

Time 271

Chapter 271 - 271 Purple-colored blade

It only took a couple of minutes for the group of Spirit realm experts to arrive at the Silver cross street.

Looking at the wooden pill shop in the distance He Zhenkang made a hushing motion at the people behind him indicating for them to be quiet.

He wasn't afraid of his ambush failing, but he wanted to be certain that the person inside the shop had no hope of escaping.

Even though it was night and Shun Long had already closed the shop, the Silver cross street was far from being desolate.

For the next 2 hours, the rest of the shops continued working almost as if it was daytime.

Some of the shops even had more people visiting them during the night than they had in the day.

He Zhenkang and his group waited until fewer people were left on the street, before he ordered the rest of the experts in his group to surround the pill shop.

Aside from him, there were 2 middle rank 5 Spirit realm experts, a peak rank 4 and an early rank 4 Spirit realm cultivators, while the rest were at the rank 2 and rank 3.

Although He Zhenkang knew that the rank 2 Spirit realm cultivators would probably be useless against an early fourth stage body refiner, the reason that he brought them on this mission was to allow them to gain more experience.

As soon as the pedestrians had disappeared around the shop, He Zhenkang and the 2 middle rank 5 experts jumped in front of the pill shop's entrance.

One of the 2 middle rank 5 Spirit realm experts looked at He Zhenkang and raised his black saber in the air, ready to chop through the door before they barged inside.

He Zhenkang was about to nod his head in confirmation, when suddenly, a snapping sound was heard from behind him, attracting his attention.

The sound wasn't too loud, but in the dead-silent night, it was more than enough to attract the attention of the early rank 6 Spirit realm expert.

Turning his head around, He Zhenkang stared with wide eyes at the scene in front of him.

The peak rank 4 expert from his group had his head severed, before he had the chance to utter a single word.

A blue-robed young man was standing behind the peak rank 4 Spirit realm expert with a smile on his face, while his right hand was dripping with his teammate's blood.

An illusionary purple blade was extending from his hand, but surprisingly, not a single drop of blood touched the blade itself, as they all fell on the ground.

Under the moonlight, this scene looked especially creepy, but an experienced Spirit realm expert like He Zhenkang quickly came back to his senses.

Looking at the blue-robed young man, He Zhenkang had a serious look on his face as he asked in a solemn tone

"Who are you?"

Shun Long smiled lightly when he heard this question, while the illusionary purple blade on his right hand trembled for a moment, and after throwing the severed head that he was holding in his left hand towards He Zhenkang's feet, he answered in a voice that was completely devoid of emotion

"Since you came to ambush me late at night, shouldn't you know who I am?"

He Zhenkang's eyes, as well as his group members' immediately widened in response.

"You- You are the boss of this shop?" He Zhenkang asked incredulously.

He couldn't understand how a rank 1 Spirit realm cultivator who was just an early fourth stage body refiner at the same time, could detect the ambush from his group and manage to assassinate one of them instead.

"How could I have failed to notice him?"

As this thought flashed through He Zhenkang's mind, Shun Long's eyes stared at the early rank 4 Spirit realm expert who was just a few tens of meters away from him and was trying to stealthily escape.

Kicking the ground once, Shun Long activated the gale steps and covered the distance of 40 meters almost instantly, as he appeared next to the rank 4 Spirit realm cultivator.

The man was horrified, and didn't even attempt to fight against Shun Long, as he tried to escape towards He ZhenKang's direction.

"STOP RIGHT NOW!"

He Zhenkang shouted loudly when he saw the apathetic look on Shun Long's face as he slashed the illusionary purple blade downwards, towards the early rank 4 Spirit realm cultivator's head.

At the same time, the 2 middle rank 5 Spirit realm experts rushed to flank Shun Long from the sides.

One of them was holding a small blue dagger, while the other one was still holding his black saber as they both shouted at the same time

"Die!"

Without any hesitation, Shun Long slashed down with his right hand, causing the purple blade in his hand to immediately beheaded the early rank 4 Spirit realm expert.

The purple blade cut the man's head without any obstruction, causing a fountain of blood to spurt through the air under He Zhenkang's and his group's shocked gazes.

Furious looks appeared in the 2 middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert's faces, but they didn't stop their attacks.

Instead, a layer of ice had appeared on the middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert's saber, while a gust of wind had appeared on the other man's feet.

Shun Long's golden eyes lit up, but surprisingly, the 2 middle rank 5 Spirit realm experts seemed to have covered every possible path of escape.

No matter which way he tried to dodge, he would definitely be hit by one of their attacks... unless he used blink of course.

However, blink would consume too much of his qi, and it would probably leave him completely helpless against the early rank 6 Spirit realm expert who was still standing in front of the shop.

Taking 2 steps to the side, Shun Long completely dodged the black saber's attack, falling right into the blue dagger's range of attack.

The middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert felt joy as he slashed the dagger towards Shun Long's chest.

Twisting his waist slightly, Shun Long dodged as the dagger embedded itself on his shoulder, reaching all the way to his bone.

A wave of pain assaulted Shun Long's senses, but thankfully, he had avoided the fatal attack.

However, the rank 2 silver grade dagger had still managed to pierce through his 'Monarch's Eternal body', creating a large wound on his left shoulder.

At the same time that the man with the black saber raised it in the air and prepared for his second attack, Shun Long looked at the middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert in front of him who tried to take the blue-colored dagger from his shoulder.

However, a wave of blue light instantly covered Shun Long's body as he activated both of the 'Monarch's Domains', before he swung his right arm sideways towards the man's head.

The middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert immediately understood what was happening and decisively abandoned his dagger as he stepped back, but surprisingly, Shun Long had already seen through his path of retreat.

The illusionary purple-colored blade cut through the man's throat in an instant, causing another fountain of blood to spurt through the air under He Zhenkang's shocked eyes.

Chapter 272 - 272 Poison

"Xiao Yu!!!"

He Zhenkang and the other middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert shouted at the same time, while their eyes instantly turned red as they saw the headless corpse fall to the ground.

Meanwhile, the other rank 2 and rank 3 Spirit realm experts started to slowly back away towards the shop, as they widened the distance between themselves and Shun Long.

Taking a deep breath, He Zhenkang took out a pair of silver-colored gloves from his spatial ring, and looking at Shun Long he said in a tone oozing with killing intent

"Trading your left shoulder to kill Xiao Yu? This was the biggest mistake of your life kid!

Let's see how long you can last with Xiao Yu's poison in your body."

As he finished his words, He Zhenkang slowly walked towards Shun Long one step at a time. He was in no hurry to attack him, and was actually waiting for the poison to take effect.

It looks like the mission that Zhou Ning had given them this time was far from easy.

Although He Zhenkang didn't know why, but he could feel a sense of lethal danger as he stared at the purple-colored blade on Shun Long's hand.

Nodding his head, the other middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert quickly circled around Shun Long, not giving him a single chance to escape.

Shun Long narrowed his eyes when he noticed He Zhenkang's slow steps.

It was obvious that He Zhenkang was simply waiting until the poison started to take effect inside his body.

Indeed, after sending his spirit sense in his body, Shun Long noticed a blue-colored fluid that had entered from the wound on his shoulder, and was slowly expanding towards the rest of his body.

Without any hesitation, Shun Long waved his hand and took out a bottle filled with top-grade rank 4 'anti-toxin' pills, before he consumed one of them on the spot.

He Zhenkang however, didn't seem to have any inclination to stop Shun Long, and instead he started laughing in a mocking tone as he said

"Hahaha! Fool, that poison was concocted by senior Zhou himself. Do you really think that your own pills will have any effect against the poison of a pinnacle rank 3 silver grade alchemist?"

Shun Long however didn't respond to He Zhenkang, as his spirit sense kept observing the poison inside his body.

The moment that the poison had started to spread towards his heart, the 'anti-toxin pill' didn't even have time to take effect as the 'Monarch's Eternal body' instantly started to circulate by itself, completely suppressing the blue-colored poison.

The poison inside the dagger was actually much more potent than Shun Long had originally estimated it to be.

It was actually strong enough to knock out even an early rank 7 Spirit realm expert if it was injected inside their body, let alone an early fourth stage body refiner.

If the 'Monarch's Eternal body' hadn't advanced to the fourth stage, Shun Long guessed that it would have been unable to suppress the lethal poison by itself.

Of course, if Shun Long wanted to consume an 'anti-toxin pill' during a fight, even He Zhenkang wouldn't be able to stop him with the huge distance between them.

Looking at the purple-colored blade in his hand, Shun Long frowned slightly.

This was the move that he had managed to create after breaking through to the fourth stage of the 'Monarch's Eternal body', as his understanding of the Dao of Space had also deepened at the same time.

"Although its power is astonishing, it is indeed too taxing for me to keep it active for so long."

As this thought flashed through Shun Long's mind, he didn't waste any more time, before he turned around and attacked the middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert behind him.

Shun Long covered the distance between them and arrived in front of the man in practically an instant, as he slashed his purple-colored blade towards the man's head.

The rank 5 Spirit realm expert quickly raised his black saber and hurriedly defended against Shun Long's slash.

However, even with his rank 3 silver grade saber, the man quickly found himself on the backfoot, as the moment that his black saber met the illusionary purple blade, the man was pushed backwards for a few tens of meters while the saber had almost left his hand.

Shun Long's barrage of attacks was simply too strong, while the purple blade itself was extremely weird.

Its strength didn't seem to lose out in the slightest against his saber.

Turning to look at He Zhenkang in the distance, the middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert couldn't help shouting

"Brother, quickly help me!"

Nodding his head, He Zhenkang quickly put on his silver-colored gloves before he placed his 2 palms together.

The aura of an early rank 6 Spirit realm cultivator exploded from his body, while a large water wave more than 8m(26ft) tall appeared behind him.

The water wave quickly took the shape of a large tiger that had a water-like blue-colored fur and lifelike dark blue eyes.

The tiger's eyes were immediately locked on Shun Long who was still fighting with the middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert with the black saber, before it jumped in the air and flew towards them.

Even He Zhenkang had been shocked when he noticed the situation that the middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert had ended up in.

Barely a few moments had passed since the man's fight with Shun Long had started, but slashing wounds had already filled his body.

An expression of joy appeared on the man's face when he saw the water tiger flying towards him, as he took an even more defensive posture than before.

The middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert had no reason to try and kill Shun Long by himself any longer.

He was certain that as soon as He Zhenkang's water tiger joined hands with him, Shun Long would be unable to deal with their combined power.

At the same time, Shun Long seemed to have completely ignored the water tiger that was coming from behind him, and as his focus reached its peak, his golden eyes shone with a bright blue light as he slashed the illusionary purple blade horizontally aiming for the man's throat.

The middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert raised his black saber in reflex, but a scene that made his heart constrict in horror unfolded in front of his eyes.

Shun Long watched as his illusionary purple blade passed through the man's black saber almost as if it didn't exist, before it continued to slash at his throat.

Blood immediately started to spurt from the man's throat, while a horrified expression had filled his eyes.

"NOOO!"

At the same time, He Zhenkang shouted loudly in a voice filled with unwillingness and killing intent, when he saw the purple-colored blade piercing through the man's throat.

As if that wasn't enough however, He Zhenkang didn't even have enough time to digest the scene that had just happened, when the sounds of swords slashing through the air were suddenly heard from behind him, coming from the direction of the pill shop.

Turning around, He Zhenkang felt dizzy for a moment when he saw 4 heads rolling on the ground until they stopped in front of his feet.

Chapter 273 - 273 Fighting He Zhenkang

A look of disbelief appeared in He Zhenkang's eyes when he saw the faces on the 4 heads that had rolled all the way to his feet.

They were his rank 2 Spirit realm subordinates!

Raising his head to look at the entrance of the shop, He Zhenkang then saw a dozen giant black-armored knights who had beheaded his subordinates from behind.

The black-armored knights were more than 3m(10ft) tall each, with red wisps of ember shining in their eye sockets, while each of them was also holding a 2m(16.6ft) long greatsword in their hands.

A pair of undead knights had each attacked one of the 4 rank 2 Spirit realm cultivators who were standing in front of the shop, while the remaining 4 undead knights had tried to ambush the remaining rank 3 Spirit realm cultivators.

The rank 3 Spirit realm cultivators seemed to have sensed the ambush and had managed to fend off the 4 undead knights that attacked them, and subsequently destroy them with ease, but the rank 2 Spirit realm cultivators had already been killed in a single instant.

Looking at the 4 headless corpses in front of the shop, each of them having their head severed by the combined attack from 2 undead knights, He Zhenkang immediately understood what had happened, while an ugly expression had appeared on his face as he shouted loudly

"YOU F.U.C.K.I.N.G BRAT!"

The rank 3 Spirit realm experts looked at each other and without any hesitation, they attacked the other 8 undead knights in front of the shop.

At the same time, He Zhenkang tried to calm his emotions as he looked at the overall situation

"These black-armored knights surely belong to that brat! They must have stayed hidden inside the shop all this time just to find the perfect moment to ambush us!"

Indeed, as an experienced fighter, how could He Zhenkang not have recognized that the undead knights had taken advantage of the chaos during the fight, when everyone's attention was on Shun Long and the middle rank 5 Spirit realm expert, in order to attack them when they were completely unaware.

Thankfully, the undead knights were only at the peak of rank 1 in the Spirit realm... otherwise, even his rank 3 Spirit realm subordinates may have died today.

Staring at Shun Long, He Zhenkang's eyes were filled with killing intent as he manipulated his water tiger that had already arrived behind Shun Long to bite off his neck!

His losses could already be considered catastrophic today, and even Shun Long's death wasn't enough to make up for them!

He had not only lost 8 Spirit realm experts, but among them, 2 of them were at the rank 4 while the other 2 were at the middle of rank 5!

The water tiger was full of ferocity as it opened its giant jaws and tried to bite off Shun Long's neck.

A feeling of danger had filled Shun Long's heart, as his golden eyes lit up with a blue light.

Without even turning around, Shun Long activated the Gale steps and hurriedly dodged sideways, avoiding the tiger's deadly attack.

He Zhenkang however had a smile filled with fury and killing intent as he looked at Shun Long, before he said in a mocking tone

"Brat, I wonder how long you can keep this up for!

Your movements have already started to slow down!"

Shun Long gritted his teeth but he didn't respond to He Zhenkang's taunts as he thought to himself

"Indeed, I can't keep going like this. The spatial blade is consuming too much energy from my 'Monarch's Eternal body'. Although it's not really slowing down my movements, I won't be able to hold out for too long."

Gritting his teeth, Shun Long allowed the illusionary purple-colored blade to completely disperse, before he took out the 'Purple Blossom staff' from the 'Stone of Time'.

"A staff?" He Zhenkang asked in astonishment.

The movements of the tiger however didn't stop, as it continuously assaulted Shun Long.

Seeing the water tiger's claws sweep towards his face and chest, Shun Long used the 'Purple Blossom staff' as he parried the water tiger's attacks without much of a problem.

Although the tiger was strong, it was barely at the same level, as the peak rank 5 Spirit realm corpse that Shun Long had defeated in the Netherspirit forest.

As he fought against the tiger, Shun Long slowly approached closer to He Zhenkang.

He Zhenkang however immediately noticed his movements, and after seeing that Shun Long could fight the tiger on even grounds, he gathered more of his qi in his hands as he punched the air in front of him.

A fist-sized ball of water came out from He Zhenkang's silver gloves, shooting towards Shun Long like a cannonball!

Shun Long's golden eyes flashed with a blue light, and after predicting the trajectory of the water cannonball that was going to accurately hit his right foot, he took 3 steps to the side, avoiding the tiger's claws at the same time.

Even though He Zhenkang was stunned for a moment, his movements didn't stop, as he punched the air in front of him again and again, shooting countless water cannonballs at Shun Long.

Activating the second 'Monarch's Domain' as well as the Gale steps, Shun Long's speed skyrocketed, as he instantly broke free from the water tiger and headed towards He Zhenkang.

He didn't even have to pay any attention to the water cannonballs, seemingly as if he knew exactly where they were going to land.

He Zhenkang however didn't seem flustered when he saw Shun Long rushing towards him, as he then joined his palms together.

He had already seen Shun Long's speed a while ago and was already prepared.

Running towards He Zhenkang, Shun Long saw a gigantic water wall appearing from the ground, completely enshrouding the early rank 6 Spirit realm expert.

Shun Long however didn't stop, and as he approached closer to He Zhenkang he mumbled to himself

'Blink'

He Zhenkang's eyes widened as he saw Shun Long's figure instantly vanishing.

Appearing right above the early rank 6 Spirit realm expert, Shun Long held the 'Purple Blossom staff' with both hands, as he swung it downwards at full force.

A shocked expression appeared on He Zhenkang's face, while the scent of death had filled his heart.

He knew that if he allowed the staff to hit him, he would certainly die without question.

Gritting his teeth, the early rank 6 Spirit realm expert hurriedly raised his hands as his silver-colored gloves met the descending staff.

BOOM

Crack

Shun Long could feel the staff almost slipping away from his hands as soon as it collided with the silver-colored gloves.

At the same time, he saw He Zhenkang whose feet had sunk on the ground, leaving behind deep imprints, while some of his bones seemed to have been broken.

Shun Long however didn't stop, as he swung the staff horizontally once again, using all of his might to activate the second move of the 'Staff of Obliteration'!

He knew that if he didn't finish off the early rank 6 Spirit realm expert now, he wouldn't be able to do it later on.

He Zhenkang raised his arms, creating a water wall between himself and Shun Long, while at the same time he tried to escape as far as he could.

He was ready to escape back to the 'Blood Pill pavilion' before asking for help.

The purple staff however easily tore through the water wall, destroying it in an instant.

Shun Long's eyes were fully focused, and without any hesitation, he chained the third attack of the 'Staff of Obliteration'.

He Zhenkang had no time to dodge, as the 'Purple Blossom staff' hit his chest with overpowering force.

Having used his full strength in this attack, Shun Long tore a huge hole in the early rank 6 Spirit realm expert's chest, as he sent him flying through the air before He Zhenkang collapsed in front of the shop's entrance.

The rank 3 Spirit realm subordinates were just a few tens of meters away from the shop, but none of them dared to approach He Zhenkang.

Just as He Zhenkang's fingers twitched however, a terrifying 3m(10ft) tall undead knight appeared right above his head.

Under the stunned gazes of the 3 rank 3 Spirit realm cultivators, the undead knight swung his greatsword, beheading He Zhenkang in an instant!

Chapter 274 - 274 Exterminating the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' assassins

Blood immediately spurt like a fountain from He Zhenkang's body, dying the black armor of the undead knight a crimson red color, as the early rank 6 Spirit realm expert's head rolled on the dead-silent 'Silver cross street'.

Ashen expressions had appeared on the faces of the rank 3 Spirit realm cultivators who stood rooted on the spot as they watched He Zhenkang's headless corpse, while a single question had appeared in their minds

"How is this possible?"

How could He Zhenkang lose?

He was the leader of this assassination mission personally appointed by alchemist Zhou himself!

They already knew that they were dealing with a rank 1 Spirit realm cultivator who was just an early fourth stage body refiner, and yet... He Zhenkang and the others still died.

When realization finally struck their minds, the trio of rank 3 Spirit realm cultivators started to slowly step back, as they backed away from the shop.

As for the undead knight who had beheaded He Zhenkang... the 3 of them didn't care one bit about it.

They had already seen the hole on He Zhenkang's chest the moment that he had landed in front of the shop, and understood, that even without the black-armored knight's help, He Zhenkang would have died no matter what, unless he had a miraculous pill in his spatial ring that could heal such injuries.

Inside the shop, at the depths of the first floor, Liu Mei was sitting next to the black panther with her eyes closed, while massive amounts of qi traveled through the air to enter her body.

An expression of pain appeared on her face, but Liu Mei bit her red lips, withstanding the pain, as she circulated the 'Blood Absorption art' according to Little Black's method.

At the same time, Shun Long watched the rank 3 Spirit realm cultivators who were trying to escape with narrowed eyes.

As for the water tiger that he was fighting with earlier, without the support from He Zhenkang's qi, it had already turned into a pool of water.

Seeing that Shun Long had noticed them as they tried to stealthily back away, the 3 of them didn't choose to beg for mercy, but instead, they made a frenzied run towards the edge of the Silver cross street.

All 3 of them knew very clearly that this was the 'City of Sin'... there was no room for mercy here.

Since they had followed He Zhenkang, they knew that there was no way for them to be spared.

They could only try and escape now, and return back to the 'Blood Pill pavilion'!

Raising his right hand, sparks of thunder appeared on Shun Long's forefinger, before the sound of thunder booming resounded through the air.

BOOM

A bolt of lightning left Shun Long's finger, and headed towards the back of the rank 3 Spirit realm cultivator who was in the lead.

Terror had filled the man's eyes when he felt the bolt of lightning approaching him, as he knew that there was no way for him to defend against it. Without any suspense, as the 'thunderbolt finger' hit him, a hole was pierced through the early rank 3 Spirit realm cultivator's back, before his body collapsed on the ground.

Without any delay, more sparks of lightning appeared once again on Shun Long's finger, as a second and a third bolt of lightning left his hand one after the other.

The 2 remaining middle rank 3 Spirit realm cultivators soon met the same fate, as their charred bodies collapsed lifelessly in the middle of the Silver cross street.

After removing their spatial rings, Shun Long conjured his qi flame in his hand and burned He Zhenkang's and his subordinates' bodies, before he walked back inside the shop.

In the depths of the first floor, after noticing that Liu Mei had her eyes closed and was cultivating next to the black panther, Shun Long didn't disturb her, before he closed his eyes and entered inside the 'Stone of Time', in the place surrounded by fog.

"Since Mei'er's undead knight beheaded the early rank 6 Spirit realm cultivator, her cultivation will definitely advance by a lot now that she has the 'Blood Absorption art'."

As this thought flashed through his mind, Shun Long slightly relaxed his body, as he sat cross-legged on the ground with Little Black next to him.

He could feel his body being extremely tired after the battle with He Zhenkang and his subordinates.

It was only after consuming a single rank 5 'Dragonblood grass' that Shun Long could feel his body being rapidly filled with energy once again.

Opening his eyes, Shun Long then took a look at the spatial rings of He Zhenkang and his subordinates.

However, aside from 5 million low-grade spirit stones, as well as their silver grade weapons, he didn't find anything else of value inside them.

Although 5 million low-grade spirit stones wasn't a lot to Shun Long, it still wasn't a small amount.

After placing everything inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long then took out a large amount of middle-grade spirit stones and fed them to the 'Heaven swallowing vine'.

The vine once again started to fill the air around him with large amounts of pure qi as it consumed the middle-grade spirit stones.

Shun Long could feel the endless qi in the air around him, and without any hesitation, he closed his eyes and circulated the 'Monarch's Hourglass' as he started to absorb it inside his body.

3 days soon passed inside the foggy space, while 12 balls of qi had now appeared in the space above Shun Long's head.

Knowing that his cultivation had reached the early rank 2 in the Spirit realm, Shun Long opened his eyes with a satisfied smile on his face.

At the same time, back inside the red-colored building where the headquarters of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' were located at, Zhou Ning had a furious expression on his face as he stared at his disciple Liang Rong, who was kneeling in front of him.

His tone was filled with disbelief and killing intent, while the aura of a peak rank 9 Spirit realm expert exploded from his body, as he asked

"Liang Rong, are you sure about this?"

Chapter 275 - 275 Deduction

The expression of the surrounding alchemists of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' had also changed as they stared at the kneeling young man.

Taking a deep breath, Liang Rong looked at his master Zhou Ning and nodded his head, before he continued

"I am sure master! I personally checked the shop just now, and not only is it not damaged in the slightest, but He Zhenkang and the others are nowhere to be found!"

The room immediately descended into silence as soon as Liang Ron's words ended.

It wasn't just Zhou Ning who was shocked, but the other peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts as well.

They clearly remembered that less than 8 hours ago, He Zhenkang had already taken his squad from the 'Blood Pill pavilion', before he headed towards the unknown pill shop.

Then where was he now?

A middle-aged man who stood right next to Zhou Ning, who had a shaved head and big distinct eyebrows, looked at the peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts around him and asked in a voice filled with disbelief

"Do you think that He Zhenkang has actually died?"

His words were like a bomb that exploded inside the secret room, instantly attracting everyone's attention, including the kneeling Liang Rong's who looked at him with eyes filled with shock.

The old man who had mocked Zhou Ning the last time, was once again the first to speak, as he looked at the middle-aged man and asked in a mocking but also furious voice

"Guan Hong, are you an idiot?"

Let's say that He Zhenkang did indeed fail his mission, how would he die against a target who is just an early fourth stage body refiner?

Putting aside He Zhenkang's own cultivation level, he also had 4 middle and late-stage rank 2 Spirit realm cultivators with him, three early and middle stage rank 3, an early and a peak rank 4 Spirit realm cultivators, as well as 2 middle rank 5 ones.

Is it even possible for them to fail an assassination against a mere early fourth stage body refiner?

And even if we assume that they failed, and even if the worst thing happened and He Zhenkang has really died, what happened to the rest of his squad?

Don't tell me that you believe that they have died as well!"

The bald middle-aged man, Guan Hong wanted to retort, but his words were stuck in his throat.

Indeed, it had only been a wild guess by him that He Zhenkang had died, and that was only because He Zhenkang hadn't returned to the 'Blood Pill pavilion' just yet.

No matter whether a mission was a success or a failure, everyone had to report about the results once it was over.

Looking at the dead silent room, Zhou Ning took a deep breath, before he was actually the first one to break the silence, as he looked at the people around him and said in a stern voice

"No... Guan Hong may actually be right..."

Everyone turned to look at Zhou Ning with shocked gazes, but he didn't seem to mind as he continued

"When I berated that brat and told him to close down his shop, there wasn't an ounce of fear on his face.

The look in his eyes when he stared at me, was like he was looking at a fool.

Since I didn't know his cultivation realm back then, I didn't act rashly, since I assumed that he was also a late-stage Spirit realm cultivator.

But since his cultivation was proven to be at the early stages of the Spirit realm He Zhenkang alone should have been sufficient in order to flatten his shop.

However, seeing that our entire team of 12 people has disappeared tonight, there can only be one conclusion..."

The old man's eyes shone as he stared at Zhou Ning, before he asked in a low voice

"Zhou Ning, do you mean...?"

Nodding his head, Zhou Ning continued

"There is certainly another person inside that shop, and it's one who is at least at the late-stages of the Spirit realm!

Additionally, I doubt that he is just a normal late-stage Spirit realm cultivator.

He is probably an expert at the peak of rank 9, who is exceptionally suited in stealth. Otherwise, I shouldn't have been unable to detect his presence when I was inside their shop!"

For once, the old man didn't berate Zhou Ning, while the look in his eyes was abnormally serious as he slowly nodded his head.

Although Zhou Ning's words sounded a bit far-fetched, they were actually very logical.

This also explained how there were top-grade rank 4 pills for sale, when the boss of the shop was what an early rank 1 Spirit realm brat.

After taking a deep breath, the old man looked at the people around him, before he said in a solemn voice

"In that case, it is actually for the best that you didn't fight with them, Zhou Ning. For this matter, we will have to inform the pavilion master!

Although a peak rank 9 Spirit realm expert is someone that we can take care of by ourselves as well, the situation has already exceeded our control.

After all, we don't truly know the depths of the enemies' forces, and in case that the person in that shop is actually a Nascent Soul stage expert..."

Shivers suddenly passed through the old man's and the rest spines, as they all agreed to inform the pavilion master!

This wasn't something that they should risk, taking on by themselves.

At the same time, inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long closed his eyes before he simulated himself leaving the foggy space, as he once again returned back inside the first floor of the shop.

Looking at Liu Mei who still hadn't woken up and was cultivating next to the black panther, Shun Long smiled lightly before he walked towards the entrance of the shop.

Just as he put his hand on the wooden door and was about to open it however, the door was suddenly sent flying inside the shop by a powerful kick, before it crashed on the ground next to Shun Long, breaking into smithereens.

Chapter 276 - 276 Violent guardian gang

Turning his head to look at the entrance, Shun Long saw 3 young men in black robes, arrogantly swaggering inside the shop.

The man in the lead stared at the pills behind the glass cases with a smile on his face, while his eyes lit up when he noticed their high prices.

And yet, a shocked look had suddenly appeared on his face when he saw the 4 skeletons whose eyes were shining with green ember wisps.

However, ignoring the skeletons' creepy appearances, his eyes were once again focused on the countless pills around him while the greed inside them deepened even further.

The 2 men who were following behind him traded glances with each other, while large smiles could be seen on their faces before they turned their attention at Shun Long.

The young man in the lead seemed to be in his mid-twenties, with long black hair that was tied up in a ponytail and a pointy jaw.

His gaze looked around the shop as if he was the owner, before he finally turned his eyes towards Shun Long as well.

Shun Long saw that the man in front of him had an evil smile on his face, before his condescending voice sounded in Shun Long's ears

"Brat, I heard that someone purchased old Bu's shop and turned it into a pill shop.

The pill shop supposedly has crazy prices as well, while their owner made a lot of money yesterday.

Judging by the prices of your pills, it seems that the rumors are true. I am sure that you made a killing.

However, you should already know that you are not allowed to operate a shop in the 'Silver cross street' without the permission of our 'Violent guardian gang'!

After all, every shop here needs to be under our gang's protection for their own good!"

Nodding their heads, the 2 young men behind him also agreed, before the short-haired, black-robed man on the left added

"Don't worry kid, as long as you pay the price, our gang will make sure to protect your shop properly!"

The man in the middle nodded his head, while his eyes stared at the pills around him once again, before he raised 5 fingers in the air and said in a commanding tone

"5 million! As long as you pay 5 million low-grade spirit stones every month, we will allow your shop to operate normally.

Otherwise, I am sure that you understand the consequences.

Old Bu was a person who paid for protection as well, until his shop stopped making money anymore.

Actually, I should charge you more considering how you sold pills yesterday without our permission, but 5 million can be considered the start of a good deal!"

Shaking his head Shun Long actually wondered for a moment, where did an early rank 3 and a pair of peak rank 2 Spirit realm cultivators find the courage to extort the entire Silver cross street for protection money?

Although he hadn't paid much attention to the shops around him before he had purchased his shop, Shun Long clearly remembered that some of the bosses from the nearby shops had even reached the middle stages of the Spirit realm.

"To be able to extort protection money from every shop in the Silver cross street, there is no way that their gang is limited to these 3 fools in front of me. They should probably have at least a few late-stage Spirit realm cultivators as well!"

And yet, even as this thought flashed through Shun Long's mind, there was no way for him to agree to pay 5 million low-grade spirit stones as protection money.

After all, this was just an extortion fee so that this gang wouldn't mess with his shop.

As for protecting it? What a joke! With the black panther staying inside the first floor of the shop, and Little Black who was residing in the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', why would Shun Long need more helpers from this 'Violent guardian gang'?

Looking at the 3 black-robed people in front of him, Shun Long didn't even bother wasting words with them.

All he said was a single word, before he pointed forward with his finger

"Scram."

Shun Long's qi was then gathered in his finger, while sparks of lightning appeared around his hand before a lightning bolt shot out from it towards the 3 men in front of him.

The man in the middle smirked when he saw Shun Long's attack before he punched forward with his right arm in response.

Flames had appeared around the man's hand, as he met Shun Long's thunderbolt finger head-on.

The scene that followed however was completely different from his expectations.

The man's flames were completely unable to stop the lightning bolt that pierced a hole through his finger.

The terrifying force behind the thunderbolt finger sent the man flying, outside of the shop, into the crowd that was waiting at the shop's entrance.

Hearing the blood-curdling screams that left the man's mouth, the pair of peak rank 2 Spirit realm cultivators who were behind him, now stared at Shun Long with eyes full of anger, as well as concealed fear.

It was obvious that they hadn't expected for Shun Long to attack them first.

The crowd was also shocked when they saw the young man in their midst, whose right hand was now charred and in a horrible condition.

There was practically no one in the Silver cross street who would dare fight against the 'Violent guardian gang's' members.

Even if they asked you for 5 million low-grade spirit stones, at most they would beat you and break down your shop if you didn't pay. But if you dared to fight against them, they would definitely kill you without exception!

The pair of peak rank 2 Spirit realm cultivators rushed out of the shop and supported the pony-tailed young man who seemed to have barely held on to his senses.

The man looked at Shun Long who was inside the shop with unconcealed hatred as well as fear in his eyes.

After taking a look at his arm, his eyes turned cold, as he said in a murderous tone that was filled with killing intent

"You are dead!"

Without waiting for an answer, the 3 men from the 'Violent guardian gang' passed through the crowd who had opened a path for them, as they left the 'Silver cross street'.

At the same time, in the depths of the first floor, Liu Mei who was still sitting cross-legged next to the black panther, absorbing the residual qi inside her body, finally opened her eyes!

Chapter 277 - 277 Amassing wealth!

A powerful aura erupted from Liu Mei's body as soon as she opened her eyes.

Her cultivation which was at the peak of rank 1 in the Spirit realm a few hours ago, had already sky-rocketed, advancing all the way to the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm in one single night.

This was the result of absorbing part of the qi from an early rank 6 Spirit realm cultivator, as well as 4 rank 2 Spirit realm ones.

Liu Mei had not only reached the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm, but she was just a step away from breaking through to the early rank 4.

However, even though her cultivation had advanced extremely quickly in just one night, her spiritual strength wasn't up to par, and this was something that Liu Mei already knew.

The Spirit realm was the realm in preparation before the Nascent Soul stage.

Increasing the spiritual strength and spirit sense were the most important parts alongside the cultivation increase.

Almost as if he had sensed something, Shun Long turned his head to look towards the depths of the shop.

Of course, neither Liu Mei nor the black panther were visible, unless someone headed deeper inside the shop.

Suppressing his curiosity, Shun Long decided to check Liu Mei's condition later, when Little Black's voice sounded in his head, saying

"Master, that little girl is very lucky!

After absorbing the qi from the early rank 6 Spirit realm cultivator, her cultivation actually managed to rise all the way to the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm!

As long as she can absorb enough blood qi in the future, she will probably not fall too far behind master's cultivation.

At the very least, she will be able to protect herself!"

Shun Long felt shocked for a moment when he heard Little Black's words.

Peak rank 3 in the Spirit realm?

But after thinking about it for a moment, it made sense.

"Of course! How many rank 1 Spirit realm cultivators will have the chance to kill an early rank 6 Spirit realm expert, while they cultivate in a technique like the 'Blood Absorption art' at the same time?"

As this thought flashed through his mind, Shun Long realized how amazing a technique the 'Blood Absorption art' really was.

Of course, it also came with its own disadvantages as well.

The day continued, and although the crowd was shocked when they saw Shun Long fighting with the members of the 'Violent guardian gang', the interest that people had in these new pills of his didn't diminish in the slightest.

Soon, night fell, before Shun Long decided to close the shop for today.

By the end of the day, Liu Mei's skeletons had gathered almost 3 million low-grade spirit stones.

Even for Shun Long who wasn't lacking in spirit stones at the moment, getting 5 million low-grade in 2 days was an enormous amount.

Wouldn't that mean that within a month the shop would make approximately 75 million low-grade spirit stones?

This was more than the current amount of spirit stones that Shun Long had inside the 'Stone of Time' at this point.

If this was converted into middle-grade spirit stones, it would be 750.000 middle-grade spirit stones.

Of course, Shun Long also understood that this was a slightly unrealistic amount to expect.

The reason was, because this matter involved more factors than just the price of his pills.

It also involved the current population of the 'City of Sin', as well as the amount of spirit stones that were being circulated in the pill market at the northern part of the city.

After all, Shun Long's shop wasn't the only shop that sold pills, while special pills like the 'Spiritual wind jade pill' would only be purchased once by each person.

Thinking about it for a bit, Shun Long estimated that he should be able to make well over 600.000 middle-grade spirit stones by the end of the month however.

This was equivalent to 60 million low-grade spirit stones.

After the 4 skeletons replaced the destroyed door, Shun Long walked at the depths of the first floor, where Liu Mei was still sitting cross-legged next to the black panther.

Although her cultivation had already advanced, she still had to consume the 'Spirit enhancing pills' in order to bring her spiritual strength and spirit sense at the same level as her cultivation.

Seeing Liu Mei opening her eyes as soon as he approached her, Shun Long looked at her shining black eyes that were full of vigor and asked curiously

"Mei'er, how are you feeling?"

Even though Shun Long knew that there shouldn't be any issues nor any extreme pain before Liu Mei attempted to breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage, at the end of the day, the 'Blood Absorption art' wasn't a common cultivation technique.

If Liu Mei had started to feel that something was wrong, then it was better for her to give up on it while it was still early.

Liu Mei however, had an enchanting smile on her face as she stared at Shun Long, before she answered gently

"Long-ge, don't worry! Everything is okay! Although there was some pain at first, I am sure that it was due to the concentrated amount of qi that I absorbed."

At the same time, inside the 'Stone of Time', Little Black nodded his head as his voice then sounded in Shun Long's mind

"Master, there is nothing to worry about regarding that little girl. It is normal to have felt pain in that situation. Absorbing the qi from an early rank 6 Spirit realm cultivator when she is only at the peak of rank 1 is normal to bring pain after all."

Shun Long nodded his head in response after hearing Little Black's words, before he and Liu Mei went up to the second floor and dual cultivated for the next 3 hours.

Looking at Liu Mei's n.a.k.e.d body that was lying on top of him, Shun Long caressed her long black hair before he said

"Mei'er, can you take care of the shop?"

I am planning to enter seclusion for the next few days, and advance my strength. Of course, if something truly happens, Little Black will let me know so I can return."

Liu Mei's eyes lit up, and without any hesitation she nodded her head as she agreed.

This was one of the few times that Shun Long had asked her for something.

Seeing the excited expression on Liu Mei's face, Shun Long smiled as his hands continued to caress her black hair.

A few moments later, after putting on his robes, Shun Long closed his eyes as he once again returned back inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'.

After sitting cross-legged on the ground, he waved his hand, taking out more than 10.000 middle-grade spirit stones as well as 10 bottles filled with top-grade 'Spirit enhancing pills'.

This time, Shun Long was planning to advance all the way to the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm.

This was also the requirement that he needed to reach, to be able to refine rank 5 pills.

Chapter 278 - 278 Breakthrough

Dense amounts of pure qi filled the air around Shun Long and Little Black, as the 'Heaven Swallowing vine' consumed more and more middle-grade spirit stones.

The black dragon sighed inwardly as he thought to himself

"How good would it have been if master had this vine in his previous life?"

Sigh I suppose that some treasures can only be chanced upon, regardless of cultivation level. This is fate after all."

As this thought flashed through his mind, Little Black had already coiled himself around Shun Long, and started to munch on a stalk of 'dragonblood grass', as he watched Shun Long absorb the pure qi around them inside his body.

As Shun Long circulated the 'Monarch's Hourglass', the indistinct figure of an hourglass expanded from his body, as 12 balls of qi were now floating above his head.

Soon, a 13th ball of qi had appeared on his right hand, it's figure blurry at first, but as time passed, it started to turn more and more corporeal.

A few hours passed until the newly created ball of qi was shining with a bright white light, not inferior to the light that the 12 balls of qi were emitting inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

Raising his right hand in the air, Shun Long used all of his strength, as he pushed the ball of qi inside the hole of the hourglass.

Sweat had formed on Shun Long's forehead, and half an hour later, 13 bright balls of qi were floating above his head.

Every new ball of qi that Shun Long created was even harder to condense than the last one, as it required even more qi to be formed.

As Shun Long was cultivating inside the foggy space, on the first floor of the shop, Liu Mei was staring at the shop's entrance.

After taking a deep breath, a black ball of qi appeared in her hands, before she allowed it to fall on the floor.

2 undead knights dressed in black armor appeared in front of Liu Mei, each of their cultivation having reached the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm.

After sitting on the chair next to Shun Long's, Liu Mei allowed the undead knights to open the door, before they proceeded to stand guard at the shop's entrance.

The crowd that was waiting for the shop's door to open, was stunned for a moment when they saw the 3m(10ft) tall undead knights inside the shop.

The knights' terrifying appearance, as well as the 2m(6.6ft) long greatswords on their backs, gave off a dangerous feeling to everyone who was about to pass through the shop's entrance.

However, after noticing that the black-armored knights were only standing guard and weren't proactively moving, people stopped paying too much attention to them as they slowly entered the shop.

"Eh?"

Surprised exclamations sounded, once people saw that Shun Long wasn't present, and instead, it was just Liu Mei on the first floor.

Liu Mei however didn't seem to mind the crowd's reactions, as she continued to stay seated and observe the people around her.

The first day quickly passed, and it was unknown whether it was thanks to the deterrence of the undead knights or for some other reason, but no one tried to create any trouble inside the shop.

At the end of the day, Liu Mei closed the shop's entrance, having collected a total of 3 million low-grade spirit stones.

At the same time, inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long was still sitting cross-legged with his eyes closed, as he consumed top-grade 'Spirit enhancing pills' without stop.

Although one day had passed for Liu Mei, 10 days had already passed for him inside the 'Stone of Time'.

Above his head, Shun Long could see 21 bright balls of qi if he opened his eyes, as his cultivation had already reached the early rank 3 in the Spirit realm.

After consuming the 'Spirit enhancing pills', Shun Long could clearly feel his spiritual strength and his spirit sense becoming stronger with every passing second.

Time continued to pass like this, and soon, 6 more days had gone by for Liu Mei who had already started to get used to the role of a shopkeeper.

During these 6 days, Liu Mei had been surprised to see that nothing unnatural had happened, and the shop's business continued normally.

In the last week alone, she had already made 20 million low-grade spirit stones.

This was an enormous amount of spirit stones, that would make even Dao Kings grow envious, let alone Nascent Soul stage experts or Spirit realm cultivators.

In the worst-case scenario, that Nascent Soul stage experts would come to find trouble in the shop while Shun Long was still cultivating, Liu Mei had also been prepared to have the black panther deal with them.

However, to her surprise, not only were there no Nascent Soul stage experts who came to find trouble, but even the 'Violent guardian gang' and the 'Blood Pill pavilion' had also stayed silent during this time.

Although Liu Mei couldn't guess the reason behind their lack of actions, she was certain that at least the 'Blood Pill pavilion', wouldn't want to suddenly become friends with Shun Long.

At the same time that Liu Mei was pondering over this issue while she was closing the shop for the day, in the foggy place inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long finally opened his eyes.

A powerful aura exploded from his body, while 30 bright balls of qi were now floating above his head, as his cultivation had now reached the early rank 4 in the Spirit realm!

A little more than 2 months had passed since he had entered seclusion, and even with his own standards, his rate of advancement this time was far too fast.

Shun Long had expected to spend at least a month more before he managed to breakthrough from the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm to the early rank 4, but surprisingly, his advancement was extremely smooth.

"This is probably thanks to all the fights I have been through lately, allowing me to get fully used to my strength before breaking through." Shun Long thought to himself, as he stared at Little Black who was still eating a stalk of 'Dragonblood grass'.

Now that his cultivation had advanced to the early rank 4 of the Spirit realm, Shun Long was confident in refining even rank 5 medicinal herbs like the 'Dragonblood grass' into pills.

This would make him equal to a gold grade alchemist!

Closing his eyes, he once again simulated himself leaving the 'Stone of Time', as he returned back inside the room on the second floor of the shop.

Chapter 279 - 279 Hiding the news?

Liu Mei had just entered the room on the second floor, when she saw Shun Long suddenly appearing on top of the meditative cushion in the middle of the room.

"Long-ge!"

Liu Mei's excited voice entered Shun Long's ears as soon as he appeared back in the room.

Turning his head to look at his stunning young wife who was dressed in white robes, Shun Long had a smile on his face as he asked

"Mei'er, are you alright?"

Shun Long had no idea how these last 7 days were for Liu Mei who had to act as the shopkeeper by herself.

He had originally expected to be able to cultivate in seclusion for 3 days at most before someone came to cause trouble in the shop.

After all, this was the 'City of Sin', and Shun Long already had a bad relationship with the 'Blood Pill pavilion' and the 'Violent guardian gang'.

However, since Little Black hadn't mentioned anything, Shun Long decided to continue cultivating in seclusion this time, spending a month and a half more inside the 'Stone of Time', in order to breakthrough to the early rank 4 in the Spirit realm.

Nodding her head, Liu Mei had a smile on her face as she then answered

"Long-ge, I am alright. Surprisingly, nothing happened in the past week.

As for the store itself... we made more than 20 million low-grade spirit stones during this time!"

Shun Long had a surprised expression on his face when he heard Liu Mei's words.

Additionally, he also noticed that there was an unconcealed hint of pride and joy in Liu Mei's tone when she mentioned the 20 million low-grade spirit stones.

The look in Shun Long face however soon turned serious, as he thought to himself

"Then, this is even more suspicious! There is no way that anyone wouldn't be tempted to rob a shop that makes 20 million low-grade spirit stones within a week, especially inside the 'City of Sin'."

As this thought flashed through Shun Long's mind, his mind quickly spun as he started to think of the possible reasons that had allowed the shop to keep its peace for the past week.

Seeing the serious look on Shun Long's face, Liu Mei seemed to have understood what he was thinking about. After all, she too had the same concerns when she saw how many spirit stones the shop earned within the week without any issues.

Just as Shun Long had fallen into deep thought, Little Black's voice once again sounded in his mind, completely waking him up from his reverie

"Master, for the past week, there have been 2 different groups that have been keeping an eye on the shop at all times. It seems that they are just waiting for master to leave the shop before they make any moves."

The moment that Shun Long heard Little Black's words, it was like the final piece of the puzzle had finally found its place, leaving a complete image in his mind.

"Of course!

The reason that no Nascent Soul stage expert has come to find trouble just yet, is because they probably don't know about the shop, since it is still new and unknown in the 'City of Sin'!

Additionally, it's in the northern part of the city, and more precisely, in the area where the 'Blood Pill pavilion' and the 'Violent guardian gang' seem to be in charge of. As long as those 2 powers suppress the news of the shop appearing, other powers would have a hard time finding out about our shop's existence in just a week, let alone make any moves.

Sooner or later however, the shop's name will spread throughout the city.

After all, no matter how hard the 'Blood Pill pavilion' and the 'Violent guardian gang' try to suppress the news, they cannot control every single person who enters the Silver cross street.

Based on the power and influence that the 'Violent guardian gang' and the 'Blood pill pavilion' have over the Silver cross street, there is also a very high chance that there are Nascent Souls stage experts behind them.

But then, why haven't they attacked the shop just yet, and simply sent a few Spirit realm cultivators from the 'Blood pill pavilion'?

Could it be that they are actually waiting for something, which is why they have each sent a group to keep track of us?

Right! After all, as long as we don't leave, the spirit stones won't leave either!"

Sorting out his thoughts and deductions, Shun Long guessed that he had probably understood almost everything by now. There were a few small pieces of information that he still couldn't wrap his head around, like the reason why they hadn't attacked the shop just yet.

Of course, it was also possible that there was no Nascent Soul stage expert behind these 2 powers, but then that wouldn't justify the control and influence that the 'Blood Pill pavilion' and the 'Violent guardian gang' had in the northern part of the 'City of Sin'. After all, Shun Long had already heard that the 'Blood Pill pavilion' was one of the 3 biggest pill shops in the northern part of the city as well.

Once these thoughts flashed through Shun Long's mind, and after noticing that it was still the start of the night and there were more than 8 hours until the sun rose, Shun Long suddenly put on a bright smile on his face as he looked at Liu Mei, before he said in a seemingly casual tone

"Mei'er, let's go!"

Liu Mei was stunned for a moment, but she still nodded her head as she followed Shun Long who walked to the first floor, passed through the black panther who opened his eyes as soon as he saw its master, before he stopped in front of the shop's entrance.

Without opening the door of the shop, Shun Long asked Little Black for the exact location, as well as the strength of the 2 groups who were keeping an eye on the shop.

With a somewhat evil smile on his face, Little Black seemed to have guessed Shun Long's intentions, as the black dragon then said in an excited voice

"Master, one group only has an early rank 4, as well as a pair of peak rank 3 Spirit realm cultivators, while the other one has an early and a middle rank 4 Spirit realm cultivators, as well as one who is at the peak of rank 3."

With that same smile on his face, Shun Long raised his left hand, before he slashed the air in front of him, opening a nearly 2m(6.6ft) long space tear. Holding Liu Mei's hand, Shun Long then entered the space tear, as he and Liu Mei instantly disappeared from the shop.

Chapter 280 - 280 Disguise

Almost a mile away from the shop, in an isolated small alley of the Silver cross street, Shun Long and Liu Mei suddenly appeared as the space tear behind them closed.

Liu Mei wasn't wearing her white veil this time, and as her beautiful black eyes were staring at Shun Long she couldn't hold herself from asking

"Long-ge, where are we going?"

Shun Long smiled even wider when he heard Liu Mei's question, before he answered in a seemingly joking tone

"To have some fun."

With a confused expression on her face, Liu Mei still followed Shun Long who stealthily ran through the alleys of the Silver cross street, until he arrived behind a large building less than a mile away from the shop.

On top of the building, 3 people dressed in black were silently staring towards the pill shop's entrance, completely unaware of Shun Long's and Liu Mei's arrival behind them.

Liu Mei's eyes widened when she saw that these people seemed to be staring at their shop, when Shun Long suddenly mumbled

"Monarch's Domain!"

The invisible figure of an hourglass expanded from Shun Long's body and completely covered Liu Mei as well as the 3 people on the rooftop, forcing time around him to come to a halt.

However, unlike the 3 black-robed people on the rooftop, Liu Mei's actions didn't seem to be affected by the 'Monarch's Domain'.

In the past, Shun Long was unable to fully control the 'Monarch's Domain', but as his comprehension of the Dao of Time advanced, he could now stop the flow of time around the 3 black-robed people, while allowing Liu Mei to stay completely unaffected.

Seeing that the 3 people on the rooftop were suddenly placed in a half-dead state, Liu Mei stared at them with shining eyes, before she turned her gaze towards Shun Long and asked in a hesitant tone

"Long-ge, should we...?"

Shun Long immediately understood what Liu Mei was asking, and with a serious look on his face, he nodded his head, before he pointed at the 3 black-robed people and said

"Of course! If they didn't intend to harm us, then we could have let them live, but this is definitely not the case."

If we had tried to leave the city, the first thing these people would have done would be to call whoever sent them here, who would in turn attack us to rob us of everything we have.

It looks like the only reason that they haven't attacked us yet, is because they still have some misgivings or they are waiting for something, but as soon as we try to leave they will definitely do everything they can to kill us!

Judging from the robes they are wearing, they also seem to be members of the 'Blood Pill pavilion'...

This is perfect!"

Liu Mei didn't understand why Shun Long seemed to be excited when he noticed that these people are members of the 'Blood Pill pavilion', but she still nodded her head, agreeing with his words.

Indeed, it was very likely for Shun Long's words to be true!

After all, regardless of whether it was the 'Blood Pill pavilion' or some other power in the 'City of Sin', it was impossible for them to have any good intentions towards them.

Especially after considering how many spirit stones their shop had made in the last week, Liu Mei stopped hesitating, while a single thought flashed through her mind

"Long-ge is right. Since you wanted to harm us, then you should pay the price!"

The look inside Liu Mei's eyes quickly turned cold as she stared at the 3 people on the rooftop, while a ball of black qi appeared in her hands before she let it fall on the ground.

3 black-armored undead knights appeared from the ground, kneeling in front of Liu Mei on one knee.

After receiving Liu Mei's order, the 3 undead knights quickly shot to the rooftop, towards the 3 people from the 'Blood Pill pavilion' who were still in a frozen-like state.

Whether it was the peak rank 3, the early rank 4, or even the peak rank 4 Spirit realm cultivator, under the effects of Shun Long's 'Monarch's Domain' they were completely immobilized.

The 3 undead knights easily cut their necks, beheading the 3 cultivators of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' in an instant, before they returned back to Liu Mei.

At the same time, Shun Long saw Liu Mei closing her eyes, as almost invisible threads of blood qi started to flow towards her.

It only took half an hour for Liu Mei to fully absorb the energy from the 3 cultivators of the 'Blood Pill pavilion', while her cultivation now was just a step away from reaching the early rank 4 of the Spirit realm.

With a light smile on his face, Shun Long floated towards the rooftop where the 3 bodies were lying on.

After removing their robes as well as their spatial rings, Shun Long burned the 3 bodies with his qi flames, before he jumped down from the rooftop, and handed one of the black robes to Liu Mei.

Then, under Liu Mei's stunned eyes, Shun Long covered himself with a black robe, completely hiding his azure robes underneath it.

Seeing Liu Mei staring at him with a speechless look, Shun Long said with that same smile on his face

"Mei'er, quickly put on the black robes as well, otherwise, we will definitely be found out!"

Liu Mei's eyes suddenly widened as she understood what Shun Long intended to do.

Seeing Liu Mei covering her white robes with the black ones from the 'Blood Pill pavilion' fully concealing her face as well at the same time, Shun Long almost laughed, and after wrapping his right arm around Liu Mei's waist, he shot to the sky as the 2 of them 'toured' through the northern part of the 'City of Sin'!

Less than an hour later, Shun Long's eyes lit up, as he saw a red-colored building in the distance.

It was a huge building, more than 4 stories high, and even during the night, large numbers of people could be seen entering and leaving at the same time.

Seeing the sign of the crimson pill cauldron above the building, Shun Long immediately understood that this was the headquarters of the 'Blood Pill pavilion'!