

Time 101

Chapter 101 - 101 Fighting the top 100

Xiao Juyan quickly arrived in front of the registration counter and was shocked to recognize Shun Long.

Both Xiao Shitou and Lin Wu that were standing behind him, were also staring at Shun Long in disbelief. Xiao Shitou couldn't help but ask

"Are YOU the Shun Long who defeated Lei Pong?"

Shun Long's eyes swept through Xiao Shitou and Lin Wu, but he didn't pay attention to them as his eyes then stared at Xiao Juyan.

Although Xiao Juyan was surprised to see that the person who defeated Lei Pong was the same person that had come in the sect with his brother from the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' half a year ago, he still didn't take Shun Long seriously as he also turned to look at him and said

"Although you do have the right to challenge me, you do not stand a chance against me. I heard about your fight with Lei Pong a few days ago. You only won because you managed to tire him out. However, I am much stronger than both you and him. Being in the top 100 of the arena rankings is a different league altogether!"

Shun Long watched as Xiao Juyan walked at the registration counter and after handing over his 'sect jade' he had officially accepted the challenge.

"Senior brother Xiao accepted his challenge!"

"Of course he accepted! Did you think that senior brother Xiao is afraid of this Shun Long?"

Xiao Shitou gave a meaningful look to Xiao Juyan as he said

"Elder brother..."

Xiao Juyan however patted his shoulder as he said

"I know"

Then, after throwing a deep look at Lin Wu that made her ashamed as she lowered her head, Xiao Juyan walked in the arena.

Standing in front of Shun Long he then said

"Since you challenged me, how about a bet? You must have 200 spirit stones on you right?"

Xiao Juyan then took 200 spirit stones from his spatial ring as he looked at Shun Long.

Shun Long nodded his head as if he had expected Xiao Juyan to say this and said in return

"Indeed but how about a bigger bet?"

"What do you mean?"

"How about..... we bet everything that we have in our spatial rings?"

Not just Xiao Juyan, but everyone in the crowd had fallen silent as they looked at Shun Long as if they were looking at a madman.

"Are you crazy?"

Xiao Juyan blurted out as he saw Shun Long removing his spatial ring from his hand, while the crowd exploded in discussions

"Is Shun Long serious?"

"Is he confident that he can beat senior brother Xiao or is he just bluffing trying to scare him away?"

"I think that he is bluffing. I saw his fight with Lei Pong and all he did was run around!"

Xiao Juyan looked at Shun Long in skepticism as he asked

"How do I know that you haven't removed your items from your spatial ring?"

Shun Long smiled as he took out a few rank 2 herbs in front of Xiao Juyan and everyone else in the crowd. These herbs were the ones he had picked from the lush forest in the Demonic Mountain region. He also took out the silver grade dagger, as well as a handful of his spirit stones, before placing them back in his spatial ring.

Xiao Juyan looked at Shun Long with apprehension, unknown if he was thinking of him as confident or simply stupid.

"Is this guy trying to scare me away? However, the items in his spatial ring were definitely real.

No matter what, he fought with Lei Pong just 5 days ago, so his strength can't really have grown since then."

After coming to this conclusion Xiao Juyan smiled as he removed an iron hammer from his spatial ring and said

"Then let's do this."

Shun Long then handed his spatial ring to the arena representative, before Xiao Juyan did the same.

The crowd couldn't believe that Xiao Juyan had accepted this crazy challenge. No matter how much confidence these 2 had in themselves, this was truly a crazy bet where you could lose everything you had.

Finally, Shun Long smiled as he then asked something unexpected

"You must definitely know about the assassination attempt outside the 'Blue Forest' right?"

A glimmer flashed through Xiao Juyan's eyes before Shun Long saw him shaking his head and saying

"I don't have any idea what you mean."

Little Black's voice however, sounded inside Shun Long's head at the same time as he said

"Master, I could definitely feel his heartbeat speeding up with my soul sense, when you asked him about the assassination. He definitely knows something about it."

Shun Long nodded his head after getting confirmation from little Black as he circulated his 'Monarch's Hourglass' while his eyes immediately turned golden.

Xiao Juyan felt the change in Shun Long as he too unleashed his cultivation, that had already reached the middle of rank 6 earth grade, while his body then started changing into a rock-like substance.

Xiao Juyan now resembled a golem as every part of his body aside from his eyes were covered by rocks.

"This is senior brother Xiao's 'rock body'! Let's see how Shun Long wants to break his defenses when senior brother is among the strongest experts of his level when he takes on this form."

Shun Long clenched his fists tightly as he looked at Xiao Juyan's eyes

"You still have a chance to tell me about the assassination attempt in the Blue Forest."

Xiao Juyan however, was much more resolute this time as he answered

"Then how about you come and find out?"

Shun Long narrowed his eyes as he walked towards him with firm footsteps.

At the same time, Ren Gui and Fu Peizhi had just arrived in the arena together, when they turned their heads to watch the fight. Since everyone's attention was at the center of the arena, almost no one had noticed their arrival.

Xiao Juyan smirked as he saw Shun Long coming closer. Holding the iron hammer in his right hand tightly, he was ready to take him out in one hit, with the first chance he got.

Finally, as Shun Long took another step forward and entered Xiao Juyan's attack range, Xiao Juyan immediately dashed forward, swinging the hammer in his hand at full force towards Shun Long's head.

Shun Long's golden eyes lit up as he unleashed his 'Monarch's Domain', before his right leg suddenly kicked the ground, instantly arriving in front of Xiao Juyan instead of retreating.

Clenching his left fist, he punched in full force at Xiao Juyan's chest.

Xiao Juyan's hammer had drastically slowed as Shun Long's fist hit him with a loud bang, instantly crushing the rock armor on his chest.

Xiao Juyan stumbled 2 steps backwards before vomiting a mouthful of blood.

Chapter 102 - 102 Xiao Juyan's trump card

Everyone in the arena was staring in astonishment, as Shun Long's punch had broken through Xiao Juyan's armor.

"D-Did he just punch through senior brother Xiao's 'rock body'?"

"Impossible! Senior brother Xiao is unbeatable within the same level of cultivation!"

"Unbeatable? How do you explain this then? Shun Long's punch definitely broke through Xiao Juyan's 'rock armor'!"

It wasn't just the crowd that was shocked, even Ren Gui and Fu Peizhi who saw this were flabbergasted.

Xiao Juyan was someone who was famed for his defense and yet, just one punch from Shun Long had made him stumble and vomit blood.

Fu Peizhi turned his head to look at Ren Gui as he asked with a voice that didn't hide his shock at all

"Ren Gui, did you notice yet? This person is the same as senior brother Kang!"

Ren Gui however didn't even look at Fu Peizhi, as his eyes were staring at Shun Long at the center of the arena like a hungry beast looking at its prey.

Xiao Juyan wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth before he used his qi to recreate the rocks around his chest.

Soon, the crumbled rocks near his chest were quickly restored, as Xiao Juyan turned to look at Shun Long and said in a regretful tone

"I didn't expect you to cultivate both in qi and body refinement. Your punch really took me by surprise, but unfortunately for you, my 'rock armor' is the perfect counter against 'body refinement' cultivators."

As these words left Xiao Juyan's mouth, the rocks covering his body changed their shape as they slowly turned into sharp spikes.

Xiao Shitou who saw this laughed, as if he had expected this move from the start, while Lin Wu seemed to have just heaved a sigh of relief as she said smilingly

"I knew that elder brother Juyan was still hiding his true strength. How could he ever lose to someone like Shun Long?"

"Hahaha, of course! If Shun Long wants to punch elder brother again, he will definitely destroy his own hands this time!" Xiao Shitou also exclaimed in glee.

Shun Long hadn't expected that Xiao Juyan would decide to protect himself this way.

If this was 4 days ago when he was fighting Lei Pong and was still at the peak of the first stage in the 'Monach's Eternal body', Shun Long wouldn't have a way to deal with these spikes.

But now, after having already advanced to the middle of the second stage, Shun Long was confident that he could easily smash through Xiao Juyan's defenses with his full strength.

However, after taking half a step forward, Shun Long's golden eyes lit up before he suddenly tilted his head to the left.

Swish

Just as Shun Long tilted his head, a spike-shaped stone flew at incredible speed, as it swept past him and barely missing his face.

This sneak attack that was aimed at Shun Long's face, could have easily crippled him if not outright killed him.

Xiao Juyan was genuinely shocked that his attack had missed. This was a trump card that he had never revealed before, and yet Shun Long still managed to avoid it, almost as if he knew that it was coming.

The crowd didn't even have any time to react as they saw Xiao Juyan constantly bombarding Shun Long with numerous flying spikes.

One after another, the rock spikes flew at Shun Long, who activated his 'Monarch's Domain' for the second time, and avoiding all of them he arrived in front of Xiao Juyan.

Xiao Juyan tried to open the distance between them but Shun Long was even faster than him.

Gathering the strength of his 'Monarch's Eternal body' in his right fist, Shun Long sent a full-powered punch at Xiao Juyan's abdomen.

His fist passed through the sharp shaped rocks, like a hot knife cutting through butter, as it directly hit Xiao Juyan right in the stomach.

Xiao Juyan was sent flying as he spurted a mouthful of fresh blood. Inside the blood, the crowd shivered as they could even spot pieces of his internal organs, before his body fell back down as it violently crashed on the ground, creating a small human-shaped hole.

The entire arena had started cheering in excitement but Shun Long didn't seem to be done yet.

Everyone watched him curiously as he slowly walked towards Xiao Juyan, whose body was still buried on the ground.

After dragging him out of the hole, Shun Long suddenly heard someone shouting from the audience seats.

"Shun Long, what are you trying to do? The fight is already over!" Xiao Shitou asked nervously after seeing his brother get dragged around like a dog.

Shun Long, for the first time, flashed a devilish smile as he said

"Then why hasn't Xiao Juyan surrendered yet? My sect jade hasn't lit up, so your brother hasn't lost his consciousness or surrendered yet."

Fu Peizhi who also wanted to intervene decided to stay silent. What Shun Long had just said was the truth after all, and in case he decided to interfere in an 'ongoing arena fight', the Elder responsible for the arena rules might even strip him from his rank.

Ren Gui also curiously watched Shun Long, who smiled at Xiao Juyan all of a sudden.

Then, he turned his head to look towards Xiao Shitou and Lin Wu in the crowd as he asked

"What do you know about the assassination attempt at the Blue Forest?"

"Shun Long is breaking the arena rules! Quickly, someone call the sect Elders!" Lin Wu screamed in panic.

Everyone in the crowd around her sneered as they looked at Lin Wu with mocking looks in their eyes, wondering if this girl was some kind of special idiot.

Shun Long didn't even turn his head to look at Lin Wu. His golden eyes were staring at Xiao Juyan as he waited for his answer.

"I su-"

SLAP

Shun Long's hand slapped Xiao Juyan's face startling everyone before he said in a cold tone

"Don't even think that you can surrender in front of me. Did you think that it's going to be that easy? You will either tell me what I want to know, or I will make sure that you won't be able to walk out of here by yourself!"

Xiao Juyan started laughing loudly as he heard Shun Long's threatening words and asked

"I won't walk here by myself? I'm curious as to how you are going to accomplish that? Don't tell me that you have the guts to cripple me, let alone kill me!"

Shun Long smiled after hearing Xiao Juyan's words, as he then said

"Little Black, do it."

Chapter 103 - 103 The assassination plan

"Little Black, do it."

Suddenly, Xiao Juyan could feel a terrifying pressure bearing down on him, one that brought him unimaginable pain.

This was a kind of pain that he had never felt before, a pain that had almost instantly brought him to the brink of collapse. Xiao Juyan was feeling as if someone was trying to tear his soul apart.

Everyone in the crowd was horrified as they watched him, an expert that was ranked 93rd in the arena rankings, scream and roll on the ground while clutching his head all of a sudden.

Even Ren Gui and Fu Peizhi felt a chill at this sight as they backed a few steps back.

Aside from Xiao Juyan, no one else could sense anything wrong. After all, this pressure wasn't aura or some kind of qi that people could sense, but little Black's soul power.

Unless someone's soul was at least at the same level as little Black's, and that person could also use their soul sense to scan the arena, it was impossible for anyone to sense little Black's soul sense.

What Xiao Juyan was going through right now, was a kind of torture where his soul was constantly being brought to the breaking point, and just before his mind would collapse, Little Black would then give him a few seconds to rest, only to then start again from the beginning.

Not even a minute had passed until Xiao Juyan had started shouting

"No, please STOP! I will tell you everything. PLEASE!"

"Elder brother!" Xiao Shitou's panicked voice also sounded from the audience seats at the same time, but Xiao Juyan couldn't pay any attention to him as he begged for the torture to stop.

Everyone in the arena understood that Shun Long must have done something to Xiao Juyan, but there was no way to prove anything.

"Master, I feel that he is ready to tell us everything"

Shun Long nodded his head as Little Black stopped his torture and Xiao Juyan could finally started to relax, until he heard Shun Long's serious voice

"Don't try to lie to me, or if I start to feel that you aren't telling me everything about the assassination..."

Xiao Juyan shivered as he heard this and repeatedly nodded his head as he said

"Don't worry, I will definitely tell you everything. It all started with the Lin family-"

"Elder brother!!"

Xiao Shitou shouted when he saw that his brother was ready to recount everything.

Xiao Juyan however, didn't pay any attention to Xiao Shitou as he continued

"A few months ago, Shitou met Lin Wu in the imperial city. That same day he returned home and said to our father that it was love at first glance and that he intends to marry her. Father however, investigated things and found that Lin Wu who was the daughter of the Lin family's patriarch, was betrothed to the son of Shun Fang, the rank 3 bronze grade formation master of the 'Blue Forest city'.

The Lin family patriarch came to our Marquess estate a few days later, 'to discuss' matters with our father."

At this point, Lin Wu's face had already turned white as she heard Xiao Juyan explaining everything, and understood that there was no way to keep things hidden any longer. Xiao Shitou however held her hand as he said

"Wu'er don't worry. Even if he knows the truth, he can't do anything to you as long as we are inside the 'floating cloud sect'."

Lin Wu shook her head as she said

"But, what about my family?"

"Don't worry. Shun Long will need at least a few years to return back to the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom'. By then I will have definitely reached the earth grade as well and will have settled everything!" Xiao Shitou said as a cold light flashed through his eyes.

Lin Wu finally felt reassured after hearing Xiao Shitou's words, and nodded her head as she hugged him.

Xiao Juyan then continued with the rest of the story, afraid that if he stopped, Shun Long would restart that inhumane torture again.

"The Lin family patriarch said that it would be cruel to marry his precious daughter to a cripple like you, instead of marrying her to the Xiao marquess' son. However, father wasn't stupid and he easily saw through Lin Shang's intentions.

Father denied, as he told him that our family wouldn't stain our hands with blood to help the Lin family escape the engagement that they had promised Shun Fang.

However, after Shitou's pleas to help, father finally agreed to send someone to 'Blue Forest city', and spread rumors that a treasure that could potentially help you unblock your meridians, had appeared in the vicinity of the Blue Forest.

The timing was perfect as Shun Fang was in the imperial capital at that time and in your desperation, you would definitely choose to go alone.

As for the assassination? That was all done by the Lin family's Elders and my Xiao family had nothing to do with it."

After Xiao Juyan finished narrating the secrets behind Shun Long's assassination attempt, he looked at Shun Long with relief. Although he had revealed something shameful, schemes in the 'cultivation world' were all too common, while his family hadn't done all that much in this matter.

Everyone in the audience turned their heads to look at Lin Wu and Xiao Shitou in disgust.

Lin Wu lowered her head while Xiao Shitou pulled her hand as they both quickly left the arena.

Shun Long watched the 2 of them as they hurriedly left the arena and laughed coldly inside, before turning his head to look at Xiao Juyan.

"Master, based on the fluctuations of his soul, everything he said was true."

After hearing little Black's words, Shun Long nodded his head as he hit Xiao Juyan's neck with a chop, instantly rendering him unconscious.

At that moment, Shun Long's 'sect identifying jade' lit up, and a number appeared on it.

93.

At the same time, Xiao Juyan's name had magically disappeared from the wall of the top 100 ranks, leaving behind only an empty slot for Shun Long to fill his own name there.

Without feeling the slightest sense of pity for Xiao Juyan, Shun Long walked up to the arena representative as he collected the 2 spatial rings before turning to leave.

Of course, Shun Long wasn't planning to have any good opinion of Xiao Juyan just because he had confessed the truth. Let alone that the reason he had confessed was actually thanks to little Black's excruciating soul torture, Shun Long also wasn't going to forget that the Xiao family had assisted the Lin's in their assassination plan.

However, before Shun Long could really leave the arena, a voice was suddenly heard from the crowd as it said

"Shun Long!"

Turning his head, Shun Long saw a burly young man seemingly around 20 years old. This man had long black hair and a burly build and was staring right at him. Although Shun Long didn't know who this man was, he recognized the person standing next to him, Fu Peizhi.

"Hey, who is that?"

"Don't speak and don't even breathe! If this monster turns his attention to you, you are doomed!"

The rowdy arena instantly fell silent as people recognized this long-haired man.

This was the person with the worst reputation in the entire 'outer city', the person ranked 7th in the arena rankings, Ren Gui.

Ren Gui jumped all the way from the audience seats as he landed inside the arena with a bang.

He then grabbed the unconscious Xiao Juyan, before throwing him towards the crowd like he was just a sack of meat, before turning his head to look at Shun Long, looking like he was staring at some sort of delicious prey, as he pointed at him and said commandingly

"Come here!"

Chapter 104 - 104 Exchanging blows

Shun Long didn't know who this man was but judging from the crowd's reactions, he was definitely not a pushover.

Walking back inside the arena, he stared at Ren Gui waiting to hear what he wanted to say.

Ren Gui looked at Shun Long as he asked in an arrogant and overbearing tone

"Do you know what your crime is brat? There are very few people in the 'outer city' that have dared to not give me, Ren Gui any face.

I don't give a f.u.c.k if you want to fight with small fries like Xiao Juyan and Lei Pong, but since you dared to slap my woman, you better be prepared to pay the price."

The moment that Ren Gui finished speaking, he instantly kicked the ground as he rushed at Shun Long.

Shun Long had just now understood, that this was the person ranked 7th in the arena rankings, when he saw Ren Gui practically flying at him.

Ren Gui roared as he sent a powerful punch at Shun Long's chest, who in return crossed his arms in an X-shape to block.

Ren Gui's punch sent Shun Long off the ground, as he then slid for more than 10 meters backwards, until he managed to stabilize himself.

Shun Long was shocked. How powerful did this man have to be, to send him sliding for 10m until he could stop?

Since Shun Long had advanced to the middle of the second stage in the 'Monarch's Eternal body' he was certain that he could easily defeat anyone below even the 8th rank in earth grade.

"It looks like this person is also a body refiner, and one that has already reached the peak of the second stage!" Shun Long thought as he felt his arms slightly aching after taking Ren Gui's punch

"This kid managed to take my punch when he is just at the middle of the second stage in body refinement? How is this possible?"

Both Ren Gui and Fu Peizhi however, were even more shocked than Shun Long.

Everyone in the top 100 rankings knew, that Ren Gui wasn't just someone at the peak of the second stage in body refinement. He had already reached the peak of this level for the past 2 years, and was just a step away from entering the third stage.

A third stage body refiner was just as strong if not stronger than a Heaven grade cultivator.

After his astonishment, Ren Gui actually laughed as he said

"Then let's see which of us is stronger brat!" before he once again sent another punch at Shun Long.

Shun Long activated his golden eyes as well as his 'Monarch's Domain', and after avoiding Ren Gui's punch that had just brushed past his shoulder, he sent his own punch right at Ren Gui's abdomen.

Ren Gui flinched, as he took 2 steps backwards, pain coloring his face.

"I actually felt pain from the punch of a middle-second stage brat?"

Both Shun Long and Ren Gui didn't accept this outcome as they both stared at each other.

However, before they could move again, their 'sect identifying jades' as well as Fu Peizhi's, all lit up at the same time.

All 3 of them took out their sect jades, and received the same message.

Ren Gui snorted as he then said in an annoyed tone

"Your luck may have saved you today but this isn't over just yet."

Then, without even waiting for a reply, he left the arena as he headed towards the 'inner city' gates.

The crowd was astonished as they watched Ren Gui turn to leave so suddenly since the fight had barely begun, when Fu Peizhi's voice sounded from the audience seats as he looked at Shun Long and said

"You seem to be very lucky. Not only did you manage to avoid fighting Ren Gui, but we also don't have the time to fight ourselves."

The crowd saw that Fu Peizhi seemed to be provoking Shun Long and got excited once again

"It's senior brother Fu!"

"Does Fu Peizhi want to fight with Shun Long?"

"I think so. I heard that senior brother Fu came here 3 days ago to take revenge for Lei Pong, but Shun Long didn't seem to accept his challenge."

Shun Long turned his head and stared at Fu Peizhi as he said

"Lucky? Then let's see who the lucky one really is. I also have a few things that I have to settle with you."

Fu Peizhi seemed to have been caught off-guard before he then asked angrily

"Do you think that I am Xiao Juyan? Understand that you and I are not on the same level! You won't even be able to last 5 moves against me! I told you before, didn't I? In front of me, you and everyone else below the top 20 are all ants."

Little Black's mocking voice then sounded inside Shun Long's head as he said

"How laughable. Merely at the middle of rank 9 earth grade and he views everyone below him as ants."

The crowd also seemed to have been angered by Fu Peizhi's words, but as he swept his eyes over everyone, all the disciples in the audience just lowered their heads.

Shun Long however, smirked as he looked at him and said

"Then, a week from now Fu Peizhi, watch how I squash your worldview."

"HAHAHAHA!"

Fu Peizhi laughed as he left the arena, as he headed towards the 'inner city' gates.

Shun Long didn't pay any more attention to Fu Peizhi as he asked little Black

"Did you find their location?"

"I did, master. They are inside a large inn about 20 miles on our east. Are we going to do it now?"

Shaking his head Shun Long said

"I would love to take care of them now, but the sect master ordered for all the disciples within the top 1000 ranks to gather in front of the 'inner city' immediately."

After taking a deep breath, Shun Long's eyes turned golden as he continued "However, I will not give them a chance to live for even one more day."

Shun Long then left the arena, under the respectful gazes of all the disciples in the crowd, as he headed towards the 'inner city' gates where the sect master had ordered for everyone to gather.

Chapter 105 - 105 Redstone inn

Not even 30 minutes later, Shun Long had arrived in front of the 'inner city' gates.

More than 500 people were already gathered in front of the gates, including Ren Gui, Fu Peizhi, and even that blue-haired young man that Shun Long had met in the arena when he fought with Lei Pong.

Since Shun Long's face was unknown to most people here, no one paid him any attention as he waited for the sect master to arrive.

More and more people gradually gathered, and 20 minutes later, the 'inner city' gates opened as an azure-robed middle aged man in his forties, followed by 2 black-robed Elders appeared before the disciples.

The disciples that were chatting between themselves immediately quietened down, as they saw the sect master, Liu Jian arriving.

Liu Jian's aura was completely retracted, and he looked like a normal 40-year-old man. He took a look at the disciples gathered in front of him and nodded his head as he said

"Good! It seems that most of you have already arrived. Let me explain the reason I called for you here today.

"I'm sure that some of you have already heard about a secret realm that will open in a few months time."

Liu Jian saw that most of the disciples wore confused looks on their faces, and only some people like Ren Gui, Fu Peizhi, and the blue-haired man, as well as Shun Long and a few others, didn't show any confusion as they had already heard about it.

Liu Jian saw that most disciples didn't seem to know anything and explained in a loud voice

"In 3 months from now, a secret realm known as the 'Vermilion realm' will open in our Desolate East. This is a realm that opens only once every 100 years, and the opportunities inside are endless.

Our 'floating cloud sect' has been sending disciples and Elders there for the past 2000 years, and many of them have found heaven-defying fortune inside.

However, due to the restrictions of the realm, only cultivators up to the peak of rank 3 in Heaven grade can enter inside. Of course, our 'floating cloud sect' isn't the only sect that will be entering the

'Vermilion realm'. There will be many other sects alongside us and all of them will send their own disciples and Elders, which is the reason why every sect has a specific quota of people that it can send inside.

The 'inner city' will send in a total of 200 Elders and disciples, while from the 'outer city', only the top 100 people in the arena rankings will be eligible to join.

You have 75 days to see whether you can enter the top 100 rankings in the arena, or secure your rank if you are already there. After the 75 days are over, we will be leaving the sect to enter the 'Vermilion realm'. That is all!"

After explaining everything, Liu Jian didn't wait for any questions as he turned around and walked back to the 'inner city'.

The moment that the 'inner city' gates closed, the disciples gathered in front of the 'inner city' gates, immediately rushed towards the arena, almost as if they were competing on who would arrive there first.

Only Shun Long and a few others seemed to have no intention to go to the arena, when Fu Peizhi's mocking voice sounded all of a sudden

"HA! These idiots think that if they arrive in the arena faster, then they will be able to enter the secret realm?"

Fu Peizhi laughed as he watched the huge group of outer disciples, all running as they hoped to get a rank in the top 100, before he turned to leave the area.

Shun Long also didn't stay around any longer, but seemed to have headed back towards the arena.

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Around 20 miles away from the arena, was a very large inn, with many private rooms.

This was the largest inn in the 'outer city', the 'Redstone inn'.

Shun Long saw a huge number of disciples entering and leaving the inn's entrance, showing how popular this place was.

"Little Black, can you still sense them?"

Little Black sent his spiritual strength to scan over the inn as he said

"Master, they are still in a room on the second floor."

"Great!"

Shun Long nodded his head, as he waited patiently for night to fall.

A few hours later, the sun had already set and most of the disciples had already returned back to their rooms, however, due to the sheer number of disciples in the 'floating cloud sect', the streets were never really empty.

Shun Long swapped back to his black robes, as he too walked on the street along with the other disciples. Although his attire was suspicious deep in the night, there were many people who used to wear black robes and cloaks inside the sect if they wanted to hide their identity for various reasons.

Shun Long walked parallel to the inn, and after checking that there were no other disciples around him, he slashed the void open creating a space tear, and entering inside it, he arrived at the room's location that little Black had pinpointed.

"AHHH YES!! MORE!! BROTHER SHITOU DON'T STOP!!"

Lin Wu's voice was the first thing that Shun Long heard as he entered the room. Turning his eyes towards the origin of the voice, Shun Long saw Xiao Shitou's back and forth movements as he connected his body with Lin Wu's completely n.a.k.e.d body.

Shun Long was disgusted after having to see Xiao Shitou's bare ass, and immediately activated the 'Monarch's Domain' freezing everything inside the room.

Sadly for Xiao Shitou, he wouldn't be able to finish his night, as Shun Long sent a kick to his body, sending him flying as he crashed to the wall of the room.

After tying both the n.a.k.e.d Lin Wu, as well as Xiao Shitou with a rope and gagging their mouths with 2 pieces of cloth, Shun Long deactivated the 'Monarch's Domain'.

Xiao Shitou and Lin Wu were utterly confused to see a man in black robes, appear all of a sudden in front of them. Removing his black robes, this man then allowed them to see his true appearance.

The n.a.k.e.d couple was terrified to see Shun Long appear out of nowhere inside their room, when they were enjoying themselves just a moment ago.

Lin Wu tried to cover her n.a.k.e.d body with her hands, but the rope didn't really allow her much movement.

"Mmff"

"Mffm"

Muffled sounds came from both of their mouths, but Shun Long just looked at them apathetically as he asked

"Do you have any last words?"

Chapter 106 - 106 Last words

The moment that the duo heard Shun Long's words, they immediately fell silent.

Shun Long could see the terror in their eyes, but soon, the look in Xiao Shitou changed from fear into one of defiance.

Shun Long didn't bother as he said

"I will remove your gags so you can say any last words that you may have. However, if you try to scream or shout for help then you will lose your chance to speak."

After removing Lin Wu's gag, Shun Long activated his golden eyes when she said

"Sh-Shun L-Long... please don't kill me! I can even... ASS-!"

Shun Long shook his head as he gagged Lin Wu's mouth again, and looking at her with his shining golden eyes he said mockingly

"I told you not to try and scream."

Little Black looked at Lin Wu from the 'Stone of Time' as he thought

"How can she scream even if she wants to since master is able to glimpse into the future?"

Shaking his head, Shun Long then removed Xiao Shitou's gag as he asked placidly

"Any last words?"

In response however, Xiao Shitou laughed as he said

"Hahaha, Shun Long, I don't believe that you dare to kill us inside the 'floating cloud sect'. Even if no one saw you entering our room, people have definitely seen you enter the 'Redstone inn'. Since my brother has revealed everything about your assassination in the arena, people will definitely suspect you as the killer. Don't tell me that you still dare to touch us after all that."

Even Lin Wu seemed to have breathed out in relief after hearing this, but her eyes still held a trace of fear as she looked at Shun Long.

Shun Long clapped his hands after hearing Xiao Shitou's reasoning and nodded his head as he said

"Indeed, you are right! People will definitely suspect me as the killer. However, so what if they suspect me? As long as there is no proof that I have entered the inn, then no one will be able to do anything about it."

Xiao Shitou's eyes looked at him as if he was crazy and seemed to have just realized that Shun Long was serious about killing him as he said in a trembling voice

"W-Wait! You know that it wasn't me that attacked you! My family just spread the rumors. It was Lin Wu. You can just kill her! I swear I will not say anything! Please! Please don't kill me!"

Shun Long looked at Xiao Shitou without any compassion as he said

"If it wasn't for you spreading the rumors, then how would her family even be able to attack me?"

Xiao Shitou was about to shout for help, when he found his mouth stuffed again with a piece of cloth.

Shun Long didn't show the slightest bit of pity looking at the 2 of them, and using both of his hands, he opened 2 tiny spatial tears in the air in front of him.

Both Lin Wu's and Xiao Shitou's eyes popped as they looked at the space tears, but when Shun Long's hands went inside them, terror wasn't sufficient to describe the feeling that this couple felt, as they swiftly realized where the space tears lead to.

Shun Long's hands entered the space tears and grabbed both of Lin Wu's and Xiao Shitou's hearts.

Shun Long's hands were suddenly filled with blood as he clenched them, crushing the hearts inside them.

Both Xiao Shitou and Lin Wu took their last breaths as their bodies lifelessly collapsed on the ground, with their eyes still open.

Shun Long wiped his dripping hands as he looked at the 2 dead bodies in front of him, and putting his black robes back on, he opened another space tear as he left the 'Redstone inn'.

After advancing to the middle of the second stage in the 'Monarch's Eternal body', Shun Long had felt his affinity with space grow even more, as he could now effortlessly open up space tears within

100meters from where he was. However, since he was still inside the 'floating cloud sect', he couldn't recklessly test where his limits currently stood.

After walking back to an alley to remove his black robes, Shun Long soon returned back to the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion'.

After entering his room and washing himself to remove any possible lingering smell of blood from his body, Shun Long sat on his bed as he sent his spiritual strength inside Xiao Juyan's spatial ring.

Shun Long was pleasantly surprised to find more than 1700 spirit stones inside it. Aside from the spirit stones, there were a few rank 2 medicinal herbs, as well as some bottles with rank 2 pills inside them.

"Aside from a few of the rank 2 'dispelling poison pills' that have reached the middle-grade, the rest of the pills here are just low-grade. Especially the quality of these 'earth-qi restoration pills'. If anyone consumed them, the pill toxins inside them would do more harm than good in the long run."

Shun Long then completely ignored the pills inside the spatial ring, and since he didn't find anything else of value, he placed the spirit stones along with the rank 2 medicinal herbs, all inside the 'Stone of Time'.

Looking at the more than 1800 spirit stones inside, Shun Long could barely resist the urge to start cultivating now, as he closed his eyes and used his qi to speed up the flow of time inside the herb garden, hastening the growth of the medicinal herbs.

2 days later, he had enough 'purple fragrant grass', as well as the rank 2 medicinal herbs that he needed, to fill 2 wooden barrels of wine. After refining the medicinal herbs in the alchemy room for more than 6 hours, Shun Long had finally filled 2 barrels of wine.

After burying the 2 barrels, Shun Long once again used his qi to speed up the flow of time inside the herb garden, when finally, the day of the auction had arrived.

Chapter 107 - 107 Senior alchemist

After closing his eyes for a few hours to rest and recover his qi, Shun Long then stood up from his bed as he left his room, and walked toward the 'Treasure Pavilion'.

As he left the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion', he saw many outer disciples on the street whispering about something and running towards the same direction.

Shun Long didn't pay any attention to them and kept walking towards the 'Treasure Pavilion'.

"Master, there seems to be quite a big commotion in that 'Redstone inn'."

Shun Long nodded his head as he said

"It's natural that they would find out about Xiao Shitou and Lin Wu's deaths sooner or later. I'm even surprised that it took the sect 3 days to find out about it. Let's see how they handle it then."

Half an hour later, a black robed Shun Long had already arrived in front of the 'Treasure Pavilion's' entrance.

The line to enter the auction this time, was even longer than last time.

Shun Long however didn't queue up, as he directly headed towards the VIP entrance.

After showing his invitation, the disciples in the entrance hurried to inform Yin Xing about it, who quickly came to welcome Shun Long inside.

As Yin Xing guided Shun Long to a private room he smiled as he started speaking

"Senior, I'm glad you came! If you didn't come I don't know what I would have done.

As soon as the higher-ups of the pavilion heard about senior's wine, our pavilion quickly spread the word of a wondrous wine being auctioned and it attracted the attention of a lot of high ranking Elders from the big families.

However, the higher-ups of the pavilion have told me to request from senior, to accept a meeting with the senior alchemist of our 'Treasure Pavilion' so that he can also verify the wine's properties."

Shun Long turned his eyes to look at Yin Xing, who, to avoid a misunderstanding hurriedly waved his hands as he said

"Senior, please don't misunderstand. It's not that our 'Treasure Pavilion' doesn't trust you. The problem is actually with me. My rank is not high enough inside the pavilion, so they also need someone more experienced than me to check."

Shun Long thought for a bit before nodding his head as he said in his deep voice

"I understand. You can call this alchemist of your 'Treasure Pavilion' then."

After hearing Shun Long's words, Yin Xing breathed out in relief before repeatedly thanking Shun Long.

Yin Xing then led him in front of a private room with the number 1 on it, and after opening the door he said

"Senior, this is the best private room that our 'Treasure Pavilion' has, and it is only opened to our most important guests."

Nodding his head, Shun Long didn't really pay much attention to Yin Xing, but after entering the room he was actually surprised.

The room was slightly bigger than the last private room he had entered in the past.

The decorations were almost identical to last time as well, except that there was a white couch at the center of the room that seemed to have been made from the fur of a rank 3 'white-furred bear' this time.

It was really as Yin Xing had said, this room was much better compared to the one he had entered the last time.

Seeing that Shun Long had sat down on the couch Yin Xing bowed his head as he asked

"Senior, should I ask for senior alchemist Ma to come now? We have less than an hour left until the auction starts after all."

"In that case, call him here."

Seeing Shun Long waving his hand, Yin Xing instantly left the room as he went to call that 'senior alchemist Ma' over.

Barely 10 minutes later, a silver-robed old man with a big beard had arrived at the room, with Yin Xing trailing behind him. This old man had a badge of a one-star silver cauldron on his chest as he was surprisingly a rank 1 silver grade alchemist.

The old man's eyes, were staring at Shun Long's back full of shock, as he was unable to detect any aura coming from his body.

"Senior, this is our senior alche-"

Yin Xing hurried to introduce him, but 'senior alchemist Ma' was even more eager to speak, as he said

"This senior, my name is Ma Tengfei and I am the senior alchemist in the 'Treasure Pavilion'. I have heard a lot about you from Yin Xing and couldn't wait to meet you myself. I hope that senior will forgive my selfishness."

Ma Tengfei then bowed his head and was actually extremely respectful as he spoke. Even if Shun Long wanted to find something to pick on with him, this old man was truly a willy fox and did his absolute best to leave a good impression.

Nodding his head Shun Long then said

"It's okay. I heard that your 'Treasure Pavilion' wants you to verify my wine. Here."

Taking out the barrel from last time, Shun Long removed the barrel's top as the fragrant smell of the wine instantly filled the private room.

Ma Tengfei's eyes lit up as he inhaled the wine's smell, while little Black grumbled inwardly

"If only master didn't need spirit stones urgently, you monkeys would never get to even smell master's wine, let alone have a chance to purchase it!"

Shun Long then took a small cup from the small table in front of him, and filled it halfway with the wine before he said

"Try it. But you can only taste this much, or whoever buys the barrel later will end up chasing you for his money."

Neither Ma Tengfei nor Yin Xing laughed though. Instead, Yin Xing nodded his head as he gulped after remembering the taste of this senior's wine.

He even looked at Shun Long pleadingly but Shun Long didn't even spare him a glance. He wasn't going to let Yin Xing drink his wine for free.

Even little Black snorted as he watched this scene.

As Ma Tengfei took the cup, his hands seemed to have been shaking, before he immediately emptied it all in his mouth, in front of Yin Xing's and little Black's envious gazes.

The moment that the wine entered Ma Tengfei's mouth, it was like a delicious c.o.c.ktail of medicinal essence that assaulted his taste buds. Swallowing down the wine, the rank 6 Heaven grade expert could feel his body absorbing the medicinal essence, as it pushed his cultivation base upwards, ever so slightly.

He then turned to look at Shun Long with incredulity as he said excitedly

"Senior, this wine is an absolute treasure."

Then, bowing his head he continued

"Senior, I have to immediately report everything to the higher-ups of the pavilion about senior's wine and its effects."

Just when Ma Tengfei bowed and was ready to leave the room, Shun Long's heavy voice sounded in his ears as he said

"Wait."

Ma Tengfei then looked back Shun Long as he asked respectfully

"Senior, do you have any instructions?"

Shun Long shook his head at Ma Tengfei's question, before he took out another wooden barrel from the 'Stone of Time' and said

"I have one more barrel that I want your 'Treasure Pavilion' to auction for me."

Ma Tengfei's eyes shone brightly as he saw this barrel and couldn't help but ask in excitement

"Senior! Would you be willing to sell this barrel privately to our 'Treasure Pavilion'?"

Chapter 108 - 108 Green nectar fruits

"Senior! Would you be willing to sell this barrel privately to our 'Treasure Pavilion'?"

Shun Long almost burst out laughing as he heard Ma Tengfei's request and asked with a greedy look in his eyes under his black robes

"How much is your pavilion willing to pay?"

Ma Tengfei thought for a bit before asking somewhat weakly

"H-How about, 80 percent of what the first barrel sells for?"

Even Yin Xing sighed as he heard this, while Shun Long shook his head and responded

"That's far too little. I will sell it to you for 100 percent of what the first barrel makes."

Ma Tengfei however immediately protested as he said

"Senior, that's too much! What if the first barrel sells for an exorbitant price?"

Shun Long frowned at how stingy the 'Treasure Pavilion' seemed to be and responded in an apathetic voice

"You seem to have misunderstood some things. The 'floating cloud sect' isn't the only sect around here. Since your pavilion didn't agree, then I will sell my wine elsewhere."

Ma Tengfei was extremely anxious when he heard this and said with an ugly smile on his face

"Senior, please don't be rash. This junior was simply making a joke. Of course, our pavilion would be willing to pay as much as the first barrel gets sold for! For a wine like senior's no matter how high the price goes, our pavilion will match it."

Shun Long laughed inwardly, but facing Ma Tengfei, he simply nodded his head as he said

"That's good. Alright then, since you have other matters to attend to then I won't keep you here any longer."

Both Ma Tengfei and Yin Xing then bowed before leaving the room.

Little Black's voice then sounded inside Shun Long's head as he watched Yin Xing and Ma Tengfei leaving the room and said

"Master, these people from the 'Treasure Pavilion' are very greedy. Normally, they wouldn't even get a chance to purchase master's wine, and this person still wanted to purchase it at a lower price."

Shun Long smiled as he heard the black dragon's words before he took out the last wine barrel from the herb garden.

After filling a huge bowl for himself, Shun Long handed the rest of the wine in the barrel to the sulky black dragon.

Little Black then happily accepted the wooden barrel, and this time instead of gulping all the wine down, he took his time to enjoy it.

Time quickly passed as Shun Long and little Black were enjoying their wine, when a beautiful young lady in green robes stepped on the main stage of the auction hall.

When the crowd saw Lan Jinjing, hushed discussions suddenly filled the auction hall

"What's going on with the 'Treasure Pavilion'? Why is miss Lan here today? Don't we still have a few months until the yearly auction?"

"I heard that there is something special with today's auction. Supposedly, someone even some Elders from the big families enter the private rooms."

Lan Jinjing smiled at the crowd and clapped her hands once, drawing everyone's attention to her as she said

"Honorable guests of our 'Treasure Pavilion', my name is Lan Jinjing and I will be your auctioneer once again for today's monthly auction. Our 'Treasure Pavilion' has prepared some special items for today, so I hope that you are all excited for our auction.

As always the rules remain the same. Every item starts at a minimum price, and the guests with the highest bid in the end can obtain them."

Taking a deep breath, Lan Jinjing saw the excited crowd, and clapped her hands once more as she continued

"Without further ado then, let's start today's auction!"

As Lan Jinjing finished speaking, 2 outer disciples carried a small table with a plate at the center of the stage. Inside the plate were 6 small green fruits that Shun Long recognized as the 'green nectar fruits'.

"Dear guests, the first item for today's auction is this bundle of 6 rank 2 'green nectar fruits'. As you all may know, the 'green nectar fruit' can allow a cultivator at the early stages of the earth grade to have an 80 percent chance of directly advancing to the next rank. Although the effect for a middle stage earth grade expert would be less than 30 percent, the chance is still there.

There are 6 fruits and they are all sold as a bundle. The minimum bid must be 2000 sect points and every increment must be at least 100 sect points higher than the last bid."

As soon as Lan Jinjing finished introducing the 'green nectar fruits', the crowd at the outer seats instantly started bidding

"2000"

"Ha, you think you can get this fruit with 2000 sect points? 2300"

"2500"

..

"3400"

..

"4000"

The price of the rank 2 'green nectar fruits' had quickly reached the 3500 sect points when Shun Long's voice drew everyone's attention as he called his bid of 4000 points.

Although the crowd in the outer seats didn't know who the black robed man who called this bid was, the people in the other private rooms had already learned that this senior was the one who had created the disturbance in the 'Treasure Pavilion' the last time. It was also this senior who was auctioning the 'special wine' today, and no one in the private rooms were willing to fight with him for a rank 2 fruit.

"4100" A young man in the outer seats, didn't seem willing to give up so easily, as he gritted his teeth and called out his bid again.

"5000"

Shun Long's heavy voice sounded from the private room once again.

Since there were no more bids after that, Shun Long successfully obtained the 6 'green nectar fruits'.

As the auction continued however, Shun Long was disappointed since no other items had managed to pique his interest. Time passed and soon Lan Jinjing's voice sounded from the main stage as she declared

"We are now down to the last 2 items of our auction."

"Honorable guests of our pavilion, there are only 2 items left for today's auction."

Then, a white-robed Elder walked on the main stage holding a yellow piece of paper.

The crowd seemed to be unaware of what this was, but most of the people inside the private rooms were already looking at this piece of paper eagerly, as if it was some kind of precious treasure.

Chapter 109 - 109 Wine fervor

"Our next item was originally meant to be the finale for today's auction and it is something that is rarely found even in the annual auctions of our pavilion."

Lan Jinjing smiled when she saw that she had captured the crowd's attention as she then pointed at the yellow scroll and continued

"This item is something that an outer disciple of our sect found during a sect mission, and I am certain that many of the Elders from the big families here today will want to get their hands on. It is a middle yellow-grade martial skill."

The moment that Lan Jinjing finished speaking, the crowd exploded with excitement.

"A middle yellow-grade martial skill? Now I understand why the 'Treasure Pavilion' had miss Lan be the auctioneer for today. Even low yellow-grade martial skills are rare, let alone a middle yellow-grade."

"But then, why is this not the final item for this auction? Even miss Lan said that this was originally scheduled to be for the auction's finale. Could it be that the final item is something even better?"

"Could it be a high yellow-grade martial skill then?"

"Don't be an idiot! Even the big families of the sect don't have a high yellow-grade martial skill. Probably only the Liu family will have one."

It wasn't just the people in the outer seats that had turned excited, but so were the Elders in the private rooms, as they were already on their feet.

Even Shun Long was now interested in this, as he had seen a martial skill only once, back in the Demonic Mountain region when Guan Hong had injured the rank 2 'earth bear'.

"The name of this martial skill is the 'Coiling python fist' and its starting price is at 100,000 sect points. Every increment must also be at least 1000 sect points higher than the last bid."

The starting price of this 'Coiling python fist' was like a bucket of cold water splashing on everyone's faces.

Even Shun Long didn't have so many sect points left in his sect jade.

However, the Elders in the private rooms weren't daunted in the slightest by the high price of the martial skill. After all, one of the things that the big families didn't lack was precisely sect points.

"101,000"

"103,000"

"105,000"

-

At the same time that the Elders of the big families were fighting over the 'Coiling python fist', inside private room number 4, fatty Fu was respectfully looking at an old man who was sitting on the couch inside the room.

This old man who was dressed in black robes and was holding a cane in his right hand was the old patriarch of the Fu family, as well as fatty Fu's grandfather, Fu Lingtian.

Fu Lingtian had a serious expression on his face as he looked his grandson before he asked

"Are you sure that Meng Shao, that old fox, is here today?"

Fu Li looked at his grandfather and nodded his head seriously as he responded

"I'm sure grandpa. When the old patriarch of the Meng family arrived, the disciples stationed at the entrance immediately informed me about it."

When Fu Lingtian heard this, he stood up and slammed his cane on the wooden floor of the private room as he cursed

"Damn it! Since that old man is also here, there is no question that he must be here for the wine as well."

At the same time in private room number 6, a similar conversation was also taking place between Meng Shengyi and his own grandfather, when Lan Jinjing's voice once again sounded in everyone's ears as she said

"Congratulations to the guest in private room number 11 for obtaining the 'Coiling python fist'."

Then, the 'Treasure Pavilion' sent someone to deliver the middle yellow-grade martial skill, as well as receive their payment for it, before a silver robed Elder who was carefully carrying a wooden barrel then appeared atop the main stage.

The entire auction hall was so silent that even a person's breathing could be heard, as everyone watched Ma Tengfei place the wooden barrel in the middle of the main stage. People like Fu Lingtian and Meng Shao, had already stood up as they were eagerly waiting to see the contents inside the barrel.

Lan Jinjing smiled lightly as she said

"Honorable guests of our 'Treasure Pavilion', it is finally time for the finale of today's auction."

As her voice trailed off, Ma Tengfei's hands slowly removed the barrel's top, and an intoxicating fragrance started to spread throughout the outer seats of the auction hall.

The crowd erupted in an uproar as the disciples in the outer seats had already started to get drunk just from the wine's scent.

"What is this wine? How is it so fragrant?"

"I have never smelled anything like this before."

"This... just the scent of this wine is 100 times... no 1000 times greater than the best wine of our sect, the 'Mystifying Fragrance wine!'"

"Ah that may be true, however the taste of this wine may not be as good as its scent."

Lan Jinjing then sealed the barrel's top back as she started explaining

"This is today's auction final item, the 'mysterious wine'. This wine was created by a mysterious senior alchemist, who merged many precious herbs before fermenting the wine for 100 years. Both the taste of the wine, as well as its effects have all been verified by the senior alchemist of our 'Treasure Pavilion'."

She then pointed towards Ma Tengfei, who nodded his head as he said

"This is definitely the best wine that our 'Treasure Pavilion' has ever seen. I can personally assure you that, not only is the wine's taste incomparable with any other wine that I have ever tasted, but even my cultivation base slightly improved after tasting this wine."

"What?"

This time, it wasn't just the people in the outer seats that were shocked, but even the Elders inside the private rooms were dumbfounded.

Although the message from the 'Treasure Pavilion' had said that the 'mysterious wine' could improve one's cultivation, everyone had assumed that the effects would be non-existent to Heaven grade experts. And yet a rank 6 Heaven grade expert had just said that this wine had improved his cultivation base.

What did this mean?

For those people like Meng Shao and Fu Lingtian who had been stuck in the same realm for many years, even the slightest increase in their cultivation could prove to be their breakthrough factor.

A huge uproar then erupted once again in the auction hall, as even the people from the private rooms now couldn't sit still as they all waited for the bidding to begin.

Lan Jinjing knew that the crowd couldn't stay quiet any longer so she finally spoke

"The senior who is selling this wine, has told our pavilion that he isn't interested in sect points. He has declared that the wine must be purchased using spirit stones. Our 'Treasure Pavilion' decided, for the starting bid to be at 1000 spirit stones, while every increment must be at least 50 spirit stones higher than the last bid."

Chapter 110 - 110 Bidding war

Shun Long smiled mockingly at the starting price that the 'Treasure Pavilion' had set for his wine.

"Master, I'm sure that they are intentionally trying to bring down the price of the wine so they can get it cheaper as well."

With that mocking smile still on his face Shun Long replied

"Perhaps if I have put for auction both of the barrels, then this could work. But now ...? There is no chance for this cheap trick to cause any waves today. There is only one barrel, and whoever wants it will obtain it. If the 'Treasure Pavilion' thinks that this can do any harm today then they really are a bunch of fools."

When the people in the outer seats heard that the wine would be sold for spirit stones, they were dazed as they had expected everything in a sect auction to be purchasable with sect points.

However, the Elders in the private rooms had been informed beforehand, so all of them had brought large amounts of spirit stones with them, as the bidding war then started

"1100 spirit stones!"

"1100? Hahaha, Lu Niu are you dreaming? 1500 spirit stones"

"1800"

"2000"

The price for the wine was climbing at an alarming rate, but Shun Long was still casually sipping his wine as he enjoyed the show. Little Black had almost finished his wine barrel by now, and looking at the relaxed Shun Long he asked

"Master, are you certain that you want to challenge that Fu Peizhi in 3 days from now? Why not just fight him after you get a little stronger? We still have 3 months until this 'Vermilion realm' opens, so even if you decide to fight him near the end of the 3 months, there will still be plenty of time."

Shun Long however shook his head at little Black's question as he said

"I too would have preferred to go in seclusion after today's auction but... it may create problems in the future."

Shun Long saw that little Black didn't understand what he meant so he continued explaining

"The real issue lies with the arena rules. Only those ranked 101-200 are allowed to challenge the top 100 people in the arena.

If I go into seclusion while I'm still ranked 93rd, there is no doubt that I will receive plenty of challenges and I will either have to accept all of them or lose my rank."

Little Black nodded his head as he said

"But the worst that can happen is for master to fall below the top 100 ranks then right? Master will definitely be able to reclaim a spot in the top 100 after exiting seclusion."

Shun Long smiled after he heard little Black's words and said

"The arena rules state that one can refuse a challenge if he has already fought for that day. Even if I'm strong enough to claim a spot in the top 100, if people abuse this rule near the last days of the selection and I end up being unable to successfully challenge someone in the top 100, then I will still be the one who loses out."

Little Black seemed to have just realized that such a 'loophole' existed in the arena rules. However, this didn't answer all of his questions so he continued

"But still, how is it going to help if master challenges Fu Peizhi?"

"The bottom 20 of the 100 ranks are the 'easiest target' for people who aim to reach the top 100 and enter the 'Vermilion realm'. But the fight for the bottom spots of the top 100 will also be much more bloody because of this, whereas someone ranked in the top 20 won't receive nearly a fifth of the challenges that the bottom rankers will."

Realization finally dawned on the black dragon's face as he asked

"So master wants to enter the top 20 to avoid most of the challenges while still securing your rank!"

Shun Long smiled as he nodded his head and said

"That, and to teach Fu Peizhi a lesson. Since he dared to challenge me just to teach me a lesson, it's about time I knock him off his high horse."

While Shun Long and little Black were chatting, the auction hall had turned into a bidding battlefield as the price for Shun Long's wine had already reached 24.000 spirit stones.

"24.500"

Fu Lingtian's voice sounded from private room number 4 as he looked at Meng Shao inside private room number 6.

"25.000! Old crap Fu, stop fighting with me over this wine. You have been stuck at the 9th rank of the Heaven grade for 400 years, no matter how miraculous the wine is, it won't help you breakthrough to the Spirit realm!"

"26.000! You old shit Meng, talk to me again after you reach the peak of the Heaven grade! This wine is mine!"

"27.000"

The price for the wine had reached such a huge number, that only the old patriarchs of the Fu and the Meng families still dared to compete with each other for it.

The higher echelons of the 'Treasure Pavilion' who were watching the bidding war, felt a pain in their hearts as they saw the price of the wine rise non-stop. Even if they subtracted the 5% that their pavilion took as payment, the price was still much higher than their original estimations.

"30.000! Meng Shao, are you still going to fight with me over this?"

Gritting his teeth, Meng Shao called out

"31.000! Don't be crazy old fart! This is almost the price of 2 rank 4 medicinal herbs! Even you must feel the pain after losing so many spirit stones at once!"

"32.000!" Fu Lingtian called out with a determined look in his eyes. Fatty Fu's knees were now trembling as he watched his grandfather.

Meng Shao exploded in rage after hearing Fu Lingtian's voice again. 32.000 spirit stones was a huge amount even for the old patriarch of the Meng family.

"You crazy old fart! Fine! Since one barrel of wine has already appeared, I don't believe that another one won't appear in the future again!"

With that, Meng Shao finally decided to stop bidding, allowing Fu Lingtian to finally breathe a sigh of relief.

Inside his private room, Shun Long's eyes were shining brightly as he thought of the more than 60.000 spirit stones that would be entering his pocket soon.

Barely 10 minutes had passed, when Ma Tengfei along with Yin Xing then arrived in the private room.