfied with Jiang Chen's attitude. "That's more like it!"

The two brothers spoke for a while. Ji San was clearly in a good mood. Now that the Wang father and son were taken care of, the Coiling Dragon Clan was enjoying much better days.

Though he'd only received an extension of three to five years to his life, the Coiling Dragon clan lord also seemed in much better spirits. His recovery brought an important matter to the other clans' attention. The decision to distance themselves from the Coiling Dragon Clan before did not seem so wise now. From the look of the Coiling Dragon clan lord currently, the man was at least refreshed enough to contend again. The act of reclaiming respect after losing it for a time solidified the Coiling Dragon Clan's place as the Veluriyam Capital's foremost clan once more. Moreover, the Coiling Dragon clan lord knew that majority of the merit for this act went to Ji San.

Thus, Ji San distinguished himself among his fellow candidates in the race for the successor, and gradually assumed a leading role. All of this was ultimately thanks to Jiang Chen. As a result, the young master's gratitude towards Jiang Chen and thoughtfulness on his behalf were both completely genuine.

Jiang Chen retreated to the back garden after a long time spent entertaining guests. A sudden upward glance revealed the apparent presence of a sound, or possibly a translucent shadow, near the pagoda. Was there someone there? Perhaps, perhaps not. It was so indistinct that Jiang Chen thought he was seeing things. Upon closer examination, he found that there was a person there after all. However, the person almost seemed to meld into the garden's scenery.

"Who is it?" Jiang Chen called out in a low voice. Someone who could slip into the garden unseen and undetected was surely extraordinary. Moreover, Taiyuan Tower had a rule that only female family members were allowed in the back court. Even the ten sage realm cultivators Jiang Chen had handpicked had no right to enter. There were very few people who were eligible to enter.

"Young man, I've waited for you for a long time now. Do you have the courage to come with this old fellow and speak awhile?" The voice was foreign to Jiang Chen, and didn't hold any clues to its identity either. But, it had an odd magnetism, piercing through time and space in a mystical way. Jiang Chen furrowed his brow. In that moment, he found himself a little indecisive.

"Don't worry. If this old fellow wanted to harm you, there would be no need for such theatrics." The voice laughed softly before it rushed outwards in a flash. Concerned for the women in the rear court, Jiang Chen pursued it with gritted teeth. He was very familiar with the garden's layout, but found himself walking its paths no longer. As he shot forward, he seemed to head onto a different road, but

the connection between the two was seamless—almost if he really had come onto it from the path near the pagoda.

"Hmm? What's this?" Jiang Chen's heart sank, and he stopped in his tracks. Activating his God's Eye, he scanned his surroundings. "Is this a formation?" Frowning, Jiang Chen realized that he had entered a formation set by the other entity without even noticing. The formation that he was now in was unique. It was able to connect itself to reality and manufacture a patchwork landscape that even Jiang Chen hadn't noticed at first glance. After activation, Jiang Chen's own formations ordinarily formed an internally consistent world. It was always drastically different from the outside world. However, this person's formations could link together with reality, and bridge the gap flawlessly. The formation methods on display here moved Jiang Chen greatly.

"You have a good eye. I thought it would take longer for you to understand." The voice sounded again, this time directly in front of Jiang Chen. The shape of a body appeared near a patch of pines. The entity's form was dressed in a rainbow taoist robe, and gave off a feeling of antiquity. The man cut a tall and straight figure, his features well-defined on his face. He had a very handsome appearance, and the lines of his body was nothing less than perfection.

"Who exactly are you, if I may ask?" Jiang Chen asked, grimacing. Though he was within the man's formation, Jiang Chen didn't lose his composure. However, the other man carried a disorienting aura around him. It was as if Jiang Chen was standing at a seashore, and could not measure the depth of the waters before him, or as if he gazed at an endless expanse, and could not tell the stars' origin. The man's profundity made him a mystery.

"Who do you think I should be?" The man faintly smiled, his expression placid.

Considering the man for a moment, Jiang Chen came to a sudden realization. "Emperor Peafowl?" He blurted aloud.

The man did not deny the identification. "Your intuition is quite good," he smiled cheerfully. Suddenly, the man's gaze intensified, though his expression remained unchanged. "Then, you're the Jiang Chen from the Myriad Domain?"

"Did the Coiling Dragon clan lord tell you, Your Majesty?" Jiang Chen blinked.

The man grinned nonchalantly. "Then, the Coiling Dragon clan lord's known your identity all this time? Ah, that old eel... he didn't tell me."

Jiang Chen didn't say anything. His instincts told him that the man before him had no need for deception.

"Jiang Chen. This old fellow has known of you ever since you first set foot in Veluriyam Capital with Wei Jie."

Old fellow? As far as Jiang Chen could see, Emperor Peafowl's face was that of a man in his thirties. He showed no sign of age. Thus, Jiang Chen found the man's self-designation of 'old fellow' a little peculiar.

"Your Majesty, calling yourself an old fellow while looking like that... well, it feels a little odd."

Emperor Peafowl smiled softly. "Then, what shall I call myself? Shall I use the royal we, or say 'this emperor'? Do you not see that I have no desire to converse with you as Emperor Peafowl?"

"Why is that?" Jiang Chen asked.

"Because today is just a private visit." Emperor Peafowl laughed. "I wanted to take a closer look at the youth from the Myriad Domain—someone who could stir up chaos even in the ranks of the Eternal Celestial Capital—and see what kind of person he was. Now that I'm here, I see that I have not made my trip in vain."

"Oh? And what has Your Majesty seen in me?" Jiang Chen chuckled.

"You saw through my formation, which was your first distinction. You identified me, which was another. You are neither anxious nor uncomfortable, which was the final point in your favor. Are these three distinctions not satisfactory enough for me?"

Jiang Chen didn't think that Emperor Peafowl would be able to casually summarize so much. "Your Majesty, you said just now that you knew of me the first day I arrived? What do you mean by that? I didn't have the chance to see Your Majesty that day."

Emperor Peafowl shrugged. "That day was my successor's funeral. You remember this much, at least?"

"Young lord Fan?" Jiang Chen remembered the circumstances in which he entered the city that day. House Wei being a staunch supporter of young lord Fan, Wei Jie had been severely distraught upon hearing the latter's death. The entire House had worn funereal white in remembrance and commemoration.

But Jiang Chen still didn't recall having seen the emperor.

Chapter 816: Emperor Peafowl's Intentions

"No need to be surprised. It's true that I wasn't physically present at the time, but I did imbue a trace of my consciousness onto my successor's coffin. It is this consciousness that had scanned the entirety of Veluriyam Capital."

"Consciousness imbuement?" Jiang Chen was shocked. It wasn't a technique that just anyone could perform. The cultivator first had to shear off a tiny shred of their own consciousness before they could imbue it onto a lifeless object. Just how powerful a cultivator must be before they could perform such a thing?

Normally speaking, it wasn't difficult to imbue one's consciousness onto a living object. For example, Jiang Chen often imbued his consciousness onto the Bewitching Lotus of Fire and Ice. There were plenty of experts who knew of this technique. It wasn't a difficult thing to perform. But the imbue of one's consciousness on a lifeless object was a completely different league. The cultivator literally had to tear a part of their consciousness off to perform the technique. One must understand that a consciousness separated from its host body and wasn't supported by a living being would quickly fall apart.

Emperor Peafowl had solidified this separated piece of his consciousness, imbued it onto a lifeless object and made it scan the entire city. Jiang Chen didn't think it was something that just any great emperor could perform. Some of the surprise unconsciously showed on Jiang Chen's face as he stared at Emperor

Peafowl. However, Emperor Peafowl looked as calm and serene as ever. It was rumored that Emperor Peafowl was unable to pull free from the pain of losing his disciple, but Jiang Chen couldn't sense such sadness from him at all. Not now, at least. Perhaps Emperor Peafowl was just good at concealing his pain?

Emperor Peafowl smiled when he saw Jiang Chen scanning his face, "What are you looking at?"

"Your insight is profound, so why don't you venture a guess, Your Majesty?" Jiang Chen started playing games of mystery as well.

"Hehe, I shall do just that. You must be trying to detect a hint of pain or sadness from my expression, aren't you?"

Jiang Chen smiled wryly, "You truly are all-seeing, Your Majesty."

Emperor Peafowl answered smilingly, "Yet you found no such emotions from my face, no?"

Jiang Chen subconsciously nodded, "No, I haven't."

"Do you know why that is the case then?" Emperor Peafowl asked indifferently.

"I don't," Jiang Chen shook his head honestly. He was going to say that Emperor Peafowl was very good at concealing his emotions, but that didn't seem to be the case. Maybe a magnanimous person like Emperor Peafowl had achieved supreme enlightenment and simply gotten over his loss?

Emperor Peafowl sighed softly before he suddenly spoke, "I have nothing to be sad of, because I am the one who killed him. It's just that the outside world thought that he was killed by poison due to a mistake in his cultivation."

"What?" Jiang Chen was shocked. His words were so shocking that Jiang Chen doubted if the man before him was really Emperor Peafowl for an instant. But once he thought through everything carefully, Jiang Chen thought that this Emperor Peafowl should be real. So why had Emperor Peafowl killed his beloved disciple?

"You are the only one I've told about this," Emperor Peafowl said slowly.

Jiang Chen smiled wryly, "I'm feeling the burden of the situation then."

"What burden is that? Are you wondering if this incident has something to do with you?"

Jiang Chen shook his head, "Your disciple was already dead before I arrived, so I am sure that it has nothing to do with me."

Emperor Peafowl nodded, "It had nothing to do with you before, but now, it does."

"Why do you say that?"

"I say this, because I felt like I've found an even better successor," Emperor Peafowl's eyes abruptly lit up. He looked at Jiang Chen with unconcealed praise.

"You mean me, Your Majesty?" Jiang Chen looked startled.

“Is there anyone else here?” Emperor Peafowl smiled faintly, “What you said earlier with your sworn brother makes a lot of sense: There is fate in everything. I do not know if it is your acute instinct or your unique perception, but I felt like taking you in as my disciple the moment you spoke about fate.”

“You wish to take me as your disciple?”

“So? Do you think your destiny in this matter has arrived?” Emperor Peafowl asked with a smile.

Jiang Chen was silent. He had crossed arms with many experts and seniors since he had started cultivating. For example, there was Ye Chonglou of Skylaurel Kingdom, and then the sect head of Precious Tree Sect. There was also Palace Head Dan Chi and Elder Yun Nie of Regal Pill Palace. They were all his seniors, but Jiang Chen called none of them his master. This was because Jiang Chen valued the relationship between master and disciple very highly.

There was nothing he particularly sought in martial dao, so he wasn’t particularly interested in taking a master. In fact, he’d always held a certain arrogance that maintained that there was likely no one in this world who could qualify as his master. It was just a kind of pride that he held in his heart. In reality, there were still plenty of experts who were stronger than him, even though this world couldn’t compare to the great divine plane he used to inhabit during his past life. In learning, there was no first or last. When one learns and progresses fast, then the last would become the first. But even then, it didn’t mean that no one was qualified to teach him. No matter how many memories he possessed from his past life, there were certain things that he could only learn and inherit in person. That was why Jiang Chen didn’t find the idea of a master repulsive even though he wasn’t really interested in it.

Even now, Jiang Chen didn’t feel particularly much like admitting Emperor Peafowl as his master. Or rather, he felt like it wasn’t time for that fated moment yet. Emperor Peafowl seemed to have expected his reaction, and smiled faintly, “I can wait... or at least I hope that I can last until that moment of fate arrives.”

Emperor Peafowl actually sounded a little aged when he spoke those words. A thought suddenly flashed through Jiang Chen’s mind, “If I may ask, Your Majesty, young lord Fan was described to be an incredibly outstanding person by everyone. It can’t be all fake, can it?”

Many people were full of praises when they spoke of young lord Fan. Wei Jie in particular was almost at the level of a mindless, diehard fan. Emperor Peafowl nodded, “It was all true -” Then, he immediately added, “- except for one thing, unfortunately.”

Jiang Chen looked startled, “What is it?”

“His identity,” Emperor Peafowl said indifferently, “He possessed the blood of the demon race in his veins. He hid it well, but for all of his brilliant schemes, I was the exception to his equation. My powers had long since exceeded his imagination.”

“The demon race?” Jiang Chen looked startled. Everyone, be it Chonglou or Palace Head Dan Chi, had more or less brought up the topic of the demon race back in the Myriad Domain. However, the demon race they described were comprised of scattered tidbits of extremely superficial information. They had nothing substantial to tell of.

Jiang Chen only knew that the demon race was part of the history of the Divine Abyss Continent, and was a powerful enemy of ancient times who'd invaded and settled the land. It was said that no peace would befall Divine Abyss Continent as long as they weren't thoroughly exterminated.

"The demon race," Emperor Peafowl's voice was the same as ever. Surprisingly, the seriousness in Palace Head Dan Chi and everyone else's voice when they talked about the demon race was absent from his tone.

"What kind of a race was the demon race?" Jiang Chen was curious.

"In the ancient times, people of foreign realms invaded the Divine Abyss Continent and started an ancient war that completely overturned its original power structure. The continent shattered, and the powers that existed was almost completely reshuffled and transformed into the way they are now. Later on, heaven's orbit collapsed and the passage that those of foreign realms used to invade Divine Abyss Continent was closed off, but some of the foreign races had managed to take root here. Over time, they slowly became natives of the Divine Abyss Continent. The battle against the demon race continued until the last Great War of Demon Sealing. There, the demon race was defeated and the leaders of the demon races were sealed away. They had no choice but to go dark and lay low. But this didn't mean that the demon race had accepted their fate. The demon race is born brutal, possessive and warlike. Their ultimate objective is to devour all bloodlines that exist on the Divine Abyss Continent and install the demon race as a sole ruler. If that day were to come, then the Divine Abyss Continent would lose all of its inheritances and become the Demon Abyss Continent instead."

Jiang Chen listened quietly without interrupting Emperor Peafowl, but he inwardly felt quite surprised. If the demon race really was as brutal as they sounded, then why hadn't the true experts of Myriad Abyss Island gotten involved? Could it be that the true heart of the Divine Abyss Continent was actually afraid of fighting against the demon race? Jiang Chen couldn't think of anything despite mulling over the question.

Of course, Jiang Chen wasn't particularly interested in these stories to begin with. Be it the demon race or the Divine Abyss Continent, Jiang Chen had never thought of himself as a native of the Divine Abyss Continent. What he cared for wasn't the conflict between the demon race and the natives of the Divine Abyss Continent, but his friends and families if a demonic apocalypse were to arrive one day. His own slight indifference aside, Ye Chonglou and Palace Head Dan Chi had influenced him into paying some attention to the situation. He also understood that no one was safe if the sky was falling on everyone's head.

"Jiang Chen, I've been waiting for you to ask me a question, but to my great surprise, you've not done so."

"What question?"

"Your true identity. Why was I able to recognize you the moment you entered the city?"

Jiang Chen smiled wryly, "And why's that?"

"The answer's quite simple. A long time ago, I detected an abnormal phenomenon at the Precious Tree Sect of the Myriad Domain. Since then, I've begun collecting information about you and made plenty of calculations. Most others may not know that you are tied to that phenomenon, but I am well versed in

the art of divination. After I tied together all the details I could gather and made my calculations, I concluded that all the evidence pointed towards you being the cause of that phenomenon.”

Jiang Chen was stunned. He was actually completely stumped for words. From the moment he'd been born, he had always thought that he was unique because he carried with him the skills of the divine plane. That was why he always thought little of the Divine Abyss Continent because he thought that the experts of this world were ultimately incomparable to the ones he'd seen in his past life. This thought had given birth to a tiny bit of contempt.

But Emperor Peafowl's words suddenly made him realize that he was very, very wrong in his assumption. Be it the divine plane or the Divine Abyss Continent, anyone who could rise to the top possessed extraordinary talent and intelligence. For example, Emperor Peafowl might have been a ruler of a small world himself if he'd been born on the divine plane. It wasn't that his talents were insufficient. It was just that this was as far as he could go within the confines of this world!

“The Mt. Rippling Mirage Pill Battles happened, and you were trapped in Mt. Rippling Mirage for two years. While the Great Scarlet Mid Region had invaded during the Myriad Grand Ceremony, you managed to escape safely from the invasion. When your sect was destroyed, you were able to escape the Eternal Celestial Capital's ambush and escape confidently. You were even able to singlehandedly annihilate the Eternal Celestial Capital and the Ninesuns Sky Sect's team... All of these events only goes to prove that you are a genius of great destiny.”

“Destiny?” A sharp gleam flashed past Jiang Chen's eyes, “Your Majesty, can you see the threads of destiny?” Naturally, Jiang Chen wasn't unaware of the theory of destiny. There were plenty of great people in the divine planes who knew how to observe destiny.

Destiny was supposed to be something that was indiscernible and untouchable. However, there were some people who were born with special eyes who could see views that no other could see. They could unlock the All-Seeing Eyes of the divine plane and see the threads of destiny! There were very few such people in this world, but all of them were top level geniuses.

Could this Emperor Peafowl possibly be a...

Chapter 817: All-Seeing Eyes

A look of doubt colored Jiang Chen's face for a moment, and he looked at Emperor Peafowl a little more seriously than he did before. If Emperor Peafowl really had activated the All-Seeing Eyes, then calling him a terrifying cultivator would be an understatement. A person like him shouldn't be limited to an earthly plane like this!

Emperor Peafowl had been observing Jiang Chen all this time, and he himself was very, very surprised at the strength of the youth's reactions. As a great emperor, he had never talked about destiny with any youngsters. In fact, most of his friends and great emperors who were close to him were skeptical when he talked about destiny. One might even say that most of them disapproved of his theory completely. Most of them saw destiny in the same way as heaven's will. They thought that it was something that was completely unpredictable.

Emperor Peafowl might be keenly aware of the correctness of his ideas, but he wouldn't go so far as to force his understandings down someone's throat. However, after a thousand years of careful

exploration, he had managed to summarize and create a technique that could observe destiny itself. It was true that he felt that his abilities in this regard were half-baked, but he was almost never mistaken about the people of great destiny whom he had observed in private.

Although Jiang Chen hailed from the Myriad Domain, Emperor Peafowl had secretly gathered much information on him and come to the conclusion that he was a boy of great destiny. Emperor Peafowl was tempted many times to see Jiang Chen with his own eyes, but he was worried that his visit would disrupt Jiang Chen's fate. So he had kept his desire in check. Then, he heard that the Eternal Celestial Capital had sent out a capture order on Jiang Chen, and that the person in question was on his way to Veluriyam Capital.

This revelation gladdened Emperor Peafowl, and his belief in the will of heaven grew even stronger. As such, he had been waiting all this time. He had been waiting for a genius who shouldered the destiny of a world to show up. Finally, Jiang Chen entered Veluriyam Capital that day. His arrival happened to coincide with young lord Fan's funeral procession.

It was yet another sign that the old was ushered out in exchange for the new. The powerful destiny Jiang Chen carried with him when he showed up in Veluriyam Capital was a massive shock to even Emperor Peafowl. It was enough to finally convince him of his own theory. What surprised Emperor Peafowl the most at this moment was that Jiang Chen's reaction was not one of skepticism. No, the boy asked the emperor if he could see the threads of destiny. Did Jiang Chen believe in the theory of destiny too?

Emperor Peafowl sighed, "I've always been cultivating eye arts. More than a thousand years ago, enlightenment suddenly dawned on me, and my arts transformed into a strange kind of observation art. At first, I didn't know what it was, so I spent a thousand years observing everything before me. Although my observations have never coalesced into a system of their own, I was seldom wrong when I used it to observe destiny. The day you entered the city was a great shock to me. I've never seen someone with a destiny as great as yours, not to mention that it subtly matched the winds of destiny that had surged to the sky and shaken the clouds back in the Myriad Domain. In that moment, I had ascertained almost immediately that you were the youngster I was waiting for from the Myriad Domain. You were the Jiang Chen who the Eternal Celestial Capital wanted very badly, but couldn't hunt down despite all their efforts."

Eye arts? Jiang Chen couldn't help but stare at Emperor Peafowl's eyes. Emperor Peafowl's eyes were like a pair of deep pools, but their depths were as unfathomable as the sky itself. His eyes would shift colors between dark green and azure from time to time, and it constituted an incredibly unique visual impact.

"If I'm not mistaken, you have an eye art yourself, Jiang Chen. In fact, it is an incredibly powerful one!" Emperor Peafowl said smilingly.

Without an objection to offer, Jiang Chen nodded, "You have amazing talent, Your Majesty. There really is nothing that can be hidden from you. Now that I think back, it's hilarious how confident I was at hiding my own abilities. Thank goodness I haven't caused trouble within your domain, or you could've killed me in a single strike."

“Hahaha,” Emperor Peafowl laughed candidly, “Your claim that you haven’t caused trouble is not entirely accurate, but it is a fact you haven’t started one of your own accord. I wouldn’t have visited you if you did, or if you’d proven yourself to be evil.”

Cold sweat silently escaped Jiang Chen’s pores. Emperor Peafowl is too amazing. I’m not even living in his house, and yet he seem to know everything that has happened around me. “Your Majesty, you haven’t imbued a consciousness around my social circle, have you?” Jiang Chen didn’t know what kind of expression he should wear.

“Haha, do I look like someone who enjoys spying on others?” Emperor Peafowl was also somewhat amused by Jiang Chen’s words.

So far, Jiang Chen’s impression of Emperor Peafowl was quite good. At the very least, Emperor Peafowl’s bearing and broadmindedness were things that no ruthless overlord could compete against. Through his conversation, Jiang Chen could deduce that the latter’s understanding of him had come from general observation, not spying. If it really was spying, Jiang Chen would’ve left Veluriyam Capital without a second thought. After all, no one wanted to be spied upon during every moment of their lives. It was practically torture of a whole different kind to live that way.

“Your Majesty, do you mean that you know everything that I did in Veluriyam Capital?”

“Not necessarily. I can more or less grasp the general aim of your actions. For example, you are the one who trashed all those pill stores at Farmer God Market, aren’t you?”

Jiang Chen knew that anyone with a discerning eye could figure that out. He smiled, “It was a choice I was forced to make. They had to pay for their intolerable acts of bullying. In fact, I’m actually relieving you of some burdens, Your Majesty.”

House Wei belonged to the Coiling Dragon Clan, and the Coiling Dragon Clan belonged to Emperor Peafowl. Indirectly speaking, he was indeed helping out Emperor Peafowl.

However, Emperor Peafowl returned a noncommittal smile. After a moment of silence, he said slowly, “I know everything that happens in Veluriyam Capital. The Majestic Clan’s provocations, the feathery probes of Emperor Shura, their hopes towards Veluriyam Pagoda and their desire for my seat as the number one great emperor of Veluriyam Capital... if even my subordinates know about this, how could I not know about them as well?”

Jiang Chen was surprised, “You knew it all from the very beginning, Your Majesty?”

“That’s right,” Emperor Peafowl revealed the ghost of a smile, “In other words, even Emperor Shura’s tremendous success and growth, so much so that even the outside world think that he was now capable of replacing me, was within my predictions. In fact, you might even say that I’m the one who pushed for his growth in secret.”

“What?” Jiang Chen’s mind couldn’t quite catch up to the topic, “You mean you were purposely nurturing a threat?”

“The nurturing part is true, but a threat? Not necessarily so.” Emperor Peafowl’s smile was deep, “My only fear is that he grows too slowly.”

“What do you mean?” Jiang Chen frowned. He suddenly felt like his brain was a little lacking.

“More than a thousand years ago, I vaguely activated the All-Seeing Eye and felt the call of heaven’s dao. There, I was able to capture tiny glimpses of the laws of the world.”

“You’re about to achieve a breakthrough?” A thought abruptly flashed across Jiang Chen’s mind.

“I am. I’ve been suppressing it for more than a thousand years, holding myself back from mastering the laws, but I feel that I can’t do so for much longer. I am afraid that I am fated to leave Veluriyam Capital in less than a hundred years. Therefore, someone capable enough must succeed my seat. An ordinary person would be unable to quell the internal and external threats of Veluriyam Capital.” Emperor Peafowl sighed softly with a hint of melancholy.

“Forgive my rudeness, Your Majesty, but there are countless people out there who is incapable of learning heaven’s dao or win its acknowledgement. If you have sensed it, then why on earth would you suppress it on purpose?” Jiang Chen seriously couldn’t understand Emperor Peafowl’s thoughts.

“Would you believe me if I told you that it was all to keep a close watch on the demon race?” Emperor Peafowl suddenly revealed a self deprecating smile. Jiang Chen shivered as he stared at Emperor Peafowl in disbelief. He actually doubted his own eyes for a second, for he saw a hint of true worry leaking from Emperor Peafowl’s expression. It was both great mercy and great wisdom that had been born of a compassion that encompassed the world. Jiang Chen had seen a very similar expression from Ye Chonglou and Palace Head Dan Chi’s faces before. It was just that Ye Chonglou only had the worry, but not the in-depth knowledge of the bigger picture. He didn’t know just how deadly the demon race was. Palace Head Dan Chi possessed greater understanding than Ye Chonglou, but he thought more from his sect’s point of view.

Emperor Peafowl was the only one who Jiang Chen’d seen so far to possess both mercy and wisdom. An erudite wisdom and true worry for the world that was untainted by even a speck of selfishness. A moment of puzzlement later, Jiang Chen came to understand why. Emperor Peafowl’s cultivation was so great that he could sense the laws of the world already. Therefore, what meaning did worldly power conflicts mean to him? His viewpoint and insight of the world had long since exceeded the viewpoint of Veluriyam Capital. Unfortunately for him, his viewpoint was too high and too far out of reach. It was so high that no one could catch up to him. As a result, not many people could understand his feelings at all.

The demon race? Why on earth would normal cultivators bother to think about the demon race unless a demonic calamity actually happened? There could be countless calamities in the world, but none were as important as their own cultivation. It was exactly because most people were this numb, selfish, and easily satisfied by low ambitions that no one paid attention to the bigger picture.

It was why Emperor Peafowl was alone in his wisdom. It was to the point where one might even say that the timing of his worries and compassion was a little off. Suddenly, Jiang Chen felt a little stifled. For whatever reason, he suddenly recalled his father from his past life. His father had exactly been such a person himself. Despite holding the post of a celestial emperor, he was troubled by a lack of people who could understand him. He was worried to death for the fate of the great Taiyuan world, but still failed to prevent the calamity that destroyed the heavenly plane in the end. A person like him might be called a hero or a pioneer in books’ written pages. However, most of them didn’t have a good ending.

In comparison to his father, Jiang Chen felt that he had lived his life too lowly during this lifetime. His father would likely be unhappy if he learned of his current appearance, wouldn't he? Passion mixed with shame rose within Jiang Chen's heart, "Jiang Chen is most impressed by the height of your insight, Your Majesty. I may not be able to become someone as great as you, but I will contribute my strength to the Divine Abyss Continent to the limit of my capabilities." n./o(.V--E((ℓ)-B/.1/(n

Despite not having promised anything in stone, Jiang Chen had made up his mind. He had lived so very cautiously so far, but what had befallen him after all his efforts? A destroyed sect, and no home to go back to. If that was the case, then why should he live so suffocatingly anymore? Why should he not do all he could and live to his heart's content instead?

Chapter 818: Redistribution of Longevity Pills

Throughout the course of his visit, Emperor Peafowl hadn't given any Jiang Chen any promises or made any lofty demands. If one had to describe this visit, it was as if a lonely elder spotting a young man that happened to catch his interest, and so made a visit to make a friend. A smile appeared on Emperor Peafowl's face when he heard Jiang Chen's words.

"Just like you said to Ji Ole Third before Jiang Chen—destiny. In the thousand years that I've held sway in Veluriyam Capital, there has yet to be a single person who has so elicited admiration from me. I have nothing else to say that other than if you remain pure of heart in Veluriyam Capital, you can do as you will in the Capital. I will handle all trouble that may arise from what you might do." Emperor Peafowl smiled faintly after saying this and pointed lightly with his finger, causing all of the scenery around them to instantly vanish—the emperor as well. Only a voice lingered by Jiang Chen's ear, "Jiang Chen, remember to come to the Peafowl Gathering."

Jiang Chen remained silent for a long time, deep in thought. He'd had quite a bit of gains from this conversation.

The next day, young master Ji San came hurriedly running over with another bit of news. "Brother, this kind of sucks. I just received word that many more places have been added to the Peafowl Gathering. Almost all great clans beneath Emperor Peafowl have received invites for a large portion of their disciples."

"Oh? The invitation list's grown bigger?" Jiang Chen smiled.

"Right!" Ji San was a bit depressed. "I'd thought we were the only young disciples to be invited amongst all the great clans yesterday and was feeling a bit proud of that fact. It's all turned to nothing the next day, sigh."

Ji San really was sounding a bit depressed. After all, everyone wanted to be special. If everyone was invited, then there was nothing special about this treatment at all.

Jiang Chen smiled, "Brother Ji, there's nothing to be depressed at all. At last you were the first batch to be invited, no?"

Ji San started and broke out in a grin. "That's right! I was the first batch. There's still more glory in that than them!" He seemed to immediately think of something else and spoke again, "Oh right brother, there's something very important that I must tell you."

“What?”

“About the Longevity Pill. The Sacred Peafowl Mountain owes you a big favor having received the Longevity Pill, so they’ve been discussing what to do recently as well.”

“Have they reached a conclusion?” Jiang Chen asked carelessly. The Longevity Pill hasn’t been released to the market yet. Apart from the two that the Majestic Clan had taken out to experiment with last time, all of the rest had been confiscated by the Peafowl Guard. There were none in circulation, so they were impossible to find in Veluriyam Capital.

“The clan lord says that the Sacred Peafowl Mountain has decided upon what to do.”

“And what is that?”

“Initial plans are to split the profits five ways.”

“Five ways? What do they mean by that?” Jiang Chen didn’t quite understand this plan.

“The Sacred Peafowl Mountain as one, the Coiling Dragon Clan for one, House Wei, you, and the Regal Pill Palace.” Ji San explained in detail. A thought struck Jiang Chen when he heard this. The Regal Pill Palace also has a share? Sacred Peafowl Mountain is showing me quite some face. However, he then immediately felt that this was likely a result of personal intervention from Emperor Peafowl. “In terms of materials, House Wei will shoulder the cost for that. The Sacred Peafowl Mountain and the Coiling Dragon Clan will be in charge of providing pill kings, and you and House Wei will handle the technique aspect.”

This meant Jiang Chen and House Wei’s contribution were a result of the pill recipe. This was quite a reasonable proposition.

“Brother, you can raise any objections you have as well. We’re still in the process of gathering opinions.”

Jiang Chen thought about it and shook his head. “This is a very reasonable offer, I have no opinions.”

“Alright, then I’ll go back and tell the clan lord.” Ji San was quite happy. After all the loops and turns, the Longevity Pill recipe had still fallen into their camp.

Jiang Chen suddenly thought of something and spoke up, “There’s something we need to keep an eye on.”

“What is it?”

“The Eternal Celestial Capital stole the pill recipe and were the ones who gave the pill to the Majestic Clan. However, their quality was lower because they didn’t benefit from my pointers. But since they have the recipe, they possess a latent threat to the future market.”

“That’s very true.”

“Therefore, the Sacred Peafowl Mountain must announce right now that the Longevity Pill is their research item. Apart from the pills from them, everything else is counterfeit and fake. There’s no guarantee that there will be no side effects, and we must have everyone acknowledge that only pills from the Sacred Peafowl Mountain are the legitimate products.”

“Right, this point is very important. This means that even though the Wang father and son are dead, they must shoulder this to the end. We’ll say that the Eternal Celestial Capital’s recipe was stolen by the Majestic Clan.” Ji San’s face was solemn.

“That’s how we’ll do it.” Jiang Chen smiled coldly. “The Eternal Celestial Capital stole the recipe from the Regal Pill Palace to begin with. What business does such ill gotten gains have in being announced to the world?”

“Precisely!” Ji San agreed.

“The most critical thing is, the quality of their pills is less than ours. If the Eternal Celestial Capital doesn’t wish to accept this, then the Sacred Peafowl Mountain can issue a challenge and host a competition. The results of the contest will determine whose is real and whose is fake.”

Ji San’s eyes lit up as he slapped his thigh. “This plan is perfect! If they don’t answer the challenge, that means they have a guilty conscience. If they do and their quality is less than ours, then theirs is still fake and their reputation will suffer heavily as a result.”

Jiang Chen had spoken so much to get to this point. Even though the Eternal Celestial Capital had stolen the pill, he wasn’t going to let them have an easy time of things. You destroy my clan, kill my peers, sell my friends, steal my things, and want to live large after all of that? Dream on! Even if Jiang Chen didn’t have the strength to hack his way to the Eternal Celestial Capital at the moment, he would never let them go skipping off into the sunset.

Having received Jiang Chen’s plan, Ji San happily went to report back. If this plan could be deployed properly, then they would be able to take down a majority of the market without having to defeat the Eternal Celestial Capital’s recipe. After all, the only factor everyone agreed on in the world of martial dao was the quality of the pill. Whoever’s was higher was the authentic one!

After sending off Ji San, Jiang Chen went in search of the House Wei father and son and relayed what he’d just learned. They were overjoyed to hear of all this as they hadn’t been told of it yet. To them, it was a stroke of good fortune falling out of the sky and striking them on the head.

“Pill King Zhen, the Longevity Pill? Two parts of the profit to our House Wei?” Wei Tianxiao found it a bit hard to believe as an incredulous expression blossomed over his face.

“Indeed, but House Wei in charge of the materials. Of course, the cost of the goods aren’t too high for this pill. Two million saint spirit stones per pill is already a very high price. The costs of the materials themselves are at most fifty thousand saint spirit stones.” Jiang Chen had been the one to create the pill, how would he not know the price of the materials? When he’d auctioned off one pill in the Myriad Domain, he’d sold it for ten million origin spirit stones and some other bits to Xiang Wentian of the Great Cathedral. That made for less than two million saint spirit stones. So now that a pill was priced at two million saint spirit stones, that was a very high price indeed. With the twenty percent that House Wei could split, that meant they would receive four hundred thousand spirit stones per pill. Compared to the fifty thousand saint spirit stones in costs, this was an absolute killing!

Gratitude was written all over Wei Tianxiao’s face when he heard Jiang Chen’s analysis. “Pill King Zhen, it is truly House Wei’s fortune that my son was able to make your acquaintance. Although I know that you

were destined to soar to the skies one day in your brilliance, I hope that House Wei has the great fortune to follow in your footsteps when that day arrives.”

As a mighty expert and the house lord of House Wei, Wei Tianxiao was holding to a very humble posture in front of Jiang Chen. This also displayed his rational actions in dealing with interpersonal relationships. Jiang Chen had close relationships with the Coiling Dragon Clan now and had even caught the Sacred Peafowl Mountain’s eye. Wei Tianxiao knew that Pill King Zhen wouldn’t be spending much time in House Wei in the future. Although this depressed him some, he knew that this was a momentum he couldn’t stop.

After last time’s affairs, Taiyuan Tower’s business boomed even more so after reopening for business. Taiyuan Lodge also opened for business after being won by Jiang Chen in a bet. Of course, House Wei also viewed Taiyuan Lodge as Jiang Chen’s property as well. They were keenly aware of their positioning and had placed themselves as of secondary importance. With the force of Jiang Chen’s rise, they knew it wasn’t anything that their house could hold back. They might as well adjust their mentality and lower their posture so as to cooperate with Jiang Chen for even longer, therefore benefiting even further from their friendship. From the current circumstances at least, House Wei’s position had risen to new heights compared to even their previous peak. This was all because of Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen didn’t plan on sharing Taiyuan Lodge with House Wei as it was something he’d won in a bet. This was going to be his new stronghold of operations. He naturally knew what Wei Tianxiao meant with this low posture and wasn’t the sort to burn bridges after he’d crossed them. “House Lord Wei, House Wei is a great reason for why I’ve been able to find my footing in Veluriyam Capital. We suffered through trials together and will naturally enjoy the rewards together. It’s natural that you take twenty percent of the Longevity Pill. The most important thing is that the Sacred Peafowl Mountain and the Coiling Dragon Clan acknowledges House Wei.”

Wei Tianxiao only nodded with a smile as he ruminated on the gratitude flowing through him.

Chapter 819: The Sacred Peafowl Mountain

Though it was his second time coming to the Sacred Peafowl Mountain, Jiang Chen felt entirely different from his first visit. His previous appointment had been marked with worry. His presentation of the Longevity Pill as a stratagem to strike at the Majestic Clan was a slight gamble. Who knew if the people at Sacred Peafowl Mountain would play along? But this time, Jiang Chen was here on the personal invitation of Emperor Peafowl, and his heart was undisturbed. Naturally, he had come accompanied by the Coiling Dragon Clan lord and company. Besides young master Ji San, there were two other geniuses from the Coiling Dragon Clan as well.

The Coiling Dragon Clan trio’s cultivation levels were similar. One was at the peak of ninth level sage realm, and another was simply ninth level. On paper, there was no substantial difference between the two of them and Ji San. Unless Ji San suddenly broke through into emperor realm one day, he had no overwhelming advantage in the competition to be the clan lord. The Coiling Dragon clan lord himself had little bias overall for all three of the possible candidates, whether for or against. However, Jiang Chen was keenly aware that young master Ji San had distinguished himself in recent events via his unparalleled contributions. He was likely first place in the clan lord’s heart already.

"Ah, this must be the Pill King Zhen I've heard so much about recently?" The one speaking was a smartly dressed youth. The fairness of his appearance easily rivaled Ji San's, though he tended a little more on the feminine side.

Ji San extended a hand in introduction. "Brother, this is one of the best and brightest among the younger generation of the Coiling Dragon Clan. You can call him young master Liuxiang."

"How do you do," Jiang Chen smiled and nodded.

Young master Liuxiang looked Jiang Chen over closely, but his expression was warm. "I've long heard your name, yet we haven't been acquainted until now. Ole Third, you're truly a master smuggler. You've hid a good brother like this away for so long without introducing us. Don't you know I love to make new friends?"

"Well, you're acquainted now, aren't you?" Ji San laughed, and the other two followed suit. However, the third genius refrained from doing so. Garbed in black, he looked at the mirthful trio coolly, his expression stern. His features were well-defined, almost as if they had been sharpened against an axe and saber. His entire person gave off a sense of incisiveness. He was obviously not an easy person to approach.

Ji San had no intention of ignoring him, however. "This is a newcomer to our ranks, a rising star in the Coiling Dragon Clan. His name is Ji Zhongtang, and he is four or five years younger than me, and yet he has already arrived at ninth level sage realm. His future potential is limitless."

Jiang Chen inclined his head, grinning a little. "The Coiling Dragon Clan's strength is truly profound. Geniuses like him are hard to find."

Ji Zhongtang returned the nod with indifference, as a kind of half-reply. Once the youths' conversations were concluded, the Coiling Dragon clan lord waved a hand. "Come, we should not be late to the Peafowl Gathering. It is not good to arrive after the others."

Led by the clan lord, it only took a short while for the group of youths to arrive at Sacred Peafowl Mountain. Two of the monarchs subordinate to Emperor Peafowl awaited them at the foot of the mountain. The one elegant in demeanor was named the Cloudsoar Monarch; the other was more fierce, called the Chronobalance Monarch. Alongside their compatriots the Wildfox and Plumscore Monarchs, they were the Four Monarchs of Sacred Peafowl Mountain. Together, they were the strongest among those who directly answered to Emperor Peafowl. Of course, it was difficult to gauge their strength against the Coiling Dragon clan lord's.

In the four monarchs' opinion, the Coiling Dragon clan lord was older than all of them, and possessed unfathomable strength. Hypothetically, he would not be an easy opponent. Moreover, the clan lord had always kept a low profile. Thus, it was impossible for the four emperors to have ever sparred with him. Exactly which party was stronger was still a mystery.

"Clan Lord, your complexion is quite rosy as of late. That is cause for congratulations." The Cloudsoar Monarch consoled, clearly on good terms with the Coiling Dragon clan lord.

"I had a stroke of good fortune a while ago, and it's helping me temporarily. Hopefully my good luck continues, and things change for the better." The Coiling Dragon clan lord was not about to betray Jiang Chen's trust.

Some matters were so grave that it was difficult to disclose them, even to close friends. The Cloudsoar Monarch looked over at the youths behind the clan lord. "Many of the Coiling Dragon Clan's disciples are geniuses, as expected of the foremost clan of Veluriyam Capital," he smiled.

The clan lord chuckled as well. "Brother Cloudsoar, there is no need for the flattery. We are amongst friends here. The only reason our clan has the position is because of the emperor's care. Without His Majesty, I'm not sure if we could even maintain a foothold here, much less contest first place."

There were laughs all around. The Cloudsoar Monarch seemed quite interested in Jiang Chen. "Clan Lord, this must be Pill King Zhen?" He asked, pointing to the youth behind the man. n-OvEI31n

Jiang Chen's submission of the Longevity Pill's recipe was a well-guarded secret, and had no place in open discussion. This was especially true with youngsters present.

"That's right. Pill King Zhen's genius is something to be marveled at. Even His Majesty has made remarks to that effect. That's why he was hand-picked to come to this conference," the Coiling Dragon clan lord laughed.

The Cloudsoar Monarch nodded in agreement. "To defeat the Majestic Clan several times in succession on his own strength alone... a genius like that is worthy of the emperor's invitation. Well then, please come in."

He made an ushering gesture. At the signal, the Coiling Dragon clan lord finally began to walk inside, the youths in tow. There were many guests already present. As the greatest emperor among the seven great emperors of the capital, Emperor Peafowl had a whole seven subordinate clans beneath him. No other emperor came close. This was despite the fact that Emperor Peafowl hadn't intentionally gathered factions to his side. The only one who came close was Emperor Shura, who commanded five clans. Together, Emperors Peafowl and Shura controlled almost half of the twenty-eight great clans of Veluriyam Capital.

Of the seven that sided with Peafowl, the Coiling Dragon Clan was the most prominent. At the sight of the Coiling Dragon clan lord, the other lords who'd already arrived rose to greet him. The internal ushers working directly for Peafowl were just as attentive to the clan lord's arrival, receiving him with great care. Meanwhile, young master Ji San took Jiang Chen away in a different direction, an odd expression on his face.

"Brother, let's take a look over there instead."

Jiang Chen had no preference one way or another. He had no interest in participating in a conversation with a group of old geezers. The deeper they went, the more austere the environment became.

"Ji Ole Third, what are you sneaking around like that for? What do you plan to do?" There was a sudden cry from nearby.

Ji San stopped in his tracks, displeased. "What does that have to do with you, Fatty Miao?"

To the side, several youths showed themselves from behind a flower rack. At their head was a young man, broad-shouldered, stocky of build. Ji San glanced at them lazily, his attitude clearly irreverent. The bear of a youth was named Miao Suo, an heir to the Spiritbranch Clan, another of the seven great clans beneath Emperor Peafowl. Though they weren't the foremost clan, they weren't quite last place, either. They were a respectable top six clan. But more importantly, Ji San and Miao Suo had always had bad relations. It wasn't that they had a natural grudge. Rather, they liked the same girl, a disciple who studied under Emperor Peafowl.

"Hmph, Ji Ole Third. I know you're going to solicit Miss Dan's attention again. I'm warning you, she's in a bad mood lately. I wouldn't disturb her if I were you."

Ji San sneered. "Fatty Miao, are you sure there's nothing wrong with your brain? Or are you seriously telling me how to conduct myself?" Not wanting to bother with Miao Suo any longer, he turned to Jiang Chen again. "Brother, let's go."

Miao Suo was greatly upset, but he was held back by several of the youths near him. "Brother Suo, don't be so angry. If Ji Ole Third wants to be rejected, then let him. Miss Dan is a disciple of the emperor, many of her peers admire her already. There's no way that she'd pick Ji Ole Third."

Unfortunately, the speech only gave Miao Suo further cause for concern. Ji San himself was already a tough rival. If Emperor Peafowl's other disciples joined in, what chance did Miao Suo have? In the moment, he felt a little desperate. For his part, Jiang Chen didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Ji San was taking him to see his prospective sweetheart! It sparked some curiosity in him, though. Ji San was a genteel and handsome youth. What kind of a woman was she, that he esteemed her so?

A bamboo grove was seen in the distance, and a flowing stream lay in front of it. A narrow bridge of the same material connected the shores. It was a charming scene.

Ji San waited at one end of the bridge. "Miss Dan, Ji San of the Coiling Dragon Clan seeks an audience."

A few moments passed. Footsteps could be heard within the grove. A young maid appeared, addressing Ji San. "Please go back, young master Ji San. My mistress is in a bad mood today."

Ji San wasn't about to be deterred after coming so far already. "Little sister Cui'er, can't you let her know that I'm here?" He said, obviously thick-skinned.

The girl named Cui'er scowled back. "Just go back like I told you."

Ji San chuckled. "But I've gone to the effort of making a trip here! This is rare for me. Isn't it a shame to simply leave? Little sister Cui'er..."

Cui'er raised a willowy brow. "Who's your sister?"

Ji San was still smiling, not taking any offense. "Okay, okay. Can I call you Miss Cui'er instead? I have a letter here that you simply *must* give to Miss Dan. Please, please do. Even if I can't see her, surely a letter is fine?"

Seeing someone as suave as Ji San adopt such a humble attitude shattered Jiang Chen's worldview. How beautiful did Miss Dan have to be for Ji San to act like this? Cui'er thought for a moment, giving Ji San another onceover. He seemed to pass some kind of litmus test, at least compared to the fatty earlier.

"Wait here," she stomped off.

Ji San was very pleased. Miss Cui'er must be deferring to her mistress. He threw Jiang Chen a look of victory.

Miss Cui'er reappeared very quickly, her pace brisk. She was pouting and had a pile of things in her arms. "These are all the things you've given mistress in the past. None of it has been touched. So, you can have it back," she said, candidly facing Ji San.

"What?" Ji San found himself in a disarray by her words.

Chapter 820: An Imperial Opportunity

Miss Cui'er felt a bit guilty when she saw young master Ji San's depressed demeanor. "Young master San, Cui'er knows that you're a good person. It's not that my mistress thinks otherwise, either... she just has someone different in her heart, and always has. After all these years, she still hasn't put him down."

Ji San's cheer faded when he heard those words. Relationships were strange like that. If her heart had been empty, Ji San was confident that he would one day, with enough effort, be able to change her mind. But a lost love was much more difficult to beat.

"Young master San, please just go..." Cui'er sighed in resignation at the situation, turning to leave as well.

Jiang Chen patted Ji San on the shoulder. "Brother Ji, let things be decided by fate."

Ji San laughed aloud, managing to remain carefree despite the situation. "As you said, brother. All things under heaven are decided by threads of fate. Perhaps there is none between Miss Dan and myself." He shook his head slightly as he spoke. "As it is said, 'The modest, retiring, virtuous, young lady / For our prince a good mate she.' But alas, though I may admire beauty, even I know that forcing one's hand in such matters leads to nothing but unhappiness."

The two of them departed from that place. Though Ji San had felt some sadness still, he was able to recover after another few moments. "How unexpected. That I, crushed by my first love, could scatter it to the wind so soon." Walking out from the bamboo grove, Ji San's laugh was self-deprecating, but perhaps poignant also.

Miao Suo and company awaited them outside still. At Ji San's reappearance, the former couldn't help but mock him. "Ji Ole Third, didn't I tell you already not to go? You were just asking to get snubbed."

Ji San returned a breezy smile. "Well, it's better than how she treats you, isn't it?"

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Miss Cui'er returned to the bamboo grove and approached a clearing. A pastoral domicile lay here, a refuge from the busyness of the outside world. "Miss, I've sent them all away." She stood at the door, speaking to the house's inhabitant.

"Mm." A tranquil voice replied from within.

"Miss, forgive me for speaking out of turn. The... young master Ji San just now, he's a young man with both talent and character, and more importantly, he's a moral man. I think, maybe..."

"Cui'er, His Majesty instructed you to attend to my domestic needs. Do you intend to change professions and play the matchmaker as well?" The voice was aloof, with a hint of annoyance.

"I'm sorry, miss," Cui'er hastily apologized.

"I'm not blaming you, but I hope my wishes are known." The voice sighed.

"Yes, miss, I'll never suggest anything like that again." Cui'er flicked out her tongue, some fear still lingering.

"What is His Majesty up to recently?"

"His Majesty has recently left seclusion, and is hosting some sort of Peafowl Gathering. Would you like to go observe, miss?"

The voice faltered a moment. There was a faint exhale. "Never mind, I will not."

"Miss, don't be like that. You cultivate every day, but you should get some fresh air as well. I know you might have a lot of things bottled up, but I'm worried you'll hurt yourself if you continue like this." As she spoke, Cui'er felt a light pat on her shoulder, and turned her head. "Your Majesty?" She gasped in surprise.

Emperor Peafowl had come. "Cui'er, feel free to excuse yourself. I'd like to talk awhile with Dan'er." Emperor Peafowl's tone was mild. There was no feeling of remoteness, even for a servant.

Too nervous for words, Cui'er could only nod. She ran off like a gust of wind, tiny steps pattering upon the ground.

"Dan'er, can I come in?"

"Yes, Your Majesty?" The voice inside the house took on a tone of slight amazement. "Please do."

Pushing past the door, Emperor Peafowl entered the residence. A slender, beautiful shadow stood by the windowsill inside. From a distance, she looked a little thin, but her figure was lithe nevertheless.

"Dan'er, the Peafowl Gathering... What do you think about taking a look together?"

"I would rather not, Your Majesty." Dan'er's inflection seemed to be permanently neutral. It was as if she cared for nothing, could be interested by nothing.

"Ah," Emperor Peafowl murmured, "Dan'er, your cultivation foundation is not particularly sturdy. Even though I've helped you rebuild it, you cannot pursue haste alone in your studies."

"Your Majesty, I cannot be lazy. My homeland is destroyed, and the people I care about are lost. How can I disengage myself from these truths?" Dan'er shook her head, adamant in her conviction.

"The Myriad Domain's fall is not something that can be rectified in a single day. It takes time for these things. If you abuse your body like this, you'll use it all up before that day comes." Emperor Peafowl breathed out in quiet encouragement.

"Don't forget, you have Nian'er as well," he added.

Dan'er's delicate body shook when she heard the name. "Your Majesty, how is she? I remember you said you'd take good care of her."

"Don't worry, Nian'er is quite well. I've instructed the Plumscore Monarch to teach her personally. I am sure that with enough time, she will become a bright pearl of Peafowl Holy Mountain."

"Your Majesty, your grace towards me is boundless. I couldn't repay the debt even if I were to devote my next life to you."

"There's no need to treat me as a stranger like that." Emperor Peafowl returned a carefree grin. "All things are decided by fate, and fate led me to you and your daughter in the wilderness. Your deliverance from evil men was merely circumstantial."

Dan'er inclined her head. "Even if fate is responsible, I must still thank you for your charity and kindness."

"Let's not speak about such depressing matters. Haste makes waste. Your first priority right now is to calm yourself. If not for yourself, then for your daughter. Fate will guide you, as it does in all things. I've been childless my entire life, and we've gotten along rather well. I see you as my own daughter, and I do not want you to torture yourself so."

Dan'er nodded, momentarily lost in thought. Taking in her enduring sadness, Emperor Peafowl knew that she hadn't really gotten over things. "Well, the Peafowl Gathering begins soon. Dan'er, I remind you of only one thing. All things fall into place, when fate's trajectory dictates." Saying this, he drifted out the door. Emperor Peafowl shook his head as he left the bamboo grove. "All men are troubled by emotions, and Dan'er is no different. She's such an emotional girl, yet so stubborn. I wonder what kind of youth she gave her heart to, back in the Myriad Domain? After all these years, she still hasn't forgotten."

He sighed softly, but wasn't about to press the matter. He knew that Dan'er hadn't said a word about it because she didn't want others to interfere. A man of his skills could divine and investigate the past quite easily. However, Emperor Peafowl wasn't that kind of work-making busybody. If Dan'er didn't want outside help, then she would have to unravel the knot in her heart on her own. Any external meddling could only end in disaster. The Myriad Domain had already fallen, and likely the person that Dan'er held in her heart with it.

Emperor Peafowl shook his head again as the thought arose. "Am I really getting old, and my heart is softening in my old age?" He allowed himself a wry, almost self-deprecating smile. With a single movement of his body, he disappeared into nothingness.

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The much-anticipated Peafowl Gathering finally began. All of the guests were seated in their assigned places, their postures solemn. The venue for the event was a place sacred in its beauty. There were ponds filled with lotuses all around and bamboo forests to the side, adorned with exotic flora and making the scene as if an ethereal realm. All present had their eyes focused on a single entrance.

Emperor Peafowl and the Four Monarchs were about to appear. Under everyone's gazes, the much-anticipated five strode out.

Jiang Chen's look froze. Emperor Peafowl's clothes were the exact same as when they'd met that day, and he had the same carefree air. Everyone stood simultaneously at the appearance of the emperor, as if in agreement. They saluted in respectful unison. "Greetings to Your Majesty"

"Haha, there's no need to be so formal." Emperor Peafowl opened both arms, laughing. "This isn't a grand ceremony or anything, friends. Make yourselves at ease."

The attendees were influenced by the emperor's bright smile, their own moods improving as well. Evidently, part of the reason for their presence was to see if His Majesty Peafowl had recovered from the loss of his disciple. It looked like he had, after all.

"I called everyone here today so we could talk about recent events. Of course, there's the matter of preparing for Veluriyam Pagoda's opening as well! How ready do you feel, gentlemen?" Emperor Peafowl carried himself very jovially. His eyes settled on the Coiling Dragon clan lord first. "Would you like to talk about it, Coiling Dragon?"

Hastily standing, the Coiling Dragon clan lord disclosed recent events before introducing the several geniuses from the clan at length. Afterwards, he pointed at Jiang Chen. "This is Pill King Zhen, a guest pill king of House Wei. I recall that Your Majesty personally asked him to be invited."

Smiling, Emperor Peafowl shifted his attention towards the young man. Maintaining full composure, Jiang Chen returned the gaze with a cupped fist salute. "Greetings to Your Majesty."

"The pleasure is mine. I hear that you've distinguished yourself in the recent events of the capital. You've done a lot of work for both House Wei and the Coiling Dragon Clan. I hear that you're an apostle of the Deviant Pill Faction?"

The question was a customary part of proceedings, and Jiang Chen knew it to be the case. "My studies in pills have been rather eclectic, but it is true that I am quite proficient in the teachings of the Deviant Pill Faction. I've studied their knowledge in particular for many years."

Emperor Peafowl nodded. "Very good. There are many pill kings here at the Sacred Peafowl Mountain, but we don't have much expertise with the Deviant Pill Faction and its teachings. It would be good if we could exchange knowledge here. You are welcome to come to visit anytime." n-OvEI81n

"I thank you for your kindness, Your Majesty." Jiang Chen smiled slightly in thanks.

Nothing further was said. The Emperor moved his gaze towards the other clans, who reported their situations one by one as well.

After the conclusion of the reporting segment, Emperor Peafowl chuckled. "I'm glad to hear that everyone is working hard. I've called our young geniuses here to present a select number of opportunities. Of course, supplies are limited, and only fortune will dictate the degree of your benefit. Thus, I've made a few arrangements... geniuses of the clans, are you ready to face my trials?"

Opportunity? Trial? The young geniuses were flush with excitement. Opportunities given by the emperor... it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

