

Time 111

Chapter 111 - 111 Fighting Fu Peizhi

Ma Tengfei and Yin Xing both bowed as they entered the room and respectfully called out "Senior"

Then, with a flattering smile on his face, Ma Tengfei looked at Shun Long and said

"I have come to deliver the payment for senior's wine."

Ma Tengfei then took out a huge amount of spirit stones from his spatial ring and said

"Senior, here are 60.800 spirit stones. From the 32.000 spirit stones that senior's wine sold for, our 'Treasure Pavilion' only took a 5 percent fee, meaning that senior's profit is a total of 30.400 spirit stones.

Since our 'Treasure Pavilion' also promised senior to match the cost of the first barrel, the total would be 60.800 spirit stones."

Shun Long laughed but didn't bargain over 1600 spirit stones with Ma Tengfei. After all the 'Treasure Pavilion' wasn't exactly wrong to subtract 5 percent from their own purchase as well.

After taking the spirit stones, Shun Long handed the wooden barrel to Ma Tengfei who smiled as he said

"Senior, if you have anything that our pavilion can help you with, you just have to say the word. Our pavilion would be very happy if we could cooperate with senior."

Shun Long however shook his head as he said

"I am planning to leave the 'floating cloud sect' today."

Both Yin Xing and Ma Tengfei sighed dejectedly when they heard this, but they had already expected to be refused. Such a senior would only be a passerby from their 'floating cloud sect' after all, and wouldn't stay here forever.

Slashing the air with his right hand, Shun Long opened a space tear, and in front of the disbelieving looks of the 2 alchemists from the 'Treasure Pavilion', he entered the space tear and disappeared in front of their eyes.

Shun Long then reappeared in a narrow alley about 50m away from the 'Treasure Pavilion's entrance, and after having little Black scan the area to make sure that there was no one around him, he removed his black robes before he headed back to the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion'.

On the way back to the pavilion, Shun Long noticed that the commotion around the 'Redstone inn' had grown even bigger. Shun Long was certain that all of it was due to the deaths of Xiao Shitou and Lin Wu inside the sect.

Without paying any attention to it however, Shun Long returned back to his room.

Sitting on his bed, he then started feeding spirit stones to the 'Heaven swallowing vine'.

The vine absorbed the spirit stones that Shun Long fed it like crazy, as it produced more and more pure qi inside the 'Stone of Time'.

Shun Long then, looked at the corpse of the peak rank 4 silver winged roc and said

"Little Black, take your time to consume the silver winged roc's body and enhance your strength too."

Little Black nodded his head as he heard this and without a moment's hesitation, he started to eat the flesh of the silver winged roc.

After all, at the end of the day, little Black was still a dragon, a king of magic beasts.

Magic beasts grew faster the same way that body refiner cultivators did... by eating the magic beasts' flesh.

Although the 'Heaven swallowing vine' could enhance little Black's cultivation speed, consuming other magic beasts was still the best way for the black dragon's strength to grow.

3 days passed in the blink of an eye when Shun Long opened his eyes.

Today was the day that he had promised to challenge Fu Peizhi. In just 3 days, Shun Long had already advanced to the peak of rank 4 in earth grade.

Taking a look inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long smiled as he saw the black dragon that had already eaten a third of the silver winged roc, and was now asleep.

Leaving the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion', Shun Long heard a lot of discussions on his way to the arena, and surprisingly most people were still talking about the death of Lin Wu and Xiao Shitou.

"I heard that the sect is investigating to find the culprit of the assassination but there are still no clues from that night!"

"Xiao Juyan said that the culprit is the person ranked 93rd in the arena, Shun Long. But the sect investigated and found nothing to prove it so far."

"Whoever killed Xiao Juyan's brother really did a good job covering his tracks."

10 minutes later, Shun Long arrived outside of the arena entrance, only to see a huge crowd that had queued up.

Some people from the crowd instantly recognized him as they exclaimed

"He really came."

"Shun Long is here! Inform senior brother Fu!"

"Senior brother Fu is already waiting for him in the registration counter!"

The crowd immediately opened a line for Shun Long to walk inside, before they followed after him.

Fu Peizhi had a sinister smile on his face as he saw Shun Long walking towards him at the registration counter as he said

"I didn't expect you to actually have the guts to come here today."

Shun Long swept his eyes at Fu Peizhi before handing his sect jade to the woman at the registration counter as he said

"I want to challenge the person ranked 17th in the rankings, Fu Peizhi."

Although the crowd was expecting these words, everyone still burst with excitement when they heard them while Fu Peizhi's eyes had a dark look in them.

Although he was confident that he could defeat Shun Long, this challenge was still a slap in his face.

The woman at the registration counter accepted Shun Long's sect jade, and officially issued the challenge, causing Fu Peizhi's sect jade to start glowing.

Fu Peizhi then looked at Shun Long and laughed as he said

"This is good as well. It's time for you to understand the difference between the top 100 and the top 20."

Then, under the eyes of the crowd around them, Fu Peizhi and Shun Long both walked towards the center of the arena.

Taking out 2 short daggers from his spatial ring, Fu Peizhi looked at Shun Long and said in a derisive voice

"Did you really think that you are able to fight against me just because you beat Xiao Juyan? Or is it because you traded blows with Ren Gui once and now you think that you are on his level already? Let today's fight serve as a lesson for you then."

As he finished speaking, Fu Peizhi immediately unleashed his middle rank 9 earth grade aura, and after infusing his qi in the 2 short daggers in his hands, he sent them flying towards Shun Long.

Chapter 112 - 112 Dao

"Fu Peizhi threw his daggers in the air?"

"What is he doing? Is he giving up the fight?"

When another disciple heard the confused disciples around him, he laughed as he said

"Just watch! This is how senior brother Fu fights."

Seeing the 2 daggers that were flying at him, Shun Long's eyes immediately turned golden as he activated the 'Monarch's Hourglass, and unleashed his aura at the middle of rank 4 earth grade.

His golden eyes shone as he moved to the side and easily dodged the 2 daggers that flew past him, causing Fu Peizhi to smirk.

Shun Long had barely regained his footing, when his golden eyes once again lit up as he saw the 2 daggers changing their course mid-air, aiming to stab his back.

The crowd held their breaths as they saw the 2 daggers flying at Shun Long from his blind spot.

Without a moment to think, Shun Long's feet kicked the ground as he moved a few meters backwards, narrowly avoiding the 2 daggers that plunged themselves into the ground.

"What? Did I see that correctly?"

"Did senior brother Fu's dagger change direction mid-air? How is this possible?"

"Don't tell me that Fu Peizhi has already touched upon the Dao of Wind!"

"Senior brother what is the Dao of Wind?"

That disciple however, didn't respond as he stared in shock at Fu Peizhi.

Both Shun Long and Fu Peizhi were also shocked by each other for 2 different reasons.

Fu Peizhi was certain that, Shun Long didn't know about his ability to manipulate his flying daggers mid-air, or he would have avoided them much earlier.

Shun Long however was just as shocked when he understood what Fu Peizhi was doing.

"He is simply at the middle of rank 9 in earth grade and has already touched upon the Dao of Wind!"

Normally, cultivators below the Heaven grade, couldn't control the qi outside of their bodies to fly, or use long-range qi attacks without the help of martial skills.

However, when cultivators reached the peak of rank 9 in earth grade, they could start comprehending a Dao that they had an affinity with.

The Dao that a cultivator comprehended, would then become the most important part of their strength.

This was the main reason why no earth grade cultivators could ever compete with Heaven grade experts. After all, Heaven grade experts had already comprehended the initial stages of their Dao, while people like Fu Peizhi had just touched upon the most basic principles of it.

Although Fu Peizhi was inwardly astonished when Shun Long dodged his attack, he quickly recomposed himself and smiled sinisterly before he said

"Do you finally understand why I told you, that you and I are not on the same level? I am a genius who has already touched upon the Dao of Wind! You have no right to even stand on the same stage with me!"

As Fu Peizhi then finished speaking, his 2 black daggers started spinning in the air as they once again flew towards Shun Long, at a speed much faster than before.

When Shun Long saw the 2 daggers flying towards him again, he didn't hold back any longer as he activated his 'Monarch's Domain'.

The 2 daggers that were powered up by Fu Peizhi's Wind Dao, were slowed down dramatically as they entered inside the 'Monarch's Domain', until they came to a complete halt in mid-air.

Although the difference in cultivation between Shun Long and Fu Peizhi was too big to directly affect him with the 'Monarch's Domain', Shun Long's power and cultivation base were still more than sufficient to stop the 2 small daggers in the air.

After all, although Shun Long hadn't comprehended a Dao, his affinity with the Dao of Time, had already reached a level far beyond Fu Peizhi's and his Dao of Wind.

Fu Peizhi was shocked when he found out that he couldn't move his daggers anymore, no matter what he did.

Without a weapon in his hand, he now found himself stuck in a bad position against a body refiner like Shun Long.

After all, these 2 black daggers were Fu Peizhi's main way of combat.

Even when he lost against much stronger opponents than him in the past, no one had managed to completely stop his daggers like that.

When the disciples in the crowd saw Fu Peizhi's daggers frozen in mid-air, they were all stunned by this

"What happened? Why did the daggers suddenly stop moving?"

"Did Shun Long do something to senior brother Fu?"

It wasn't just the disciples in the crowd that were shocked, even Fu Peizhi had started to panic as he looked at Shun Long and asked nervously

"You! What did you do to my daggers?"

Even Shun Long hadn't expected that his 'Monarch's Domain' would completely suppress Fu Peizhi's daggers that were powered by his Dao of Wind.

Looking at the panicked Fu Peizhi who was now like a toothless tiger, Shun Long quickly arrived in front of him and gathering all of his strength and qi in his right arm, he sent a full-powered punch at Fu Peizhi's chest.

After seeing this, Fu Peizhi broke out in cold sweat as he barely managed to raise his arms in front of him and defend against Shun Long's attack.

However, contrary to what everyone expected, Fu Peizhi's defense was as thin as paper in front of Shun Long's powerful punch.

Crack

The moment that Shun Long's punch hit him, Fu Peizhi felt the bones in his arms along with his chest caving in, as his body violently slammed into the ground.

A huge wave of dust swept by, completely covering the result of the fight.

Everyone in the arena waited with bated breaths, and as the cloud of dust slowly dispersed, the crowd saw Shun Long standing on his feet, as he stared at the now unconscious Fu Peizhi on the ground.

Shun Long's 'sect identifying jade' lit up, as 2 numbers appeared on it.

'17'

The crowd immediately erupted in cheers while the same question was in everyone's mind

"He beat Fu Peizhi with one punch?"

Chapter 113 - 113 Returning to the mortal world

Under the respectful gazes of the crowd, Shun Long then walked out of the arena, as he headed back towards the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion'.

The disciples in the crowd watched Shun Long's back as he left with eyes full of reverence.

After all, in the 'cultivation world' only one thing was respected...strength.

First, Shun Long had beaten Guan Hong to enter the top 1000, and Lei Pong followed right after him.

After entering the top 200, Shun Long then challenged Xiao Juyan to enter the top 100, and finally, today he had cemented his position in the top 20 by defeating Fu Peizhi.

His name quickly spread throughout the sect, as he was now considered someone on par with the other experts in the top 20 rankings.

After returning to the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion', Shun Long paid a waiter for the next 3 months of his room in advance, before once again 'entering seclusion'.

For the next 2 days, he cultivated using the 'Heaven Swallowing vine', while little Black was still sleeping inside the 'Stone of Time'.

Although Shun Long's cultivation hadn't broken through to the peak of rank 4 yet, he was certain that he would do it in the next few days.

At the same time, in these past 2 days Shun Long had felt little Black's strength rapidly rising, and finally, on the third day of his seclusion, a powerful aura erupted from little Black's body inside the 'Stone of Time' as the black dragon opened his bright blue eyes.

"Master!"

Little Black looked happily at Shun Long who was still absorbing the pure qi from the 'Heaven Swallowing vine'.

Shun Long then opened his eyes as he looked at the black dragon who seemed happy and asked

"Did you finish your breakthrough?"

"Indeed master. In terms of magic beast levels, I have reached the middle of rank 4 already. However, my strength right now can easily destroy any spirit realm expert or rank 4 magic beasts.

Shun Long smiled, as he then stood up from his bed and said

"Then let's go."

As he finished speaking, Shun Long put on his black robes and opened a space tear directly from his room, to a small road 50 meters away from the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion'.

"Master, where are we going?"

Little Black asked in a voice full of confusion, after seeing Shun Long immediately leaving his room in his black robes.

Shun Long smiled as he responded

"To the 'mortal world'!"

2 hours later, Shun Long had arrived near the city gates.

Although it was deep into the night, the outer disciples serving us the city guards were still patrolling around the gates.

After all, the 'floating cloud sect' had a rule, that unless a disciple had reached the late stages of the earth grade, they wouldn't be allowed to leave the city. The only exception to this rule would be if a disciple accepted a sect mission.

Shun Long walked close to the city walls, and after making sure that there were no guards in sight, he slashed the air with his left hand, opening a space tear.

Without any hesitation, Shun Long entered inside it, as he then appeared at the other side of the city walls.

After walking for a couple more hours, he had returned back to that invisible barrier, that was dividing the 'cultivation' from the 'mortal world'.

The last time that Shun Long had been here, was a few months ago when he rode on that rank 3 'red-winged condor' and had arrived in the sect for the first time.

More than half a year had passed since he had left the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom'.

Shun Long then summoned little Black from the 'Stone of Time', and after patting the dragon's head he pointed at the barrier in front of them as he said

"After we go through this barrier, we will be entering the 'mortal world'."

Sitting on little Black's back, Shun Long saw the black dragon grabbing the barrier with his talons and easily ripping it open before he flew inside it.

The moment that they entered inside, Shun Long and little Black saw a sea of clouds in front of them, as they had now returned back to the 'mortal world'.

Little Black's flying speed was extremely fast, and in just a few minutes, they had already arrived on the island that the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' was located on.

Pointing towards their northeast, Shun Long guided little Black, and less than an hour later they had arrived above the imperial city of the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom'.

Looking at the city below them, Shun Long remembered how he had come here just a few months ago to participate in the sect selection test.

Shun Long and little Black however didn't stop at the imperial city, and 10 minutes later, they had arrived outside of the 'Blue Forest city'.

Looking at the familiar city in the distance, Shun Long petted little Black's head as they flew above the city walls.

The guards in the city gates were terrified as they saw the black dragon flying above their heads as they immediately sounded the alarm.

Shun Long and little Black completely ignored the terrified city guards, as they flew straight to the Shun estate.

Less than a minute later

The guards outside the Shun estate were vigilantly holding their spears as they were keeping watch outside the estate, when they saw little Black coming from the distance. The 2 guards almost pissed themselves from fright as they hurriedly run back inside the estate and locked the gates.

The entire Shun estate, soon entered a state of unrest, as people saw a dragon hovering in the air above them.

Even Shun Fang and Shun An had arrived at the scene and looked at little Black in terror.

Little Black then descended in the Shun estate and as Shun Long removed his black robes, people finally saw the young man on his back.

Shun An was the first to recognize him as she unconsciously took a step forward, while the look in her eyes changed from the initial terror, to incredulity, and then to joy as she said

"L-Long'er!"

Chapter 114 - 114 The city lord's visit

"L-Long'er!"

Both Shun Fang and Shun An, were looking at Shun Long's face with shock in their eyes. They couldn't understand how he had changed so much in just a few months time.

Shun Long smiled as he got off little Black's back, while both Shun Fang and Shun An felt their eyes misting over, as they rushed to hug their son.

"My lord!"

"Madam!"

The guards shouted when they saw Shun Fang and Shun An approaching closer to the black dragon.

After hugging his parents, Shun Long could see the visible confusion in their eyes and said

"Mother, father, let's speak in my courtyard."

Shun Fang and Shun An nodded their heads and dismissed the guards around them before they followed Shun Long as he returned back to his own courtyard.

Aside from the few maids that came to clean this place every 2 days, no one else would come here during the past few months of Shun Long's absence.

Seeing his parents that were still wary of little Black, Shun Long patted the dragon's head as he said

"This is little Black. He is an important companion of mine. There is no-"

"My lord!"

Before Shun Long could even finish his words, a guard's shout was heard outside of Shun Long's courtyard as he said anxiously

"My lord! The city lord is here!"

Shun Fang frowned as he heard the guard but after a brief moment of hesitation he said

"I will take care of it. Shun An, you can speak with Long'er for a while."

Shun An had no time to reply when Shun Long said confidently

"Since the city lord is here, he is obviously here for the commotion that little Black and I caused on our way. In that case father, let's go meet him together."

Shun Fang laughed and patting Shun Long's shoulder he said

"Haha! As expected from my son. Let's go together then!"

Outside of the Shun estate, the city lord who was sitting on a white horse, was wearing his silver helmet with the insignia of the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' on it.

The city lord of the 'Blue Forest city' was named Zhen Wang, and he was a count of the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom'. As an early rank 9 earth grade expert, his cultivation was only below Shun Fang's in the 'Blue Forest city'.

Behind him, a small army of 1000 experts was gathered as they all waited for Shun Fang's appearance.

The fact that a dragon had entered the 'Blue Forest city' and landed inside the Shun estate, had reached the city lord's ears in no time.

After hesitating for a bit, Zhen Wang then called for his 10 squad captains who were all at the early stages of the earth grade, and with each of them leading 100 late-stage Qi condensation experts, they marched towards the Shun estate.

A few minutes later, the gates of the estate opened and Shun Long along with Shun Fang then appeared.

Zhen Wang first turned his eyes to look at Shun Fang, before his eyes then stared at Shun Long. Looking at this young man who seemed to be around 16 years old and was walking side by side with the rank 3 bronze grade formation master Shun Fang, Zhen Wang suddenly felt an inexplicable apprehension in his heart.

However, after seeing the yellow robes that this young man was wearing, the apprehension that he was feeling had suddenly changed to fear as he looked at Shun Long and asked

"This young lord, are you perhaps a member of the floating cloud sect?"

It wasn't just the pedestrians that were watching this scene who were stunned by these words, but even Zhen Wang's own soldiers took a step back as they heard this.

After all, although the status of a city lord was illustrious in the mortal world, even the status of the crown prince of the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' was below that of an official outer disciple of the sect.

In the eyes of the people of the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom', the 'Floating Cloud sect' was a true behemoth, with countless experts who had already reached the legendary Heaven grade.

Looking at the pale city lord in front of them, Shun Fang chuckled while Shun Long nodded his head as he said

"You are right" before he took out his red sect jade.

Zhen Wang then put on an extremely flattering smile on his face, as he said

"Haha, so we were right!"

Then looking at a squad captain behind him he said

"Xue Xiaodan, you were right. Thanks to your watchful eye we can all pay our respects to this expert from the 'floating cloud sect' today."

Xue Xiaodan was the shortest squad captain behind Zhen Wang, who smiled brightly as he answered

"No reason to thank me my lord, this is my duty!"

Zhen Wang smiled again but this time it almost seemed as if he wanted to cry.

Looking at Shun Long, he then bowed as he cupped his fists and said

"Young lord, may I ask what your connection with the Shun family is? If the young lord is planning to stay in the 'Blue Forest city', then I would like to invite you to my city lord estate as an honored guest. I can guarantee you that there will be plenty of beautiful women as well as delicious wine for you young lord."

Shun Long understood that this city lord was trying to establish a connection with him and replied

"That won't be necessary. I plan on staying in the Shun estate for as long as I stay here. You can continue with your matters as if I'm not here."

Zhen Wang smiled as he understood that Shun Long was planning to stay in the Shun estate for a while and said

"Of course! Of course! Just paying our respects to a disciple of the sect is already a good reason for our visit here today."

Then, looking at Shun Fang, Zhen Wang continued

"Haha, brother Shun, I didn't know that an expert had come to visit you. I hope that brother Shun won't reject me if I visit you to have a drink in the following days then."

Without waiting for an answer, Zhen Wang joyfully turned to look at the small army behind him and ordered in a commanding voice

"Let's go back to the city lord estate!"

After the city lord's army left the Shun estate's entrance, Shun Fang and Shun Long returned back to his courtyard.

"Long'er"

Shun An spoke, seemingly as if she had wanted to ask something, but she eventually held herself back.

Looking at his parents that still weren't completely at ease, Shun Long nodded his head as he said

"You will surely have some questions that you want to ask me, especially about my experiences in the 'floating cloud sect' or little Black right? In that case, let me start from the beginning."

Chapter 115 - 115 The Lin family

"You will surely have some questions that you want to ask me, especially about my experiences in the 'floating cloud sect' or little Black right? In that case, let me start from the beginning."

As Shun Long finished his words, both Shun Fang and Shun An had turned their eyes on him, watching him as he had started narrating everything that he had experienced after entering the sect.

Of course, what Shun Long had decided to say his parents, was only a fragment of his real experiences.

Aside from explaining to them that he is studying alchemy under some Elder, as well as how the sect works, most of his experiences, especially those that included the 'Stone of Time', were completely omitted.

The life that he had narrated was that of a normal outer disciple, but this didn't satisfy his parents?as they still had unanswered questions.

Looking at his son and then at the 3m(10ft) tall black dragon behind him, Shun Fang asked

"Then... what about this blac... I mean, what about little Black?"

Shun Long had already expected his question as he said

"During the 'outer sect exam', I met little Black in a place called the Demonic Mountain region. After entering a cave to spend the night, I found him hurt inside, with the corpse of a rank 3 magic beast next to him. Since I have been studying alchemy inside the sect, I could help him heal most of his injuries using some medicinal herbs I had gathered that day, and he has been following me ever since.

Because the sect doesn't allow the disciples to have their own magic beasts inside the city, little Black has been living in a large forest a few tens of miles away from the 'floating cloud city'."

Seeing that his parents seemed to have believed this story, Shun Long turned to look at Shun Fang as he continued

"Father, there is also something important that I need to share with you about the assassination attempt outside the 'Blue Forest'."

Both Shun Fang and Shun An had serious looks in their eyes when they heard this.

The moment that Shun Long finished narrating what he had found out from Xiao Juyan, Shun Fang's aura exploded as he said

"I will eradicate both the Lin family as well as Xiao Zhengsheng! To think that they were both behind that assassination attack."

Shun An held her husband's hand but her eyes had turned resolute as well. No matter the status of the Lin family or the Xiao marquess, they both had to pay since they were involved in this.

Shun Long looked at his parents who had a determined look in their eyes and said

"You don't have to worry about this matter. I will personally go and take care of this today."

Looking at Shun Long, Shun Fang nodded his head as he said

"That's good as well. However, you have to be careful of Xiao Zhengsheng. Not only is he also at the peak of rank 9 in earth grade, but his marquess estate has many powerful formations from many bronze rank 3 formation masters as well."

Shun Long smiled as he nodded his head, and climbing on little Black's back he said

"Don't worry father. Even if they had experts at the Heaven grade, they still wouldn't be able to escape today."

Shun Fang and Shun An were shocked by their son's words, as they then started to guess how strong this black dragon had to be for their son to have so much confidence in him.

Little Black flapped his majestic black wings, and quickly disappeared from the 'Blue Forest city'.

Both Shun Fang and Shun An were shocked by the black dragon's speed, and Shun Fang then mumbled

"I'm afraid that this dragon is at least at the middle grade of rank 3. Perhaps... he has even reached the peak grade!"

Shun An was astonished by these words, but a feeling of safety also bloomed in her heart as she watched the direction that the black dragon and her son had disappeared to.

A few minutes later, Shun Long had already arrived above a small city that was around 100 miles away from the imperial city.

This city has been under the jurisdiction of the Lin family for many years, and people had even started calling it the Lin city.

Although the city seemed to be relatively poor and most of the houses were in bad condition, the mansion at the heart of the city was the exact opposite.

From the outside, one would see a luxurious mansion that didn't seem to be much lacking even when it was compared with the Shun estate.

"Master, that must definitely be the Lin mansion. I can sense a few middle stage earth grade cultivators hidden inside."

Shun Long nodded his head at little Black and with a vicious smile on his face he said

"It's good that they are all here"

Little Black then flew above the Lin mansion as he first destroyed the mansion's gates, alerting everyone inside it.

"Enemy attack!"

"Activate the defensive formations!"

The experts of the Lin family immediately shouted as they rushed outside to see the enemy while a small layer of white light covered the mansion.

However, the moment that they saw the black dragon in the sky and felt his horrifying aura, their eyes were instantly filled with terror.

Little Black snorted after seeing the white light that covered the Lin mansion, and with a flap of his wings, he created a violent gust of wind that instantly destroyed the light barrier.

Lin Shang then appeared also appeared, and looking at Shun Long on little Black's back he asked after noticing his sect robes

"This young master! May I ask the reason that you attacked my Lin family?"

After a moment of hesitation he continued

"Perhaps this is a misunderstanding and young master was just passing through?"

Although Lin Shang had failed to recognize Shun Long, he could now see the mocking smile on his face and knew that things weren't looking good for his Lin family. Finally, gritting his teeth he said

"Actually, my Lin family has a very good relationship with the Xiao marquess. Since this young master is a member of the 'floating cloud sect', then I am certain that you must have heard about young master Xiao Juyan.

My daughter Lin Wu is also a disciple of the 'floating cloud sect', and-"

Shun Long then cut him off as he waved his hand and said in an apathetic voice

"Your daughter is... already dead."

The Elders around Lin Shang were furious and didn't hold themselves back any longer as they shouted

"Insolence!"

"You brat! How dare you? Our young lady just left a few months ago, how could she just die?

Lin Shang's eyes had turned red when he heard this and he shouted with no hints of politeness any longer

"Impossible! Wu'er is a disciple of the floating cloud sect, she can't die! Who are you kid?"

Shun Long smiled as he said

"Not only is your daughter dead, but all of you will follow her as well today. The moment that your assassination attempt failed, your Lin family was doomed to disappear."

Chapter 116 - 116 Destruction of the Lin family

"Not only is your daughter dead, but all of you will follow her as well. The moment that your assassination attempt failed, your Lin family was doomed to disappear."

Lin Shang's eyes suddenly widened and a horrifying thought flashed through his mind as he asked in a voice filled with disbelief

"Y-You! You are Shun Long?"

Shun Long smirked as he heard this and looking at the horrified Lin family patriarch he said

"You finally realized it.

But then again, how many people would be 'worthy' for you, the patriarch of the Lin family, to personally go to the Xiao marquess' estate and plan an assassination attempt?"

Lin Shang's face suddenly turned ashen as he heard this, but he still gritted his teeth and said

"Shun Long! You have no proof for what you are saying. This is slander against my Lin family! The 'floating cloud sect' won't let you go if you dare to do anything to us!"

Shun Long stared at him mockingly as he asked

"The 'floating cloud sect'? Do you think that the sect cares about your Lin family? Let alone the fact that countless outer disciples have already heard Xiao Juyan admitting that you colluded with his father, the Xiao marquess, and planned to assassinate me... even if that wasn't true, do you think that the sect would pit itself against its own disciples, for a random family that the disciple had enmity with?"

Lin Shang's face had turned completely white by now, as his heart was gripped by despair watching Shun Long riding on the black dragon in the sky.

The dragon's aura was so powerful, that even Lin Shang who was already a peak rank 6 earth grade expert, couldn't muster the slightest bit of courage in front of him.

Lin Shang then started laughing maniacally as he said

"Hahaha! Even if you kill my entire Lin family, my Wu'er will definitely take revenge for me. Young master Shitou will also not let things go like that!

No matter what, there is no way for you to harm my daughter inside the 'floating cloud sect', especially when she is under the protection of young master Shitou. Unless you turn to leave right now, your family will also face the same fate in the future."

Lin Shang seemed to have found absolute confidence in his words as he fearlessly looked at Shun Long.

Shun Long's eyes chilled as he heard this, and shaking his head he said

"Don't worry, I won't completely destroy your family, but you would probably wish that I had. As for taking revenge? You can personally ask Xiao Shitou and your daughter later."

As Shun Long finished his words, he jumped down from little Black's back, as he landed in the midst of the Lin family experts.

The earth grade experts of the Lin family, couldn't believe their luck as Lin Shang shouted

"Quickly, capture this brat! Then we will definitely control the dragon as well!"

The Elders of the Lin family then, all moved to attack Shun Long at the same time.

Seeing that he was 'surrounded' by all fronts, Shun Long smirked as he activated the 'Monarch's Domain'.

The 'Monarch's Domain' was suited perfectly for group battles like this after all.

The 8 Elders of the Lin family, including their peak rank 6 patriarch were completely frozen in time the moment the indistinct figure of an hourglass swept over their bodies.

Turning his head to look at little Black in the sky, Shun Long then said

"If there are any other earth grade experts hiding inside the mansion, kill them all."

Little Black nodded his head as his soul sense covered the Lin mansion, making sure that there was no one else hiding inside.

Shun Long's eyes didn't show the slightest iota of pity looking at the Lin family Elders around him, as his hands reaped their lives one by one.

Less than 10 breaths of time had passed since 'the fight' begun, and aside from their patriarch that still seemed to be frozen, the Lin family members saw their Elders' heads exploding one by one.

Both the Lin family members, as well as the servants were all terrified, as they hurriedly abandoned the mansion and ran towards the Lin city.

Very quickly, aside from Shun Long, little Black, and the still frozen Lin Shang, the Lin mansion was now completely devoid of life.

Without any suspense, Shun Long's punch completely crushed Lin Shang's skull, as blood and brain matter splattered on the ground.

The Lin family patriarch had died like that.

Without taking a look at Lin Shang's corpse, Shun Long climbed on little Black's back, and pointing at the Lin mansion he said

"Little Black, burn it down"

Little Black then opened his mouth, as he spat a ball of black flames towards the mansion.

The citizens inside the city, all saw the black dragon in the sky who spat out a black fireball towards the Lin mansion, completely engulfing it in black flames.

Seeing the luxurious Lin mansion getting destroyed, instead of being afraid, the people of the Lin city all rejoiced.

"Hahaha! I am certain that those tyrants had finally offended someone that they couldn't afford to!"

"This is divine retribution! God must have finally sent someone to eradicate them!"

It seemed like the Lin family wasn't very well-liked inside their own city.

Now, having lost all of their earth grade Elders, as well as their own patriarch, the lives of the rest of the Lin family members will definitely be much harder from today.

Looking at the destroyed Lin family mansion in front of him, Shun Long patted little Black's back as he said

"Let's go to the imperial city."

The black dragon then flapped his wings as he instantly disappeared from the Lin city.

Less than 10 minutes had passed since Shun Long and little Black had left the Lin city, when the guards of the imperial city sounded the alarm, as they saw a black dragon flying at breakneck speed towards the southwest part of the city.

Chapter 117 - 117 The Xiao marquess

The Xiao marquess' estate, was situated in the southwest of the imperial city.

It was a huge estate that had more than 1000 servants and 5000 guards.

The Xiao marquess, Xiao Zhengsheng, was completely different from Lin Shang. He was a real noble of the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' who had good relations even with the King himself. Like most other nobles of the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom', the Xiao marquess also had a small personal army, which actually wasn't inferior to even Zhen Wang's own army.

The moment that the guards of the estate saw the black dragon flying above their heads, they shouted

"Quickly! Activate the formations!"

"Activate the defensive formations!"

The moment that the commands were sounded, layer after layer of white barriers immediately covered the marquess estate.

The Lin family mansion only had one layer of protection, while the marquess estate had more than 5.

This was the difference between the Xiao and the Lin families.

ROAR

Little Black opened his mouth and roared after seeing the barriers of light that covered the marquess estate.

Pop

Pop

Pop

Pop

Pop

5 small popping sounds were heard, as the barriers that had been created by rank 3 bronze grade formation masters, were instantly destroyed.

The guards looked at the dragon in the air terrified, unable to find even the slightest bit of courage to oppose him.

Shun Long looked at the guards that were already trembling from fear and asked

"Where is Xiao Zhengsheng?"

The head guard didn't seem to have any loyalty towards his lord as he was the first one to respond to Shun Long's question saying

"The marquess is inside the imperial palace! He was summoned by his majesty the King earlier."

Little Black used his soul sense to scan the marquess estate and confirmed that the strongest person was this head guard who was at the early rank 8 in earth grade.

Without a moment's hesitation, the young man and his dragon immediately flew towards the imperial palace.

Inside the palace, in a huge hall, Xiao Zhengsheng was drinking wine and chatting with the king as if they were old friends.

The king, Dong Weifeng seemed to be a man in his early 60s, and although his hair had turned white, his eyes still hadn't lost their luster, as he looked at Xiao Zhengsheng in front of him and said

"Zhengsheng, I heard that your son will be entering inside a secret realm with the 'floating cloud sect'. Now that both of your sons have entered the sect, it's only a matter of time before your family rises to prominence.

I am actually planning to confer you the title of Duke, what do you think?"

Xiao Zhengsheng was nearly 190cm(6.2ft) tall, and his face was almost identical to his son Xiao Juyan's. Although he was an expert at the peak of rank 9 in earth grade, Xiao Zhengsheng was actually still in his early 40s.

Hearing the king's, Dong Weifeng's words, Xiao Zhengsheng smiled as he said

"That won't be necessary your Majesty. After all, once Juyan reaches the Heaven grade, a single 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' will be very small to keep us here."

Dong Weifeng's eyes twitched when he heard this, but he soon nodded his head and said

"Of course! Since your eldest son is such an exceptional genius, then it's only a matter of time before he reaches the Heaven grade. Actually, my second d-"

"YOUR MAJESTY!"

"YOUR MAJESTY!"

The doors of the hall immediately swung open, when 2 guards barged inside, only to see a furious look in Dong Weifeng's face.

The 2 guards immediately knelt down as they heard Dong Weifeng's angry voice

"You better have a good explanation for barging in here!"

The guards both nodded their heads repeatedly, and looking at Xiao Zhengsheng they said

"Your majesty! We have received word that the Xiao marquess' estate was attacked just now and the attacker is now heading towards the palace!"

"WHAT?!"

Both Dong Weifeng as well as Xiao Zhengsheng had incredulous looks on their faces as they heard this.

To attack the Xiao marquess estate... even an expert at the peak of rank 9 earth grade wouldn't be able to break through the layers of defensive formations inside.

Xiao Zhengsheng looked at the guards as he asked

"Just who-"

BANG

Xiao Zhengsheng didn't even have time to complete his words before the roof of the hall was suddenly destroyed.

"Activate the defensive formations!"

"Protect the King!"

The voices of the guards sounded as layers after layers of white light covered the entire palace, while an army of soldiers rushed inside the hall to protect Dong Weifeng.

Behind Dong Weifeng, 2 black-clothed men had also appeared from the shadows, and surprisingly, their auras were just as strong as Xiao Zhengsheng's... at the peak of rank 9 in earth grade.

Looking at the black dragon in the sky, everyone in the hall, including the king and the Xiao marquess were shocked.

Shun Long smiled as he stared at the more than 500 people that had already gathered inside the hall, while his eyes immediately focused on the Xiao marquess as he asked

"Xiao Zhengsheng, are you ready to die?"

Looking at Shun Long's outer disciple robes, Xiao Zhengsheng had a serious look on his face as he asked

"Who are you? I don't recall meeting you before!"

A palace guard was about to speak, but Dong Weifeng raised his hand indicating for them to not act rashly. Just based on the fact that Shun Long was an outer disciple of the 'floating cloud sect', unless necessary, the king wasn't willing to clash with him.

Hearing Xiao Zhengsheng's question, Shun Long laughed as he said

"You are right! I have never met you before either..."

"Then...?"

Everyone was stunned by Shun Long's reply, until they then heard the latter part of his answer

"...And yet, even though you had never met me, you still decided to assist Lin Shang in his assassination attempt against me. Now tell me, do you have any last words?"

Chapter 118 - 118 Xiao Zhengsheng's death

"...And yet, even though you had never met me, you still decided to assist Lin Shang in his assassination attempt against me. Now tell me, do you have any last words?"

Ignoring everyone else's shock, Xiao Zhengsheng's eyes widened as he asked in a surprised tone

"Lin Shang?...You.. you are Shun Fang's son?"

Nodding his head Shun Long then said

"At least you didn't deny it."

Clicking his tongue, the Xiao marquess replied

"Tsk. Did that idiot Lin Shang tell you everything? Even then, since you are a disciple of the 'floating cloud sect', you should understand the consequences of threatening me.

My son Juyan is someone who is ranked in the top 100 in the 'floating cloud sect', don't tell me that you are not afraid of his revenge!?"

Ah, perhaps it's because you have just entered the sect, that you don't understand how terrifying the people ranked in the top 100 really are!"

Looking at the arrogant and unafraid look in Xiao Zhengsheng's eyes, Shun Long laughed as he said

"The top 100? Your son is no longer part of the 'top 100'."

Xiao Zhengsheng's arrogant look suddenly turned angry as he looked at Shun Long on little Black's back and said

"Brat, stop spouting obvious lies like that! Do you think I'd believe you?"

Shaking his head Shun Long said

"It doesn't matter whether you believe me or not. I didn't come here to chat with you anyway! As for that so-called revenge of your son... you don't have to worry about it."

The moment that Shun Long finished speaking, little Black's aura erupted like a volcano as it suppressed everyone inside the palace hall.

No one inside the hall, from the palace guards to the peak rank 9 earth grade experts, and even the king himself, could stand straight in the face of this suppressive aura.

Xiao Zhengsheng instantly lost his courage as he felt the blood in his body getting frozen in fear. Originally, Xiao Zhengsheng had felt that no matter what kind of variant magic beast Shun Long was riding on, he would at most have to hide behind the palace formations to protect himself.

But now, after sending little Black's immense aura, he finally felt terror as he understood that his life was really in danger.

Looking at Shun Long he then said in a pleading voice

"No WAIT! I only allowed my personal guards to spread some rumors. I had nothing to do with your assassination attempt! It was all Lin Shang and his whore daughter who planned it! You can't kill me for this."

Even Dong Weifeng wanted to slap the Xiao marquess after hearing these idiotic words, before he turned his eyes to look at Shun Long, and with a smile completely unbefitting of a king he said

"Young master Shun Long! I have met with your father many times in the past! Of course, if you want to settle your personal issues with Xiao Zhengsheng, then I will definitely not interfere."

Shun Long nodded his head at Dong Weifeng, before turning his attention to look at Xiao Zhengsheng as he said

"Without your marquess estate's intervention, how could the Lin family ever get the chance to attack me? You and your youngest son really are father and son after all."

Without wasting any more words, Shun Long patted little Black's back, who ripped through the palace's defensive formations in an instant, as his talons pierced through the body of the terrified Xiao Zhengsheng.

"AAAAAAHHHHHH"

Xiao Zhengsheng screamed in pain, as a huge hole could now be seen on his chest. Turning his head around with a lot of difficulty, he stared at Shun Long and little Black with eyes full of hatred, before his body finally collapsed on the ground.

Everyone in the palace hall felt a sudden chill as they looked at the lifeless corpse of the Xiao marquess.

Shun Long didn't waste any more time in the imperial city however, as he and little Black left the palace to return back to the 'Blue Forest city'.

The palace guards watched the young man on the black dragon's back disappearing in the distance, before everyone's eyes turned towards the king.

Dong Weifeng seemed to have fallen into deep thought, until one of the black-clothed men woke him up as he asked

"Your majesty! Are you alright?"

Dong Weifeng started laughing all of a sudden, as he nodded his head and said

"Alright! I'm more than alright! Quickly, spread my word throughout the kingdom."

The rank 3 bronze grade formation master Shun Fang, is to be conferred the title of Duke! His fiefdom will encompass not only the 'Blue Forest city' and the 'Blue Forest' itself, but he will also be given the entire western side of the imperial city for his governing."

The black-clothed man was shocked for a few seconds before he nodded his head and disappeared into the shadows.

Being conferred the title of Duke, as well as being given control of one-fourth of the imperial city showed how much importance the king had placed in this matter.

Meanwhile, a few minutes later after Dong Weifeng issued his royal command, Shun Long had returned back to the 'Blue Forest city'.

This time, the guards on the city walls didn't panic or sound the alarm, but instead bowed and greeted respectfully, as they watched the young man and the black dragon flying inside the city.

Shun Fang and Shun An were waiting at the main hall of the Shun estate. As soon as they heard that Shun Long had returned, they anxiously rushed out of the hall.

Shun Long smiled after seeing the worry of his parents faces disappearing, and looking at Shun Fang he said

"Father, I plan to enter seclusion for a few days and create some pills for you and mother, so you can both breakthrough into the next grade. It will probably take me around 10 days to finish the refinement."

Both Shun An and Shun Fang were astonished when they heard Shun Long's words.

Shun An then, looked at Shun Long as she asked joyfully

"Long'er, how long will you stay home?"

Chapter 119 - 119 Refining the green nectar fruits

"Long'er, how long will you stay home?"

Smilingly Shun Long answered

"If nothing unexpected happens, then for a bit more than 2 months!"

Both Shun Fang and Shun An also beamed happily when they heard this, as they turned to look at each other.

Shun Long then decided to ask Shun Fang for another rank 3 bronze grade cauldron.

Although Shun Fang didn't understand the reason, he still ordered the guards to bring an alchemy cauldron to Shun Long's room.

Shun Fang was actually shocked when he had heard Shun Long say, that he was planning to create pills that could help him enter the Heaven grade.

Since Shun Fang was already a peak rank 9 earth grade expert, to refine pills that would be able to assist him in his breakthrough, Shun Long would need to be at least a rank 3 bronze grade alchemist, if not a silver grade one.

After Shun Fang and Shun An left his courtyard, Shun Long entered his old room, ready to start his pill refining.

Seeing that his room was exactly the same as it was before he had left for the sect, Shun Long felt a warm feeling in his heart as he sat cross-legged on top of his bed.

3 days quickly passed as Shun Long had continuously used his qi to grow his medicinal herbs inside the 'Stone of Time'.

In those 3 days, the entire 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' had 2 major news that were spread throughout every household of the kingdom.

The first, was the death of the Xiao marquess, Xiao Zhengsheng.

It was rumored that a young man on a black dragon, had come from the 'floating cloud sect' to take revenge against the marquess. The young man first attacked the Xiao marquess' estate, before he charged inside the imperial palace. In the end, even the king had decided to abandon the marquess, and the black dragon took his life.

The second, was the imperial edict of the king.

The king, Dong Weifeng the 5th, had decided to confer the title of Duke to the rank 3 bronze grade formation master, Shun Fang. Aside from the noble title, the formation master would also gain complete control over the 'Blue Forest city', as well as the entire western side of the imperial capital.

These 2 shocking news had already traveled to every household of the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom' in the past 3 days.

2 more days passed since then, and Shun Long had already filled 3 wooden barrels with his wine. He had also refined 4 pill furnaces of the 'green nectar fruits' that he had purchased in the 'Treasure Pavilion's' auction.

After a week, Shun Long finally left his room, and was greeted by an energetic little Black.

Shun Long walked to the main hall of the Shun estate, only to find his father looking through a big stack of papers.

Shun Fang didn't even notice Shun Long entering the main hall as he seemed to be completely engrossed in what he was reading.

Shun Long then took out a wooden barrel of wine from the 'Stone of Time' and removed its top.

The moment that the aroma of the wine spread through the main hall, Shun Fang immediately put down the papers as he looked towards his son with shock, before his eyes got glued on the wooden barrel next to him.

Sealing the barrel with its top again, Shun Long took out Xiao Juyan's spatial ring from his pocket and said

"Father, I'm sure that you have probably heard about this item already. This is a spatial ring."

Shun Fang of course knew about spatial rings, but he had never seen one before.

Shun Long smiled as he handed the spatial ring over to the dumbfounded Shun Fang and said

"I won this ring during a bet in the sect and since I already have another one, this is useless to me."

Shun Fang was feeling emotional as he saw Shun Long handing the spatial ring to him. To a bronze rank 3 formation master, there was no better gift than this. Studying the principles of a spatial ring could allow Shun Fang to step into the realm of silver grade formation masters.

Turning his head to look at Shun Long, Shun Fang started laughing as he patted his son's shoulders and said

"Hahaha! I knew that I didn't raise you for nothing for so many years. Well, if you insist, then your old man won't be polite!"

Shun Fang immediately grabbed the spatial ring from Shun Long's hand and stared at it with sparkling eyes, like a kid that had just found a rare treasure.

Shun Long was speechless.

This was the first time that he had seen his father's shameless side and he couldn't help but be stunned for a good while.

Smiling wryly, Shun Long then looked at Shun Fang as he said

"Father, inside the spatial ring, aside from the wooden barrel of wine, there are also 2 bottles of pills for you and mother.

You should first have mother drink a small cup of the wine, before she then consumes the low-grade rank 2 'minor advancement pills', that are inside the blue bottle.

These pills are created from the rank 2 'green nectar fruits', and even though they are just low-grade pills, they can easily help a peak rank 3 earth grade cultivator reach the early rank 4.

Originally, I wanted to give mother a few top-grade pills as well, but since she is only at the peak of rank 9 in qi condensation, her body wouldn't be able to handle the pills' effects."

Shun Fang nodded his head as he heard Shun Long's words.

Indeed a pill that was too potent could actually bring disaster instead, if the person who consumed it was unable to refine its energy.

"By my estimations, with these pills, mother will reach the peak of rank 1 in earth grade without a problem."

The effects of these low-grade rank 2 pills, had left Shun Fang completely stunned.

Shun Long then, pointed at the spatial ring in Shun Fang's hands as he continued

"The rest of the wine in there is for you father. Aside from the wine, there is a bottle that is filled with top-grade rank 2 'minor advancement pills'. Although the pills by themselves won't be enough to help you reach the Heaven grade, when paired with the wine, they will boost father's chances of success by more than 80 percent."

After hearing everything what Shun Long had prepared for them, Shun Fang couldn't help but feel touched again.

Looking at the emotional Shun Fang, Shun Long continued

"Father, I am planning to go in seclusion for the next 2 months. When these 2 months are over, I will have to return back to the 'floating cloud sect'.

If you and mother want to... I can bring you with me in the 'cultivation world'!"

Chapter 120 - 120 Entering the late stages of the earth grade

"If you and mother want to... I can bring you with me in the 'cultivation world'!"

Shun Fang was stumped when he heard this.

Then, with a big grin on his face, he replied

"No need! Me and your mother are happy here in the 'Blue Forest city'. The struggles inside the 'cultivation world' would mean that there is little to no peace for us there. Living in the 'Blue Forest city' where everything is peaceful is much better."

Then, with a proud look on his face, Shun Fang continued

"You can just come here whenever you miss home. After all, thanks to you, your father is now a Duke in the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom'."

Shun Long looked at Shun Fang in shock before he realized what had happened. To forge a better relationship with him, the king had probably given his father the title of Duke.

Shun Fang grinned as he looked at Shun Long before he said

"I will find your mother and enter seclusion along with her as well. You shouldn't worry about us and focus on your own cultivation"

Shun Long then watched as Shun Fang left the main hall to return back to his room.

Smiling, Shun Long also returned back to his own room as well.

Since he had handed the pills and the wine to his parents, it was time to increase his own strength. There were at most, 2 months left until he had to return back to the sect.

After entering his room, Shun Long looked at the more than 60.000 spirit stones inside the 'Stone of Time', before he turned his attention to the 'Heaven swallowing vine'.

After feeding the spirit stones to the vine, Shun Long once again felt the pure qi that the vine was emitting, and without hesitation, he started to absorb all of it.

Time passed like this while Shun Long was in seclusion.

3 days later, Shun An had successfully broken through to the earth grade. At this point, Shun Long's cultivation had also reached the peak of rank 4 of the earth grade as well.

Half a month later, a swirling vortex had appeared above Shun Fang's and Shun An's room as it sucked the qi of Heaven and earth around the Shun estate.

Shun An looked at her husband as tears of joy continuously flowed down her face.

Shun Fang had been stuck at the peak of the earth grade for almost 10 years now. Even in the 'floating cloud sect', he could probably be considered a genius of the same caliber as Xiao Juyan.

The reason that he hadn't broken through to the Heaven grade for so many years, was because the qi in the 'mortal world' was just too thin.

And yet, with Shun Long's wine and the bottle of top-grade rank 2 'minor advancement pills', Shun Fang had finally broken through to the early rank 1 in Heaven grade.

Shun Fang's body was now covered with a layer of a silver-colored liquid. This silver liquid seemed as if it was actually a part of Shun Fang's body. This was the Dao of metal that Shun Fang had comprehended as he entered the Heaven grade.

Shun Long however, was still in seclusion as his strength continued to soar. The more his cultivation was advancing, the more spirit stones the 'Heaven swallowing vine' needed to absorb, to keep up with Shun Long's cultivation demands.

Early rank 5 earth grade...

middle rank 5...

peak of rank 5...

Early rank 6...

Time quickly passed and soon, the 2 months period was almost over, while Shun Long had already reached the peak of rank 6 in earth grade.

There were still a little more than 4 days until he returned back to the 'floating cloud sect'.

As Shun Long had expected, during these 2 months of cultivation, he hadn't received any arena challenges.

His guess was, that just like him, everyone else in the top 50 in the arena rankings would also enter seclusion to advance their cultivation, in preparation for the opening of the 'Vermilion realm'.

Since he had reached the peak of rank 6, Shun Long understood that he had now also reached the bottleneck that divided the middle stages of the earth grade with the late stages.

Shun Long then took out the top-grade rank 2 'minor advancement pills'.

These pills were like an improved version of the 'Qi barrier-breaking pills' that Shun Long had refined in the past.

They could only be consumed once by each person, and allow them to break through a bottleneck and advance to the next stage.

After consuming the 'minor advancement pills', Shun Long gathered all of his qi as he tried to create his 55th Qi ball.

Even with the help from the top-grade pills, Shun Long still found it hard to succeed in the creation of the 55th Qi ball.

2 days later, beads of sweat could be seen on his forehead as a loud popping sound that resounded inside the room, came from his body.

As the 55th ball of qi entered the 'Monarch's Hourglass', Shun Long finally reached the early rank 7 in earth grade.

There were now less than 2 days left, before the time period of 75 days came to its end.

Leaving his room, Shun Long saw little Black lying on the ground, as he devoured the flesh of a rank 2 magic beast.

Since the 'Blue Forest' was so close to the city, little Black would go and hunt rank 2 magic beasts every few days.

Seeing Shun Long coming out from his room, little Black was about to greet him excitedly were his words were stuck in his throat.

Since Shun Long wasn't hiding his cultivation from him, the moment that little Black noticed his aura of an early rank 7 earth grade cultivator, he was left tongue-tied.

"Ma-Master!"

Although the black dragon had been with Shun Long for a long time, he still couldn't fathom how he could have advanced so much in these 2 months of secluded cultivation.

Little Black had originally believed, that even if Shun Long advanced quickly during the late stages of the Qi condensation, and even the early stages of the earth grade, his speed would definitely fall down dramatically as he entered the middle and late stages of the earth grade.

Shun Long smiled when he saw the speechless black dragon and said

"Let's go and see my parents before we return back to the sect."