

## Time 161

### Chapter 161 - 161 Dual Cultivation

Shun Long soon changed their positions, as he had Liu Mei stand on the bed in all fours, before they once again continued from where they had left off, when he suddenly remembered the contents, of the 'Yin Yang conjoined technique'.

The technique itself was actually very simple to use. Its only requirement was for Shun Long to circulate his qi according to its method during intercourse, and his Yang essence would be automatically absorbed by Liu Mei's Yin essence, while he would also absorb her Yin essence at the same time.

The sound of Shun Long's h.i.p.s meeting Liu Mei's butt, resounded throughout the room, mixed with the m.o.a.n.s of pleasure and excitement that they were experiencing for the first time.

Suddenly, Shun Long felt his body and mind reaching the peak of their pleasure limits, before he felt a kind of warm energy leaving his body, as it slowly filled Liu Mei.

At the same time, Liu Mei felt the energy inside her body growing, as it fused with Shun Long's warm energy, growing stronger and stronger, before a similar kind of energy left Liu Mei's body, heading towards Shun Long's.

Shun Long felt his body getting rejuvenated, as Liu Mei's yin energy was fusing with his Yang.

Not only was he feeling more energetic, but he could even feel his cultivation growing, when suddenly, the energy inside Liu Mei's body had started to rapidly rise.

Less than a minute later her aura burst out of her body, before it was retracted almost immediately.

Shun Long looked at Liu Mei in disbelief, understanding that she had just broken through to the peak of rank 1 in Heaven grade almost instantly.

Shun Long could also feel himself ready to breakthrough to the Heaven grade, as a blue vortex had started to expand from his head.

Shun Long was still 'connected' physically with Liu Mei and his mind was still relishing in the pleasure of dual cultivation. The Yin Yang conjoined technique also amplified this sensation greatly.

He tried hard to clear his head, before he suppressed the vortex above his head, as he then used the energy from their dual cultivation to purify his qi balls instead.

Obviously, Shun Long didn't intend to break through to the Heaven grade before he had purified all of his balls of qi, bringing them to the same level as the 81st.

The instant that he directed his energy to his balls of qi, the 'Monarch's Hourglass' had started to circulate by itself, as the purification progress then started.

Liu Mei turned her head to look at Shun Long who seemed to be in a daze, as she asked worriedly

"Long-ge... are you okay?"

Shun Long snapped out of his reverie, and looking at the n.a.k.e.d body of the beautiful young woman in front of him, he smiled as he nodded his head, before he once again continued with their 'cultivation session'.

Two hours later, Shun Long was lying face up on the bed, while Liu Mei was now gently leaning on his side, as they had just finished another round of their arduous cultivation.

Looking at the peerlessly beautiful young woman who was lying with her head on his chest, Shun Long smiled as he gently caressed her cheek and thought to himself

"From today onwards, I will protect you no matter what happens."

Then, seeing that the sky outside had already darkened, Shun Long suddenly remembered the contents of a golden scroll inside the 'Stone of Time', as he took it out, and looking at Liu Mei he said

"Mei'er, this is a cultivation technique that the Dao King from the 'Vermilion realm' gave to me before we left. Although I am already cultivating in another technique, this is probably better than any technique from the 'Floating cloud sect'."

Liu Mei happily accepted Shun Long's gift, but the moment that she read the first few words, her mouth was agape as she incredulously stared at the golden scroll in her hands.

"S-aint?"

Shun Long looked at the peerlessly beautiful woman next to him, whose mind had almost blacked out, as he nodded his head and said

"Right. It is a Saint low-grade cultivation technique called the Moonlight Sigil. Don't waste any time and start training in it right away."

Shun Long saw that Liu Mei's first reaction was to involuntarily refuse, and smiling, his hand gently touched her beautiful face as he said

"What are you hesitating for? After all, you are already my woman."

Liu Mei nodded her head a bit embarrassed but at the same time happy by Shun Long's blunt words, before she then started to read through the golden scroll in her hands.

The more she read, the more astonished she became by this technique.

Although the Moonlight Sigil could only be practiced during the night, as a Saint low-grade cultivation technique, it was still countless times better, than the 'floating cloud sect's' Mystic low-grade 'White-cloud art', that her father and brother were cultivating.

As for herself, Liu Mei was only given a Yellow high-grade cultivation technique to train in.

It was obvious, that her actual talent in cultivation, was actually much higher than Liu Changpun's who was much older than her, but still, at the peak of rank 3 in Heaven grade.

Shun Long smiled as he saw that, Liu Mei had quickly found herself engrossed in reading the golden scroll in her hands, while he slowly stood up from the bed, and moved towards the black meditative cushion on the floor.

After sending his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long spent the next 2 days, hastening the growth of the medicinal herbs in his herb garden.

In the meantime, although little Black still hadn't woken up from his slumber, Shun Long noticed that the dragon's body had grown noticeably bigger, almost double of its original size by now.

2 days later, as he opened his eyes, he saw that Liu Mei was now sitting on the white cushion next to him, while she was still cultivating in the Moonlight Sigil.

More than 400 spirit stones were scattered on the floor around them, filling the entire room with their pure energy.

Shun Long smiled as he saw this, before he started feeding spirit stones to the 'Heaven swallowing vine'.

Almost a week quickly passed like this, and along with the energy that he had obtained from his dual cultivation with Liu Mei, it actually took less than 7 days, for Shun Long to completely purify the 80 balls of qi above his head, finally bringing them on par with his 81st.

Seeing the 81 bright balls of qi above his head inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass', Shun Long knew, that he was now ready to try and breakthrough to the Heaven grade.

Chapter 162 - 162 Pale Moon merchant guild

Seeing the 81 bright balls of qi above his head inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass', Shun Long knew, that he was now ready to try and breakthrough to the Heaven grade.

After sending his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time' however, he noticed a severe issue that he had neglected so far.

It was almost impossible to refine the 'Blood Vermilion fruits' into rank 3 'Blood combustion pills' without a rank 1 silver grade cauldron.

Shun Long sighed inwardly as he opened his eyes, only to see a gorgeous young woman sitting next to him, staring at him with a smile on her face.

Looking at the stunning young woman in front of him, Shun Long smiled as he asked

"How about we go and purchase some things? Coincidentally, we also need a few new clothes."

Lowering her head to look at her green inner disciple robes of the 'Floating cloud sect', Liu Mei nodded her head with that same mesmerizing smile on her face, as she and Shun Long exited their room.

The peak rank 5 'Silver-winged black panther' who seemed to be sleeping in the courtyard opened his eyes, as he saw his new master and mistress leaving their room together.

The black panther had originally followed Shun Long, only because of the magic beast contract that had changed hands, from Cui Guoliang to him.

But after Shun Long had solved his problem, the panther was truly happy and willing to follow his new master, even if there wasn't a contract anymore.

Seeing the peak rank 5 magic beast that was looking at him eagerly, Shun Long patted its head, as he and Liu Mei sat on its back and left the inn.

After touring around the southern part of the city, Shun Long and Liu Mei soon arrived in front of a large building, where many people were entering and leaving at the same time.

"Pale Moon merchant guild"

The 4 blue colored words on top of the building were particularly eye-catching, while 4 guards dressed in silver armor could be seen guarding its entrance.

Of course, the guards were only guarding the entrance in case something unexpected happened, and wouldn't block the people who wanted to enter inside.

Shun Long and Liu Mei weren't obstructed as they walked inside the building with the black panther following behind them.

The shocking thing that Shun Long noticed however, was that the cultivation levels of the 4 guards, were all at the early stages of the Heaven grade.

These people could have become Elders in most sects of the Desolate east, like the 'floating cloud sect', and yet, they were just guards in a merchant guild on the Night star continent.

After entering inside the 'Pale Moon merchant guild', Shun Long noticed that it was a place very similar to the first and second floors of the 'Treasure Pavilion'.

There were countless counters spread around the floor, that sold everything, from alchemy pills and formation master weapons, to even magic beasts inside their cages.

Shun Long and Liu Mei first walked to a counter close to the guild's entrance, and spent a bit more than 500 spirit stones on new clothes.

After all, it wasn't suitable for Liu Mei to wear the green robes of the 'floating cloud sect' anymore, while Shun Long's robes that he had carried with him from the 'Sky Fortune Kingdom', would easily get destroyed during a fight just by the qi aftershocks.

After they finished their purchase, Shun Long purchased a few rank 2 medicinal herbs from another counter, before he asked the clerk whether they sold even better alchemy ingredients, as well as alchemy cauldrons in their merchant guild.

The clerk nodded his head and called a servant girl, who guided Shun Long and Liu Mei even deeper inside the guild.

After entering through a large door, Shun Long and Liu Mei soon found themselves inside a vast room filled with the scent of medicinal herbs.

Shun Long's eyes lit up as he looked around him, seeing that there were plenty of rank 3 herbs for sale.

"Rank 3 earth withered root, black centipede's powder, crystal ice lotus..."

All of a sudden, Shun Long's eyes were focused on a half-opened case made from black jade, where a yellow-colored medicinal herb was priced for 20.000 spirit stones.

"Rank 4 Sunskirt grass"

The rank 4 'sunskirt grass' could be considered a healing panacea after it was successfully refined into a pill from a silver grade alchemist.

Walking up to the counter, Shun Long looked at the white-robed clerk behind it, and under the astounded gazes of the people around him, he instantly took out 20.000 spirit stones as he purchased the rank 4 medicinal herb.

Seeing that Shun Long had taken out 20.000 spirit stones without any hesitation, greedy eyes stared at him hungrily from all directions, but inside the 'Pale Moon merchant guild', no one dared to make any trouble.

Shun Long didn't even bother with the greedy looks of the people around him, as he walked around the room, purchasing medicinal herb after herb.

An hour later, he had already spent more than 30.000 spirit stones, filling the herb garden inside the 'Stone of Time' with many new medicinal herbs.

Seeing that there were no more herbs that he wanted to buy, Shun Long took Liu Mei at the back of the room, where he had seen the alchemy cauldrons that were up for sale.

Shun Long immediately skipped through the bronze grade cauldrons, as he went for the silver grade ones, however, the prices for even the rank 1 silver grade cauldrons were much higher than he had imagined.

An average rank 1 silver grade cauldron costed anywhere from 3.000 to 7.000 spirit stones, while a pinnacle rank 1 silver grade cauldron was priced at 10.000 spirit stones.

Just as Shun Long turned his attention from the rank 1 silver grade cauldrons, to the rank 2 ones, hushed discussions had started taking place in the crowd around him, as everyone opened the way for a purple-robed middle-aged man, who approached Shun Long and Liu Mei with a smile on his face.

Chapter 163 - 163 Zhang Dingxiang's purpose

Shun Long turned his attention towards the source of the noise, as he too saw a purple-robed middle-aged man approaching them through the crowd.

It was a bald, chubby man with gentle facial features, who was seemingly around his late 40s with a big bump on his forehead. A big smile adorned the man's face, as he seemed to have been staring at Shun Long and Liu Mei.

Shun Long also noticed 2 badges on this man's chest. One of them had the shape of a crescent moon, while the other one was surprisingly a silver badge with the word 'A' on it. This meant that this middle-aged man was actually an A-rank mercenary.

"Isn't that Elder Zhang? What is he doing here?"

"Right! I have heard that Elder Zhang is already at the 6th stage of the Spirit realm and is one of the strongest experts of the Pale Moon merchant guild."

"Perhaps he is here because he needs a new alchemy cauldron? I have heard that Elder Zhang is already a rank 2 silver grade alchemist."

The middle-aged man stopped in front of Shun Long and Liu Mei, and under the astonished gazes of the crowd, he cupped his hands as he looked at them, and said smilingly

"This young master and young lady, my name is Zhang Dingxiang and I am an Elder from the 'Pale Moon merchant guild'. May I ask for your names?"

Shun Long frowned slightly when he saw an Elder of the 'Pale Moon merchant guild' approaching them for seemingly no reason, but when he saw the furtive glance that Zhang Dingxiang stole at the

'Silver-winged panther king' behind him, Shun Long had a guess of what was going on, as he then replied with a slight smile on his face

"I am Shun Long, and this is my wife, Liu Mei."

Shun Long of course, didn't have any reason to hide his real name in the Night star continent. He didn't believe that, even if he made any enemies here, that there was anyone who could trace him back to the Desolate east all the way from the Night star continent, and even manage to find the island that the 'floating cloud sect' has control over, in the mortal world.

Besides, he was probably not the only person in the entire continent named Shun Long, and the same went for Liu Mei as well.

Liu Mei felt her face behind her white veil turning red when she heard Shun Long calling her 'wife' in public, while at the same time, a sweet smile also appeared on her face.

Zhang Dingxiang nodded his head, as he then continued

"I heard that around 10 days ago, a handsome young man and a white-veiled young woman with an enchanting figure had appeared on the Mercenaries' Association, on top of a black panther.

Now that I see the 2 of you, I must definitely admit that the rumors were true. Only a handsome gentleman such as yourself could have such a woman by your side."

Shun Long didn't feel flattered by Zhang Dingxiang's bootlicking, since he clearly understood that this man had a certain goal in mind before coming here.

Indeed, barely a moment later, the chubby middle-aged man continued

"Actually, I wonder if you would agree to have a private chat with me young master Shun. There are certain things that I would like to discuss with you."

Seeing that Shun Long seemed to be interested in their silver grade cauldrons, Zhang Dingxiang also added

"Coincidentally, we have even better alchemy cauldrons in the private room in the back."

Shun Long's eyes glinted for a moment, before he smiled and cupped his hands as he said

"In that case, I will have to trouble you."

Zhang Dingxiang smiled widely as he shook his hands repeatedly and said

"No trouble, no trouble at all! If you agree, then don't view me as an outsider young master Shun."

Liu Mei smiled lightly beneath her white veil, as the chubby middle-aged man led them towards a private room in the back.

After entering inside the room, Shun Long saw a relatively small black table, that seemed to have been made from a material that was similar to marble. Around the table there was a couch and 3 chairs, all of them made from the hide of a rank 3 'Golden eyed crimson fox'.

Shun Long knew that the fur of a rank 3 'Golden eyed crimson fox', was always warm no matter what environment it was placed in.

At the wall at the end of the room, there were many 'shelves' on the wall, with more than 100 silver grade cauldrons on top of them.

Shun Long wasn't afraid that he would be walking into a trap before he stepped foot in the room.

Unless they had a few peak rank 9 Nascent soul stage, or a Dao King, it practically impossible that anyone could stop the 'Silver-winged panther king' if he went on a rampage.

It was unknown if Zhang Dingxiang had guessed what Shun Long was thinking, as he then pointed at the silver grade cauldrons on the wall and said with a smile on his face

"As you can see young master Shun, my intentions towards you are completely sincere."

Shun Long didn't go to inspect the silver grade cauldrons on the wall, but instead, he looked at the middle-aged man in front of him, who gestured at him to sit on the couch as he said

"Young master Shun, young lady Mei, please have a seat."

"Thank you"

Shun Long smiled after seeing that the man in front of him seemed to be sincere, as he and Liu Mei then sat on the couch opposite to Zhang Dingxiang.

Zhang Dingxiang looked at Shun Long and asked

"Young master Shun, I won't mince my words. I would like to offer you to join our Pale Moon merchant guild as a mercenary. I assume that you already know that, as a mercenary, you will only need to help our guild during the very important missions, and we will not ask for your help otherwise."

After a brief moment of pause, the bald middle-aged man looked at Shun Long in the eyes as he continued

"Although our guild isn't the strongest in the Silver sword city, we can still be considered among the 10 strongest. Additionally... if young master Shun agrees to join us, our 'Pale Moon guild' is also willing to take out 10.000 spirit stones every month, as payment for young master Shun's help."

Chapter 164 - 164 The Pale Moon guild's offer

"Although our guild isn't the strongest in the Silver sword city, we can still be considered among the 10 strongest. Additionally... if young master Shun agrees to join us, our 'Pale Moon guild' is also willing to take out 10.000 spirit stones every month, as payment for young master Shun's help."

Both Shun Long and Liu Mei were stunned for a moment, hearing that the Pale Moon guild was willing to take out so many spirit stones every month, in exchange for 'Shun Long joining their guild'.

Liu Mei turned to look at Shun Long next to her, who had clearly understood that the 'Pale Moon merchant guild' didn't really value his abilities as a D rank mercenary all of a sudden.

Instead, they were enticed by the strength of the 'Silver-winged panther king' next to him.

As a peak rank 5 magic beast, the black panther is definitely as strong... no, it is even stronger than the average SS-rank mercenary.

Looking at the bald man in front of him, Shun Long pondered seriously over his offer.

10.000 spirit stones a month, would mean 120.000 spirit stones in a year.

Although it wasn't a huge amount to the current Shun Long who still had nearly a million spirit stones inside the 'Stone of Time', it was still quite a big sum.

After glancing at the black panther who was sitting near the door, Shun Long turned his head to look at the middle-aged man in front of him and said

"What you really value, is just the 'Silver-winged panther king's' strength, right?"

Zhang Dingxiang suddenly fell speechless for a second, seeing how bluntly Shun Long had exposed his thoughts, before he scratched his head as he answered with a smile

"That.. hehe, although it's true, I'm sure that young master can see, that our guild is still willing to pay you as much, as the other guilds pay for their SS-rank mercenaries."

Shun Long however, shook his head, as he asked with a serious look in his eyes

"Elder Zhang, do you think that an SS-rank mercenary, is as strong as a peak rank 5 'Silver-winged panther king'?"

"That..."

Zhang Dingxiang didn't know how to respond to this.

After all, it was true, that average peak rank 5 magic beasts could probably fight off against 3 of their human counterparts at the same time, and still escape alive if needed.

The bald middle-aged man was also very clear that he had tried to take advantage of Shun Long, since it wasn't him who had the cultivation of a late-stage Nascent Soul expert, but his magic beast instead.

Zhang Dingxiang took a deep breath as he then said matter-of-factly

"Young master Shun, I admit that you are right, however, no matter how strong an SS-rank mercenary may be, in the end they are still just one person."

After thinking for a moment, a glint flashed through the middle-aged man's eyes as he continued

"How about this? Young master Shun will only have to help our guild once in the next 3 months, and in return, I will gift the young master a pinnacle rank 1 silver grade cauldron, along with the payment of 30.000 spirit stones. After that, perhaps the young master will like our guild and won't want to leave."

A light flashed by Shun Long's eyes when he heard Zhang Dingxiang's words, when Liu Mei's soft voice suddenly sounded in his ears, as she looked at the middle-aged man in front of her and asked with a smile beneath her veil

"Elder Zhang, can you please give us a moment to discuss this?"

A bright smile covered Zhang Dingxiang's face, as he looked at the white-veiled Liu Mei who had been quiet all this time, before he replied amiably

"Of course! You should discuss this between yourselves. I will be waiting outside the room, so call me when you are ready."

"Thank you!" Liu Mei said in her gentle voice, as she waited for Zhang Dingxiang to leave the room.



Then, with a worried look on her face, she looked at the young man next to her as she said

"Long-ge, there is definitely something fishy with this 'Elder Zhang'. Although he tried to hide it, I am certain that he had been expecting your question."

Shun Long nodded his head, and holding Liu Mei's hand he said

"Don't worry, I noticed it as well. It seems like his main goal for asking us to join the 'Pale Moon merchant guild', has something to do with whatever is going to happen 3 months from now."

Liu Mei nodded her head without saying anything else. Since Shun Long understood what she had wanted to convey, there wasn't much else to add to it.

Shun Long then fell into contemplation for a while.

He didn't ask Zhang Dingxiang what the 'Pale Moon merchant guild' was planning to do 3 months from now, since he clearly understood that this was something pointless to do.

From Zhang Dingxiang's tone, this had to be something really important for their guild, while he as an outsider couldn't be given much information or that would risk their plans getting exposed.

Of course, Shun Long could choose to refuse joining the 'Pale Moon merchant guild' as well, but if he chose to join, he could also use the guild in the future to buy or sell anything that he may need, including medicinal herbs, or even information regarding the 'Dragon Lord's villa'.

A few minutes later, Zhang Dingxiang heard Shun Long's voice that called him, and with a smile on his face he asked

"Young master Shun, have you made your decision?"

Shun Long nodded his head and looking at the middle-aged man in front of him, he too smiled as he replied

"I accept your conditions, but, I want a pinnacle rank 2 silver grade cauldron."

Zhang Dingxiang was elated when he had heard the first part of the sentence, but when he heard that Shun Long wanted a pinnacle rank 2 silver-grade cauldron, his left eye involuntarily twitched. The price of a pinnacle rank 2 silver-grade cauldron ranged anywhere from 30.000 to 50.000 spirit stones.

With an ugly smile on his face, the middle-aged man looked at Shun Long and said

"Young master Shun, your request is a bit too excessive. In that case, just for helping our guild once, we would have to pay you from 60.000-80.000 spirit stones in the end."

Shun Long however shook his head at the bald man in front of him, as he replied with a deep look in his eyes

"Senior Zhang, your words aren't correct. Even if your pavilion sells something for 50.000 spirit stones to outsiders, that doesn't necessarily signify the true value of the item. Additionally, as a large merchant guild, I do not believe that you also do not offer discounts to your members."

Shun Long then pretended to think for a moment, as he looked at the middle-aged man in front of him, and with the same sly tone that Zhang Dingxiang had spoken to him earlier before he said smilingly

"How about this? Senior Zhang only has to tell me what you need my help with 3 months from now, and in return, I won't even take the pinnacle rank 1 silver grade cauldron from you. After all, it is also a big risk for me to agree to help you, without even knowing what's going on."

Zhang Dingxiang now regretted trying to trick Shun Long, as he sighed and said

"Very well, young master Shun. It was my mistake earlier. Our guild is of course very accommodating with our mercenaries wishes. You can choose a cauldron from the ones on the wall, but please remember, that no matter what, you have to help our guild 3 months from now."

Shun Long looked at the middle-aged man in front of him and said with a serious tone

"As long as your request isn't too excessive, I will of course help you."

The middle-aged man nodded his head, allowing Shun Long to choose a cauldron from the ones on the wall as he thought to himself

"Even if I let you take all of these cauldrons, our guild would still profit from you in the end."

Of course, his request wasn't going to be 'too excessive' as well. After all, this was going to be something that involved more than one SS-rank mercenary.

After choosing a cauldron, Shun Long gave Zhang Dingxiang his address, before he and Liu Mei left the 'Pale Moon merchant guild' and returned to the 'King's courtyard'.

Sitting cross-legged on the floor, Liu Mei watched Shun Long as he took out his new medicinal cauldron, as well as the 'Blood Vermilion fruits' from the 'Stone of Time'.

After warming up the new medicinal cauldron in front of him, Shun Long brought his spiritual strength to its peak, before he finally started refining the rank 3 'Blood combustion pills'.

## Chapter 165 - 165 Breaking through to the Heaven grade

One after the other, the rank 2 medicinal herbs were quickly turned into a puddle of purple liquid while their essence was extracted inside the cauldron.

After he was done with the supportive medicinal herbs, Shun Long turned his attention to the crimson rank 3 fruit in front of him.

Now that he had already advanced to the peak of rank 9 in earth grade, his spiritual strength had long since reached the standard of a rank 1 silver grade alchemist, giving him absolute confidence in this pill refinement.

Shun Long grabbed the 'Blood Vermilion fruit' with both hands and tore it wide open, causing a red-colored liquid that was darker than blood, to merge with the rest of the medicinal essence inside the cauldron.

A sizzling sound was suddenly heard, the moment that this red liquid touched the purple puddle of medicinal essence, as bright red flames instantly engulfed the cauldron.

Shun Long completely ignored the flames that were burning his hands, as he used his spiritual strength to merge the 2 medicinal essences into one.

It seemed that the essence of the 'Blood Vermilion fruit' innately rejected the purple liquid, but under Shun Long's constant refinement, the 2 liquids had started to slowly merge into one.

An hour later, the scent of medicinal essence exploded from the cauldron, as a fragrant aroma quickly filled the room.

Liu Mei's eyes widened as this intoxicating scent assaulted her senses.

After opening the lid of the cauldron, Shun Long saw 5 sparkling red pills lying inside, all of them emitting a blinding red l.u.s.ter.

Seeing the 5 top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills' inside the cauldron, Shun Long's lips curved up in satisfaction.

He placed the pills in 2 different bottles before he stood up and walked up to Liu Mei who was sitting on a white cushion opposite to him.

Liu Mei gave him a dazzling smile when she saw the satisfied expression on his face after the successful pill refinement, when Shun Long smiled at her, before he handed her a bottle with 2 pills inside it, as he said

"Mei'er, when you cultivate tonight, consume one of these pills and try to breakthrough to the rank 2 in Heaven grade. With these top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills', along with your Moonlight Sigil, I don't think that you will have any difficulty in breaking through."

"Mhm!"

Liu Mei didn't try to decline, and instead, gently nodded her head at Shun Long, who then sat down on the black cushion as he circulated the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

As the indistinct figure of an hourglass expanded from his body, Shun Long took a deep breath to calm his mind, as he saw the 81 balls of qi floating above him.

Without any hesitation, he immediately consumed a top-grade 'Blood combustion pill', as a blue-colored whirlpool appeared above his head, absorbing the qi of Heaven and earth around the courtyard.

At the same time, the 'Heaven swallowing vine' was consuming spirit stones non-stop, filling the space inside the 'Stone of Time' with its pure qi.

Just like his breakthrough from the qi condensation to the earth grade, Shun Long needed to compress the 81 balls of qi into one, before he could successfully enter the Heaven grade.

The 81 balls of qi inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass' were compressed again and again, and half an hour later, they were down to just 27 of them.

Shun Long could feel the difficulty increasing, every time he tried to compress the balls of qi further, but at the same time, the blue-colored vortex above his head was growing bigger in size.

Shun Long had already started to feel the qi in the air around him, while his heart had also started to feel a connection with the laws of Heaven and earth.

Every time that a cultivator advanced to the Heaven grade, they would be able to sense the laws of Heaven and earth around them, helping them comprehend a Dao that they had an affinity with.

The moment that Shun Long's mind made contact with the laws of Heaven and earth around him, the 'Stone of Time' vibrated lightly, as the blue-colored vortex immediately doubled in size.

Shun Long could feel his understanding of the Dao of Time becoming deeper, while at the same time, the balls of qi above his head were being compressed at an even faster rate.

An hour later, there were only 3 qi balls left inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass', each of them emitting astonishing power.

As Shun Long was comprehending the Dao of Time and was compressing his qi balls, the swirling blue vortex above his head had already engulfed the entire 'King's courtyard'.

Everyone inside the inn had already turned their heads to look at the gigantic vortex in the sky, as shocked discussions quickly filled the inn.

"Could it be... that someone is breaking through to the Heaven grade?"

"Impossible! Not with such a huge vortex. If I had to guess, then this is probably a senior who is training in some secret technique."

"Right, this makes sense. After all, even when the young lady of the Silver sword clan had broken through to the Heaven grade, her qi vortex had already reached 50 meters in size, while this one seemed to have already exceeded 900 meters."

Inside a luxurious private room, the Inn-keeper Deng Zixin, had a deep look in his eyes as he stared towards Shun Long's and Liu Mei's courtyard, while he mumbled something inaudibly.

Shun Long however, was completely oblivious to the attention that his breakthrough had attracted, as his mind was fully focused on merging together the rest of his qi balls.

4 hours later, there were only 2 balls of qi left inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

Each of these 2 balls of qi, had far more energy inside them, compared to all the previous 81 balls combined.

An hour later, the swirling blue vortex in the sky quickly shrunk, before it disappeared inside Shun Long's body a few moments later.

BOOOM

The moment that the vortex entered Shun Long's body, a terrifying sound was heard from the inside of the 'Monarch's Hourglass', as a single, white ball of qi could be seen floating inside.

Suddenly, the 'Stone of Time' that hadn't reacted for so many months vibrated intensely, and under Liu Mei's horrified eyes, Shun Long's body abruptly disappeared into thin air.

Chapter 166 - 166 Mysterious Palace

Suddenly, the 'Stone of Time' that hadn't reacted for so many months vibrated intensely, and under Liu Mei's horrified eyes, Shun Long's body abruptly disappeared into thin air.

In the courtyard outside of the room, the 'Silver-winged panther king' opened its eyes, and without any moment to lose, it quickly arrived outside the room.

Although it could feel that its connection with Shun Long was still intact, but even with its soul sense, the peak rank 5 magic beast was unable to locate its master.

ROAR!

The black panther let out a violent roar towards the sky, sending shivers to everyone else who was staying in the inn.

Liu Mei opened the door of the room, only to see the black panther searching for Shun Long in confusion.

The young woman understood why the panther had come outside the room, as she then patted its head with her soft hands, but she still couldn't hide the worry in her eyes. After all, it wasn't normal for someone to disappear into thin air, especially under the nose of a peak rank 5 magic beast who was guarding the room.

At the same time that Liu Mei was placating the black panther, Shun Long opened his eyes, as he then found himself within an unknown space that he had never seen before.

It was a small place of a little more than 40 square meters, surrounded by thick white fog from all sides.

Shun Long took a look around him, but aside from a patch of vibrant grass on the ground, as well as the white fog in the surroundings, there didn't seem to be anything else in this place.

Soon, a look of disbelief had covered Shun Long's face, as he immediately closed his eyes and started to sense his surroundings.

If it was the Shun Long from a few hours ago, he probably wouldn't have been unable to notice this, but after breaking through to the Heaven grade, his comprehension of the Dao of Time was simply incomparable to before.

He could now clearly feel, that the flow of time in this place was very similar to his herb garden.

In other words, time in this place was flowing faster than the outside world.

Speechless, Shun Long sent his spiritual strength inside his spiritual space, only to see the 'Stone of Time' that was rotating slowly in a clockwise motion, as it emitted a bright purple light.

The purple light quickly 'assaulted' Shun Long's spiritual strength, as countless images flashed through his mind one after the other.

Shun Long felt a ripple around his body, as he suddenly found himself in front of the gates of a majestic red palace.

This palace was thousands of meters tall, while sculptures of countless creatures decorated its surroundings. Some of these statues were barely a meter tall (3ft), while others were as tall as a few thousand meters, all of them seemed as if they had been made by the best sculptor under the Heavens.

Among these statues, Shun Long saw dragons, tigers, vermilion birds, phoenixes, kilins... and even goblins, elves and dwarfs. Nine-tailed foxes as well as giants that were holding huge clubs, were also amidst the ranks of these statues.

The lifelike expressions on the statues' faces, made it hard for Shun Long to believe that these were just inanimate objects.

If Shun Long had to compare this palace with Cui Guoliang's, then the Dao King would seem like a beggar, flaunting his wealth in front of a tycoon.

All of a sudden, a creaking sound was heard, as the gigantic gates of the red palace had started to open.

Shun Long took a step back as he saw the gigantic gates slowly opening in front of him, but to his surprise, there didn't seem to be anyone inside the palace.

Just as Shun Long was hesitating over whether he should enter inside or not, the 'Stone of Time' that was still rotating inside his spiritual space, abruptly emitted a mix of purple and blue lights, before it sent a colorful beam inside the palace.

The palace itself started rumbling, looking like it was just hit by an earthquake, as a purple beam of light shot up, from the depths of the palace high into the sky.

The sky immediately darkened as multiple thunderclaps sounded from the direction behind Shun Long, all of them heading towards the palace.

Shun Long was about to turn his head around and have a look at the scene behind him, when suddenly, his vision turned blurry as he found himself back in that place surrounded by fog.

For a moment, he was completely stunned, as his mind could barely comprehend what had happened.

The 'Stone of Time' seemed to have teleported him outside of a huge palace, before it sent a colorful beam of light inside it. Before Shun Long could get a clear grasp of the situation, he quickly found himself back inside this space, where time was flowing much faster than the outside world.

Sending his spiritual strength inside his spiritual space, Shun Long saw that the 'Stone of Time' had already stopped rotating. As his spiritual strength 'touched' the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long soon found himself back inside his room.

"Long-ge!"

Shun Long heard Liu Mei's concerned voice behind him, as he then felt her soft hands hugging his waist.

Turning around, Shun Long saw the beautiful young woman in front of him, with hints of tears still in her eyes.

Shaking his head, he sighed as his hands took her in his embrace as he said

"I'm sorry that I worried you."

"It's okay"

Liu Mei shook her head as she replied with a beautiful smile on her face.

She didn't ask Shun Long what had happened to him or where he went. Instead, she could finally put down her worries when she saw him returning back in one piece.

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At the same time, outside the palace that Shun Long was standing on a few moments ago, 2 old men with blurry facial features were staring at the sky in front of them.

The old men didn't speak to each other, even though a scene of utter pandemonium was taking place in front of their own eyes.

Finally, a few minutes later, the old man on the right couldn't stay silent anymore, as he looked at the old man next to him and asked in a fearful tone

"Brother Hu... do you think that... the 5th lord has returned?"

Chapter 167 - 167 The place surrounded by fog

"Brother Hu... do you think that... the 5th lord has returned?"

The old man who was named 'Brother Hu' fell silent for a second after hearing this question.

Although his facial features were still blurry and one couldn't see the look in his eyes, he still couldn't hide his hand that had suddenly started trembling, as various thoughts flashed through his mind.

Looking at the old man next to him, 'Brother Hu' replied in an uncertain voice

"I... don't think so. After all, the 4th palace lord would never allow it..."

The 2 old men immediately fell silent, as their eyes stared at the sky in front of them that had already started to turn red.

Cries of pain, ecstasy, fervor, unwillingness, along with many more mixed feelings filled the 2 old men's ears, who they watched the horrifying scene that unfolded in front of them with perfectly calm eyes.

It seemed that the massacre before their eyes was unable to move the 2 old men in the slightest.

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At the same time, back in the King's courtyard inside his room, Shun Long explained to Liu Mei that his disappearance just now was connected to his cultivation technique.

Liu Mei nodded her head without saying anything else, as she sat down on the white meditative cushion and circulated the Moonlight Sigil, absorbing the moonlight inside her body.

Opening her eyes lightly, she glanced at Shun Long who was still inside the room with a smile, before she swallowed a top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pill'.

Seeing that everything was alright with Liu Mei's cultivation, Shun Long sat cross-legged on top of the black cushion, as he once again sent his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time'.

It seemed that his mind could still enter inside the space where little Black was currently sleeping, before his consciousness returned back to his body.

After taking a deep breath, Shun Long imagined being in that small space surrounded by fog, when his body suddenly disappeared from the room.

Looking at the patch of grass that he was now sitting on, as well as the white-fog in his surroundings, Shun Long mumbled to himself

"It really is related to the 'Stone of Time!'"

With a single thought, he then imagined leaving this space, as his body returned back to his room, where Liu Mei was still absorbing the 'Blood combustion pill'.

After making sure that he could come and go to that space surrounded by fog at will, Shun Long's nerves slightly relaxed, when the image of that gigantic palace once again appeared in his mind.

Shun Long didn't know what that palace was, or how it was connected to the 'Stone of Time', but even after trying for a while, he was unable to return back to it.

"It seems like the 'Stone of Time' holds even more secrets inside."

After thinking seriously for a while, Shun Long decided to enter inside that place surrounded by fog once again, and see if he could really use the enhanced flow of time to advance his cultivation.

Indeed, as soon as he entered this space once again, Shun Long verified that the flow of time was approximately 10 times faster here, than the outside world.

Closing his eyes, Shun Long sent his spiritual strength in his spiritual space, inside the 'Stone of Time', as he dragged out the 'Heaven swallowing vine' from the herb garden, and brought it to this place.

The vine absorbed the spirit stones like crazy, as it produced more and more qi for Shun Long.

Absorbing the pure qi around him, Shun Long started creating another ball of qi in his right hand.

3 hours later, a pure white qi ball, that was almost identical to the one inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass' had appeared in Shun Long's hand.

Grabbing the ball of qi with both hands, Shun Long pushed it upwards, towards the small hole above his head. A few minutes later, a popping sound was heard, as 2 white balls of qi were now floating inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

Shun Long didn't rest after seeing that he had successfully created another ball of qi. Instead, he continued absorbing the qi from the 'Heaven swallowing vine' at an even faster rate than before.

10 days had soon passed like this, until Shun Long stopped his cultivation.

He had already spent more than 40.000 spirit stones, but his cultivation had already advanced to the peak of rank 1 in Heaven grade.

The moment that Shun Long imagined leaving this space surrounded by fog, his body instantly returned back to his room.

Although 10 days had passed for Shun Long while he was cultivating, it was just one day for Liu Mei inside the room.

There were only a few hours left until the sun had set in the Silver sword city.

Seeing Shun Long appearing inside the room, a sweet smile suffused Liu Mei's face.

Shun Long's eyes widened slightly, as he saw that Liu Mei had already reached the early rank 2 in Heaven grade, in just one night. It seemed like the results of the Saint low-grade Moonlight Sigil,



combined with the top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pill' were even better than what he had originally thought.

"Mei'er, good job!"

Liu Mei however was even more surprised than Shun Long, when she saw that he had already reached the peak of rank 1 in Heaven grade 'in just one day'.

"L-Long-ge!"

Shun Long smiled brightly at Liu Mei, before he lifted her up in his arms and took her straight to the bed, as they engaged in another round of 'arduous cultivation'.

Half a month quickly passed like this for Liu Mei, but nearly half a year had already passed for Shun Long.?'During the day' he would either cultivate inside the special place that was surrounded by fog, or he would try to get a deeper comprehension in the Dao of Time or the Dao of Space. Of course, he would also spend some time refining pills for himself and Liu Mei as well.

Finally, a small purple vortex had appeared above Shun Long's and Liu Mei's room, as Shun Long's body that was still inside the foggy place, had now started to glow with a powerful purple-colored light.

## **Chapter 168 - 168 Breaking through to the third stage of body refinement**

At the same time that the purple vortex had appeared above the room, Shun Long's eyes abruptly opened inside the foggy place.

Looking at the purple-colored light that his body was emitting, Shun Long's lips slightly curved up.

It was finally time for him to break through to the third stage of body refinement.

The energy inside his body had long since accumulated enough for his breakthrough, that the only thing that Shun Long had been lacking all this time, was comprehension in the Dao of Space.

Thankfully, he had already experienced the feeling of 'touching upon the Dao of Space' once, back when, he and little Black had killed the 'Nine-eyed giant worm' inside the Forest of Giants.

Crack

Crack!

Crack!!!

Shun Long's bones begun to emit cracking sounds, as the 'Monarch's Eternal body' had started circulating by itself.

The familiar pain of having his bones crushed, once again filled his body, followed by his nerves and tendons.

The slow but painful restructuring process seemed to be taking place, every time that Shun Long advanced in the next stage of his body cultivation.

Although he had already experienced this feeling twice, the pain didn't seem to diminish at all, but instead, it was becoming even stronger.

4 hours quickly passed like this, and the small purple vortex above Shun Long's and Liu Mei's room had now expanded beyond their own courtyard.

The residents of the inn were shocked, seeing the purple whirlpool in the air, but with the precedence from half a month ago, they were now even more sure that this was a senior who is cultivating in some kind of secret technique.

"Hahaha! Hey, Jia Wen! Didn't I tell you that this vortex was created by some kind of mysterious technique? What do you have to say now?"

"Shut up 'Old Ting'! I admit that I was wrong but, don't tell me that you didn't think even for a second, that this was the Dao vortex of someone who was breaking through to the Heaven grade!?"

'Old Ting' looked at the middle-aged man in front of him with a disdainful look in his eyes, as he replied

"Tsk tsk tsk... I already told you that it was impossible for that to have been a Dao vortex, brat. Then, do you believe that this is some kind of Dao vortex as well?"

The man named Jia Wen merely shook his head in response, indicating that he was agreeing with his friend.

Even the inn keeper, Deng Zixin, was now staring at the sky above him in confusion.

If the blue vortex from half a month ago, could be attributed to that young man on the black panther having comprehended an extraordinary Dao when he broke through to the Heaven grade, then how could this purple vortex be explained? After all, the white-veiled young woman next to him when they entered the inn, was already a Heaven grade cultivator.

"Could it be, that there really is some powerful senior who is following these 2 pups? But... how strong does he have to be, for me to have actually failed to notice him yet?"

Deng Zixin's eyes suddenly widened, while a terrifying thought flashed through his mind, as he subconsciously stared towards Shun Long's and Liu Mei's courtyard with eyes filled with dread.

2 more hours passed, as the purple-colored whirlpool above Shun Long's room had now expanded throughout the entire inn.

Finally, the massive whirlpool started to shrink, until it condensed itself into a tiny vortex above Shun Long's and Liu Mei's room.

Inside the foggy space, Shun Long's body was lying on the ground, as he repeatedly gasped for breath.

Perspiration had already drenched his forehead, as he did his best to slowly stand up from the ground.

He clearly understood, that his advancement to the third stage in body refinement wouldn't be complete, until the purple-colored vortex entered inside his body.

Shun Long visualized himself leaving the foggy place, as his body returned back to his room.

The purple-colored whirlpool seemed as if it had suddenly found its target, as it rushed to enter inside Shun Long's body.

His aura was now rising at an incredible rate, while the 'Monarch's Eternal body' had finally started to digest all of the mysterious water that he had absorbed along with little Black, from the lake that the 'Nine-eyed giant worm' was living in.

BOOOM

Shun Long could clearly feel his body growing stronger with every drop of water that he absorbed, and barely 10 minutes later, a powerful booming sound was heard from his body, as it reverberated inside the room.

It seemed like the last barrier that was holding Shun Long to the second stage of the 'Monarch's Eternal body', was suddenly destroyed, as he instantly entered the early third stage of body refinement.

Liu Mei who was sitting on the white cushion next to Shun Long's opened her eyes, and a look of joy soon covered her face. She clearly understood that Shun Long had succeeded in his breakthrough.

And yet, the remaining energy inside Shun Long's body was still churning, as the 'Monarch's Eternal body' made him seem like a starved beast that was simply unwilling to stop eating, now that it had finally woken up.

Half an hour later, under Liu Mei's astounded gaze, his body once again exploded with a burst of powerful aura, that swept through everything inside the room.

It seemed as if the 'Monarch's Eternal body', had finished absorbing the water down to its last drop, when Shun Long's aura finally stabilized at the middle of the third stage as he slowly opened his eyes.

Half a month ago, when his body had been forcefully transferred in front of that huge red palace, Shun Long's heart had been overcome with a feeling of urgency.

It was a feeling that stemmed from the depths of his heart, telling him that if he didn't become stronger, then one day he would end up dying.

Shun Long didn't know how many secrets the 'Stone of Time' held, but he had clearly decided that he would do his utmost to become stronger and discover them all.

After all, although it was fortunate that there were no people with malicious intentions near the red palace back then, if a similar situation happened in the future, where Shun Long ended up being teleported somewhere without being able to resist, then it was unknown if he would be able to stay alive or not.

"Since the 'Stone of Time' has already merged with my soul, it's not something that I can simply ignore, and take my time to investigate in the future."

Taking a deep breath, Shun Long first sorted out his thoughts, before he turned his head to look at the beautiful young woman next to him.

Liu Mei's small mouth was still agape as she stared at him, nearly unable to believe what she had just witnessed.

Shun Long smiled at the stunned Liu Mei, who soon put on a bewitching smile on her face as well.

Seeing that it was still morning, Shun Long stretched his limbs, before he looked at Liu Mei and said with that same smile on his face

"Mei'er, let's go to the Pale Moon guild!"

## Chapter 169 - 169 A stunned Zhang Dingxiang

A confused expression filled Liu Mei's face, who nodded her head nonetheless.

The 'Silver-winged black panther' opened his eyes as he saw Shun Long and Liu Mei exiting their room, before he got up and happily walked towards them.

Shun Long patted the black panther's head, as he and Liu Mei sat on its back and left the 'King's courtyard'.

On the panther's back, Liu Mei couldn't restrain her curiosity any longer as she asked

"Long-ge... how did you breakthrough, from the peak of the second stage in body refinement, all the way to the middle of the third stage in one day?"

Although Liu Mei wasn't a body cultivator, she clearly knew that body refinement was a far more arduous path than qi refining.

However, the results were, that if a body refiner could close the distance between himself and a qi refiner during a fight, then 90 percent of the time, the body refining cultivator would easily win.

A moment after the words had left her mouth, Liu Mei shook her head as she stared at Shun Long's back and said

"I'm sorry!"

If it's something that you don't want to talk about..."

Shun Long smiled lightly, and turning his head to the side he said

"There isn't anything to hide anyway. Back in the 'Vermilion realm', there was a large lake inside a forest that was called 'The Forest of Giants'. The water from that lake had amazing effects on any body refining cultivators or magic beasts who consumed it.

Back then, I absorbed as much water as I could, and stored its energy inside my body.

Unfortunately, since I hadn't comprehended a Dao just yet, I couldn't break through to the third stage of body refinement, keeping that energy stayed inside my body until today. Even I hadn't expected, that I would be able to breakthrough to the middle of the third stage in one go."

Liu Mei hugged Shun Long's chest with her arms, as she placed her head on his back and whispered

"Thank you."

She had felt a warm feeling in her heart when she heard Shun Long's answer. After all, it wasn't uncommon for Dao partners to have a few secrets that they wouldn't reveal, even if their partner asked about them.

This was also the reason why Liu Mei hadn't asked about the warm energy that had entered her body, every time that she and Shun Long had intercourse. She was afraid that Shun Long wouldn't answer since that may involve some kind of secret that he wasn't willing to disclose. But it seemed

that her worries were unfounded, as she didn't sense any hesitation from Shun Long just now, when he answered her question.

Shun Long chuckled as he felt Liu Mei's warm body on his back, before he said in an almost inaudible voice

"Silly girl..."

Liu Mei didn't choose to ask for the reason that they were heading towards the 'Pale Moon guild', and 10 minutes later, the black panther had already arrived in front of the guild's entrance.

Once again, there were 4 guards in silver armor, stationed in front of the guild's entrance.

Just like last time however, Shun Long and Liu Mei entered inside without any obstruction, as they headed towards the guild's depths.

Shun Long took out a black-colored token that Zhang Dingxiang had given to him the last time before they left, as he and Liu Mei walked all the way to the back of the guild, until they arrived in front of a small private room.

A young maidservant was standing outside the room, as she eyed Shun Long and the white-veiled Liu Mei curiously seeing they approached closer.

Shun Long smiled casually at the maid, as he showed her the black token in his hands and asked

"Is Zhang Dingxiang inside?"

The maid's eyes widened when she saw the Elder's personal token, as she hurriedly bowed and replied politely

"The Elder isn't here yet. If you would like to, I can call him right away."

This was the room that Zhang Dingxiang had told Shun Long to go to, if he needed to find him in the future.

As for the black-colored token, anyone who was holding such a token would represent an Elder of the 'Pale Moon merchant guild'.

Shun Long nodded his head at the maid, who then run away, deeper inside the guild.

A quarter of an hour later, the young maid trailed behind a purple-robed middle aged man. This bald and chubby man, with his gentle facial features, could be no one else other than Zhang Dingxiang.

Spotting Shun Long and the white-veiled Liu Mei from the distance, Zhang Dingxiang was stunned for a moment, before a wide smile filled his face, as he greeted enthusiastically

"Young master Shun, young lady! Welcome back to our guild.

Please enter inside."

Zhang Dingxiang quickly walked up to the door of the private room and pushed it open, revealing a luxurious room around 50 square meters big.

Shun Long and Liu Mei sat on the couch opposite to Zhang Dingxiang, before the middle-aged man asked in a friendly tone

"Young master Shun, is there any way I can help you with?"

Seeing that Shun Long had come to him directly, Zhang Dingxiang assumed that he must have a private matter that he needed his help with.

Shun Long nodded his head as he looked at the middle-aged man in front of him, and taking out 2 small bottles that were filled with top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills', as well as 10 white scrolls from the 'Stone of Time', he placed them all on the table in front of him.

His eyes were still looking at Zhang Dingxiang as he asked in a nonchalant tone

"Elder Zhang, I wonder if your 'Pale moon guild' has any large auctions in this month."

Zhang Dingxiang casually grabbed the bottle of pills on the table and opened it, as a refreshing herbal scent immediately filled the room.

The words that the middle-aged Elder from the Pale Moon guild had wanted to say, were now stuck in his throat, as he stared at the pills in front of him with mad fervor in his eyes.

#### Chapter 170 - 170 The 'sly' Elder Zhang

As a rank 2 silver grade alchemist who was close to the rank 3, Zhang Dingxiang immediately understood that these were top-grade rank 3 pills.

Although Zhang Dingxiang could refine even rank 4 pills, he couldn't necessarily refine top-grade rank 3 pills at will. The refinement of the pills had to be perfect, from the condition and maturity of the medicinal herbs and the extraction of their essence, all the way to the pill forming stage.

But the most important reason that made the chubby bald Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild' so excited, was that he had never seen this kind of pill before.

It looked like the man had completely forgotten proper etiquette, as he took a pill in his hand and started sniffing it, while at the same time he mumbled

"Mmm. It smells similar to a rank 4 'Blood-sucking fruit'... but the feeling it gives off is closer to that of a rank 4 'Aura qi pill'..."

Shun Long was a bit surprised, seeing a dignified silver grade alchemist, sniffing the pill without stop.

As for the reason why he decided to put the top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills' for auction, there were 2 main reasons.

The first, was that he had plenty of time to refine pills, inside the foggy space that the 'Stone of Time' had provided him with. Shun Long had even guessed, that the place surrounded by fog, was a separate space inside the 'Stone of Time'.

As for the second reason, in the past half a year that he had spent cultivating inside the 'Stone of Time', his spirit stones supply had already started to run low. The more that his cultivation increased, the more qi he had to absorb to advance to the next level, which made the amount of spirit stones that he required, reach a terrifying number. Right now, although he had already advanced to the peak of rank 3 in Heaven grade, he had just a little more than 400.000 spirit stones left.

Additionally, Shun Long had also noticed, that as his cultivation advanced further and further in the Heaven grade, the effects of the 'Blood combustion pills' were becoming increasingly weaker. He

estimated, that by the time that he reached the peak of rank 6 in Heaven grade, the top-grade 'Blood combustion pills' would be completely useless to him.

Looking at the middle-aged man who was sitting in front of him, Shun Long didn't get anxious as he waited for him to finish examining the pills.

Cough

Cough

"Ahem. Young master Shun, may I ask for the name of this pill? I'm embarrassed to admit it, but even as a rank 2 silver grade alchemist, I have never heard of this pill before."

Shun Long nodded his head at Zhang Dingxiang's words. Of course he hadn't heard of this pill before, since there wasn't any set recipe for it as far as Shun Long knew. Shun Long had created this recipe himself, so, even though it was possible that other alchemists would have also done the same and create a similar recipe, it wasn't surprising for Zhang Dingxiang to have no idea about it.

Additionally, the 'Blood Vermilion fruit' wasn't a common rank 3 medicinal herb, which made the bald middle-aged alchemist of the 'Pale Moon guild' unable to figure out, what the main herb for the creation of these pills was.

"These pills are called the 'Blood combustion pills'. As for their effects, just one of them has more than a 70% chance, of helping a peak rank 1 Heaven grade cultivator to advance to the early rank 2."

Zhang Dingxiang's eyes widened for a bit, before he nodded his head, and with a large smile on his face he said

"Young master Shun, there is indeed an auction that our 'Pale Moon guild' is hosting near the end of this month, 5 days from now. However, since I cannot verify the effects of these pills, and our guild doesn't have a rank 3 silver grade alchemist, I will have to ask young master Shun to allow us to privately test one of them. After all, we cannot auction unknown pills that we cannot verify their effects."

Shun Long's eyes narrowed as he understood what Zhang Dingxiang was trying to do. After all, as an alchemist himself, Shun Long clearly knew, that every alchemist above the bronze grade, was able to ascertain the effects of a pill, just by shaving off a tiny part of the pill, that wouldn't affect its overall potency.

Shaking his head, Shun Long stared at the middle-aged man in front of him, before he retrieved the 2 bottles of pills from the table, as he then said in a cold tone

"Elder Zhang, I think that you have misunderstood me.

I didn't ask you to verify my pills' effects, I told you to auction them. Since you are incapable of understanding their effects, then our partnership ends here."

Zhang Dingxiang's mouth was wide open, as he saw Shun Long returning the pill bottles, as well as the scrolls that he hadn't checked yet, back in his 'spatial ring'.

Then, he turned his head to look at Liu Mei, as they both stood up and prepared to leave the private room.

This was the second time that the bald, middle-aged Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild' had tried to take advantage of Shun Long and failed.

He also hadn't expected for the young man in front of him to be so decisive, as to pack everything and leave.

For a moment, he also wondered whether Shun Long knew about the technique of 'shaving off a part of the pill', and if that was the reason that he had turned so angry.

Standing up from his seat, Zhang Dingxiang put an ingratiating smile on his face, as he looked at Shun Long and Liu Mei and hurriedly said

"Young master Shun, young lady, please wait. It was my fault just now, as I seemed to have forgotten another way to verify the effects of the pills. Please, if you are willing to sit down and discuss this, then I would be very happy to be of assistance."

Shun Long however shook his head as he said

"Elder Zhang, this seems to be the second time that you are 'at fault'. I already forgave you the first time, so tell me, why shouldn't I just go to another guild now? After all, I am certain that with the 'Silver-winged panther king', other guilds will be more than happy to welcome us, and offer me the same benefits as your 'Pale Moon merchant guild'."

Zhang Dingxiang's eyes bulged out as he heard this, and with a pained look on his face he asked

"You-Young master Shun. Would you really do that? B-But... you have already joined our 'Pale Moon merchant guild'. I even gave you a peak rank 2 silver grade cauldron."

Shun Long scoffed at the pretentious behavior of the bald Elder in front of him, and with the same cold look, he narrowed his eyes as he replied

"You can only blame yourself for being greedier than you should be. I accepted your offer to join your guild but you were still dishonest, and tried to take advantage of me for one extra pill. Who knows if you will be dishonest again tomorrow, or the day after?"

The bald middle-aged Elder felt as if he had fallen into a trap, hook, line and sinker.

However, with the way that things had developed so far, he clearly understood that he was in the wrong and that his greed had gotten the better of him.

Hence, although he knew that he was in a passive position, he couldn't help but take a deep breath as he asked

"Then... young master Shun... what must I do, for you to forgive me?"

A big smile covered Shun Long's face, as he finally heard the words that he had been waiting to hear, since the first time that they had met with Zhang Dingxiang.