

Time 191

Chapter 191 - 191 Alchemist's Guild test

Liu Mei hadn't expected for Shun Long to go to the 'Alchemist's Guild'.

After all, Shun Long didn't really have a need to become a certified alchemist, nor did he need to ask for a high-level alchemist's help.

Although Liu Mei wasn't an alchemist herself, she clearly understood that the top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills' that Shun Long had refined, were probably enough to set him on par with other rank 2 silver grade alchemists.

Entering inside the guild, the peak rank 5 'Silver-winged panther king' immediately attracted the crowd's attention.

Shun Long however, ignored the gazes of the people around him, as he directly headed towards the registration counter.

Looking at the young receptionist behind the counter, Shun Long smiled lightly as he said

"I would like to take the test for a silver grade alchemist."

The receptionist looked at Shun Long in puzzlement, since she couldn't detect the slightest bit of aura coming from his body, as she then asked

"May I ask if you are already a rank 3 bronze grade alchemist?"

Shun Long was slightly stunned, before he shook his head

He didn't know the rules of the 'Alchemist's Guild' and hence, he wasn't aware that he had to be a bronze grade alchemist before taking the test for the silver grade.

The receptionist looked at Shun Long in a daze, before she shook her head and replied

"If you are not an official alchemist registered in the 'Alchemist's Guild', then you must start with the test for rank 1 bronze grade alchemists."

Afraid that Shun Long wouldn't understand, the receptionist explained

"This is done in order to avoid any cheating. After all, if an alchemist can refine a low-grade rank 3 pill, but they can't refine a rank 1 pill, then they can't be considered a proper alchemist."

Shun Long nodded his head, as he also agreed with this. Looking at the woman in front of him, he then asked curiously

"Then, can I take the test for a rank 1 bronze grade alchemist now?"

The receptionist nodded her head, as she pointed towards a large door with the word bronze on it before she said

"If you enter through that door, you will find yourself in a large room, where our 'Alchemist's Guild' conducts the tests for the bronze grade alchemists.

The rules are very simple. For the rank 1 bronze grade alchemist test, you only have to pay 1 low-grade spirit stone before taking the test.

Once you enter inside the room, you will have to refine a low-grade rank 1 pill, in front of the overseeing alchemists.

Of course, you can refine any rank 1 pill you want, as our guild doesn't place any restrictions on this. Additionally, if you don't have the medicinal herbs needed for your pill, you can purchase them directly from our 'Alchemists' Guild'.

As long as the alchemists who oversee your test, can verify that you have successfully completed your pill refinement, then you will officially become a rank 1 bronze grade alchemist."

Shun Long nodded his head at the young receptionist, before he turned to look at Liu Mei, as he then smiled lightly and said

"I won't take long"

"Mhm"

Liu Mei nodded her head, as she and the black panther watched Shun Long entering inside the 'Bronze' door.

As soon as Shun Long entered the door, he found himself in a large room with many bronze grade cauldrons spread around.

In front of each cauldron, there was a black meditative pillow, for the alchemists to sit on while they were refining their pills.

A young man who seemed to be in his early 20s walked towards Shun Long, the moment that he entered the room.

This man was dressed in white robes, and had a small white badge on his chest with a single star on it.

Shun Long knew, that this was the badge of a rank 1 bronze grade alchemist.

Aside from this young man, there were more than 20 other people in the room, who were currently using the bronze grade cauldrons on the floor.

There were also 3 middle-aged men dressed in white robes, with the badge of a rank 3 bronze grade alchemist on their chests.

The rank 1 bronze grade alchemist walked in front of Shun Long, and stretched out his right hand as he said in an emotionless tone

"If you want to take the test for a rank 1 bronze grade alchemist, you must pay 1 low-grade spirit stone. If you want to take the test for a rank 2 bronze grade alchemist, you must pay 20 low-grade spirit stones. In case you want to take the test for a rank 3 bronze grade alchemist, then you have to pay 100 low-grade spirit stones."

Nodding his head, Shun Long handed a low-grade spirit stone to the man in front of him, who then pointed at the cauldrons on the floor and said

"You can choose any of the cauldrons here to use for your pill refinement, but you only have 2 hours to refine a low-grade rank 1 pill, if you wish to pass the test. The esteemed overseers will also judge your pill in the end."

As soon as he finished speaking, the man immediately left without waiting for an answer.

Shun Long didn't seem to have paid any attention to this young man however, as he walked in front of a random cauldron in the front row.

With a smile on his face, he took out 4 rank 1 medicinal herbs from the 'Stone of Time'.

A stalk of 'Blue striped grass', a 5-leafed flower, a 'grisly growing root' as well as a 'Honey fruit'.

The rank 3 bronze grade alchemists weren't paying any special attention to Shun Long.

When they saw the medicinal herbs that he took out, they could immediately guess which pill he was going to refine.

Although the 'Qi barrier-breaking pill' was a comparatively harder rank 1 pill to refine, it was still a rank 1 pill in the end.

With a light smile on his face, Shun Long reminisced how this was the first pill that he had refined in the 'Floating Cloud sect'.

His movements were extremely practiced, as he first added the 'Blue striped grass' inside the cauldron. As the grass had started to wither, he then added in a leaf from the 5-leafed flower, and watched as the half-withered grass coiled itself around the flower leaf as they were being refined at the same time.

If the rank 3 bronze grade alchemists were paying attention to Shun Long's cauldron, their eyes would pop out of their sockets.

Not only was the sequence in which he placed the medicinal herbs inside the cauldron 'wrong', but the result was something unbelievable.

5 breaths of time later, Shun Long put the rest of the 5-leafed flower inside the cauldron, when a sizzling sound was suddenly heard.

One of the rank 3 bronze grade alchemists, turned to look at Shun Long and frowned when he heard this sizzling sound, certain that Shun Long had already failed in his refinement.

Shun Long didn't pay attention to anyone else while he was refining the medicinal herbs, as he slowly lowered the flames of the cauldron, before he placed the 'grisly growing root' inside.

Shun Long then used his spiritual strength, to guide the medicinal essence from the 'Blue striped grass', the '5-leafed flower' and the 'grisly growing root' in a circular motion inside the cauldron.

Nobody inside the room, including the 3 bronze grade alchemists had noticed, that time had gone completely still for a moment.

After activating the 'Monarch's Domain' for less than a breath of time, Shun Long extracted the 'Honey fruit's' juice, as he mixed the 4 essences into one.

Less than 5 minutes had passed since he had started his pill refinement, when his alchemy cauldron exploded with a sudden burst of medicinal fragrance.

The three rank 3 bronze grade alchemists immediately turned to look at him with eyes filled with disbelief, as Shun Long slowly opened the lid of his cauldron.

Chapter 192 - 192 Shun Long's pill alchemy skills

A shocking scene unfolded in front of the rank 3 bronze grade alchemists' eyes.

4 cyan-colored pills could be seen inside Shun Long's alchemy cauldron, and all of them were actually top-grade rank 1 'Qi barrier-breaking pills'.

Based on the medicinal herbs that were used in the pill refinement, the most that one could actually get, out of a single alchemy cauldron, was 4 'Qi barrier-breaking pills' in one batch.

However, the most surprising thing out of all, was that these were all top-grade pills.

The trio of the rank 3 bronze grade alchemists seemed to have forgotten that they were the overseers of the test, as they hurriedly walked towards Shun Long's cauldron.

Their eyes twitched when they smelled the fragrance coming from the alchemy cauldron, and without even asking for permission, each of them grabbed a 'Qi barrier-breaking pill' in their hands.

The more they observed the pills in their hands, the more astonished the rank 3 alchemists became, as all 3 of them simultaneously looked at Shun Long with an excited gaze.

After inspecting the pills, they had instantly understood, that these weren't the normal 'Qi barrier-breaking pills'.

One of the 3 bronze grade alchemists took a deep breath as he looked at Shun Long, and with a bright smile on his face, he returned the pill back to Shun Long with some embarrassment as he asked

"Young man...no, I mean, fellow alchemist, are these really 'Qi barrier-breaking pills'?"

The other 2 alchemists looked at Shun Long expectantly as they also waited for his answer.

As rank 3 bronze grade alchemists, they could clearly understand, that these were certainly 'Qi barrier-breaking pills', however, it was obvious that they weren't normal pills.

As for the person who had refined these pills, he also couldn't be just an average young man. Even if they couldn't sense Shun Long's cultivation, they would still give him due respect, as an alchemist who was at least at the same level as them.

Nodding his head, Shun Long casually stored the pills in an alchemy bottle as he looked at the 3 alchemists in front of him and said

"They are of course 'Qi barrier-breaking pills', however, they were created through a special recipe, so their effects are much better than the average pills.

A normal 'Qi barrier-breaking pill', could increase the chance that a peak rank 6 'Qi condensation stage' cultivator advanced to the early rank 7 by 50 percent. However, these top-grade 'Qi condensation pills' can give that same cultivator, a 90 percent chance to advance directly to the middle of rank 7."

The trio of overseers stared at Shun Long with wide-open eyes.

Although this sounded unbelievable, as pinnacle rank 3 bronze grade alchemists they knew, that even if Shun Long's words were a bit exaggerated, based on the pills that they had inspected just now, the truth couldn't be too far from that.

One of the 3 overseers then smiled, as he took out a small white badge from his spatial ring, and handed it to Shun Long as he said

"Congratulations fellow alchemist. You are officially a rank 1 bronze grade alchemist of our 'Alchemist's Guild'!"

Shun Long turned to look at the white badge on his hands, that was shaped like a tiny cauldron with a single star on it. Shun Long could also sense a small formation engraved inside it, and he assumed that it was used to prove the authenticity of the badge.

At the same time, the rank 1 bronze grade alchemist who had 'welcomed' Shun Long earlier, stared at him with envy from the distance, after seeing that he was surrounded by the 3 overseers.

"He is just a rank 1 bronze grade alchemist, I don't know why the esteemed overseers pay so much attention to him."

The young man mumbled as he consoled himself that Shun Long wasn't a better alchemist than him.

At the same time, Shun Long looked at the three rank 3 bronze grade alchemists in front of him, as he then took out 20 low-grade spirit stones from the 'Stone of Time' and asked

"Can I also take the test for rank 2 and rank 3 bronze grade alchemists here?"

The overseer who had handed back the 'Qi barrier-breaking pill' to Shun Long, excitedly nodded his head as he heard Shun Long's question, before he immediately replied

"Of course! The tests for bronze grade alchemists are all done in this room."

The 3 overseers exchanged furtive glances with each other, as they made up their minds to carefully observe Shun Long's movements, and learn his pill recipes no matter what.

The overseer then pointed at the pill bottle in Shun Long's hands and said

"Actually, for the test to become a rank 2 bronze grade alchemist, you would have to refine at least a low-grade rank 2 pill, while to become a rank 3 bronze grade alchemist, you would have to refine a low-grade rank 3 pill."

Shun Long then nodded his head with a slight smile on his face.

Seeing the 3 overseers who were staring at him expectantly, he had immediately understood their intentions. However, this was exactly what Shun Long was aiming for.

Without another word, Shun Long took out 6 rank 2 medicinal herbs from his spatial ring, and under the astonished gazes of the 3 alchemists in front of him, he placed them all inside the cauldron at the same time.

"What are you doing??"

One of the 3 overseers couldn't help asking, but the other 2 immediately shot him a threatening glance. Observing an alchemist, and asking them for their secrets were 2 completely different things.

Shun Long didn't pay any attention to the middle-aged man, as he continued with his pill refinement.

At the same time, the other alchemists in the room had also turned their gazes towards him, curious why the 3 overseers would pay so much attention, to a new rank 1 bronze grade alchemist.

Just like the last time however, less than 5 minutes had passed, when a strong medicinal aroma had started to fill the room.

This time, it wasn't just the 3 overseers, but every single alchemist in the room stared at Shun Long in shock.

"He took less than 5 minutes to complete the pill refinement?"

"No! He must have certainly failed! I have never heard of a bronze grade alchemist, who can do something like this!"

Although the other alchemists were also curious and wanted to crowd around Shun Long, nobody dared to approach the 3 overseers, who were staring at the young man in front of them like he was some kind of treasure.

Even though they hadn't managed to understand anything about Shun Long's pill refinement, since he had placed all the medicinal ingredients together, they could understand that the method he had used wasn't something that they had met with before.

Under their astonished gazes, Shun Long opened the lid of the cauldron, revealing 3 bright green pills.

One of the overseers couldn't stand still anymore, and looking at the other 2, he took a deep breath as he said

"I'm calling senior Yao!"

Then, without waiting for a response from the other 2 overseers, the peak rank 3 bronze grade alchemist stormed out of the room in a hurry, his face a mixture of shock and crazy excitement.

Chapter 193 - 193 Yao Huang

Next to the room where the tests for the bronze grade alchemists were being conducted, was also a large door with the word 'Silver' on it.

This was where the tests for the silver grade alchemists were taking place.

Contrary to the busy room where the bronze grade alchemists were being tested, there were only 4 people in this room.

A rank 3 bronze grade alchemist, along with a rank 1 silver grade alchemist, were both sitting in front of 2 cauldrons, refining their pills.

In front of them were 2 men, both wearing badges of rank 2 silver grade alchemists.

One man seemed to be in his middle 40s with a long ponytail and a stern expression on his face.

The other one, had a unique wide jaw, short spiky black hair and a pair of cold eyes.

The door of the room abruptly opened, and both men turned their heads to look at the newcomer.

The middle-aged rank 3 bronze grade alchemist, Lai Rong, entered the room in a hurry, and looking at the man with the short black hair, he quickly bowed as he said

"Senior Yao!"

The man with the cold eyes looked at Lai Rong without any change of emotions on his face, as he waited to hear the reason that he had come to meet him.

At the same time, the man with the long ponytail frowned slightly, before he continued watching the tests of the 2 alchemists in front of him, completely ignoring Lai Rong.

Lai Rong took a deep breath as he stared at the man with the short hair in front of him, before he said

"Senior Yao! There is a very unusual alchemist who came to take the bronze grade examination!"

Understanding that his words weren't enough to garner 'Senior Yao's' interest, Lai Rong hurriedly explained

"He just took 5 minutes to refine 4 top-grade rank 1 'Qi barrier-breaking pills', but that's not everything.

His 'Qi barrier-breaking pills' are completely different from the normal ones. He even claimed, that those pills can allow someone who is at the peak of rank 6 in Qi condensation, to have a 90% chance of advancing directly to the middle of rank 7. Brother Jie, brother Rui and me, all examined the pills, and we can estimate that even he exaggerated his words, the pills should still have a somewhat similar effect as what he described.

Aside from that... he... also passed the test to become a rank 2 bronze grade alchemist in less than 5 minutes as well... again refining some top-grade rank 2 pills."

Lai Rong had his head lowered staring at the ground, as he recounted everything with great detail.

As he raised his head, he saw a dumbfounded 'Senior Yao' staring at him in shock.

Even he, who was a rank 2 silver grade alchemist, couldn't say for sure that he could refine top-grade rank 2 pills in less than 5 minutes.

"Could it be, that this person is actually a pinnacle rank 2 silver grade alchemist?"

As 'Senior Yao' gathered his thoughts, he didn't even spare a look at Lai Rong in front of him, as he quickly walked towards the examination room for the bronze grade alchemists.

Back inside the room, Shun Long was still extracting the essence of the rank 3 'Crystal Ice lotus', as he prepared to refine his anti-toxin pills.

As soon as 'Senior Yao' entered the room, the overseers and the alchemists who were observing Shun Long, stared at him in shock. A rank 2 silver grade alchemist had actually come to watch the test of a rank 2 bronze grade newbie?

'Brother Jie' and 'brother Rui', the 2 overseers immediately walked up to him, and with fawning smiles they greeted him

"Senior Yao!"

'Senior Yao' however, stared at them with an ice-cold look in his eyes, as he pointed at the rest of the alchemists and said

"You idiots! If you aren't supervising the tests of everyone, then what are you doing here?"

The 2 overseers immediately lowered their heads, but an aggrieved feeling overcame their hearts as they thought to themselves

"Aren't you also here because you are interested in this person? Why can't we observe him as well?"

However, the 2 rank 3 bronze grade alchemists didn't dare to argue with 'Senior Yao', as they continued observing everyone in the room.

The spiky-haired 'Senior Yao' walked towards Shun Long, while at the same time, he was seriously observing the movements of his hands.

Shun Long seemed to have been deconstructing the petals of the rank 3 'Crystal ice lotus' in front of him, one by one, before he placed them inside his alchemy cauldron.

'Senior Yao' had never seen something like this before.

It was known that the 'Crystal ice lotus' could only be refined properly if it was intact and under low temperatures.

The person in front of him however, was doing the exact opposite.

Not only did he 'destroy' the ice lotus, but the flames of his cauldron were scorchingly high.

After placing the 'Crystal ice lotus' inside the cauldron, Shun Long also added the rank 3 'black centipede's powder', before he put back the lid of the cauldron.

'Senior Yao' could no longer see what was going on inside the cauldron.

Additionally, since even the bronze grade cauldrons of the 'Alchemist's Guild' were equipped with special formations, he couldn't have a look inside it even with his soul sense.

The rank 2 silver grade alchemist didn't speak, as his eyes were staring at Shun Long's cauldron, curious if he was going to succeed in his pill refinement, after he had practically ruined the 'Crystal ice lotus'.

Less than 10 minutes passed, as Shun Long then opened the lid of his cauldron, revealing the contents inside.

'Senior Yao's' mouth was agape when he saw the 5 completed pills, all of them being top-grade rank 3 pills.

'Senior Yao's' mind was now in a mess.

As a rank 2 silver grade alchemist, he had even received pointers from a rank 1 gold grade alchemist in the past.

And yet, he had no way to explain the scene in front of his eyes, that was completely different to what he knew.

Taking a deep breath, the spiky-haired 'Senior Yao' approached Shun Long and cupped his hands as he said

"Greetings. My name is Yao Huang, an overseer for the tests of the silver grade alchemists in the 'Alchemists' Guild'."

Shun Long looked at the man in front of him, and noticed the silver-colored badge with 2 stars on his chest, showing that he was a rank 2 silver grade alchemist.

Nodding his head, he then cupped his hands in response, as he said

"My name is Shun Long"

Yao Huang's mind immediately tried to remember if he had ever heard of this name before, but to his surprise, no such young alchemist seemed to have appeared in the 'Heaven's Dome city'.

With a smile on his face, the rank 2 silver grade alchemist then said

"Younger brother Shun, did you just come to the 'Heaven's Dome city'? Otherwise, such a talented young alchemist couldn't have stayed nameless."

Shun Long understood that Yao Huang was probing him for his origins, as he smiled and said calmly

"Indeed, I have only just come to the city and I don't know many people here."

Yao Huang started laughing when he heard that, and patting Shun Long's shoulder he continued

"Haha, then coming to the 'Alchemists' Guild' was the best choice. Almost all of the alchemists in the 'Heaven's Dome city' are members of our Guild. The 'Heaven's Dome city' is a dangerous place, and being a member of the 'Alchemists' Guild' offers you a certain degree of protection as well as status.

Actually, I also wonder, if younger brother Shun intends to join any of the strong powers of the 'Heaven's Dome city' as well!"

Chapter 194 - 194 Passing the tests

Shun Long looked at Yao Huang curiously, who then started explaining

"Aside from the 'Alchemists' Guild', there are also many other strong powers in the 'Heaven's Dome city' who want to have their own private alchemists, and not have to rely on the Guild at all times. These powers would usually offer, far more benefits to promising alchemists like brother Shun, than the guild usually does."

Shun Long smiled lightly when he heard Yao Huang's words, as he then asked in a seemingly interested tone

"In that case, I wonder if you are also a member of one of these strong powers, brother Yao!"

Yao Huang nodded his head seriously

"Indeed, although I am working for the Guild, I have also joined another strong power.

The 'Alchemist's Guild' doesn't have any restrictions to its alchemists joining other powers after all.

You can think of the Guild as a large place, where all of the alchemists are part of a big family. The Guild can provide you with alchemy recipes if you are willing to pay the corresponding price, or you can also sell a unique recipe of your own, and request what you want from the Guild.

The same thing works for medicinal ingredients as well.

Additionally, you can also choose to work for the Guild, and either become an overseer like me, or an exclusive alchemist. After all, the Guild also sells pills, so it needs its own alchemists to concoct them, while usually, the strong powers of the 'Heaven's Dome city' will be the biggest customers who purchase these pills."

Shun Long's eyes widened slightly, as he seemed to have just understood even more things regarding the 'Heaven's Dome city', while countless thoughts were now flashing through his mind

"It seems that the 'Alchemist's Guild' has even more power than I imagined. According to Yao Huang's words, the guild practically controls the mass flow of pills in the 'Heaven's Dome city', making these 'strong powers', reliant to it. These powers also want promising or strong alchemists that they can exclusively work for them, in order to escape the 'Alchemists' Guild's' shackles.

However, no matter what benefits these 'strong powers' are willing to offer, in the end, I would have to be a personal alchemy slave once I joined them. Whereas, if I use the 'Alchemist's Guild's' network and connections, I can spread my name and sell my personal pills through the guild.

Although my profits wouldn't be as high as if I had opened my own alchemy shop, with the 'Alchemist's Guild's' backing, I will probably not have to worry about any of the underlying threats of the 'Heaven's Dome city' as well."

Seeing that Shun Long had fallen deep into thought, Yao Huang guessed that he was probably trying to gauge the benefits that each power would be willing to offer him upon joining. After all, for a talented young alchemist who was at the same level as him, many of the strong powers in the 'Heaven's Dome city' would be interested in recruiting him.

With a smile on his face, the spiky-haired Yao Huang looked at Shun Long and said

"Younger brother Shun, actually, I'm also a member of the 'Blood Moon sect'. Our sect is one of the more powerful ones in the 'Heaven's Dome city', and I am certain that younger brother Shun will be greatly valued by the higher-ups once you join."

Shun Long recovered himself from his thoughts, as he had already made his decision.

Shaking his head, he looked at the spiky-haired man next to him and said

"For now, I don't plan to join any power aside from the 'Alchemist's Guild'."

Seeing that his offer was rejected, Yao Huang then guessed, that Shun Long wanted to fish for better offers. But since he was the first to found him, the spiky-haired Yao Huang was planning to return to the 'Blood Moon sect' and report everything.

If the higher-ups from the sect decided to contact Shun Long and managed to successfully recruit him, then by bringing a young and promising alchemist to the sect, he would also obtain bountiful rewards.

Nodding his head, the rank 2 silver grade alchemist then smiled as he asked with a friendly look on his face

"In that case younger brother Shun, do you plan to take the test to become a rank 1 silver grade alchemist? If so, you can follow me."

Shun Long nodded his head, as he followed Yao Huang to the room where the tests for the silver grade alchemists were taking place.

Entering inside, Shun Long saw a man in his middle 40s, with a long ponytail and a stern expression on his face, supervising the 2 alchemists who were taking their tests.

The man threw a scornful look at Yao Huang as soon as he entered the room, before he turned his attention to Shun Long.

Yao Huang however, didn't seem to have paid much attention to the ponytailed man, as he smiled brightly at Shun Long, and pointing at the silver grade cauldrons on the floor he said

"Younger brother Shun, you can choose any of these cauldrons for your pill refinement. For the test to become a rank 1 silver grade alchemist, you will have to pay the Guild 1000 low-grade spirit stones.

You also have 2 hours to refine a high-grade rank 3 pill, in order to pass the test. Additionally, after becoming a rank 1 silver grade alchemist, you can purchase medicinal ingredients or alchemy recipes from the guild directly at a 20 percent discount."

Shun Long nodded his head, as he then took out 1000 spirit stones from the 'Stone of Time' and handed them to Yao Huang, before he turned his attention to the 20 silver grade cauldrons on the floor.

After randomly picking one, Shun Long didn't hesitate, as he picked more than a dozen rank 3 medicinal herbs from the 'Stone of Time', and placed them in front of him.

Since he wanted to spread his name as an alchemist and attract more attention, the best way to do that was by showing his real abilities.

Time soon passed like this, and Shun Long took on, one test after the other.

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4 hours quickly passed, while Yao Huang and the ponytailed man were now staring at Shun Long with their mouths agape.

Shun Long instead smiled lightly as he opened the lid of his cauldron, revealing 6 golden-colored pills, as a powerful medicinal scent wafted throughout the room. A revitalizing feeling swept the 2 silver grade alchemists bodies.

Seeing the top-grade rank 4 'Sun-healing pills', both Yao Huang as well as the ponytailed man, were now at a loss for words.

Yao Huang wanted to speak, but the ponytailed man took a step forward first, as he took out a silver-colored badge from his spatial ring and handed it to Shun Long as he said smilingly

"Brother Shun...no senior Shun... I offer you my congratulations! This is the first time that I have such a young rank 3 silver grade alchemist! I am certain that the higher-ups of our 'Alchemists' Guild' will be very excited.

From the way that this ponytailed man was speaking about the 'Alchemists' Guild', Shun Long guessed, that he most likely wasn't a member of some other power, like Yao Huang.

Yao Huang instead was alarmed, when he saw the attention that the ponytailed man was now placing on 'his target'. He had originally hoped to find a promising silver grade alchemist, but Shun Long had already passed all 3 tests, to become a rank 3 silver grade alchemist.

Probably, even the higher-ups of the 'Alchemists' Guild' wouldn't allow other powers to poach him.

Shun Long's lips slowly curved up into a smile, as he received the cauldron-shaped badge with 3 stars from the ponytailed man in front of him.

The man then looked at Shun Long who was holding the badge in his hands with a respectful look on his face, as he asked

"Senior Shun, would you like to come with us and meet with the higher-ups of our 'Alchemists' Guild'? After all, me and Yao Huang both have to report it, when a rank 3 silver-grade alchemist appears in the examination."

Chapter 195 - 195 The gold grade alchemists of the Alchemists Guild

Shun Long thought for a moment, before he nodded his head at the ponytailed man in front of him.

Since he had decided to show his skills, then meeting with the higher-ups of the 'Alchemists' Guild' was important in establishing himself.

Seeing that Shun Long had agreed, the ponytailed man bowed slightly as he said

"In that case, please follow me senior Shun."

Shun Long followed the ponytailed man, as well as the now sullen Yao Huang, whose mind was still trying to think of a way to get Shun Long to the Blood Moon sect.

The people in the lobby of the 'Alchemists' Guild' were stunned, when they saw they saw the 2 rank 2 silver grade alchemists guiding a young man deeper inside.

Liu Mei also noticed this scene, and seeing the confident look in Shun Long's eyes, a wide smile covered her face beneath her white veil.

After walking through a large corridor, Shun Long and the 2 silver grade alchemists, arrived outside of a large white door, more than 10m (33ft) tall.

6 men more than 2m(6.6ft) tall each, dressed in black armor from head to toe, were standing guard in front of this door.

The black armor guards were each holding a 1.9m (6.2ft) halberd, while their backs were all ramrod straight.

Shun Long was shocked when he felt the aura of these guards, sensing that they were all at the Nascent soul stage.

The moment that Shun Long's group approached the white door, the 6 guards simultaneously took a step forward, as they pointed their halberds toward the 2 alchemists in the front.

The combined pressure that the 6 Nascent soul stage guards exuded, forced Shun Long's 'Monarch's Eternal body' to start circulating by itself, as it tried to resist their overpowering aura.

The ponytailed man and Yao Huang who were in front of him however, felt their knees about to give in, as the ponytailed man quickly took out a white badge from his robes, and showing it to the black-armored guards he said in a serious tone

"I am here to see the Elders!"

Seeing the white badge in the alchemist's hands, the 6 black-armored guards retracted their pressure, as they resumed their previous stance.

Yao Huang and the ponytailed man heaved a sigh of relief, while Shun Long's body felt much lighter now that he didn't have to endure the black-armored guards' pressure.

His 'Monarch's Eternal body' stopped circulating, as he followed the 2 alchemists who started to push open the white door.

Shun Long was surprised when he saw the scene behind the white door unfolding itself in front of his eyes.

A large garden that spanned for more than 10 miles appeared in front of him, while the scent of countless medicinal herbs assaulted his senses.

A group of 2 elderly men along with an elderly woman and a middle-aged man, were all sitting in front of a table inside this garden drinking wine and chatting with themselves, when they suddenly turned their attention to the group of newcomers, with a look of surprise in their eyes.

Yao Huang and the ponytailed man hurriedly bowed as they saw the golden-robed Elders in front of them, while Shun Long's eyes immediately spotted the golden badges in their chests.

The golden-robed middle-aged man stood up from his seat, and looking at the ponytailed man he asked in a sonorous voice

"Dong Zhaohui, is there a reason for you to come here today?"

As soon as he finished speaking, the golden-robed middle-aged man turned his attention to Shun Long.

Shun Long noticed that this man had a square jaw and a pair of sharp eyes, that seemed as if they could see through a person's soul.

The ponytailed Dong Zhaohui looked at the middle-aged man who had quickly appeared in front of him, and raising his head, he gestured at Shun Long as he said

"Elder Kong Yan, as per your instructions, I have come to report to you, as a new rank 3 silver grade alchemist appeared in our 'Alchemists' Guild's' examination."

Kong Yan's eyes constricted as he stared at Shun Long in disbelief. The young man in front of him didn't look more than 20 years old.

Of course, Kong Yan didn't believe that Shun Long was just 20 years old, but based on the fact that a cultivator's outer appearance changed, depending on their cultivation realm and age, Shun Long couldn't be much older than 100 years old.

Even the 2 elderly men and the elderly woman who were sitting in front of the table, had now stood up as they looked at Shun Long with incredulous looks in their eyes.

Kong Yan didn't pay any more attention to Dong Zhaohui, and taking a step forward he appeared in front of Shun Long, as he asked him curiously

"What pill did you refine for your last test?"

Even the 3 Elders behind Kong Yan perked up their ears when they heard this question.

Looking at the middle-aged man who had suddenly in front of him, Shun Long took out a small bottle from his spatial ring as he then answered

"Rank 4 'Sun-healing pills'"

Staring at the top-grade rank 4 pills inside the pill bottle, Kong Yan was stunned for a second.

If the young man in front of him could refine top-grade rank 4 pills, then didn't that mean that there was a good chance that he could also refine low-grade rank 5 pills? That would then make him at the same level as Kong Yan and the other rank 1 gold grade alchemist in here.

After all, aside from the elderly woman and one of the 2 old men behind him who were rank 2 gold grade alchemists, Kong Yan and the other old man were still rank 1 gold grade alchemists themselves.

The Elders of the 'Alchemists' Guild' chatted excitedly with Shun Long for more than an hour, as they attempted to get to know him. Shun Long also learned their names, and at the same time, he learned that there were 8 more gold grade alchemists in the 'Alchemists' Guild' aside from the 4 in front of him.

An hour later, under the reluctant gazes of Kong Yan and the 2 old men, Shun Long followed the elderly woman named Jin Wenling, to officially place his pills for sale in the 'Alchemists' Guild'.

Chapter 196 - 196 The peak powers of the Heaven's Dome city

As the white-haired Jin Wenling led the way, she explained to Shun Long about the powers in the Heaven's Dome city.

"Little brother Shun, there are 4 other peak powers in the Heaven's Dome city, aside from our 'Alchemists' Guild'.

Although our guild isn't afraid of any of them, you should still pay attention to them when you stroll around the city.

They are, the 'Mercenaries' Association', the 'Golden Exchange firm', the members of the Dark elf race, and the royal family of the Shengtian dynasty.

Of course, even though they are all peak powers as well inside the Heaven's Dome city, all of them have to at least give our 'Alchemists' Guild' some face."

Although Shun Long had heard Jin Wenling and the other 3 Elders earlier mention some of these 'strong powers' in passing, it was only now that he had started to get a clear picture of the strongest powers in the Heaven's Dome city.

Jin Wenling looked at Shun Long who seemed to be thinking of what she had just said, and with a smile on her face she then added

"Little brother Shun, although I don't know why I'm unable to sense your cultivation, but since you were able to pass the test and become a silver grade alchemist, you must be at least a rank 9 Spirit realm cultivator."

It seemed that Jin Wenling wasn't asking Shun Long, but she was just stating what was only normal to her, as she continued

"Since that's the case, I suggest that you take a look at a very interesting place near the western part of the Heaven's Dome city, called the House of Rankings.

It is a place where many young people go and spar with each other.

Although as alchemists we don't really have to care about our combat power since there will be people who will be willing to fight for us anyway, it is still a place that every young person in the Heaven's Dome city should check out.

It can also help you make some personal connections and meet the strongest and most influential people of your generation inside the city."

Shun Long hadn't expected to hear something like that from Jin Wenling. Nodding his head, he inwardly agreed to have a look at this House of Rankings. After all, although his cultivation had been growing at an insanely fast speed, his combat experience hadn't been honed at the same rate.

Aside from Cui Guoliang, the Dao King who had suppressed his own cultivation when he sparred with him, Shun Long hadn't met with anyone else who could give him such a good fight.

So the moment that he heard about the strongest young people in the Heaven's Dome city, a spark of excitement lit up inside him, curious to check out that place.

A few minutes later, under the shocked gazes of the alchemists around them, Shun Long and Jin Wenling walked in front of one of the many counters, where the 'Alchemists' Guild' sold its pills to the crowd.

The white-robed rank 2 bronze grade alchemist behind the counter immediately stood up and bowed, as he looked at Jin Wenling with a reverent look in his eyes. His voice was trembling slightly as he stared at the bigshot in front of him and asked reverently

"Grand Elder Jin, c-can I help you?"

Since Jin Wenling was a rank 2 gold grade alchemist, she was a Grand Elder of the 'Alchemists' Guild', in comparison to Kong Yan who was still an Elder.

Nodding her head, the white-haired Jin Wenling looked at Shun Long with a smile, her slightly wrinkled face looking like a kind elder who was looking at her junior, as she then said

"Show me your pills, and tell me how many of them do you wish to sell every month. I will verify everything personally."

It wasn't just the rank 2 bronze grade alchemist who was shocked when he heard that, even the people who were purchasing pills from the nearby counters, along with the alchemists who were responsible for their sales, were now staring at Shun Long with shocked eyes.

Who was Jin Wenling? She was a rank 2 gold grade alchemist, as well as a Grand Elder of the 'Alchemists' Guild'. To pay so much attention to this person... could it be that she wanted to take him as a disciple?"

Shun Long ignored the gazes of the people around him, and waving his hand, more than 20 pill bottles appeared on the counter in front of him.

The 20 pill bottles were filled with either rank 3 'Blood combustion pills' or with rank 4 'Sun-healing pills', with only one of them having rank 3 'anti-toxin pills' inside it

Jin Wenling had already inspected the pills earlier along with the other 3 Elders, so after taking a brief look at them, she looked at the white-robed alchemist in front of her and said

"Each of these rank 3 pill bottles will be sold for 100.000 low-grade spirit stones each. These pills can help increase the cultivation of Heaven grade cultivators, and as top-grade pills, there will be no pill toxins left inside the cultivator's body. Although the price can be considered expensive, these pills don't exist anywhere else, aside from our 'Alchemists' Guild'."

Shun Long had already discussed this with Jin Wenling. Although he could price the pill bottles at 300.000 spirit stones each, that would be far higher than the actual market value of the pills and would also hurt his image as an alchemist. Of course, at the start, there would surely be some alchemists or big families who would purchase the pills in hopes of finding out the pill recipe, just like the Silver sword clan did in the Silver sword city, but no Heaven grade cultivator would ever purchase them for themselves. Besides, these big families would only need to buy one pill bottle each.

As for the pill recipe, Shun Long wasn't afraid of people uncovering it by themselves. Even if he revealed that the 'Blood combustion pills' were made from rank 3 'Blood Vermillion fruits', the actual pill refinement process was derived by Shun Long himself, after using his knowledge of countless medicinal herbs.

Looking at the rank 4 'Sun-healing pills', Jin Wenling had a serious look on her face as she said "Each of these pill bottles filled with top-grade rank 4 'Sun-healing pills' will be sold for 160.000 low-grade spirit stones each. Although there is an abundance of healing pills, top-grade rank 4 pills made from 'Sunskirt grass', can even affect Nascent Soul stage cultivators."

The man behind the counter was shocked when he heard the terrifying prices that the Grand Elder was listing, but he still nodded his head as he recorded down everything.

However, after taking a look at the rank 3 'anti-toxin pills', Jin Wenling turned her head to look at Shun Long as she asked curiously

"Little brother Shun, are you certain that you want to sell rank 3 anti-toxin pills? Even though they are top-grade rank 3 pills, they still won't be sold for even 8.000 low-grade spirit stones."

Shun Long nodded his head, not minding the low price that the anti-toxin pills would fetch.

Nodding her head, Jin Wenling helped Shun Long set up the price for his pills.

After thanking Jin Wenling, Shun Long ignored the curious gazes from the crowd around him, as he walked back to the lobby, where Liu Mei was waiting for him along with the black panther.

Seeing Shun Long returning to the lobby, everyone who had seen him walk along with the 2 silver-grade alchemists earlier, had looks of respect in their eyes.

Liu Mei had a bright smile beneath her white veil as she looked at the man in front of her, as Shun Long then held her hand, and mounted on the black panther's back, as they then left the 'Alchemists Guild'.

Looking at the excited Shun Long in front of her, Liu Mei asked in a curious voice

"Long-ge, where are we going?"

However, just as Shun Long was about to respond to Liu Mei, he could feel an extremely powerful aura erupting inside the 'Stone of Time'. Shun Long was alarmed when he felt this aura, that seemed to be even stronger than the peak rank 5 'Silver-winged panther king's'.

Inside the space of the 'Stone of Time', a pair of blue eyes had suddenly opened.

Chapter 197 - 197 Little Black's advancement

Little Black who had been in slumber for months, finally opened his blue eyes, as a horrifying aura erupted from his body.

The black dragon let out a roar, that completely shocked Shun Long who had just sent his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time'.

Little Black was delighted when he saw Shun Long again, and with an excited tone he said

"Master!"

Shun Long smiled when he saw the black dragon finally waking up, but a shocked expression quickly filled his face, when he sensed Little Black's aura

"Peak of rank 5"

Before Little Black had fallen asleep, he was still at the peak of rank 4, but now, in just a few months, his cultivation had grown all the way to the peak of rank 5, the same level as the black panther.

Seeing the shocked expression on Shun Long's face, Little Black seemed to have instantly understood Shun Long's thoughts as he started explaining

"Master, I was also stunned. As soon as I started my breakthrough to rank 5, I could feel my soul touching upon some weird power inside me. It was probably because we dragons, are usually born above the 5th rank, so our soul doesn't need to go through the primary evolution that normal magic beasts have to experience.

I don't know how long I slept for, but I could feel that I was inside a very, very long dream, and as soon as I woke up, my strength had already reached the peak of rank 5"

After listening to everything that Little Black said, Shun Long was speechless for a moment.

The dragons were indeed kings among other magic beasts.

After taking a deep breath, Shun Long smiled at the black dragon in front of him, as he then started explaining everything that had happened in the last 4 months, ever since little Black had fallen asleep while they were inside the 'Vermilion realm'.

From defeating Cui Guoliang and listening to his request, as well as getting the black panther and getting together with Liu Mei... all the way to where he was just now.

Liu Mei was stunned when she saw Shun Long suddenly falling in a daze, and didn't know what she should do.

The black panther however, could sense that its master was still alright, as it continued towards the western part of the city.

At the same time that Shun Long was traveling towards the House of Rankings, in a large building at the east of the Heaven's Dome city, the spiky-haired rank 2 silver grade alchemist Yao Huang, was kneeling in front of a red-haired woman who seemed to be in her middle 30s.

Her oval-shaped face and her beautiful red-hair, along with her stunning body, gave people a feeling of indescribable allure. However, if one took a look at her cold red eyes, they would immediately feel shivers all over their body.

The woman looked at Yao Huang who was kneeling in front of her with an icy look as she heard his report.

Yao Huang had just rushed over from the 'Alchemists' Guild', to report that a very young rank 3 silver grade alchemist had appeared from the examination tests that he was responsible for.

Seeing that the woman in front of him wasn't speaking, Yao Huang knew that she was angry that he hadn't managed to rope in that young man to the Blood Moon sect.

The red-haired woman's hands were supporting her chin, as she stared at Yao Huang for 10 minutes without uttering a single word.

Every minute felt like a day to Yao Huang, who now had sweat dripping from his forehead, under the stifling atmosphere that had permeated the room.

The rank 2 silver grade alchemist felt that he couldn't take it anymore, and just as he was about to raise his head slightly, a cold, emotionless voice then sounded in his ears

"Yao Huang, you have been working for our Blood Moon sect for 5 years, and yet, you have only managed to bring useless trashes to me. Aside from a handful rank 1 silver grade alchemists, the rest were all bronze grade worms. I can forget about all your mistakes in the past... however, THE ONE TIME that a rank 3 silver grade alchemist appeared, you still failed to rope him in!

What use do you have to me any longer? What should I say when the other Elders ask me about your progress?

Should I tell them that within 5 years, you only brought a handful of rank 1 silver-grade alchemists?"

Yao Huang's face had an ugly look when he heard these words.

Although he hadn't worked as hard as he could for the Blood Moon sect, he also didn't want the 'Alchemists' Guild' to find out what he was doing.

However, he was still dissatisfied with the red-haired woman's behavior.

Taking a deep breath, his eyes stared at the woman in front of him, as he said with an aggrieved look

"Elder Zhong, I have done everything that I can so far. It's not easy to recruit a rank 3 silver grade alchemist from the 'Alchemist's Guild'. The higher-ups will immediately learn of it, and do everything that they can to keep such a person in the guild. Of course, if we approach this person secretly, then we may still have a chance!"

The red-haired woman didn't respond to Yao Huang, as she fell into deep thought.

At the same time, more than half an hour had passed while Shun Long and Liu Mei were touring through the western part of the city. Shun Long had just finished narrating the most important parts of the last months to the curious little Black, when the 'Silver-winged panther king' had arrived in front of a huge building that seemed to have been made from wood.

On top of the building, the 3 words 'House of Rankings' were plated in gold, and right above them were also the words 'Golden Exchange firm'.

Many young men and women could be seen coming and going from the building, while a huge board with 200 names was erected right in front of it.

Shun Long and Liu Mei walked towards the building, while the black panther attracted everyone's attention around them.

The moment that they stepped through the wooden gates, a whole new place unfolded itself in front of Shun Long's and Liu Mei's eyes.

A large, floating screen of light was suspended mid-air, showing the scenes of countless young men and women fighting with each other.

Chapter 198 - 198 House of Rankings

A large crowd of more than 1000 people had gathered in front of the screen of light, while a huge ranking board could be seen standing tall next to it.

There were 200 names on this ranking board, each of them with a number next to them, but these names were completely different than the ones that Shun Long and Liu Mei had seen before they entered the building.

Surprisingly, although some people noticed Shun Long and Liu Mei who seemed to have a peak rank 5 magic beast as their mount, no one seemed to bother too much with them, as they soon turned their attention back to the large screen in front of them.

Shun Long turned his eyes to the screen of light as well, where he saw numerous people fighting in many different landscapes.

At the start, he saw 2 young men fighting inside a lush forest, each of their attacks destroying numerous trees around them. The scene however, soon changed, showing a young man and a young woman both dressed in purple robes, teaming up against a young woman who was dressed in red, as she flew above a waterfall, trying to escape the people behind her.

Shun Long then stopped staring at the light screen in the air, as he turned his attention to the place around him.

The space inside the 'House of Rankings' was actually much bigger than it seemed on the outside.

Aside from the large screen of light that was right in the middle once someone entered inside, there were also many other smaller screens spread around the place.

There were also 3 large gates towards the back, where people entered and left continuously.

The first gate was the Challenge Gate.

The second was the Survival Gate.

The third was the Ranking Gate.

Shun Long however noticed, that most people were entering the Survival and the Challenge Gates, while no one was going through the gate in the middle, the Ranking Gate.

Seeing the many large and small counters around him, Shun Long then headed towards the large, 'Information counter', that was close to the entrance.

2 young women in their middle 20s were sitting behind the counter as they observed their surroundings.

One of the 2 women had short blue hair that reached up to her neck, along with a pair of green eyes, while the second woman had long black hair and a pair of brown eyes.

Shun Long also noticed the words 'House of Rankings' on the 2 women's robes.

The 2 women smiled professionally at Shun Long and Liu Mei who were walking towards them, before their eyes were suddenly focused on the black panther that was following behind them.

The blue-haired woman was the first to reign in her shock, and with that professional smile on her face, she looked at Shun Long and Liu Mei, as she asked curiously

"Welcome! Is this perhaps your first time entering the 'House of Rankings'?"

Shun Long wasn't surprised at the blue-haired woman's question. After all, only people who were unfamiliar with the place, would choose to head to the 'Information counter'.

Nodding his head, Shun Long confirmed this, as he then said

"Right, it's our first time here and we don't know much about this place."

The black-haired woman seemed to have just come to their senses, as her eyes curiously looked at the handsome young man in front of her, before she turned her attention to the veiled young woman.

Although she couldn't see Liu Mei's appearance, a tinge of envy filled her heart when she saw the young man next to her, as well as the black panther that was following behind them.

With a wide smile on her face, her eyes stared deeply at Shun Long, as she took the initiative to speak

"In that case, please allow me to explain!

As you may know, our 'House of Rankings' was created by the 'Golden Exchange firm'.

The aim of the House is to gather the strongest people who are below 1000 years old, and have them compete with each other for the glory of the strongest person in our 'Heaven's Dome city'. There have also been rumors of course, that there is something even more important than the glory of being the strongest, but these are all just rumors.

Anyway, everyone who registers themselves in the House of Rankings for the first time, will obtain a golden medallion, that is required to participate in the challenges of the House."

As the young woman finished speaking, she took out a golden medallion from her bosom, and showed it to Shun Long with a smile on her face.

Liu Mei's eyes didn't have a single change inside them, as she stared at the woman in front of her with an expressionless look beneath her white veil.

Shun Long however, was slightly surprised, to hear that the House of Rankings was created by the 'Golden Exchange firm'.

The blue-haired woman frowned inwardly as she looked at her colleague, who continued with her explanation as she pointed towards the 3 large gates behind Shun Long and Liu Mei

"As you can see, there are 3 large gates, each gate containing a different type of challenge, as well as different rules set by our House of Rankings.

To enter a gate, one must of course pay a fee of 3000 low-grade spirit stones to our House.

Out of the 3 gates, the first is the Challenge Gate. No matter what your ranking actually is, as long as you and your opponent agree, you can both fight with each other in the Challenge Gate.

Once a person wins in the Challenge Gate, they can then choose to obtain their opponent's ranking. Thus, the Challenge Gate is mostly used for personal challenges between the rankers.

The second, is the Survival Gate. This gate is much harder than the Challenge Gate. A group of 200 rankers will enter this Gate together, all of them having to fight against each other. Once you defeat an opponent inside the Survival Gate, you will have to use your Ranking medallion to obtain their survival points.

The time limit for the Survival Gate is 3 days. 3 days later, the people who have gathered the most survival points will rise in the rankings, depending on how strong the other rankers who were participating in the challenge were."

After taking a deep breath, the young woman looked at the third gate as she said in a very respectful tone

"As for the third one, the Ranking Gate, is a gate that can only be used from the top 300 in the rankings when they challenge each other. No one else below them is allowed to enter inside."

Shun Long nodded his head, as he seemed to have understood the general principles behind the House of Rankings.

"According to Jin Wenling, the strongest young people of the Heaven's Dome city, compete with each other in the House of Rankings. Even if the reason for the House's existence is to simply make money for the 'Golden Exchange firm', a few thousand low-grade spirit stones isn't much in the end. After all, even though my cultivation has been rising quickly, both mine and Mei'er's combat experience could be honed even more, and this place seems very suitable for this.

The only problem is... how strong are the rest of the people in the Heaven's Dome city. After all... Jin Wenling sent me here thinking that I have already reached the peak of rank 9 in the Spirit realm."

Shun Long then organized his thoughts, as he and Liu Mei both received a golden medallion, from the blue-haired woman in front of them.

Just as Shun Long had turned to look towards the light screen in the air however, and get a general understanding of the cultivation level, of those who were participating in the Survival challenge, the crowd started to buzz in excitement, as a large path had been opened, from the entrance of the House all the way to the Ranking Gate.

Everyone had turned their heads towards the entrance, only to see a stunning woman walking through the crowd.

Shun Long was also stunned when he saw the woman's appearance.

She had a dark-colored body, and a face that would probably not lose out to Liu Mei's by much. The woman had pointy ears however, and dark red hair, as well as a pair of supple blackish-red lips.

She was wearing a black-colored robe, that accentuated her body's figure.

"It really is miss Yi Mingzhu, the 3rd princess of the Dark elf race!"

"Sister Mingzhu really came! Could it be that she will really challenge Su Shanyuan today?"

Chapter 199 - 199 Ranking battle

"No way! Su Shanyuan is way above miss Mingzhu in the rankings!"

"Shut up! If miss Mingzhu dares to challenge Su Shanyuan, then she must definitely have enough confidence in beating him!"

Yi Mingzhu, the third princess of the Dark elf race, had plenty of supporters in the crowd. Especially the male cultivators, who all went crazy for her.

Everyone watched the beautiful red-haired woman with looks of reverence in their eyes, as she slowly walked towards the Ranking Gate.

Shun Long watched the woman of the Dark elf race, as she came to a halt in front of the Ranking Gate's entrance.

She then turned her attention towards the entrance of the House, as if she was expecting for someone to come.

Few people paid attention to the Survival Gate's challenge in the floating light screen any longer, as they all watched the entrance of the House of Rankings with excitement.

"I wonder if senior Su will really come!"

"Su Shanyuan will definitely come.... if he was challenged! Let alone that he would lose his ranking to Yi Mingzhu since he hasn't fought in the Ranking Gate this month, so he can't refuse the first challenge, why would he be afraid of Yi Mingzhu to begin with? Su Shanyuan is already ranked 147th, while Yi Mingzhu is almost at the bottom."

Once people heard this, they stopped asking whether Su Shanyuan would come or not anymore, as they all silently waited for his arrival.

Shun Long however wasn't looking at the entrance, as he examined the cultivation of the people around him.

More than half of the people inside the building, were actually cultivators at the rank 4 of the Spirit realm or higher.

Although Shun Long had absolute confidence of crushing cultivators at the same level as him, fighting against someone who was 6 minor realms higher in cultivation would be close to suicide.

After he looked at the people around him, he then sighed inwardly as he thought to himself

"Although Jin Wenling wanted to help me, the problem was that she assumed that I was a peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivator. As a peak rank 7 Heaven grade cultivator, how could I fight against these people. As for making connections, I will still have to wait until word of my pills spread. I should return to this place, once my cultivation had at least entered the Spirit realm. By then, I would probably be able to fight against, even early rank 4 Spirit realm cultivators."

After he made his decision, Shun Long didn't choose to leave the House of Rankings right away.

Since a fight between the top 300 looked like it was going to take place, it was a good opportunity to get a sense, of how strong the younger generation of the Heaven's Dome city really is.

Almost half an hour later, a handsome young man dressed in blue robes entered through the entrance of the House of Rankings, making the people around him immediately walk away even further away from him.

The man had long black hair that reached his back, as well as a white colored sword strapped on his waist.

His eyes were like the eyes of a hawk, as they stared at the people around him, almost as if he was a magic beast looking at his prey, while a black-colored badge with the word 'S' was pinned on his chest.

This man was actually an S-ranked mercenary in the 'Mercenaries' Association', which meant, that his cultivation had reached at least the early rank 1 in the Nascent Soul stage.

The man looked at Yi Mingzhu without a single change on his face.

Unlike the people around him, his eyes didn't hold the slightest trace of respect or l.u.s.t for the woman in front of him. Rather, it was like he was looking at a skeleton.

Yi Mingzhu looked at the blue-robed man who was walking towards her with a cold look in her eyes, as she then spoke in a frigid tone, almost as if she was ordering around a slave

"Su Shanyuan, come with me!"

The blue-robed Su Shanyuan ignored the Dark elf race princess, as he walked first towards the Ranking Gate.

The red-haired Yi Mingzhu harrumphed first, before she too entered inside the large gate.

As soon as the 2 high-level rankers had entered inside the Ranking Gate, the crowd exploded in excitement, as everyone started to gather around a large, floating screen of light.

The screen was pitch-black, not emitting any light at all, but it seemed that the people around it were already certain that it would soon light up.

Indeed, less than a minute later, the blue-robed Su Shanyuan, was standing opposite to Yi Mingzhu, in what seemed to be the hall of an ancient palace.

Yi Mingzhu looked at the man in front of her, before she waved her hand, as a pair of small blood-colored daggers appeared in front of her.

Seeing the daggers that were floating in the air, although Shun Long couldn't sense Yi Mingzhu's aura, he was certain that this woman had comprehended the 'Dao of Wind'!

Yi Mingzhu had a serious look in her eyes, as she coldly stared at the young man in front of her.

Looking at the young man and young woman who were facing off in the screen of light, some people in the crowd couldn't keep silent any more, as someone among the crowd asked curiously

"Do you know why Yi Mingzhu and senior Shanyuan are fighting with each other? I heard that they had a very good relationship."

A man next to him who heard this, then chuckled mockingly as he answered

"Good relationship? I heard that Su Shanyuan asked miss Mingzhu to marry him 1 month ago, during a banquet of the Dark elf race. Miss Mingzhu however declined, making Su Shanyuan furious. Su Shanyuan then called miss Mingzhu a s.l.u.t who was playing with his feelings. Angry, the 3rd princess then said that she would personally challenge Su Shanyuan one month later, and make him pay for his words."

The man who spoke just now, looked at the crowd around him with a proud look in his eyes, almost as if he was flaunting his knowledge.

When a young woman heard this, a look of confusion filled her eyes, and looking at the proud man who had spoken just now she asked

"But isn't miss Mingzhu's cultivation at the early rank 1 in the Nascent Soul stage? I have heard that Su Shanyuan has already broken through to the middle of rank 1 in the Nascent Soul stage long ago."

The proud young man who had spoken before nodded his head in response, but before he could speak, a sudden change had appeared in the screen of light in front of them.

Yi Mingzhu's flying daggers shot at Su Shanyuan at lightning speed.

The blue-robed Su Shanyuan instantly unsheathed his white sword, while a layer of frost quickly appeared on it. Su Shanyuan seemed as if he was infusing his qi inside his sword, before he hacked at the air 3 times in rapid succession.

A sudden blizzard appeared in the palace hall, as a hailstorm attacked Yi Mingzhu in response.

As Shun Long watched the fight, he understood, that both of these people had given up defending, almost as if they were daring the other person to step back first. However, it was obvious that the person who turned to defend first, would completely lose the momentum of their attack.

The 2 blood-colored daggers tore through the hailstorm, as they approached closer to Su Shanyuan, but at the same time, the hailstorm was also close to engulfing the dark elf princess.

The people in the crowd watched with bated breaths, as the hailstorm was the first to reach Yi Mingzhu.

A cold smile appeared on Su Shanyuan's face, as he saw the hailstorm completely swallowing Yi Mingzhu.

However, less than a breath of time later, one of the daggers had already arrived in front of Su Shanyuan.

The blue-robed man snorted at Yi Mingzhu's desperate struggle, as his sword easily parried the flying dagger, when a sense of danger suddenly filled his heart.

Su Shanyuan quickly tried to dodge to the side, but his speed simply wasn't far enough.

A spurt of blood painted the floor of the palace hall red, as the second blood-colored dagger had plunged itself on his back.

Su Shanyuan was furious while his feet had started to stumble, when Yi Mingzhu's voice resounded throughout the palace hall, as she said disappointed

"I quit."

Chapter 200 - 200 Gathering in the Heaven's Dome city

Pain and anger had colored Su Shanyuan's face, as he stared at the beautiful woman who was engulfed in his hailstorm.

Although he was reluctant, he still stopped the hailstorm in the end.

Since Yi Mingzhu had already given up, it was against the rules to continue attacking her, otherwise, he would be punished by the rules of the House of Rankings.

As the blizzard around Yi Mingzhu receded, the beautiful red-haired princess of the Dark elf race was now covered in a layer of frost.

And yet, it only took a wave of her hand, for the ice around her body to disperse.

Her purple eyes didn't seem to care about anything else, as she stared in disappointment at the young man in front of her.

Su Shanyuan was furious when he saw the disappointed look on Yi Mingzhu's face, as he then roared in his heart

"Bitch! Are you really disappointed that you didn't manage to kill me?"

And yet, Yi Mingzhu clearly understood, that since she had failed to kill Su Shanyuan with her second dagger, or at least seriously injure him, she wouldn't stand a chance against him with her early rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivation.

After all, she was more than familiar with Su Shanyuan's fighting style and knew his own strength and weaknesses, just as she did know her own.

Without a word, the red-haired princess of the dark elves turned around, as she left the Ranking Gate.

A moment later, she appeared in the hall of the House of Rankings, and soon the respectful gazes of the crowd, she slowly walked towards the entrance.

No one dared to mock her for giving up against Su Shanyuan.

After all, although she was the one who had issued the challenge, with her lower cultivation, she had still managed to injure the genius who was ranked in the top 150 of the House's rankings.

When Su Shanyuan appeared from the Ranking Gate, there was a gloomy look in his eyes, as he looked at the back of the woman who had refused to spare him a second glance.

Seeing that Yi Mingzhu was leaving, Su Shanyuan didn't choose to stay in this place either, allowing the people around him to breathe a sigh of relief.

Everyone then started discussing the ranking battle that had just taken place, when Shun Long decided to leave the House of Rankings as well.

Since he couldn't participate in the battles just yet, it was pointless for him to stay here any longer.

He and Liu Mei then both got on the black panther, as they left the House of Rankings.

After touring through the western part of the city, Shun Long and Liu Mei had arrived in front of a large inn, called the 'Golden Pig inn'.

It seemed that this inn also belonged to the 'Golden Exchange firm' as well.

Since they had been looking for an inn anyway, Shun Long paid 9000 low-grade spirit stones to rent a medium-sized courtyard for 3 months.

At the same time that Shun Long and Liu Mei had entered the room in their courtyard however, inside a palace situated at the northern part of the Heaven's Dome city, in a secluded room that no one dared to approach, an important discussion that involved the future of the entire Night Star continent was now taking place.

This was the palace of one of the peak powers in the Heaven's Dome city, the royal family of the Shengtian dynasty.

10 people were gathered around a large, circular table made of wood, as they solemnly stared at each other.

At the head of the table, an old man who had nearly no hair left on his head was sitting there with his eyes closed. However, although this old man looked like he was at the end of his life, the terrifying pressure that was coming from his body could scare senseless any ordinary Dao King.

This man was the previous king of the Shengtian dynasty, Sheng Jun.

On his right, a woman who seemed to be in her late 50s was seated, as she looked at everyone around her with a solemn look in her eyes. This woman was the previous queen of the Shengtian dynasty, Sheng Jun's wife, Qiao Lifan.

Aside from the 2 previous rulers of the Shengtian dynasty, 2 high-ranking members from each of the other 4 peak powers of the Heaven's Dome city, were also seated in front of this table.

2 old men dressed in the golden robes of the 'Alchemists' Guild', were also seated on the table, next to the old king of the Shengtian dynasty. Shun Long hadn't met these 2 old men in the 'Alchemists' guild' earlier, but he had already heard about them from Jin Wenling and the other Elders. These 2 were the only rank 3 gold grade alchemists in the 'Alchemists' Association'.

Next to these old men, were a pair of stunning women, in their early 40s.

The 2 women had dark skin and pointy ears, as well as blackish red hair. Their exquisite faces would draw attention everywhere they went, while their alluring, perfectly shaped bodies could invoke a man's deepest and darkest desires.

A middle-aged man and an old woman from the 'Mercenaries' Association' were also present, along with 2 men from the 'Golden Exchange firm'.

Everyone had a serious look in their eyes, as they all stared at the previous king of the Shengtian dynasty.

Sheng Jun opened his eyes, and a whole new world seemed to have opened along with them.

Looking at the people around him, the old man took a deep breath as he said with a serious look in his eyes

"We have less than 3 years left. I have already spoken to the other peak experts in our Night star continent, and I can tell you, that no one of them is confident.

Everything will depend on the younger generation of our Night star continent from now on. Find authorized novels in ,

The white lord will send his son to the Heaven's Dome city within the next 3 months, and the same goes for many other peak experts, who have decided to send their descendants here.

I have also heard, that the Martial star continent is doing something similar as well.

This is the only way for our Night star continent to survive against the Demon Emperor Palace!"