

Time 631

Chapter 631: Song Yahui

As they stepped past the entrance and entered inside the Golden Treasures Hall, Shun Long led Liu Mei and the others in front of the entrance of a private room where a blue-robed young man was standing guard.

This young man's cultivation was at the peak of rank 4 in the Nascent Soul, and from the clothes he was wearing, it was obvious that he wasn't an outer court disciple of the Holy sect, but most likely a servant.

Shun Long was slightly surprised to see someone standing guard in front of Wan Zu's private room since he clearly remembered that there wasn't anyone here the last time, but he still didn't mind as he kept walking towards the room.

The young man frowned when he saw Shun Long and the others walking towards Wan Zu's room, as he took a step forward and extended his right hand a moment later before he said

"Please stop. If you want to see senior Wan Zu you will have to wait. My young master is currently inside and is talking with him."

The young man's words were polite, but the haughty tone in his voice couldn't be concealed as he looked at Shun Long and the others while he blocked the path in front of the door.

Although he was just a peak rank 4 Nascent Soul cultivator, the young man could clearly sense that even the strongest people in Shun Long's group were just Jiang Chen and Liu Mei, both of whom were at the peak of rank 7 in the Nascent Soul. This wasn't a low level of cultivation, but in the outer court of the Holy sect that was filled with countless monsters, it was nothing much in comparison.

At the same time that the blue-robed young man finished speaking, the door of the private room behind him also happened to open, before a young man dressed in yellow robes and a white-haired old man dressed in white both stepped out from it at the same time.

"Eh? What's going on?" The young man in the yellow robes exclaimed when he noticed the commotion in front of Wan Zu's room, as his eyes landed on Shun Long's group.

Shun Long was somewhat surprised when he sensed the aura coming from this person's body that was actually at the middle of rank 9 of the Nascent Soul, and it was even among the stronger middle rank 9 Nascent Soul stage cultivators that he had seen.

The blue-robed young man that was blocking Shun Long's group instantly turned around when he heard the yellow-robed young man's voice, but just as he was about to speak, Wan Zu's eyes suddenly lit up at that moment, as he took a step forward and pushed the blue-robed young man to the side without any hesitation, before he exclaimed in a voice that was filled with surprise and joy

"Brother Shun Long! Hahaha, what a surprise!"

"Shun Long?" The yellow-robed young man next to Wan Zu seemed to have been surprised when he heard this name, as his eyes stared at Shun Long with a curious gaze inside them.

It was only at that moment that Wan Zu remembered the yellow-robed young man standing next to him, as he smiled and looked at him before he said with a smile on his face

"Ah, brother Song, I suppose you haven't met each other yet. Let me introduce you. This is brother Shun Long, a genius whose faction has been rising extremely quickly in the faction wars during the past 5 months. In just 5 months, his faction managed to enter the top 1000 rankings."

Wan Zu then looked at Shun Long and smiled in a warm manner as he continued

"Brother Shun Long, this is brother Song Yahui! You have probably heard of him as well. Brother Song isn't just a member of one of the top 100 factions, but he is actually ranked within the top 1000 ranks in the Martial Roll of Honor as well."

The yellow-robed Song Yahui nodded his head, but after taking a look at the 4 people standing around Shun Long, his gaze landed on Shun Long's body a moment later as he then said

"Shun Long huh? I have indeed heard of you. Your faction has been rising quickly and it has even attracted the attention of some powerful factions even among the top 100 in the outer court of the sect, but it's mostly because of that Jiang Chen and Liu Mei next to you. As for you... I heard that all you do is just sit back without even fighting your opponents. It's surprising that anyone would accept you as a faction leader."

Liu Mei, Bai Longtian, Xie Xingyi, and Jiang Chen, all narrowed their eyes when they heard Song Yahui's words, as they shot cold looks at him.

Indeed, Shun Long wasn't fighting by himself in the faction wars, but wasn't every other faction leader the same? Aside from the wars among the top 100 factions that were rumored to be different from the normal faction wars, fights between factions inside the arena would always have the faction leaders stay behind and wait while they were protected by the rest of their faction.

It was obvious that Song Yahui didn't have a high opinion of Shun Long as he looked at him with a superior look in his eyes as he waited for his answer.

And yet, Shun Long simply shook his head disdainfully, before he turned his attention towards Wan Zu and said

"Song Yahui? I haven't heard of him."

Song Yahui narrowed his eyes as he looked at Shun Long, but Shun Long simply stared at him with a cold look in his eyes, without taking a step back either, causing Wan Zu to start sweating bullets.

The white-robed elder then smiled as he took a step forward and got between the 2 groups, before he laughed and said

"Haha, let's not fight inside my Golden Treasures Hall. The two of you, please give me some face."

After staring at Shun Long for a few moments Song Yahui nodded his head and said

"Fine. Since senior Wan is asking for it, this Song will naturally give you face.

As for you, Shun Long, your tiny faction has just entered the top 1000 less than a month ago. You are lucky since if it wasn't for senior Wan Zu, I would bury you to the ground today. Unfortunately, you are simply not worth it for me to deal with the Enforcement Hall disciples afterwards."

"Your name is Song Yahui? I will remember it."

Surprisingly, just as Song Yahui turned his attention towards the blue-robed servant of his and was about to leave, Liu Mei's icy-cold voice resounded in his ears, causing Song Yahui to turn his attention towards her.

Chapter 632: Song Yahui's invitation

It wasn't just Liu Mei, as Xie Xingyi, Bai Longtian, and Jiang Chen, were now all staring coldly at this expert of the top 1000 rankings in the Martial Roll of Honor in front of them.

Song Yahui was surprised, as he turned his gaze towards Liu Mei, but a moment later, he actually smiled and cupped his hands at her before he said in a much warmer voice

"You must be junior sister Liu Mei. I heard that you are Elder Xuan's personal disciple. I have nothing against you. I am simply surprised that all of you would willingly follow that Shun Long. You should know that for someone like you, even factions in the top 100 rankings would be happy to accept you."

Song Yahui then turned his gaze towards Jiang Chen, Xingyi, and Bai Longtian, and nodded his head as he continued

"This goes for the rest of you as well. As long you want it, I can formally accept all of you in my faction today actually.

You should understand the difference between a faction at the top 100 rankings vs a faction at the top 1000.

You have only entered the top 1000 faction rankings a month ago. No matter how hard you try, you will need more than a few years until you have a chance to challenge the top 100 factions of the sect.

Joining a faction at the top 100 rankings right now will give you enough resources which will allow you to get stronger even faster."

Song Yahui stared at Liu Mei and the rest with a smile on his face as he waited for their answer, but it was obvious that he hadn't heard of the faction war between Shun Long's and Peng Chao's faction earlier today. Naturally, what he had said just now was also true.

Joining a faction at the top 100 rankings would provide any outer disciples with plenty of resources for them to get stronger even faster.

As for geniuses like Liu Mei, Xie Xingyi, Jiang Chen, and Bai Longtian, whose cultivation base has been rising so quickly in the past 10 months that it has even attracted the attention of some of the powerful inner court Elders of the sect, their growth would truly become unimaginable once they get access to the resources of the top 100 factions.

This was why Song Yahui was extremely surprised when he saw Shun Long just now and he was simply unwilling to miss this chance to recruit Jiang Chen and the rest.

Of course, Song Yahui wasn't hoping to get all of them to join his faction.

Even a single one of them would be a huge win in his eyes.

After all, although Jiang Chen and the rest were still extremely weak in his eyes, all 4 of them were already disciples of inner court Elders of the sect, and in the future, they all had a high chance to reach the top of the rankings in the Martial Roll of Honor as well.

Although they probably couldn't reach those monsters at the top 300 rankings in the Martial Roll of Honor, reaching the top 500 or even the top 400 would still be possible for them in the future.

Unfortunately for Song Yahui, Liu Mei and the others all stared at him with disdainful looks in their eyes, before Bai Longtian was the first one to actually shake his head as he replied coldly

"Senior brother Song, you should take your leave. If you stay here, I can't guarantee your safety."

Song Yahui narrowed his eyes when he heard this, but a moment later he actually started to laugh loudly with a deep look in his eyes as he stared at the 5 people in front of him.

Although Bai Longtian's words were polite, his tone clearly lacked any signs of his usual warmth, not disguising his anger at all as he spoke to Song Yahui.

Trying to 'steal' Liu Mei and the rest away from Shun Long's faction, and in front of everyone's eyes, made it clear that Song Yahui didn't have even the slightest bit of respect for Shun Long. There was no way that Xie Xingyi and the rest would accept this.

Even Wan Zu himself frowned as he looked at Song Yahui.

Wan Zu had already mentioned that Shun Long was his guest, and yet Song Yahui had decided to not give him any face in the end.

But how could a middle rank 9 Nascent Soul stage expert who belonged to the top 1000 rankings in the Martial Roll of Honor be afraid of Bai Longtian and the rest?

Song Yahui simply laughed and shook his head as he looked at Bai Longtian and the rest, before he said with a smile on his face

"You are simply too weak to understand the difference between us right now. You can't guarantee my safety?"

Don't even think about challenging me if you can't even reach the top 2000 rankings in the Martial Roll of Honor first, and this is only the requirement to get a chance to challenge me."

With the same smile on his face, Song Yahui stopped paying attention to Bai Longtian's group, as he turned around and walked towards the entrance of the Golden Treasures Hall.

"Brother Shun Long, I apologize."

Wan Zu shook his head and cupped his hands at Shun Long before he said in an apologetic tone, but he still looked at Song Yahui's disappearing figure from the corner of his eyes.

Shun Long stared at Song Yahui's disappearing figure for a few moments as well, before his lips curved up into a smile a moment later.

Shun Long already knew that it was only a matter of time before some people from the top 100 factions tried to 'steal' Liu Mei and the others and get them to join their factions.

Liu Mei's and the rest's rate of growth was truly considered terrifying even among the top outer court disciples in the Holy sect.

However, nobody knew that the reason why Liu Mei, Xingyi, Jiang Chen, and Bai Longtian, had all managed to breakthrough to the late stages of the Nascent Soul so quickly instead of having to spend a few years on the peak of rank 6 in the Nascent Soul, was mostly thanks to Shun Long's 'Barrier-piercing pill'.

Naturally, Shun Long wouldn't pay too much attention to someone like Song Yahui since he had already expected for this to happen sooner or later. There was no way that the top 100 factions would ignore someone like Xingyi who had such a rare unique physique, Liu Mei who had comprehended the Dao of Death, or Jiang Chen who had both an immortal-grade bloodline and a unique physique.

The only one who hadn't revealed his unique physique just yet was Bai Longtian.

However, although Shun Long wouldn't pay too much attention to someone like Song Yahui, this didn't mean that he would simply ignore him once Song Yahui tried to steal Liu Mei and the others away.

"Middle rank 9 of the Nascent Soul? Let's see how strong you really are. Perhaps I shouldn't conceal my Dao of Time any longer either."

Almost as if he had guessed what Shun Long was thinking as he stared at Song Yahui's figure, Wan Zu shook his head and said in a serious voice

"Brother Shun Long, unless you reach the rank 9 of the Nascent Soul, you really shouldn't challenge Song Yahui. Although he is arrogant, even among other middle rank 9 Nascent Soul stage cultivators, he is considered to be among the stronger ones!"

Shun Long turned his gaze towards the white-robed Dao King next to him and nodded his head a moment later as he said in a calm voice

"Thank you, senior Wan. However, I am not here for Song Yahui. I am looking for a certain medicinal herb, and I wonder if senior Wan can help me."

The white-haired Dao King's, Wan Zu's eyes lit up when he heard this, and after he allowed Shun Long and the rest to enter his private room, he gestured for everyone to sit before he said calmly

"Brother Shun, please speak. Naturally, if I can help you, then I will of course do so. I wonder what kind of medicinal herb you are looking for."

Nodding his head, Shun Long had a serious look in his eyes as he then answered

"I am looking for a rank 6 'five-elements grass'."

The white-robed Dao King's, Wan Zu's eyes suddenly widened when he heard this, as he stared at Shun Long with a look of disbelief in his eyes.

Chapter 633: 'Five-elements awakening pill'

"A rank 6 'five-elements grass'? The same 'five-elements grass' that's used to concoct a rank 6 'five-elements awakening pill'?" Wan Zu asked, his voice laced with shock as he stared at Shun Long.

Shun Long nodded his head, causing the look on Wan Zu's face to turn even more serious.

Shun Long wasn't surprised by Wan Zu's reaction since he already knew that obtaining the 'five-elements grass' from him today wasn't going to be easy.

Even if Wan Zu had more than one stalk of 'five-elements grass', Shun Long understood that Wan Zu may be unwilling to sell it to him regardless.

After all, this was an extremely rare rank 6 medicinal herb that wasn't for sale in any shop within the Holy city. Shun Long had searched the entire Holy city, but not even the White tiger chamber of

commerce had a 'five-elements grass' on its third floor. As for whether they had one on the fourth floor, Shun Long didn't know, since the fourth floor was restricted to peak level Dao Kings and above.

Shaking his head, Wan Zu looked at Shun Long and said with a serious look on his face

"Brother Shun Long, what you are asking for is very difficult even for me. A single stalk of rank 6 'five-elements grass' is extremely rare in our Golden Treasures Hall.

The 'five-elements grass' is one of the 2 main medicinal herbs needed to concoct the rank 6 'five-elements awakening pill'. As an alchemist yourself, I am sure that you, brother Shun, also understand the value of a 'five-elements awakening pill'. Even in our Holy sect, there is no other pill that can allow someone to strengthen their physique other than the 'five-elements awakening pill'!

However, the success rate of refining a single batch of 'five-elements awakening pills' is less than 20 percent. Even powerful star-rank alchemists are rumored to have only 40 percent success rate when they refine it.

Although our Golden Treasures Hall does indeed have 2 stalks of 'five-elements grass' right now, only the peak rank 3 gold-grade alchemists working in the 'Refinement Hall' in the inner court are allowed to purchase them. Thus, brother Shun, I apologize but I cannot sell even a single stalk to you."

Wan Zu had an apologetic look on his face as he looked at Shun Long and shook his head.

He already knew that the 'five-elements grass' that Shun Long was looking for was one of the 2 main rank 6 medicinal herbs that an alchemist needed to refine the 'five-elements awakening pill', but even in the Holy sect, that was an extremely rare pill.

How could Wan Zu just sell it to Shun Long just because he was asking for it?

Since the Holy sect only had a limited number of stalks of 'five-elements grass', they would only allow the alchemists working in the Refinement Hall to purchase them, as the 'five-elements awakening pills' would then belong to the sect.

Shun Long understood this as well, not needing Wan Zu to explain it to him.

He had already heard that any alchemist who wanted to earn sect points, could concoct pills for the Holy sect in the Refinement Hall and sell them directly to the sect.

Of course, working for the Refinement Hall had its own advantages as well, since those alchemists wouldn't have to pay any fees to use the rooms inside the Refinement Hall while they make use of the 2 earth flames inside the sect, and they would also gain priority when they purchase certain ingredients from the Holy sect as well, such as this 'five-elements grass' that Shun Long wanted.

However, Shun Long didn't even consider becoming a member of the 'Refinement Hall' before he rejected the idea.

Although the alchemists of the 'Refinement Hall' had their own advantages, they would be strictly monitored by the sect as well every time they concocted their pills, in case they tried to hide the pills they concocted and sell them off privately.

It was only natural that the Holy sect wouldn't allow something like that.

However, when they are being monitored, it would not only expose their alchemy techniques for other experienced alchemists to see and learn from it, but certain pill recipes that they had painstakingly obtained would be viewed by others as well!

This was why many alchemists would consider it seriously before they joined the 'Refinement Hall'.

Although Shun Long wasn't worried too much about others trying to steal his pill recipes, he was planning to use the Refinement Hall more than once in the future, and that would definitely risk him exposing the secret of his herb garden.

If he joined the Refinement Hall and the other alchemists overseeing his pill concoction noticed that Shun Long had suddenly started to produce endless amounts of the same ingredients every time he refined some pill, they would naturally start getting suspicious.

In his heart, Shun Long valued the herb garden just as much, if not even more than the Heaven Swallowing vine.

After taking a look at Bai Longtian, Xie Xingyi, and Jiang Chen, who were all sitting around him, Shun Long simply smiled, before he turned his attention towards the white-robed Dao King sitting opposite to him.

No matter what, Shun Long couldn't just let this opportunity go. He already had Jiang Chen and the others search for the 'five-elements grass' in almost every single one of the 10 largest cities in the Holy sect's territory in the past 5 months, but they hadn't found anything.

This was why Shun Long had resorted coming to the Golden Treasures Hall today.

With a serious look in his eyes, he then waved his hand, causing a white-colored flower and a dark-red tree branch to appear on the table in front of him, immediately attracting not just Wan Zu's, but even Liu Mei's and the rest's attention.

"A rank 6 'white petal flower'? And... is this a 'heart branch' from a rank 6 'Red Parasol tree'? Brother Shun, what do you mean by this?"

Wan Zu stared at the 2 items that had appeared on the table in front of him with a surprised look in his eyes, before he turned his attention towards Shun Long.

He had already guessed what Shun Long was intending which made him even more surprised.

"Senior Wan Zu, I'm willing to trade both this 'white petal flower' and the heart branch from the 'Red Parasol Tree' for a stalk of your 'five-elements grass'. I assume you already know the value of these items so I hope you won't try to haggle with me. This is already my bottom line today. Even though the 'white petal flower' is slightly inferior when compared with a stalk of 'five-elements grass', the heart branch from the 'Red Parasol Tree' is worth just as much."

Wan Zu instantly fell silent as his eyes stared at Shun Long seriously without responding straight away.

As a Dao King and the person responsible for the first floor of the Golden Treasures Hall, how could he not recognize the 2 items that Shun Long had taken out?

It was easy for Wan Zu to guess that Shun Long really needed the 'five-elements grass', otherwise he wouldn't have taken out both of those medicinal herbs to exchange for it.

After all, just the heart branch from the 'Red Parasol Tree' was at the same level as the 'five-elements grass' that Shun Long wanted.

Although the rank 6 'white petal flower' was the other main medicinal herb that an alchemist needed to concoct the 'five-elements awakening pill', it was still considered a relatively common rank 6 medicinal herb and was much easier to find compared to the 'five-elements grass'.

But if Shun Long was willing to exchange both of those medicinal herbs for a single stalk, that was a completely different matter.

Of course, Shun Long clearly knew that in Wan Zu's eyes he was making a loss from this trade, but unless he offered something like this, it was very likely that Wan Zu would still refuse to trade with him if he just took out the heart branch from the 'Red Parasol Tree' instead.

After all, the Holy sect had a much vaster network compared to Shun Long, and they could find practically any rank 6 medicinal herb, as long as they were willing to pay the price for it.

Wan Zu remained silent as he seriously observed the yellow-robed young man in front of him, before he finally spoke a few moments later

"Young master Shun, since you are so determined, it would truly be rude of me to refuse. Please wait here."

Chapter 634: Refinement Hall

As he finished speaking, Wan Zu stood up from his seat and left the private room, leaving behind just Shun Long and the others.

"Brother Shun, we could wait until we found it elsewhere. I refuse to believe that the Holy sect is the only one who has a stalk of that 'five-elements grass'!" Bai Longtian said in a serious voice as he stared at Shun Long.

Although Bai Longtian and the others weren't alchemists, they all understood that Shun Long was buying this stalk of 'five-elements grass' for them and that he was paying a much higher price than normal to obtain it from Wan Zu.

However, Shun Long simply smiled as he looked at Bai Longtian and shook his head before he said

"Longtian, don't worry. It's not the Holy sect who is gaining the most out of this trade. Besides, the 'five-elements grass' is the last rank 6 medicinal herb that I need, to refine the 'five-elements awakening pill'."

Xingyi, Bai Longtian, and Jiang Chen, all stared at Shun Long with looks of gratitude in their eyes.

Everyone remembered how the white-robed Dao Emperor, Elder Cao Ling, had said during the fourth test of the Holy sect that Xingyi would have a chance to strengthen her unique physique.

Naturally, this hadn't attracted just Xingyi's attention, but every single person who had a unique physique, including Bai Longtian and Jiang Chen.

However, it was only 3 months ago when they found out that the 'five-elements awakening pill' that could strengthen their unique physique, was actually even more rare and expensive than the rank 5 'Barrier piercing pill' that they had received from their masters as a gift when they were accepted by them as personal disciples.

The 'five-elements awakening pill' was an extremely rare rank 6 pill that wasn't for sale even on the first floor of the Golden Treasures Hall.

Even powerful star-rank alchemists only had a 40 percent chance to successfully concoct this pill.

Star-rank alchemists!

How expensive it would be for someone to ask a star-rank alchemist to concoct a pill for them?

Most likely, the fees just from the pill concoction itself would exceed a million middle-grade spirit stones. If one included the rarity of all the rank 5 and the rank 6 medicinal herbs that were needed, it wasn't absurd for the price to reach 2 million middle-grade spirit stones!

And even if one had enough spirit stones, it wasn't necessarily certain that they would be able to find a 'five-elements awakening pill' either.

Thus, Jiang Chen and the rest all understood how difficult it was for anyone to get their hands on this pill, and how expensive it could be if they wanted to buy it even from the Holy sect, let alone from a power outside the Holy sect's territory.

Unless one had connections with an extremely powerful alchemist and was lucky enough to successfully concoct the pill on the first try, it would be extremely rare if not impossible to obtain it otherwise.

With a smile on his face, the white-robed Wan Zu returned to the room a few moments later, holding a jade box with a grass that had 5 different colors inside it.

"Brother Shun Long, this is the rank 6 'five elements grass'."

After opening the jade box and taking a look at the five-colored grass inside it, Shun Long nodded his head and handed the rank 6 'white petal flower' and the heart branch of the 'Red Parasol Tree' to Wan Zu, before he stored the 'five-elements grass' inside his spatial ring.

Without wasting any more time with Wan Zu, Shun Long stood up and cupped his hands at him before he said

"Senior Wan Zu, I will take my leave."

Wan Zu seemed like he had something he wanted to say, but he still shook his head a moment later before he cupped his hands and answered

"Of course brother Shun. You can come and see me anytime in the future as well."

Nodding his head, Shun Long turned around and led Liu Mei and the rest out of the private room, as they walked out from the Golden Treasures Hall a moment later.

Turning his gaze towards Xingyi, Shun Long smiled and said

"Xingyi, can you lead the way to the Refinement Hall?"

Xingyi's eyes instantly lit up as she nodded her head and answered

"Of course! Brother Long, follow me."

Since her master was the Elder responsible for the Refinement Hall, Xingyi naturally knew the way to the Refinement Hall in the inner court.

An hour later, after getting past the 2 disciples guarding the inner court with Liu Mei's and the rest's help, Shun Long's group arrived in front of a huge building that seemed to emit large amounts of heat.

As they approached the building, before they could even enter inside, the scent of hundreds of medicinal herbs assaulted their senses, making Shun Long's group suddenly freeze on the spot.

"Junior sister Xingyi!"

Just as Xie Xingyi was about to lead Shun Long and the others inside the Refinement Hall, her expression suddenly changed, as she saw a young man in yellow robes walk towards her with a smile on his face.

This young man had brown eyes, a hooked nose, and light blue hair, while an aura that had reached the peak of rank 8 of the Nascent Soul was radiating from his body.

Behind the young man were 2 young men at the peak of rank 7 and the early rank 8 respectively, each of them dressed in the yellow robes of an outer disciple as well.

The blue-haired young man approached Xingyi and smiled as he said

"Junior sister, you haven't visited master for such a long time. This senior brother has missed you dearly."

The look on Xingyi's face turned into one of disgust as she looked at the blue-haired young man in front of her, while Liu Mei, Jiang Chen, Bai Longtian, and even Shun Long, all stared at him with narrowed eyes.

Chapter 635: [Title hidden]

The hooked-nose young man didn't seem to mind Xingyi's disgusted expression as he took a step forward and tried to grab Xingyi's hands, but Xingyi simply snorted before her cultivation at the middle of rank 7 of the Nascent Soul exploded out of her body, as she then took a few steps backwards opening up the distance between herself and the hooked-nose young man.

Xingyi's cold voice then resounded in the young man's ears as she said

"Senior brother Ma, I tried to be polite with you but you still don't want to listen to me. I don't want you to talk to me ever again!"

This time, as she spoke, Xingyi didn't have the usual friendly aura that she had while she talked to Shun Long and the rest, and instead, her body was radiating an aura of anger and killing intent, while the shadows from the ground beneath her feet seemed to have covered her body like thin tentacles.

'Senior brother Ma's' steps halted while the expression on his face finally changed. The smile that he had on his face instantly disappeared as his eyes kept staring at Xingyi in front of him, before his angry voice resounded in her ears barely a moment later

"Junior sister Xingyi, why are you so insistent on refusing me? You clearly know how I have been feeling for you ever since the first time I saw you, ever since that day when master accepted you as her disciple, and yet you always reject me!

Why? What do I lack?

Power? Status? Background?

I am a peak rank 8 Nascent Soul stage cultivator, a genius in the top 2000 rankings in the Martial Roll of Honor before I even became 200 years old!

My faction is ranked in the top 300 within the sect and I am even a personal disciple of an inner court Elder! TELL ME! WHAT DO I LACK?"

The more the hooked-nosed young man spoke the angrier he seemed to become, while his aura at the peak of rank 8 in the Nascent Soul exploded outwards without any more restraint.

It was obvious that he wasn't willing to leave today without getting an answer.

Although the Refinement Hall didn't have many disciples who were entering inside it compared to the other important buildings within the Holy sect, like the Administration Hall, the Assignment Hall, or the Golden Treasures Hall, it still had 2 white-robed elders standing guard in front of its entrance.

The 2 elders responsible for guarding the Refinement Hall were instantly stunned when they saw the hooked-nosed young man getting so angry when he was clearly the one harassing the young woman in front of him, causing the 2 Elders to turn and look at each other.

Normally, the 2 Elders would intervene if anyone was bold enough to start making trouble in front of the Refinement Hall, but this time, they clearly hesitated since they recognized the hooked-nosed young man and Xingyi.

As the guards of the Refinement Hall, how could the 2 old men not know that the yellow-robed outer court disciples in front of them were both personal disciples of Elder Mao Jing?

Thus, they decided to simply close their eyes and act like they didn't see anything.

At the same time, seeing Xingyi turn around and throw him a pitiable glance, Shun Long no longer remained there and wait for Xingyi to solve this matter by herself, as he took a step forward and instantly appeared in front of her, facing 'senior brother Ma' and the 2 people behind him, before Shun Long finally said in a calm voice

"It's because Xingyi is my woman."

Silence instantly filled the area outside of the Refinement Hall, as 'senior brother Ma' and the 2 young men behind him, as well as Xie Xingyi and the others, and even the 2 white-robed Elders who were guarding the Refinement Hall and were watching this scene, all turned their gaze towards Shun Long at the same time.

Xingyi's eyes instantly widened when she heard Shun Long's response, staring at him with a look of shock and disbelief in her eyes, while Liu Mei's lips curved up into a brilliant smile.

"Brother Long.."

In the past 10 months that Xingyi knew Shun Long, although she had clearly showed that she was interested in him, Shun Long had yet to give her a response. How could she expect that Shun Long would openly say that she was his woman out of nowhere?

A sweet feeling instantly filled her heart as she looked at the back of the yellow-robed young man who was standing tall in front of her.

Meanwhile, Liu Mei simply smiled gently as her eyes were glued on Shun Long's back at the same time.

Naturally, Liu Mei wouldn't willingly share with Shun Long with anyone else, but during the first month that she had spent with Xingyi during the third test of the Holy sect, and had shared life and death with her, she had come to view her as a real sister.

Knowing that Xingyi liked Shun Long so much that she had given up joining any other faction in the Holy sect simply to follow him, had naturally made Liu Mei not be averse to Shun Long accepting Xingyi as his woman.

After all, Liu Mei knew, that in the past 10 months that they had joined the Holy sect, Xingyi also had plenty of powerful outer court disciples who were chasing after her, but she hadn't shown even the slightest bit of interest to any of them, regardless of their strength or background.

All this time, she had quietly waited for Shun Long's answer.

As for Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian, both of them simply stared at this scene calmly without saying anything.

In their eyes, Xingyi had been Shun Long's woman from the very beginning.

The only issue was that Shun Long had seemed reluctant to address this issue.

But since he had spoken out today, that 'senior brother Ma' could only dream of taking away their brother's wife.

Indeed, 'senior brother Ma's' eyes narrowed, turning similar to the eyes of a viper's, and after taking a look at the people behind Shun Long, his gaze landed on Liu Mei's body for a few moments, before he turned to look at Shun Long in front of him and said coldly

"Shun Long, scram out of my sight! You dare claim my junior sister as your wife?

You shouldn't meddle on things that aren't your business lest you offend someone you can't afford to!

I heard that junior sister Xingyi has joined your faction, but even our master herself has said that junior sister's yin essence is still intact, making her still a virgin.

Who do you think you are to claim my junior sister as yours?

You better scram out of the inner court before I cripple your arms and legs myself!"

Chapter 636: Shun Long making a move

Shun Long's eyes instantly narrowed while a dense aura of killing intent appeared around him in the next moment as he stared at 'senior brother Ma' in front of him.

Regardless of whether this person was also a personal disciple of Elder Mao Jing and was considered Xingyi's senior brother, since he dared to tell him to scram out of the inner court or he would personally cripple his arms and legs was something that Shun Long wouldn't tolerate.

Liu Mei, Jiang Chen, and Bai Longtian, all stepped forward as well the moment that they heard this, while their cultivation at the middle of rank 7 and the peak of rank 7 in the Nascent Soul exploded out from their bodies at the same time, as they stared at the hooked-nosed young man in front of them.

"Die!"

Surprisingly, Xingyi was actually the first one to make a move as she looked at the hooked-nosed young man in front of her and shouted coldly, before the shadow-like tentacles around her body shot towards 'senior brother Ma' at full speed.

And yet, 'senior brother Ma' simply snorted as his cultivation at the peak of rank 8 in the Nascent Soul exploded outwards before he waved his hand, causing a wall of flames to appear around him, completely enveloping his body and protected him from Xingyi's shadows.

It didn't matter how hard Xingyi's shadows attacked the wall of flames, they were unable to pierce through it.

"Tsk. Junior sister Xingyi would really attack me for this brat?"

The look in 'senior brother Ma's' eyes turned even angrier as he stared at Shun Long who was actually walking towards him right now, not caring at all by Xingyi's sudden outburst towards him.

It was obvious that 'senior brother Ma's' target was Shun Long.

"Xingyi, step back. I will take care of this myself."

Shun Long's cold voice resounded in everyone's ears as he calmly walked towards 'senior brother Ma' whose body was still enveloped in a wall of flames.

Xingyi nodded her head and retreated backwards, while her shadows returned back to her body.

Liu Mei and the rest all simply watched without interfering, but their eyes stared coldly at the peak rank 8 Nascent Soul young man who was standing in front of the Refinement Hall.

The 2 young men behind 'senior brother Ma' looked at him, before one of them asked

"Senior brother Ma Ming, should I take care of this kid?"

Staring at Shun Long who was still approaching 'senior brother Ma Ming' calmly, the young man whose cultivation was at the peak of rank 7 in the Nascent Soul finally asked as he took a step forward.

But the hooked-nosed young man, Ma Ming shook his head and shouted

"Back off!"

Turning his attention towards Shun Long, Ma Ming had an evil smile on his face as he stepped forward as well, while his cold voice resounded in Shun Long's ears

"Since you don't want to leave junior sister Xingyi's side, I will personally teach you a lesson today!"

The wall of flames around Ma Ming shook before it turned into countless fireballs that flew towards Shun Long at extreme speed, completely surrounding him in the blink of an eye!

Ma Ming didn't want to give Shun Long even a single chance to escape, as Shun Long's body was completely trapped by the bright red fireballs in a single moment.

Although these fireballs weren't a powerful martial skill, every single one of them seemed to be strong enough to injure a peak rank 7 Nascent Soul stage cultivator.

However, Ma Ming didn't immediately attack Shun Long, and staring at him calmly he said

"Shun Long, obediently kneel down and beg for forgiveness before promising that you will never approach junior sister Xingyi ever again!

Do that and I will spare you today. Otherwise, although I won't kill you, the pain you will feel will be even worse than if you were to die!"

"Hahaha! First it's Song Yahui then it's you. You two idiots are both the same.? You want me to kneel down and beg for forgiveness while promising that I won't approach Xingyi again?

With what qualifications? Just your peak rank 8 Nascent Soul cultivation? It seems that if I don't beat you up today you won't understand how to behave. Fine then!"

Shun Long didn't seem to care about the fireballs that were suspended in the air around him and were ready to crash on his body at any moment, as his furious voice sounded in everyone's ears, including Ma Ming and even the 2 white-robed Elders who were watching this scene without interfering.

This time Shun Long was truly angry.

First it was Song Yahui who was trying to steal Liu Mei and the others from his faction right in front of his eyes, while this Ma Ming went so far as to tell him to beg for forgiveness and never dare to approach Xingyi again.

"Die then!" Ma Ming didn't hold back any longer as he shouted in a cold voice, before the hundreds of fireballs in the air around Shun Long all flew towards him one after the other, ready to bathe him in a sea of flames!

And yet, Shun Long simply closed his eyes before he said in a calm voice

"Monarch's Domain!"

Shun Long's cultivation suddenly burst out, before the invisible figure of an hourglass expanded from his body, as the flow of time around him was forcibly halted!

Shun Long who had reached the early rank 7 in the Nascent Soul no longer hid his cultivation, allowing his 'Monarch's Domain' to forcibly stop the hundreds of fireballs before they could even approach his body.

The moment that they entered the radius of his 'Monarch's Domain', the fireballs were forcibly brought to a halt, completely shocking not just Ma Ming himself, but even the 2 white-robed Dao Kings in front of the Refinement Hall who were staring at this scene with wide-open eyes.

Chapter 637: Destroying Ma Ming

"You... how is this possible?" Ma Ming's incredulous voice sounded as he stared at Shun Long with a gaze filled with disbelief.

The fireballs created by a powerful peak rank 8 Nascent Soul cultivator like him were now suspended in the air, unable to move even an inch closer to Shun Long.

Ma Ming could faintly feel that an invisible power had completely surrounded Shun Long's body, but he didn't know exactly what it was.

However, what had shocked him the most was Shun Long's cultivation that had reached the early rank 7 in the Nascent Soul!

Naturally, since he was interested in Xingyi, Ma Ming had done his fair share of research on Shun Long, and he clearly knew that when he first entered the Holy sect 10 months ago, Shun Long was nothing more than a peak rank 1 Nascent Soul stage cultivator!

In Ma Ming's eyes, it was one thing for Liu Mei, Xie Xingyi, Bai Longtian, and Jiang Chen, to all reach the late-stages of the Nascent Soul considering that they were personal disciples of the inner court Elders and were allowed to cultivate in the courtyards of their respective masters where the qi was extremely pure and abundant, but Shun Long reaching the late-stages of the Nascent Soul so quickly was an entirely different matter.

"This guy doesn't even have an inner court Elder as a master and the qi in his courtyard is only ordinary. How can he be at the early rank 7 of the Nascent Soul already? This rate of growth is already no less than that of those terrifying monsters at the very top of the Martial Roll of Honor! But all of them come from powerful clans and families in the Holy sect territory... how can this guy possibly match them?"

The look on Ma Ming's face had turned extremely serious as he stared at Shun Long in front of him. Of course, how could Ma Ming know, that to reach the late stages of the Nascent Soul, in the past 5 months, Shun Long had not only consumed a top-grade rank 5 'Barrier-piercing pill' but he had also spent more than 1 million middle-grade spirit stones?

The further he advanced in his cultivation, the more Shun Long noticed, that the amount of qi his qi balls needed continued to increase without stop.

Even with the Heaven Swallowing vine, the number of middle-grade spirit stones that he was using was already considered astronomical.

At the same time, even with his Heaven Swallowing vine and the foggy space inside the 'Stone of Time', as well as the top-grade rank 5 'Barrier-piercing pill' that he had refined, Shun Long had only managed to reach the early rank 7 in the Nascent Soul in these past 5 months.

Although to others his rate of growth may seem extremely quick, Shun Long knew that condensing the next 24 qi balls to reach the peak of the Nascent Soul was probably going to need more than 2 million middle-grade spirit stones and an even longer amount of time.

If any other Nascent Soul stage cultivator said that they needed 2 million middle-grade spirit stones to reach the peak of the Nascent Soul, others would simply laugh in disdain.

After all, a normal Nascent Soul stage cultivator would usually not need more than 300.000 middle-grade spirit stones to reach the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul.

Staring at the scene outside the Refinement Hall, even the 2 white-robed Dao Kings who were standing guard outside the building turned to look at each other with looks of disbelief in their eyes.

They had never seen anything like this before.

Hundreds of fireballs, each of whom could probably rival the full-powered blow of a peak rank 7 Nascent Soul stage cultivator, were now suspended in the air around Shun Long, while even the heat coming from them seemed to have been frozen.

"How is this possible? What kind of Dao has this kid comprehended? Young master Ma Ming's fireballs are frozen?"

One of the 2 white-robed Elders mumbled in a low voice, while the other one next to him simply stayed silent as he watched this scene.

At the same time, Shun Long stared at the peak rank 8 Nascent Soul cultivator in front of him, before he shook his head and said

"It's my turn now!"

Without waiting for Ma Ming to attack him a second time, Shun Long then took a step forward and his body immediately vanished. From the midst of the hundreds of fireballs, he appeared right in front of the still stunned Ma Ming in the blink of an eye.

Raising his right hand, Shun Long clenched his fist tightly, before he sent a powerful punch towards Ma Ming's chest.

"Senior brother Ma!"

"Be careful!"

The 2 young men behind Ma Ming were instantly alarmed when they saw this as they both shouted loudly in fear.

Shun Long's movement had simply been too fast!

Even a peak rank 8 Nascent Soul stage cultivator like Ma Ming had been caught off-guard.

In the next moment however, the look on Ma Ming's face suddenly changed, as another wave of flames swiftly sprouted from his body, covering him entirely like an armor of flames.

"Haha! You actually dare fight me head-on? Die!" Ma Ming's face behind the flame armor resembled that of a devil's, as an angry look soon covered it, and without holding back, his cultivation at the peak of rank 8 in the Nascent Soul erupted outwards, as he sent a punch of his own towards Shun Long.

Although this took a while to describe, it had actually happened in the blink of an eye.

Seeing Ma Ming's punch that seemed to burn through the air itself as it moved towards his chest, Shun Long's eyes narrowed as he mumbled to himself

"Too weak! Time Prison!"

A bright blue light appeared from Shun Long's golden eyes, before it completely enveloped Ma Ming's body, forcibly stopping the flow of time around him!

The 2 Dao Kings in front of the Refinement Hall as well as the 2 young men behind Ma Ming, all watched this scene with disbelieving looks in their eyes, as Ma Ming's movements had suddenly halted before Shun Long's powerful punch connected with his chest a moment later!

BOOOOM!

Everyone then watched, as the peak rank 8 Nascent Soul stage expert was sent flying backwards like a meteor, before his body flew past the 2 white-robed Elders guarding the entrance of the Refinement Hall and entered inside, leaving the 2 white-robed Dao Kings unable to act.

Chapter 638: Aftermath

Complete silence had filled Shun Long's surroundings, as everyone stared at the Refinement Hall in front of them, before the shouts of the receptionists instantly filled everyone's ears a moment later.

It was obvious that they had also noticed Ma Ming's body that crashed inside the Refinement Hall just now.

"Y-You..."

The 2 young men who were standing behind Ma Ming previously, now stared at Shun Long with a hint of dread in their eyes, not daring to approach too close to him.

Since he had destroyed a peak rank 8 Nascent Soul cultivator like Ma Ming with a single punch, how could the 2 of them who were only at the peak of rank 7 and the early rank 8 in the Nascent Soul dare to fight against him?

The scariest part was that none of them could even understand what kind of Dao Shun Long had comprehended, but the terrifying force that they had felt made their heart shiver in terror.

They could both feel that if they were in Ma Ming's place just now, neither of them would be able to resist that terrifying power either.

However, it wasn't just the 2 of them who were astonished.

Even the 2 white-robed Dao Kings stared at Shun Long with eyes filled with shock and disbelief.

And yet, Shun Long didn't pay attention to any of them, as he turned around and looked at Xingyi who was staring at him with her stunning emerald eyes as she mumbled in a low voice

"Brother Long..."

Shaking his head, Shun Long took a step forward and held Xingyi's hands before he said in an apologetic tone

"Xingyi, I am sorry. I couldn't bring myself to give you an answer before, even though I knew how you felt. However, I don't want you to wait any longer." The look on Shun Long's eyes turned serious as he stared at Xingyi's enchanting green eyes and continued "Xingyi, be my woman. You are the only other woman that I have cared for after Mei'er."

Xingyi was stunned when she heard this before a brilliant smile was soon formed on Xingyi's lips in the next moment, enhancing her beauty even further as she nodded her head gently.

What she had been afraid from the very beginning was that Shun Long wouldn't like her and that her love would end up being one-sided.

After all, every girl wanted the man that she loved to like her back.

A smile also appeared on Liu Mei's face as she looked at this scene, while Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian simply nodded their heads.

Hearing the rowdy voices from inside the Refinement Hall however, the look on Xingyi's face soon changed as she remembered what had happened just now.

No matter what, Ma Ming was also a personal disciple of Elder Mao Jing, just like her, while Shun Long wasn't formally a disciple of an inner court Elder.

The only reason why he was allowed to enter the inner court today was only thanks to Liu Mei and the rest all being personal disciples of the inner court Elders, making the 2 Enforcement Hall disciples in front of the inner court to not dare block their group.

But Xingyi understood that this fight was definitely going to attract the attention of Elder Mao Jing. Even if Elder Mao Jing wasn't informed right away about it, there was no way that Ma Ming was going to swallow this insult today.

Looking at Shun Long, Xingyi nodded her head and said gently, but with a firm look on her face "Brother Long, don't worry. I will take care of it! There is no way that I am going to allow Ma Ming create any trouble for brother Long!"

Without any hesitation, Xingyi entered the Refinement Hall, along with Shun Long and everyone else.

The 2 white-robed Elders outside the Refinement Hall didn't bother their group, acting like they hadn't seen anything.

Putting aside Shun Long's terrifying Dao that had even made those 2 powerful Dao Kings look at him seriously, just the fact that this fight involved 2 disciples of Elder Mao Jing, made the 2 Dao Kings unwilling to participate in it.

"Heh, if that guy really wants to create trouble, I don't mind teaching him a lesson as well. Let's see how many Elders he can ask to help him!" Jiang Chen's eyes narrowed as he entered the Refinement Hall and looked at Ma Ming's figure that was now lying on the ground inside the interior of the hall, while the 3 receptionists and 2 more yellow-robed outer disciples were now gathered around him.

Although Ma Ming hadn't lost consciousness, it was obvious that he was in a very bad situation.

Thankfully, he had no life-threatening injuries which made the receptionists relax a bit.

"Miss Xingyi..."

One of the 3 receptionists instantly turned her attention towards the group that entered inside the Refinement Hall, before her eyes landed on Xie Xingyi's figure.

Since Xingyi was a personal disciple of Elder Mao Jing as well, the receptionists naturally recognized her.

Xingyi nodded her head with a calm look on her face, and ignoring the look of fury and disbelief that Ma Ming was throwing towards her and Shun Long, Xingyi looked at the receptionist and said

"There is no reason for you to do anything about today's matter. I will personally inform master about 'senior brother Ma's' fight with me."

It was only now that the 2 receptionists realized that Ma Ming's current situation was probably related to Xingyi!

After all, they all knew that Ma Ming had been chasing after Xingyi without giving up for the past 10 months, even after Xingyi had rejected him, and he had even gone so far as to ask his master to help him.

Thus, the receptionists didn't find it odd that Xingyi would be angry and would eventually be unable to tolerate this any longer.

"But how is it possible for young lady Xie to beat young master Ma? Young master Ma is ranked within the top 2000 in the Martial Roll of Honor, while miss Xie has only just reached the middle of rank 7 in the Nascent Soul!"

Although this question flashed through the receptionists minds, they all nodded their heads and after one of them fed a pill to Ma Ming to help treat his injured and carried him to a private room, the other 2 returned to their work.

Looking at the receptionists in front of her, Xingyi then said

"Please give us a spacious private room suitable for pill refinement."

The receptionist nodded and answered respectfully

"Miss Xingyi, a room for peak gold-grade alchemists will cost 5000 sect points for a day."

Shun Long nodded his head without any hesitation when he heard this, and transferred the 5000 sect points to the receptionist in front of them who then led them deeper inside the Refinement Hall.

The deeper they walked inside the hall, Shun Long could clearly sense his surroundings becoming even hotter, almost as if he had suddenly entered inside a furnace.

Even with his current strength, Shun Long still couldn't ignore the heat around him, while Liu Mei and Xingyi both had to circulate their qi to resist this heat that was becoming stronger with every step that they took further inside the Refinement Hall.

"Haha, master, this little girl was right. I can sense that there truly are 2 earth flames hidden inside this place." Little Black's joyful voice suddenly sounded inside Shun Long's mind in the next moment, causing Shun Long to nod his head with a smile on his face.

Naturally, Shun Long had already guessed this as well.

Only the power of an earth flame or another similar fire-element treasure could affect its surroundings like this, forcing even late-stage Nascent Soul cultivators like Liu Mei and Xingyi to circulate their qi to resist the heat that it naturally emitted.

At the same time, the receptionist led their group past quite a number of private rooms, while the scent of medicinal herbs coming from these rooms had already filled the air inside the Refinement Hall.

A moment later, the receptionist opened the door of a private room and led Shun Long and the others inside.

Sensing that Shun Long was the one leading this group, the receptionist turned her gaze towards him and said in a respectful manner

"Young master, please remember that you only have 24 hours. If you want to extend your stay for more than a day, you will have to pay an extra 5000 sect points for every day you stay here."

Shun Long nodded his head and thanked the receptionist who bowed before she turned around and left the room.

However, before Shun Long could take a look at this room of the Refinement Hall in front of him, Xingyi's voice suddenly sounded from his side, as Xingyi looked at him and said in a gentle but firm tone

"Brother Long, I have to go meet my master."

Chapter 639: Mao Jing

Turning around, Shun Long saw the determined look in Xingyi's eyes as she spoke, while Liu Mei, Bai Longtian, and Jiang Chen, had also turned their attention towards her at the same time.

From the look on Xingyi's face, it was obvious that this wasn't going to be an easy issue to deal with, but she was still going to see her master right now.

Shaking his head, Shun Long looked at Xingyi and said seriously

"Xingyi, I'll come with you. No matter what, this is my responsibility. We will meet your master together!"

"Long-ge, I will come with you."

"Brother Shun, you can also count me in!"

"I will come with you as well."

Just as Shun Long finished speaking, Liu Mei's, Bai Longtian's, and Jiang Chen's voices also sounded in her ears a moment later, as everyone had turned their eyes towards the stunned Xingyi.

Xingyi looked at Shun Long and the others without speaking, but a moment later, a dazzling smile appeared on her face as she nodded her head and said

"Then, let me lead the way."

Xingyi led Shun Long and the rest out of the private room, as she walked deeper inside the Refinement Hall.

She seemed to be familiar with the interior of the Refinement Hall, and a few minutes later, after walking through a few twists and turns, she arrived in front of a huge black door that seemed to be made from wood, while the scent of medicinal herbs had filled the air around her.

At the same time, Shun Long and the rest all noticed, that the heat coming from the interior of this wooden black door was even more intense than the heat coming from most other rooms, while even Shun Long himself was just a step away from circulating his qi to protect himself.

Stopping right in front of the wooden door, Xingyi took a deep breath, before she took out a golden-colored token from her spatial ring with the word 'Mao' on it and held it in her hand, as she then bowed towards the door and said in a respectful tone

"Master, your disciple wishes to see you."

A powerful burst of soul sense erupted from behind the door the next moment, as it swept past Xingyi's body for a single second, and after scanning Shun Long's and the rest's bodies, Shun Long heard the calm voice of an old woman coming from behind the door as it said

"Xingyi... come in."

The black wooden door then opened by itself, revealing the interior of the room behind it.

Shun Long then saw an old woman dressed in white robes, with long white hair that were flowing freely from her shoulders sitting in front of an alchemy cauldron, while her deep black eyes stared at Xingyi with a relaxed look inside them.

In front of the old woman was a cauldron that was a mix of black and white, while complicated silver-colored symbols had filled its surface.

The moment that his eyes landed on the cauldron, Shun Long could feel his heartbeat rising ever-so-slightly, as a single thought appeared in his mind

"A star-rank cauldron!"

His gaze was then focused away from the black and white cauldron, as it landed on the powerful orange flames that were coming from the earth below the cauldron, making his heartbeat even faster than before.

At the same time, Little Black's voice that had hints of excitement sounded inside Shun Long's mind, as the black dragon said

"Earth flame!"

The orange flames below the cauldron were the flames coming directly from the earth flame!

At the same time that the wooden door opened, an even stronger wave of heat assaulted Shun Long and the rest, waking Shun Long up from his reverie and forcing him to start circulating his qi to resist this heat, while Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian had actually activated their unique physiques.

Jiang Chen's body was soon covered with a veil of darkness while Bai Longtian had turned into a gigantic, 10 meter(33ft) tall golden buddha.

At the same time, Xingyi had also activated her unique physique as her body blended into the shadows while Liu Mei summoned a dozen of her undead knights who stood in front of her and Shun Long, blocking the heat that assaulted them directly.

It was only at this moment that Xingyi led everyone inside the room, and as she looked at the white-robed old woman in front of her, she bowed respectfully and said

"Master, these are my friends."

The white-robed old woman, Xie Xingyi's master, Elder Mao Jing's eyes swept past Liu Mei, Jiang Chen, and Bai Longtian, before her gaze landed on Shun Long's body for a few more moments without speaking.

After staying silent for a while, Elder Mao Jing looked at Xingyi and asked

"Xingyi, what happened? You wouldn't come to meet me without a reason unless something actually happened."

Xingyi nodded her head seriously and kept bowing as she said

"Master, it has to do with senior brother Ma Ming. Senior brother Ma Ming fought with brother Long because of me, and in the end he was heavily injured."

"Eh?" The white-robed old woman, Mao Jing narrowed her eyes as she looked at Shun Long who was no longer hiding his aura at the early rank 7 of the Nascent Soul, allowing her to clearly sense his cultivation.

Seeing Mao Jing narrow her eyes as she looked at Shun Long, a shiver ran through Xie Xingyi's body as she hurriedly added in

"Master, it is not brother Long's fault. If you have to blame someone, then blame me or senior brother Ma!"

However, Mao Jing didn't respond right away, as her gaze didn't move from Shun Long's body, almost as if she was carefully inspecting him, while Shun Long was looking back at her calmly.

Although Shun Long had a calm look in his eyes, he was actually enduring a mountain-like weight pressure that was coming this Mao Jing in front of him, even though the old woman hadn't revealed her cultivation at all.

This was the natural presence that a Dao Emperor had.

"Hmph! That old woman is really arrogant. Master, if she dares to make a move, I will personally end her life! How dare a measly peak rank 6 Dao Emperor use her aura to pressure master like that?"

Little Black's voice sounded inside Shun Long's mind at the same time as he looked at Mao Jing from the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'. Although Mao Jing hadn't revealed her cultivation, how could she hide it from Little Black's eyes?

Even though no one below the Dao Emperor realm could sense it, Little Black clearly knew that if a Dao Emperor didn't suppress their natural aura, most Nascent Soul stage cultivators wouldn't be able to even stand in front of them and they would be forced to kneel. Even Dao Kings would feel an enormous amount of pressure in front of someone like Mao Jing.

After all, the difference between a Dao King and a Dao Emperor was an insurmountable one.

As for Shun Long, it was clear that he was feeling this pressure as well, while even Liu Mei and the rest seemed to have started to notice it, as they frowned while they looked at the white-robed Dao Emperor in front of them.

It was clear that Mao Jing was intentionally targetting Shun Long.

A hint of surprise also appeared on Mao Jing's eyes in the next moment as she looked at Shun Long, but before Xingyi, Liu Mei or anyone else had a chance to complain, a calm laughter suddenly sounded from the depths of the room, before a powerful suddenly erupted at the same time, completely submerging Mao Jing's aura in the blink of an eye.

Mao Jing's expression immediately changed, but before she had a chance to speak, the voice of an old man sounded from the corner of the room behind her, making her heart suddenly freeze on the spot, while an incredulous expression appeared on her face at the same time

"Hahaha, Mao Jing, is it really proper for a Dao Emperor like you to pressure a Nascent Soul stage outer disciple?"

Chapter 640: The Grand Elder's question

Shun Long immediately felt a gentle force that completely suppressed Mao Jing's aura, while the expression on Mao Jing's face turned into one of disbelief, as the white-robed old woman turned around and stared at the corner of the room behind her.

The figure of a tall, white-robed old man with long white hair could be seen standing there, while his profound black eyes stared at Mao Jing with a calm smile on his face.

"G-Grand Elder!" Mao Jing hurriedly stood up and bowed towards the white-robed old man as she called out in a respectful voice, while at the same time, the flames beneath her cauldron seemed to have lost their support and were instantly extinguished, completely ruining the concoction inside the cauldron.

However, Mao Jing didn't seem to have noticed this, as her eyes kept staring at the white-robed old man while waves of shock filled her heart.

This was the second most powerful person within the Holy sect, whose status was only below the Holy sect's sect master, the Grand Elder of the Holy sect!

Mao Jing wasn't surprised that she had failed to notice the Grand Elder's arrival.

After all, who was the Grand Elder?

He was the second most powerful person in the Holy sect!

She simply hadn't expected that the Grand Elder would suddenly visit her.

At the same time, Shun Long and the others were all stunned as they turned their eyes towards the white-robed Elder in the corner of the room.

Unlike how it felt to stand in front of Mao Jing, the Grand Elder gave Shun Long and the others a feeling as if he didn't even exist in this place, almost as if he had turned one with the room itself!

If he hadn't spoken just now, no one would have noticed that he was present inside the room.

"Master, this old man is powerful. He is much stronger than this old hag or even that Jiang Tianfang kid. Even I failed to sense how he appeared inside the room just now. Although he hasn't reached the Sovereign realm just yet, he is only a step away from it, standing at the peak of the Dao Emperor realm." Little Black's bright blue eyes stared at the Grand Elder's figure from inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time' with a serious look.

For Little Black to say something like that, the Grand Elder's strength wasn't one to be trifled with.

Shun Long guessed that this person was probably at the same level as the current Little Black, if not even slightly stronger.

At the same time, Shun Long suddenly remembered Jiang Tianfang's words as they were returning back to the Holy sect, causing his eyes to widen, as he stared at the white-robed old man in the corner of Mao Jing's private room.

Jiang Tianfang had said that even in the depths of the Holy sect, there is an old monster who has reached the peak of the Dao Emperor realm and is strong enough to support the entire Holy sect by himself! Even among the Dao Emperors that Jiang Tianfang personally knew, that old monster was still strong enough to rank in the top 5 in terms of strength!

Shun Long instantly understood that the monster that Jiang Tianfang was referring to, was definitely this old man in front of him.

At the same time that Shun Long stared at this old man, the old man's set of extremely deep black eyes also turned to look at Shun Long, before a smile was actually formed on his old face.

Seeing the Grand Elder smile and nod his head at Shun Long, the white-robed old woman, Mao Jing felt her heart constrict, as she spoke out softly

"Grand Elder..."

The old man turned his gaze towards Mao Jing with the same calm smile on his face, but Mao Jing could only feel cold sweat running through her back when she saw that smile.

"Mao Jing, I already know what happened. No matter what, for a Dao Emperor like you to bully an outer court disciple that is still at the late-stages of the Nascent Soul is extremely disappointing."

The white-robed old woman, Mao Jing looked at the white-robed old man in front of her and responded in an aggrieved tone

"Grand Elder, this kid didn't give me any face. Not only did he beat Ma Ming, but he did so right outside of my Refinement Hall."

The white-robed Grand Elder looked at Mao Jing and shook his head as he continued

"Face? You have already lost it all by yourself the moment you lowered yourself to personally deal with an outer court disciple."

Xingyi's master, the white-robed old woman Mao Jing, looked no different from a child getting berated, as she lowered her head and didn't dare to speak.

The white-robed Grand Elder shook his head and sighed before he waved his hand and said

"Then, let this all end here today."

"Yes Grand Elder!" Mao Jing nodded her head hurriedly before she turned her gaze towards Xingyi and the others and said

"Xingyi, you all can leave!"

Mao Jing's voice was somewhat impatient as she looked at Xingyi, before her gaze moved back to the Grand Elder behind her.

For the Grand Elder to come meet her today there was definitely a reason for that.

After all, Mao Jing knew that the Grand Elder had been in seclusion for tens of thousands of years inside the sect, so what was the reason for him to suddenly leave his seclusion?

Xingyi looked at her master and bowed slightly with a smile on her face before she said

"Yes master."

Naturally, for Xingyi to have this matter dealt so easily meant that her master wouldn't pursue this in the future.

Shun Long and the others all cupped their hands and bowed towards the Grand Elder at the corner of the room in thanks, but the Grand Elder simply laughed and waved his hand as he said

"Haha, don't be in a hurry."

The Grand Elder's eyes were then focused on Shun Long, while the smile on his face turned even more pronounced than before as he continued

"Your name is Shun Long right? Are you the one who healed Jiang Tianfang?"