

Time 221

Chapter 221 - 221 Stirring up Hao Jingguo's den

Hao Jingguo and the other Elder Qing both frowned when they heard someone interrupting them.

Hao Jingguo didn't move from his position, and looking at the door he said in a cold voice

"Come in."

The young woman on top of him immediately struggled to break free and put on her clothes when she heard the door opening, but Hao Jingguo simply held her in place with an evil smile on his face, as he watched another person entering the room.

A flustered young man with a terrified expression then entered inside, but as soon as he opened the door, the first thing that he saw in his eyes was Elder Qing's bare ass.

The scene of 'Lord Hao' and 'Elder Qing' both sharing one girl was now etched in his brain, but neither Hao Jingguo nor Elder Qing seemed to be embarrassed being under the young man's gaze.

However, the young woman's face was now buried in Hao Jingguo's chest while even her ears and neck had turned red.

Hao Jingguo looked at the young man who had entered the room, and with an imposing tone he asked

"What's so urgent for you to hit my door like that?"

The young man quickly fell on his knees when he remembered the reason that he had entered the room, and looking at Elder Qing he suddenly felt his throat getting sore.

Both Hao Jingguo and Elder Qing could immediately sense that something was wrong, as Elder Qing turned around, and with a serious look he asked

"What's wrong? Just speak!"

The young man nodded his head, and after recollecting his thoughts he said

"It's Elder Qing Chen! He... is heavily injured, and his condition is very bad!"

"WHAT?"

The 2m(6.6ft) tall Elder Qing looked at the young man in front of him with a disbelieving look, while even Hao Jingguo's face changed when he heard this.

Taking a step forward, the n.a.k.e.d Elder Qing appeared in front of the young man, and lifting him from his neck he asked angrily

"Tell me! What happened to my brother? How many enemies are outside?"

The young man struggled to breathe as his arms grabbed tightly on Elder Qing's thick left arm that was choking his neck.

Elder Qing snorted, but in the end, he released his grip, allowing the young man in front of him to take a breather before he started explaining what had happened outside the villa.

Hao Jingguo and Elder Qing both turned to look at each other with a dark look on their faces when they heard what had happened.

If someone defeated Qing Chen with one move, then his strength was probably not much inferior to Hao Jingguo's own.

With a serious look, the n.a.k.e.d Hao Jingguo stood up, completely ignoring the young woman who was lying on top of him just now, and after placing on a piece of leather pants and a shirt on him, he looked at Elder Qing and said

"Qing Ren, let's go together."

Qing Ren nodded his head, and after putting on a piece of clothing that barely covered his lower body, he flew in the air as he and Hao Jingguo quickly appeared outside of the villa.

Hao Jingguo's subordinates started to cheer loudly once they saw their leader, but Qing Ren had a dark look on his face as he quickly arrived in front of his brother.

Seeing the large hole on his brother's chest, as well as his charred body that was barely breathing, Qing Ren understood that his brother's condition was much worse than the young man had described it.

Unless a miracle happened, even if Qing Chen survived, he was fated to live his life as a peak rank 1 Spirit realm cultivator from now on.

After taking a look around him, Qing Ren's eyes were soon focused on the young man in blue robes who was standing in the air, a few hundred meters away from him.

Shun Long looked at the middle-aged man who was staring at him with a murderous look in his eyes, when the man's aura suddenly burst out from his body

"Middle rank 2 Spirit realm expert!"

Seeing that there a change in Shun Long's expression even after he had released his aura, Qing Ren soared in the air, and looking at Hao Jingguo he said in a voice full of hatred

"Brother Hao! Qing Chen's future is destroyed! Even if he lives, this brat has already ruined any hope Qing Chen had to reach the middle-stages of the Spirit realm in the future."

Hao Jingguo's eyes narrowed as he looked at Shun Long, and nodding his head, he soared in the air as well, standing next to Qing Ren.

Facing against Shun Long, Hao Jingguo unleashed his aura at the middle of rank 3 in the Spirit realm, before he took out a pair of white daggers from his spatial ring.

Staring at Shun Long who was calmly floating in the sky, Hao Jingguo had a murderous look deep in his eyes as he thought to himself

"It looks like I need to send a serious message to the 'Mercenaries' Association' this time. After all, I can't afford to lose the Qing brothers' help."

Qing Ren nodded his head when he saw Hao Jingguo ready to go all out, as he took out a silver-colored sword from his spatial ring as well.

The moment that Hao Jingguo's subordinates saw the 2 white daggers appearing, they jeered mockingly as they looked at Shun Long who was standing in the air nonchalantly

"Ignorant brat, Boss Hao is just a step away from the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm while his daggers are a pair of rank 2 silver grade weapons. Unless you are actually a middle-stage Spirit realm cultivator, Boss Hao will make you pay for hurting Elder Qing!"

Shun Long ignored the jeers from the crowd, as his attention was focused on the 2 middle-aged men in front of him.

Hao Jingguo and Elder Qing didn't delay, as they both flew towards Shun Long at full speed.

Shun Long's eyes were instantly focused once he saw the 2 Spirit realm experts flying towards him.

After all, although he was confident in fighting against Hao Jingguo, he wouldn't take 2 Spirit realm experts lightly.

The invisible figure of an hourglass expanded from his body, as Shun Long activated the 'Monarch's Domain', slowing down Hao Jingguo's and Elder Qing's speed by almost 20 percent.

Then, with a slight smile on his face, he thought to himself

"Ever since advancing to the Heaven grade, I didn't have time to actually test this move."

Shun Long's golden eyes then focused on the 2m(6.6ft) tall Elder Qing, as he silently mumbled 2 words

"Time... Prison!"

Chapter 222 - 222 Shun Long's Time Prison

Shun Long had already comprehended the principles behind the 'Time Prison', during the last parts of his fight with Cui Guoliang.

The moment that he activated this move, his golden eyes shone with a bright blue light while more than 40% of his qi was drained at once.

However, the moment that Shun Long's eyes shone with a blue light, the middle rank 2 Spirit realm Qing Ren's movements were instantly halted.

Shun Long knew that this move which required an enormous amount of his qi, could place even someone who was in a slightly higher realm than him, in a temporary prison that sealed time completely.

Because of the difference in cultivation between himself and Qing Ren however, Shun Long estimated that he could barely affect the middle-aged man for 2 breaths of time at most.

However, these 2 breaths of time were more than sufficient for Shun Long.

Hao Jingguo seemed to have instantly sensed that something was wrong, as he turned his head around and saw that Qing Ren had completely stopped in mid-air.

The scene in front of him was extremely bizarre, since there were no qi fluctuations coming from Qing Ren's body either. However, the most shocking thing was, that even the circulation of Qing Ren's qi had somehow stopped.

At the same time, Shun Long slashed the air in front of him with his right hand, opening a small space tear.

His finger then entered inside the space tear, and thrusting forward, it seemed to have pierced through something soft.

A warm liquid poured over Shun Long's hand before he retracted his finger and closed the space tear in front of him.

2 breaths of time had passed as the 'Time Prison' then stopped detaining Elder Qing Ren's body.

The 2m(6.6ft) tall man didn't understand why, but he could feel a sudden pain in his chest, as he hurriedly clutched his chest with his left hand.

A warm liquid welled up in his throat before he spat out a mouthful of blood.

With his heart now pierced, Qing Ren couldn't even keep circulating his qi, as his body started falling uncontrollably.

Hao Jingguo's eyes widened before he turned around and tried to support the middle-aged man behind him, but Qing Ren's strength seemed to be quickly leaving his body.

Hao Jingguo took a bottle of pills from his spatial ring and fed them to Qing Ren, but in the end, they didn't seem to alleviate his pain or improve his situation in the slightest.

With every passing second, Qing Ren was losing more and more blood from his heart, while the look on his face was that of uncontrollable fear as he stared at Shun Long.

After all, dying wasn't that scary. What was scary was not even knowing how you died.

The middle rank 2 Spirit realm expert hadn't even seen the man in front of him moving, and yet, he still felt an intense pain in his heart.

Closing his eyes, Qing Ren scanned his body with his spirit sense, only to see that there was a hole in his heart where his blood was unceasingly pouring out from.

However, an injury to his heart was almost as bad as an injury to the brain. There was practically no way to heal it with normal means.

The only ways that Qing Ren knew of, would be for a high-level body refining cultivator to use enormous amounts of energy, or for normal qi refining cultivators to use rare top-grade healing pills that could heal such injuries.

Hao Jingguo had a cold look on his face after seeing that Qing Ren's situation was only getting worse, as he stopped supporting him with his hands, letting him fall from the sky, only to be caught by the subordinates that were waiting on the ground below him.

Killing intent was oozing from Hao Jingguo's body as he looked at Shun Long, and with an unconcealed murderous look, he said

"Brat, since you have crippled both of my Elders, don't expect to leave here alive! I will personally cut off your head before I send it to the 'Mercenaries' Association'."

At the same time, Liu Mei who was watching this scene from the forest a mile away from the villa had an anxious expression on her face when she saw that Shun Long was ready to fight with the middle rank 3 Spirit realm expert!

Shun Long however wasn't the least bit afraid of Hao Jingguo. After all, the reason that he had accepted this mission in the first place, was to pressure himself and fight against stronger opponents.

Although it was dangerous to fight against a middle rank 3 Spirit realm expert as an early rank 9 Heaven grade cultivator, this was still the best way to make himself even more accustomed to his current strength.

Raising his right hand, Shun Long gathered his qi in his finger, before sparks of lightning started to appear on it.

The moment that Hao Jingguo's subordinates saw the lightning that was gathering in Shun Long's right hand, they hurriedly shouted to warn Hao Jingguo before they all rose to the sky, surrounding Shun Long from all sides.

"Lord Hao, be careful!"

"Boss, watch out! This brat used this move to take out Elder Qing Chen!"

Since these people had already dealt with Liu Mei's undead army, there was no reason or excuse for them to keep watching the fight from the sidelines.

Hao Jingguo could also feel a sense of danger coming from Shun Long's finger, as his qi started to gather around his body.

BOOOM!

The sound of thunder booming resounded in the sky, as a bolt of lightning once again appeared from the tip of Shun Long's finger, heading towards Hao Jingguo at extreme speed.

Shun Long's eyes saw the bolt of thunder flying through the air extremely quickly, but before it could actually hit the rank 3 Spirit realm expert's body, a layer of earth armor appeared around Hao Jingguo.

BOOOOM!

The moment that his 'Thunderbolt finger' met with Hao Jingguo's earth armor, a booming sound was heard through the air, while small parts of the earth armor were immediately ground to dust.

And yet, the bolt of thunder was actually dispersed in the air before it could successfully break through Hao Jingguo's defenses.

After taking head-on Shun Long's attack, the middle rank 3 Spirit realm expert was still standing in the air, holding his 2 white daggers in his hands as he stared at Shun Long with a mocking smile on his face.

Chapter 223 - 223 Fighting Hao Jingguo

"Hahaha! Lord Hao is invincible!"

"Of course! Who do you think that our boss is? Could any random brat actually pose a danger to boss?"

"Surround him, don't let him leave! Who knows what kind of evil trick this brat used to harm the Elder Qing Chen and Elder Qing Ren?!"

Seeing that Hao Jingguo was unharmed after taking on Shun Long's Thunderbolt finger, his subordinates exploded in excitement, and with newfound confidence, they slowly approached closer to Shun Long, surrounding him and cutting off all paths of retreat.

Shun Long smiled inwardly when he saw Hao Jingguo's subordinates entering the 'Monarch's Domain's' radius, while Little Black laughed mockingly inside the 'Stone of Time'

"Idiots! The last thing that master is afraid of, is small fries ganging up on him."

Indeed, the moment that they entered inside the 'Monarch's Domain', Hao Jingguo's subordinates immediately went still.

Inside the 'Monarch's Domain', Shun Long was the absolute king!

Although he couldn't stop time against stronger opponents like Qing Ren and Hao Jingguo who were already at the Spirit realm, against cultivators who were merely at the Heaven grade, none of them could even think of standing against him inside the 'Monarch's Domain'.

Hao Jingguo looked at his subordinates around him who had suddenly stopped moving all at the same time, with eyes that were filled with disbelief.

A trace of fear flashed through the pupils of his eyes as he looked at Shun Long and unconsciously, he took a step backwards.

Originally, he had thought that even if that bolt of thunder wasn't Shun Long's strongest move, it couldn't be too far off from that.

But now, the same bizarre thing that had happened to Elder Qing Ren was also happening to more than 30 Heaven grade cultivators at the same time.

If the same thing had happened to him, wouldn't he be at the mercy of this brat in front of him?

"What kind of terrifying Dao is this?"

Hao Jingguo thought to himself before he slowly sighed in relief.

No matter what, there seemed to be some limitations to this move, otherwise Shun Long would have also trapped him along with his subordinates.

After taking a deep breath to calm himself down, the rank 3 Spirit realm expert lowered his head to look at his own earth armor on his chest, which was actually slightly damaged from the thunderbolt earlier, and using his qi, he quickly repaired the broken parts, as new pieces of earth seemed to have appeared out of nowhere, covering the small hole near his chest.

Then, holding his 2 white daggers, Hao Jingguo shot towards Shun Long with a serious look in his eyes.

Shun Long's golden eyes shone brightly, as a new scene appeared in his mind.

Hao Jingguo quickly arrived in front of him, and waving his 2 daggers, he attacked Shun Long's vital spots.

The chest near his heart, the eyes, the temple of the head... a barrage of chain attacks assaulted Shun Long without stop, but under Hao Jingguo's horrified eyes, the young man in front of him either dodged or parried his attacks using the plain-looking wooden staff in his hands.

Shun Long however, could feel a numbness in his hands as he parried Hao Jingguo's attacks. After all, although he wasn't a body refiner, as a middle rank 3 Spirit realm expert, Hao Jingguo's attacks that were infused with his rank 3 Spirit realm qi easily overpowered Shun Long every time they clashed with each other.

Even after using a rank 1 gold grade weapon and the Mystic high-grade 'Staff of Obliteration', Shun Long could only fend off Hao Jingguo's attacks, and was unable to overpower him no matter what.

However, Hao Jingguo was also shocked.

Originally, he had thought that Shun Long was hiding his real cultivation level, but after fighting with him for so long, he clearly understood that the young man in front of him was still at the early rank 9 in Heaven grade.

"How is this possible?"

The rank 3 Spirit realm expert's attacks increased in intensity, but Shun Long still managed to hang on.

Although Shun Long felt discomfort every time he clashed with Hao Jingguo, since he was making use of both his early rank 9 Heaven grade cultivation as well as the middle of the third stage of the 'Monarch's Eternal body', the pressure from fighting against a rank 3 Spirit realm expert was the best way for him to bring himself to his limits.

Shun Long was practically forcing his qi balls inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass' to provide him with even more qi, slowly pushing his strength to its limits.

More than 2 hours passed like this, while the calm expression had long since vanished from Hao Jingguo's face.

No matter whether he tried to overpower the blue-robed young man in front of him with his middle rank 3 Spirit realm cultivation or what martial skill he had used, Shun Long would always dodge or defend, as if he had already foreseen his moves.

Even his most prized rank 2 silver grade daggers, were unable to cut through the wooden staff in his hands.

Of course, Shun Long didn't think for a minute that the 'Purple Blossom staff' could be damaged by Hao Jingguo's white daggers.

Hao Jingguo however wasn't dumb.

As a rank 3 Spirit realm expert, even if he hadn't recognized that Shun Long's wooden staff was a high-level weapon earlier due to its normal appearance, after enduring so many hits from his daggers without suffering a single scratch, it was obvious that its quality was at least as good if not better than his own weapons, as greed quickly filled his eyes.

"A rank 3 silver grade weapon?!"

A confused look flashed through his eyes after thinking about it a bit more, when an expression of disbelief soon colored his face as a different thought was suddenly etched in the infamous criminal's mind.

"That's not right! Even a rank 3 silver grade weapon can't endure so many attacks without getting a single scratch! Could it be a gold...?"

The moment that this thought had filled Hao Jingguo's mind, his attacks increased in ferocity, while his 2 white daggers started to grow with a deep brown light.

Suddenly, from the earth below them, 2 large vines more than 2m(78inches) thick had appeared, and almost as if they were being guided by the 2 white daggers, they tried to entrap Shun Long.

Seeing that Hao Jingguo was no longer holding back, Shun Long's eyes lit up as a blue-colored light suddenly covered his body.

With the second 'Monarch's Domain', his speed instantly increased by more than 10 times, making even the rank 3 Spirit realm expert having trouble to keep up.

Shun Long's eyes lit up, and after dodging the 2 vines attacks he quickly appeared in front of Hao Jingguo.

Raising the 'Purple Blossom staff', he struck sideways at the burly middle-aged man in front of him.

This was the first move of the 'Staff of Obliteration'.

Hao Jingguo quickly raised his 2 daggers in defense when he felt the danger that the 'Purple Blossom staff' was giving off, but he had failed to predict where the staff would actually land, as Shun Long's attack connected with his earth armor.

Pieces of earth were instantly broken as soon as they felt the might of the 'Purple Blossom staff', completely destroying the earth armor.

Breaking through the earth armor the staff squarely hit Hao Jingguo's lower ribs, forcing the rank 3 Spirit realm expert to take more than 6 steps back until he stabilized himself.

After the 'Purple Blossom staff' had broken through the layers of his earth armor, it had lost more than 90 percent of its full strength in the process, otherwise, even his bones wouldn't have been spared.

Seeing Shun Long who was raising his staff in the air once again, Hao Jingguo had a murderous look on his face as he suddenly surrounded himself with his own vines.

"Brat, since I can't keep up with your speed, then I won't fight you head-on. I will simply wait until your qi runs out before I destroy you.

I don't believe that raising your speed like that doesn't have some kind of limitation!"

Hao Jingguo thought to himself as he surrounded himself with the thick vines.

The vines that were created by a 'Mystic low-grade' martial skill and were infused with his middle rank 3 Spirit realm qi were more than sufficient to protect him against a rank 9 Heaven grade cultivator's attacks, no matter how much of a monster that person is.

And indeed, Hao Jingguo's thoughts were correct.

Shun Long's second 'Monarch's Domain' was draining his qi alarmingly fast.

He wouldn't be able to keep this up for much longer.

Shun Long didn't speak, once he saw Hao Jingguo hiding himself behind his vines, while the look on his face was that of unprecedented seriousness.

He could feel his concentration rising to its peak, as his right hand was holding tightly on the 'Purple Blossom staff'.

Then, Shun Long muttered one single word, as he suddenly appeared in front of Hao Jingguo 'Blink'

Chapter 224 - 224 Killing a rank 3 Spirit realm cultivator

His body then disappeared from the spot he was standing on, and under Hao Jingguo's horrified eyes, Shun Long instantly appeared in front of him, behind the wall of the large vines.

Raising the 'Purple Blossom staff' in the air, Shun Long swung it down diagonally, aiming towards the middle rank 3 Spirit realm expert's head!

This was the second move from the 'Staff of Obliteration'!

Hao Jingguo quickly understood, that he didn't have enough time to raise his hands and defend against Shun Long's staff with his daggers.

He knew that Shun Long's speed was much faster than his, and the only thing that he could do now was to bet everything on his cultivation.

Hao Jingguo's qi was quickly gathered around his head, creating many layers of defense and raising the power of his earth armor by many folds.

The destructive power of the staff soon met Hao Jingguo's full-powered earth armor.

Shun Long felt the 'Purple Blossom staff' nearly leaving his hand once it met Hao Jingguo's earth armor whose defense had been amplified by many times, but gritting his teeth, he continued bringing it downwards, destroying layers after layers of the earth armor in the process.

However, even with the second move of the 'Staff of Obliteration', once the last layer of earth armor was destroyed, the destructive power of the purple staff was also worn away, as the 'Purple Blossom staff' barely touched Hao Jingguo's head in the end, like a piece of wood giving him a small push.

And yet, Hao Jingguo didn't even have enough time to laugh, as Shun Long gritted his teeth and drew the staff backwards, holding it like a spear!

Terror filled the middle-rank 3 Spirit realm expert's eyes once he saw Shun Long ready to attack him again.

Hao Jingguo quickly raised his daggers in the air to defend against Shun Long's attack, when the 'Purple Blossom staff' suddenly shot forward.

This was the third of the six moves from the 'Staff of Obliteration', a single thrust forward!

Shun Long's right hand extended forward, using the staff like a spear, as it collided against the 2 white daggers.

Without having enough time to infuse his qi inside them, Hao Jingguo's daggers couldn't defend against the third move from the 'Staff of Obliteration', as they were sent flying from his hands, while the 'Purple Blossom staff' continued forward.

The last layer of earth armor that had just been reformed on Hao Jingguo's head was instantly crushed like a piece of dry wood, as the 'Purple Blossom staff' hit the rank 3 Spirit realm expert's head.

For the first time, Hao Jingguo felt fear, as the 'Purple Blossom staff' hit his head, exploding it like a watermelon, as blood spurted through the air.

The headless corpse of the middle rank 3 Spirit realm expert then started falling towards the ground.

Shun Long panted heavily for a few breaths of time as he watched Hao Jingguo's corpse falling from the sky, while less than 10 percent of his qi was now left in his body.

Then, looking around him, Shun Long saw Hao Jingguo's subordinates that were stopped in mid-air still under the effects of the 'Monarch's Domain', and waving the 'Purple Blossom staff', he took care of them before his body descended on the ground.

Shun Long didn't choose to spare Hao Jingguo's subordinates.

After all, as late-stage Heaven grade experts, they weren't innocent once they chose to follow Hao Jingguo.

From killing fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters, and killing entire families, to raping and pillaging villages and small cities, they all participated as they followed Hao Jingguo.

Although Shun Long didn't consider himself to be a hero, he also had no reason to let these people live anyway, since they were his enemies.

Liu Mei had a disbelieving expression on her face, while her mind was still processing the scene that she just saw.

An expert practically at the same level as her father, along with his entire 'sect', had lost when fighting against Shun Long.

It wasn't against Little Black or the black panther, but against Shun Long fighting by himself.

Then... did that mean that Shun Long was also strong enough to take on the entire 'Floating cloud sect' by himself as well?

This thought seemed unbelievable to Liu Mei, and yet, it seemed to not be too far off from the truth.

After taking a deep breath to calm herself down, Liu Mei left the forest and walked towards Shun Long who was sitting cross-legged on the ground to recover his qi.

When she arrived in front of Shun Long, Liu Mei lowered her head as she said in a slightly ashamed tone

"Long-ge... It seems that my skeletons were unable to help you..."

Once Liu Mei remembered the scene of her skeletons and her 3 undead knights, all being destroyed in the blink of an eye against Hao Jingguo's subordinates, she couldn't help feeling a wave of sadness filling her heart.

After all, even after becoming a necromancer, she couldn't help Shun Long in his fight.

Shun Long however shook his head in response, and with a smile on his face he stood up, as he gently patted Liu Mei's head and said

"There is no reason for you to feel sad. After all, it's impossible for your peak rank 5 Heaven grade skeletons, to fight against 30 late-stage Heaven grade cultivators by themselves."

Raising her head, Liu Mei's beautiful eyes stared at Shun Long's, as she nodded and mumbled "Mhm!"

Shun Long smiled lightly when he saw the look in her eyes that was filled with determination, before he then summoned the black panther from the 'Stone of Time'.

After collecting the spatial rings from Hao Jingguo's and the rest's dead bodies, Shun Long had gotten more than 600.000 low-grade spirit stones, before he and Liu Mei got on the black panther's back as they headed back to the 'Heaven's Dome city'.

More than 1 month had passed since the completion of Hao Jingguo's mission, as Shun Long and Liu Mei returned back to the Heaven's Dome city.

However, compared to the past, the 'Heaven's Dome city' today was even more lively, while even more people were gathered around the city gates.

Chapter 225 - 225 Zhao Lan

In the past one month, Shun Long and Liu Mei had finished almost 10 missions from the 'Mercenaries' Association' outside of the Heaven's Dome city.

Most of them proved to be relatively easier missions, but there was one of them that was at the same level of difficulty as Hao Jingguo's den.

During this time, Shun Long had already reached the peak of rank 9 in Heaven grade, and had also finished purifying all of his qi balls, while Liu Mei had also reached the peak of rank 8 in Heaven grade.

Liu Mei also noticed that as her cultivation was increasing, the cultivation of her undead creatures was rising along with her.

Her skeletons were all at the middle or rank 8 in Heaven grade, while the undead knights were at the peak of rank 8.

However, Liu Mei's biggest surprise wasn't the increase in her cultivation or the increase in her battle strength, but her comprehension in the Dao of Death.

She noticed that the more cultivators her undead army killed, her comprehension of the Dao of Death would rise accordingly.

Entering inside the Heaven's Dome city on the black panther's back, Shun Long and Liu Mei noticed, that the atmosphere was completely different.

People had crowded the southern entrance of the city, all of them eagerly staring at the city gates with eyes filled with excitement.

Although Shun Long was curious at what was going on, in the end, he ignored the large crowd, as he and Liu Mei soon appeared outside of the 'Alchemists' Guild'.

After putting on his rank 3 silver grade badge on his chest, Shun Long and Liu Mei then entered inside the majestic building.

As always, the lobby of the 'Alchemists' Guild' was filled with people who were either looking to purchase pills, or hire alchemists to refine some special pills for them.

Since non-alchemists weren't allowed to enter the depths of the guild, Liu Mei waited with the black panther in the guild's lobby, while Shun Long walked deeper inside.

After walking through a large corridor, Shun Long once again saw the 6 black-armored guards who were standing in front of the huge white door that he had passed through the last time.

The 6 Nascent Soul realm guards didn't stop Shun Long, once they saw the 3-starred silver-colored badge on his chest, and retracting their pressure, they opened the 10m(33ft) tall white door behind them, allowing him to enter inside.

The moment that Shun Long entered inside the white door, he could feel half a dozen pairs of eyes that had suddenly focused on him, while the medicinal garden that spanned for more than 10 miles once again appeared in front of his eyes.

"HAHAHA! Little brother Shun, welcome!"

Laughter resounded in the air, as a golden-robed middle-aged man with a square jaw quickly appeared in front of Shun Long.

Shun Long smiled and cupped his hands at the middle-aged man in front of him, as he said

"Senior Kong Yan"

Following Kong Yan, 5 other people in golden robes appeared around Shun Long, when the voice of an elderly man sounded in the air, as he asked

"Wenling, is this the alchemist that you were talking about?"

Looking at the source of the voice, Shun Long saw an old man in golden robes, with a cauldron-shaped badge that had 3 golden stars on it.

This old man who barely had any hair left on his head, stared at Shun Long with his deep brown eyes that had hints of interest and curiosity inside them.

At the same time that Shun Long's gaze met this old man's, Little Black's voice sounded in his head, as the black dragon said cautiously

"Master, this person is strong! Just from the power of his soul sense, I can tell that it's very likely, that he is already at the peak of rank 9 in the Dao King realm, or at least very close to reaching this level.

The elderly woman next to the old man nodded her head, and looking at Shun Long she said with a smile on her face

"Elder brother Zhao, you are right. He is one of the young alchemists that I was talking about.

Little brother Shun, it's been more than a month since you have come to the guild.

Let me introduce you.

This person is one of the two rank 3 gold grade alchemists of our 'Alchemists' Guild', senior Zhao Lan."

Zhao Lan nodded his head with what seemed to be a gentle smile on his face, as he stared at the young man in front of him.

But just like how Zhao Lan had heard about Shun Long, Jin Wenling and Kong Yan had also told Shun Long about the 2 strongest alchemists of the 'Alchemists' Guild', and one of them was precisely Zhao Lan.

"Little kid, I heard that Wenling looks very favorably upon you. Join us old men for a chat. After all, what we are discussing will certainly affect you as well."

Shun Long cupped his hands at the old man in front of him, as he followed him to the middle of the herb garden.

Sitting on one of the seats in front of the large wooden table, Shun Long saw Zhao Lan looking at him with a serious look on his face as he said

"Little kid, what you are about to hear today is something that only the major powers of our Night star continent know of. You are only allowed to learn about this because Wenling said that you are a promising alchemist of our guild and that you have hopes of reaching the gold grade.

If it was another rank 3 silver grade alchemist, they wouldn't even have the chance to sit with us, let alone learn what I am about to say."

Shun Long looked at the old man in front of him, who took a deep breath as he continued

"In the past month, more and more young people from all over the Night star continent have been coming to our Heaven's Dome city, and they are all coming for the same reason!

The Holy sect."

Chapter 226 - 226 The central region

Shun Long had a confused look on his face when he heard the name 'Holy sect', but Zhao Lan seemed as if he had already expected this, as he continued

"It's normal to have never heard about the Holy sect as a native of the Night star continent. That's because the sect isn't located in our continent to begin with.

It is actually one of the first-rate forces in the biggest region of our world, the central region!"

Shun Long was stunned when he saw the passionate look in Zhao Lan's eyes, that was full of yearning as he spoke about the Holy sect and the central region.

These were 2 names that he had never heard of before.

However, Shun Long also noticed that it wasn't just Zhao Lan who had such a look in his eyes. The other gold grade alchemists around him had a similar look when they heard the old man's words.

Seeing that Shun Long didn't have a change in his expression when he heard about the central region, the old woman Jin Wenling smiled, and looking at Zhao Lan she said

"Elder brother Zhao, little brother Shun probably doesn't know anything about the world outside of our Night star continent. However, if he is lucky, then perhaps he can prove to be of help to our guild in the future as well."

Seeing the old man next to her nod his head, Jin Wenling had that same smile on her face, as she looked at Shun Long and said

"Little brother Shun, right now we are in the Night star continent of the eastern region.

The eastern region covers a gigantic amount of land, while our Night star continent is actually only 1 of the 3 continents in it.

The other 2 are the Martial star continent and the Sun star continent, each of whom are as big as our Night star continent itself.

The 3 continents together make up more than 90 percent of the eastern region's land."

After taking a deep breath, Jin Wenling continued with a serious look in her eyes

"However, the truth is, that the eastern region is only a single part of our cultivation world in the end.

There is also the southern region that is split into 4 continents, the western region that is split into 2 continents, and the northern region that is split into 5 continents.

The western and the southern regions are said to be as big as our eastern region itself, while the northern region is even larger.

And yet, all of the continents in the different regions, including our Night star continent, simply surround the biggest region that is standing proudly at the center of the world... the central region!

That is the place where the strongest experts of the world gather and settle down, as well as the place that governs all of the continents in the world, including our Night star continent!"

Seeing the serious look on Jin Wenling's face, Shun Long decided to ask her

"Governs the continents?"

Jin Wenling along with everyone else inside the room, including Zhao Lan, nodded their heads, as the elderly woman then spoke with a look that was filled with eagerness and veneration

"Actually, it is said that even if you combined the eastern region, the southern region, the western region and the northern region together, the total land that they cover doesn't even amount to 10 percent of the land that the central region occupies.

This means that the central region by itself is almost 10 times bigger than the rest of the world combined!

As for the strong powers of the central region, they indeed govern the continents around it, including our Night star continent.

Every single continent must have at least one Dao Emperor realm expert governing it and protecting it at the same time.

Otherwise, if there is no Dao Emperor realm expert governing a continent, other continents may start a war over resources or land.

Of course, each of these Dao Emperor realm experts, usually belong to the strong powers of the central region, making the central region the true overlord of the world.

Even our 'Alchemists' Guilds' that have been spread throughout every single continent in the eastern region, were created and governed by the powerful Feng family of the central region."

After hearing Jin Wenling's words, Shun Long seemed as if he had fallen in a trance, as he tried to sort all of the new knowledge that his mind had absorbed

"Indeed, the stronger a power is, the more things you can learn from them!

There seem to be so many things going on behind the scenes!

Everyone considers the 'Alchemists' Guild' to be a supreme power in the Night star continent and yet, Jin Wenling said that they were created and governed by a single family from the central region.

So the overlord of the world is the central region, where the supreme experts all gather!?"

Shun Long seemed to have gathered his thoughts, and sending his spiritual strength inside the 'Stone of Time', he then asked the black dragon

"Little Black, is the realm above the Dao King, the Dao Emperor realm?"

The black dragon nodded his head when he heard his master's question, as he then sent a telepathic message to Shun Long

"Right master. When someone exceeds the Dao King realm they become Dao Emperors!

According to that old woman's words, the Night star continent should have a Dao Emperor realm governing it, but the qi in this continent isn't pure enough for Dao Emperor realm experts to be born. Aside from master who has the 'Heaven swallowing vine', the highest realm of cultivation that someone should normally be able to reach in this continent, is the peak of rank 9 in the Dao King realm."

Shun Long felt shock at Little Black's revelation, but he still nodded his head in response.

However, after thinking back to Jin Wenling's previous words, he noticed that they still didn't seem to have covered everything that he needed to know.

She hadn't said anything about the Holy sect that was mentioned earlier, nor anything regarding the help that the 'Alchemists' Guild' wanted from him.

Zhao Lan seemed to have understood what Shun Long was thinking, and with a serious look on his face he said

"You don't need to understand everything that Wenling said. All you need to do is know one thing.

Our 'Alchemists' Guild' will offer you a one in a lifetime chance to enter the Holy sect!"

Chapter 227 - 227 Zhao Lan's offer

Everyone turned their eyes at Zhao Lan, who in turn, was still staring at Shun Long as he continued speaking

"First, let me explain some things about the Holy sect. Then, whether or not you choose to grasp this chance will be up to you.

Of course, when I mentioned you entering the Holy sect, I didn't mean you entering by yourself. After all, no matter how talented you think you are, in front of the geniuses of the Holy sect you are even less than an ant."

When he finished speaking, a curious expression flashed through Zhao Lan's eyes, as he noticed that he couldn't verify Shun Long's actual cultivation level, before his soul sense suddenly covered Shun Long's body.

The moment that Little Black saw this happening, his eyes inside the 'Stone of Time' were filled with fury, while a shocked expression had covered Zhao Lan's face.

The gold grade alchemists around him turned to look at the old man in astonishment. They hadn't seen such a shocked expression on his face for a long time, but Zhao Lan instead stared at Shun Long before he asked in a voice filled with curiosity and shock

"Kid, why can't I sense your cultivation?"

The moment that the other alchemists heard this, everyone including Jin Wenling sent their soul senses to scan Shun Long's body, but they all got the same result.

It seemed as if Shun Long was a mere mortal.

Everyone's eyes turned to look at Shun Long, knowing that it was impossible for this to happen.

Even Jin Wenling seemed to have realized, that she had forgotten to ask Shun Long about his cultivation the last time he was here. However, unless someone was actually stronger than these people, he wouldn't be able to hide his cultivation in front of them.

Additionally, none of these alchemists believed that Shun Long was actually stronger than Zhao Lan himself. Could Shun Long be a Dao Emperor realm expert? Impossible!

Of course, this was all thanks to the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

Although it would be suspicious if Shun Long covered his cultivation, it would certainly be even more suspicious if they found out that he was simply a peak rank 9 Heaven grade cultivator.

After all, according to what Shun Long knew, the minimum requirement for a rank 3 silver grade alchemist, was for their cultivation to have reached the peak of rank 9 in the Spirit realm!

Shun Long looked at the old man in front of him as he then answered

"My cultivation technique is somewhat unique. Unless I fight or refine pills, my aura will stay retracted in my body. Otherwise, how could I hide myself, with just my rank 9 Spirit realm aura in front of so many seniors?"

Zhao Lan had a look of realization on his face as he stared at Shun Long, but he didn't ask anything further. Although they were rare, as a peak Dao King realm expert Zhao Lan knew that these cultivation techniques existed, and he himself had one inside his spatial ring.

His eyes then stared at Shun Long, and nodding his head he continued explaining

"Kid, this is a big opportunity for you! Even I and the other Dao Kings in the Night star continent had failed to enter the Holy sect when we went through the actual test all those years ago! Do you really think that I am slighting you when I say that you are even less than an ant in front of them?"

Or do you actually believe that you are even stronger than the previous generations of the Night star continent?

It's best for you to not waste this chance!

In the past 100.000 years, only 2 peerless geniuses from our continent have managed to pass through the Holy sect's test.

It is actually even harder for alchemists like us, who dedicate ourselves to pill refinement, as our combat power is barely as strong as an average cultivator's at the same level.

Therefore, as an alchemist, you need to build strong connections, so that those who are indebted to you will help you in the future.

In the end, no one is willing to cut off their connections with a strong alchemist, since everyone needs to consume pills at some point, so having good connections with alchemists is always vital.

Thus, our guild is willing to help you.

We will teach you everything we can and will do our best to help you become a Nascent soul realm cultivator within the next 3 years, before the test of the Holy sect starts.

If you can enter the Nascent soul realm within the next 3 years, and participate in the test of the Holy sect, then if you manage to attract the attention of one of the real geniuses and become their follower, it will be beneficial to our guild as well as you.

At that moment, all you will have to do is to not be ungrateful, and remember who helped you enter the Nascent soul realm. After all, if one of our alchemists becomes a follower of a genius who enters the Holy sect, the Feng family will definitely reward our branch. This way, both you and the guild will win."

Little Black immediately snorted when he heard this, while a condescending and angry look had filled his face at the same time

"They want master to become someone's follower? What a joke! In this universe, people are unqualified to become master's followers themselves!"

Shun Long didn't pay attention to the angry black dragon who was fuming inside the 'Stone of Time', but his mind had immediately rejected the suggestion of becoming someone else's follower as well.

It was a feeling that came directly from his soul, that inherently rejected this without a second thought! Additionally, if he followed someone as an alchemist, wouldn't that make him nothing more than a pill slave?

Besides, even if he accepted the offer, what could the 'Alchemists' Guild' teach him in terms of actual alchemy or cultivation?

In theoretical knowledge that involved alchemy, Shun Long was confident enough to teach things to even Zhao Lan himself.

As for cultivation, even if there was something that Shun Long didn't know, Little Black himself had more than enough knowledge to help him.

Seeing that Shun Long was staying silent, Jin Wenling took his silence as indecisiveness.

Then, with a smile on her face, she spoke in a gentle and amiable tone

"Little brother Shun, don't think that it is a bad thing to become someone else's follower. I can tell you that, if a talented genius really accepts you as his alchemist follower, it will open a brand new world for you!"

Zhao Lan however snorted after seeing that Shun Long hadn't immediately accepted his offer, before he said in an angry tone

"Of course, our 'Alchemists' Guild' will not force you to do anything, and you are not the only person whom we will offer this chance to either. There are 2 other young and talented alchemists of our guild as well, and I am certain that they will not be as indecisive when the time comes.

You can take some time to think about it before you give me your answer. Whether or not you choose to grasp this chance will be up to you."

Chapter 228 - 228 The Alchemists' Guild's pressure

Nodding his head, Shun Long cupped his hands before he stood up.

Originally, he had come to the 'Alchemists' Guild' to collect the spirit stones from his pills, and see whether or not the rank 4 'White spirit lotus' that Jin Wenling had told him about had arrived.

Coincidentally, meeting with Zhao Lan today, he also ended up learning about the Holy sect and the 'Alchemists' Guild's' offer, but in his subconscious, Shun Long wouldn't accept to become someone else's follower.

Besides, with the 'Monarch's Hourglass' and the foggy place inside the 'Stone of Time', he didn't think of himself as being inferior to anyone else.

Seeing Shun Long standing up, Zhao Lan nodded his head before he shot a stealthy glance at Jin Wenling.

The old woman nodded her head at Zhao Lan, before she looked at Shun Long and smiled gently as she said

"Little brother Shun, let this old woman accompany you."

Nodding his head, Shun Long didn't decline, as he then followed Jin Wenling out of the herb garden, back towards the main lobby where the 'Alchemists' Guild' sold its pills.

Just like the last time, Shun Long noticed that this place was just as crowded as before, as people dressed in many different attires had formed long lines in front of the counters, queuing up to purchase pills.

Jin Wenling's ignored the queuing crowd, as she directly led Shun Long towards the largest counter where three rank 3 bronze grade alchemists were in charge of.

The moment that the young rank 3 bronze grade alchemists who were sitting behind the counter saw Jin Wenling, they hurriedly stood up and bowed as they greeted her hurriedly

"Grand Elder!"

Jin Wenling nodded her head at the 3 young men, before her old, wrinkled hand reached at a hidden spot behind the counter, where she grabbed a black spatial ring and sent her spirit sense into it.

A pure white lotus suddenly appeared in her hand, with white droplets of dew that were dancing on its petals.

Seeing the white lotus in Jin Wenling's hands, Shun Long immediately recognized it as the 'White spirit lotus'!

This was one of the 2 main ingredients that he was missing to refine the rank 4 'Internal reconstruction pill'.

Jin Wenling then handed the white lotus to Shun Long as she said with a smile on her face

"Little brother Shun, this is the rank 4 'White spirit lotus' that you wanted.

With the 30 percent discount that you have by being a rank 3 silver grade alchemist, it will cost you 90.000 low-grade spirit stones."

Shun Long received the white lotus, and without minding the high price, he placed it inside the herb garden in the 'Stone of Time' without any hesitation.

Although the price of most rank 4 medicinal herbs usually didn't exceed the 50.000 low-grade spirit stones, there were some rare herbs like the 'White spirit lotus' whose price could go much higher than expected.

Jin Wenling had that same amiable smile as she saw Shun Long taking the 'White spirit lotus', before she waved her hand and another spatial ring appeared on it.

Handing the spatial ring at Shun Long, the old woman then said

"Little brother Shun, here are 2 million and 160.000 low-grade spirit stones from the pills that little brother sold the last time.

Our 'Alchemists' Guild' sold the pills for 2 million and 500.000 low-grade spirit stones. After deducting the 10 percent fee that the guild takes from the pills' sales along with the 90.000 low-grade spirit stones for the rank 4 'White spirit lotus' that you needed, this was the remaining amount."

Shun Long nodded his head with a calm expression on his face, as he accepted the spatial ring before and sent his spiritual strength inside it.

2 million and 160.000 low-grade spirit stones were stacked on top of each other, piling up a small mountain.

"Being an alchemist is indeed the best way to earn spirit stones."

Shun Long thought to himself, as he placed the 2 million spirit stones inside the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time'.

After advancing to the peak of rank 9 in Heaven grade and purifying his 81 qi balls inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass', Shun Long had already spent nearly 5 million low-grade spirit stones.

Although he had already acquired almost 45 million from Hao Ping and Xue Zhilan's spatial rings, he knew that the 'Monarch's Hourglass' would only get more demanding in the future, and the 'Alchemists' Guild' was the best place to earn spirit stones right now.

The rank 3 bronze grade alchemists next to Jin Wenling, felt their feet shaking when they heard the heaven-shaking amount of spirit stones that the man in front of them had earned.

"What kind of pills did he sell to get so many spirit stones?!"

Of course, seeing the 3-star silver grade badge on Shun Long's chest, they could only felt envy inside their hearts.

After all, although 2 million spirit stones wasn't too much to the current Shun Long, even to a rank 1 silver grade alchemist it would be an enormous amount, let alone to rank 3 bronze grade alchemists.

Jin Wenling looked at Shun Long with a curious look in her eyes as she said

"I have to say little brother Shun, that your pills really made an impact. Almost all of them were sold out on the first day, and many people have been asking for them for the past month. Are you willing to sell some more of them, or perhaps sell the alchemy recipes to our guild directly? If you are in a need of spirit stones, our guild can definitely help you cover your expenses.

You should also seriously think, over elder brother Zhao's offer. There can only be good things for you if you choose to be nurtured by our guild. Even 10 million spirit stones wouldn't be a problem to ask for by then."

Jin Wenling then lowered her voice as she whispered to Shun Long with a crafty look in her eyes

"Additionally, there will be many geniuses who are coming to our 'Heaven's Dome city'. If you go to the House of Rankings, you can get to know some of them and build good relationsh.i.p.s."

Jin Wenling looked at Shun Long with an eager look, but to her disappointment, Shun Long didn't give her the answer she wanted.

After placing 20 more bottles of pills for sale, Shun Long then bade farewell to Jin Wenling, as he moved to the entrance lobby where Liu Mei was waiting for him, with the black panther next to her.

Seeing the white-veiled young woman next to the black panther, a small smile finally appeared on Shun Long's face.

The truth was, that the pressure from the 'Alchemists' Guild' that Shun Long felt was akin to a mountain.

Even though it was said that the 'Alchemists' Guild' was different from the other powers in the 'Heaven's Dome city', in the end, they still wanted to nurture their own alchemists.

Although there didn't seem to be any problems right now, Shun Long understood, that Zhao Lan still wanted him to accept his offer.

Little Black who seemed to have sensed his master's emotions, had a serious look on his face as he then said

"Master, there is no reason to worry about anything. Even if I can't beat a peak rank 9 Dao King just yet, I am still confident in running away!

Hmph, let alone entering a so-called 'Holy sect', even the immortal sects had trembled in front of master and me in the past!

Becoming someone else's follower? What a joke!"

Shun Long smiled lightly when he heard Little Black's words, while in his mind, he had already decided to enter seclusion and breakthrough to the Spirit realm after returning back to the inn.

With the combat experience that he and Liu Mei had gotten in the past month, the only things that Shun Long lacked was to temper his spirit and comprehend the Dao of Time.

Liu Mei stared deeply at Shun Long's eyes as she asked in a concerned tone

"Long-ge, are you alright?"

Nodding his head, Shun Long held Liu Mei's hand as he replied smilingly

"Mei'er, let's go."

Liu Mei didn't ask anything else, as she sat behind Shun Long on the black panther's back and placed her hands on Shun Long's waist, before the black panther shot towards the western part of the city.

At the same time, inside the herb garden, Zhao Lan and the other gold grade alchemists looked at Jin Wenling who had just returned.

With a light smile on his face, Zhao Lan looked at the elderly woman and asked

"Wenling, did that kid agree?"

Chapter 229 - 229 Entering seclusion

The old woman, Jin Wenling, however, shook her head as she looked at Zhao Lan, and with a serious look she said

"Elder brother, I think that he needs more time to think and understand what's going on. Hehe, I also suggested that he should go and have a look at the House of Rankings and meet new people in that place.

With all the geniuses that are entering the city, I am sure that he will understand the difference between himself and the true prodigies of the continent, and won't object to become someone else's follower by then."

Nodding his head Zhao Lan looked at Jin Wenling and smiled as he said

"Haha, you did well Wenling!

After all, it's normal for alchemists to be prideful, and reject to follow someone else. Once he understands the difference between himself and the real prodigies, he will have no choice but to agree in the end!"

Seeing how happy Zhao Lan was, one of the gold grade alchemists next to him couldn't help asking, in a voice that was filled with curiosity

"Elder brother Zhao, is that kid really so important, for you to be so happy? After all, don't we still have Han Nianzu and Cai Wenqian? Don't tell me that he is at the same level as the 2 of them!?"

Zhao Lan shook his head when he heard this question, and with a smile on his face, he looked at the old man next to him as he said

"Ah, Gao Changming, you don't understand... Although Nianzu and Wenqian can be considered prodigies among rank 3 silver grade alchemists, they still aren't on the same level as that brat yet."

As he finished speaking, Zhao Lan took out a bottle of pills from his spatial ring and handed it to the old man named Gao Changming.

Gao Changming saw that there were 6 pills inside the pill bottle, and the moment that he uncorked the bottle's cap, a burst of medicinal fragrance assaulted his nose, as the old man exclaimed in satisfaction

"Top-grade rank 4 'Sun-healing pills'!"

Gao Changming nodded his head once he actually saw the pills, and turning his head at Zhao Lan he asked

"Elder brother Zhao, are these the pills that that kid has refined? Although I admit that it's impressive for a rank 3 silver grade alchemist to refine top-grade rank 4 pills, Nianzu can also do the same."

Zhao Lan however shook his head as he looked at the old man in front of him, and taking a small dagger, the rank 3 gold grade alchemist personally shaved off a small part of the pill, before he handed it to Gao Changming.

Curious, Gao Changming took the dagger from Zhao Lan's hands, and with his fingers, he touched the pill powder on the dagger before he placed it on his tongue.

Zhao Lan smiled as he saw Gao Changming's expression changing, while everyone else around him aside from Jin Wenling was staring at him with wide eyes.

The middle-aged man, Kong Yan, couldn't hold his curiosity any longer once he saw the shocked expression on Gao Changming's face as he asked

"Senior Gao, what is it?"

Of course, neither Kong Yan nor anyone else in the room were worried for Gao Changming.

Since Zhao Lan had given him the pill, it was only natural that there was nothing wrong with it.

It took Gao Changming almost 10 breaths of time, until he recovered from his spaced out expression, while his eyes stared at the pill bottle in his hands with excitement.

Zhao Lan who was looking at him with a smile on his face, then asked

"Now do you understand? This brat's 'Sun-healing pills' are more than 50 percent more effective than any other top-grade rank 4 healing pill. Their quality is even on par with some middle-grade rank 5 healing pills!

Do you really think that I would be that interested in him for no reason? It's not just the pill recipe that is unique, it is the way that the essence of the medicinal herbs has blended along with the pills during the actual refinement process that is giving them such effects."

Nobody dared to refute Zhao Lan's words since he was the most experienced alchemist inside the room.

Zhao Lan smiled lightly as he continued

"Which is why I said that Nianzu and Wenqian aren't on this brat's level yet.

With 3 talented young alchemists, our 'Alchemists' Guild' is sure to prosper. Additionally, if even one of them manages to become a follower, of a genius who enters the 'Holy sect'..."

At the same time that this discussion was taking place in the 'Alchemists' Guild's' garden, Shun Long and Liu Mei arrived back at their courtyard in the inn.

After paying the inn-keeper for 3 months in advance, Shun Long and Liu Mei entered their room while the black panther quickly fell asleep in the courtyard outside.

After all, although sleep wasn't necessary for cultivators or magic beasts, it could still help to alleviate stress, and rest one's mind.

Inside their room, Shun Long looked at Liu Mei who seemed to be just a step away from reaching the rank 9 in Heaven grade, and handed her a bottle filled with rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pills', before he said with a serious look on his face

"Mei'er, once you break through to the early rank 9 in Heaven grade, make sure to consume these pills for as long as your soul allows you to.

They will help you strengthen your spirit before breaking through to the Spirit realm, according to your current soul capacity."

Shun Long had already explained the importance of spirit sense to Liu Mei, and after seeing that she had accepted the pills, he nodded his head as he entered the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time'.

Little Black observed Shun Long curiously, who spent the next 8 days refining the rank 4 'Golden Jade spirit trees', into more than 300 top-grade rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pills'.

Less than a day had passed for Liu Mei however, when Shun Long returned to the room.

Since it was already night, Liu Mei had already started to circulate the 'Moonlight Sigil', as the moonlight was being guided towards her body.

After leaving 4 more bottles filled with top-grade rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pills' next to her, Shun Long closed his eyes, as he once again imagined himself entering the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time'.

His body then disappeared from the room, as he once again appeared in the empty space surrounded by fog.

Sitting cross-legged on the ground, Shun Long held a pill bottle in his hand, before he consumed a top-grade rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pill'.

Chapter 230 - 230 Immense increase in spiritual strength

As soon as the 'Spirit enhancing pill' entered Shun Long's mouth, it instantly dissolved into a scorching gold liquid.

Shun Long could feel an enormous amount of energy filling his body, as his spiritual strength erupted from his spiritual space like a hungry beast, before it started to absorb the pill's energy inside his body.

His spiritual strength that would usually grow slowly only when he advanced in his cultivation, was now growing at an alarming speed, as Shun Long absorbed

the endless amounts of energy that was coming from the top-grade rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pill'.

Drop after drop of golden liquid was filling his spiritual space, that had now turned like a vortex.

It took more than 4 hours for Shun Long to completely absorb the energy inside the 'Spirit enhancing pill', while his spiritual strength had increased noticeably.

Now, if Shun Long had to refine 'Spirit enhancing pills' once again, he was certain that he wouldn't run out of spiritual strength like he did in the past, and his spiritual strength would be able to support him for even longer.

Feeling the increase in his spiritual strength, an excited expression appeared on Shun Long's face, as he then mumbled to himself

"Top-grade rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pills' are truly the best way to enhance my spiritual strength."

Little Black nodded his head when he heard Shun Long's words, before he said "Of course, master!

Things that the cultivators in this Night star continent actually consider extravagant, like using rare pills to increase your spiritual strength before you break through to the Spirit realm, are actually a necessity in other places."

While people in this continent will be considered lucky if they can consume a single pill like master's high-grade 'Spirit enhancing pills' before they break through to the Spirit realm, core disciples of powerful sects, have an almost unlimited supply of similar pills.

Instead, they don't just consume 1 or 2 of these pills, but they consume as many as they can before their soul and their spiritual strength can't grow any longer, and they eventually attempt their breakthrough to the Spirit realm!

The stronger the soul and the spiritual strength before breaking through to the Spirit realm, the stronger their spirit sense will be after their breakthrough as well."

Shun Long had a shocked look in his eyes when he realized the difference between the Night star continent and the places that Little Black mentioned, but after thinking about it for a while, it made sense

"Indeed, if there are more resources in a place, then the strength of the cultivators in that place will also grow."

Little Black nodded his head once he heard Shun Long's words, as he continued

"So I think it's best for master to grow your spiritual strength and your soul as much as possible, before you break through to the Spirit realm."

Shun Long nodded his head in response, as he once again sat down cross-legged and continued absorbing the 'Spirit enhancing pills'.

A day soon passed like this and Shun Long had finished absorbing 5 top-grade 'Spirit enhancing pills'.

Once he finished absorbing the pills, he didn't continue consuming more of them, but instead, he closed his eyes as he tried to once again comprehend the Dao of Time.

After all, not only did Shun Long need, to allow his soul to get used to the increase in his spiritual strength, but he also needed to comprehend the Dao of Time even further, in order to be able to advance to the Spirit realm.

Time quickly passed like this, and soon, more than 10 days had passed inside the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time'.

Shun Long had already absorbed nearly 30 top-grade 'Spirit enhancing pills', while his spiritual strength had grown much stronger than before.

Days continued to pass while the 'Spirit enhancing pills' inside Shun Long's pill bottles were becoming fewer and fewer.

Soon, 3 months had passed by, before Shun Long finally run out of 'Spirit enhancing pills'.

In these 3 months, he had absorbed more than 280 pills, while his spiritual strength had grown at an incredible rate.

By now, his spiritual strength had long since exceeded what a normal Heaven grade cultivator could achieve, and yet, Shun Long could still feel, that his spiritual strength hadn't reached its limits.

Additionally, every time that he absorbed a 'Spirit enhancing pill', Shun Long could feel his soul becoming even stronger.

And yet, in these 3 months, he had almost no progress in comprehending the Dao of Time further.

Shun Long then spent the next 5 days enhancing the flow of time in his herb garden, in order to grow his 'Golden Jade spirit trees', before he refined them all into top-grade rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pills', replenishing his supply of pills.

Both Shun Long and Little Black were shocked once they noticed how much Shun Long's spiritual strength had actually advanced.

In the past, Shun Long would need to rest for a few hours once he finished refining a batch of 'Spirit enhancing pills', but now, he managed to refine 3 alchemy furnaces filled with top-grade pills, and his spiritual strength still wasn't depleted yet.

Once he finished refining the pills, Shun Long didn't continue absorbing them.

Instead, he closed his eyes and imagined himself leaving the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time'.

His body then appeared back in his and Liu Mei's room.

Although more than 3 months had passed for Shun Long inside the 'Stone of Time', barely 10 days had passed for Liu Mei inside the inn room.

Liu Mei was sitting cross-legged inside the room, as she circulated the 'Moonlight Sigil'.

Although only 10 days had passed for Liu Mei, Shun Long noticed that her cultivation had already reached the early rank 9 in Heaven grade.

However, this wasn't surprising.

After all, Liu Mei's cultivation was already at the peak of rank 8 in Heaven grade before they entered seclusion, and after cultivating for 10 days using middle-grade spirit stones, it was natural for her to have reached the early rank 9 in Heaven grade.

After all, not everyone was a monster like Shun Long, who required immense amounts of qi in order to advance in his cultivation.

Shun Long smiled at Liu Mei who seemed to have opened her eyes the moment that he had returned back to the room.

After having a round of dual cultivation together, Liu Mei looked at Shun Long with a worried expression on her face as she asked

"Long-ge, are you okay?"

Shun Long nodded his head as he understood Liu Mei's worries, and patting her head gently, he said

"Don't worry, I'm planning to attempt by breakthrough to the Spirit realm, but I still need to comprehend my Dao and enhance my spiritual strength."

Then, taking out 5 more bottles filled with top-grade rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pills' from the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long explained their importance to Liu Mei.

After all, after his discussion with Little Black, Shun Long was even more determined to advance his spiritual strength to the peak, before he broke through to the Spirit realm.

Seeing Liu Mei nod her head and accept the pills, Shun Long stayed with her for one more day, before he returned back to the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time'.

This time, he was planning to stay in this place until he advanced to the Spirit realm.