

The Immortal's Wine Store

#Chapter 191 - Demon Crystal - Read The Immortal's Wine Store Chapter 191 - Demon Crystal

Chapter 191 - Demon Crystal

'Those damnable alchemists! I'll let them off this time, but after Elder Ming finishes his retreat, I will destroy their Alchemy Hall! Even if their supreme elder is present, what could he do against the true power of our Xue Family?! Hmph!' Elder Kuan snorted in his heart as he glanced at the first VIP room with a dark look on his face.

After learning about the core secrets of their Xue Family, he no longer feared the Alchemy Hall! However, he had to swallow the insult today so that Elder Ming's plan would not be foiled. Thinking about the unfathomable Elder Ming, Elder Kuan let out a cold smirk...

"The next auctioned item is a Demon Crystal from a 9th-rank Demon Saint! Everyone, you heard it right! Only demons who are at least at the 5th-rank Spirit realm level are able to produce a Demon Crystal, but the one that we have right now is something that came from a 9th-rank Saint realm demon! I assume all the guests here understand the scarcity of this item. The starting price is 1500 True Crystals and every increment should be at least 100 True Crystals!" Tang Tianyin's voice echoed, and the item she mentioned caused quite a stir among the crowd.

Within the fifth VIP room, the eyes of Second Prince Arslan flashed with momentary rage, but it was gone in an instant. This Demon Crystal was from the heart of his subordinate, so he was pained to see it being auctioned. However, he could only repress his anger or the emperor might discover that something was amiss.

"Woah! Someone is actually willing to sell this kind of item? Is he crazy?!"

"Don't think too much. Maybe he or she is afraid of keeping such a precious item."

"I bid 1700 True Crystals for this Demon Crystal!" Someone from the crowd immediately added 200 True Crystals to the starting price.

"1800 True Crystals!"

"1900 True Crystals!"

"2000 True Crystals!"

This time, Jiu Shen's dull eyes imperceptibly shone as he looked at the Demon Crystal displayed to everyone. He didn't have any use for it, but he could give this to Hu Xiandao.

The Demon Crystal can only be produced by demons after they cultivate their second hearts. High-level demons have two hearts, and the second one that they grow was called the Demons Crystal! It has the ability to enhance their physical strength and raw power. This was a very important item for body strengthening experts since it could directly increase their power. However, it was very rare to see someone from the Demon Race in the Profound Dragon Continent after the peace treaty fifty thousand years ago, so there were only a few Demon Crystals left since most were already used by the others.

After seeing such a tempting item, who wouldn't bid for it?

'That brat Hu Xiandao is already on the verge of breaking through the mid-stage of the 8th-rank Divine realm. With the help of this Demon Crystal, he might be able to advance to the late stage of the 8th-rank Divine realm in one go. I must get this.' Jiu Shen thought to himself as he glanced at Lu Sulan.

"Sulan, get this item for me." Jiu Shen said in a calm voice. He didn't have many True Crystals with him since most of his items were only pills, wines, and different kinds of savage beast carcasses. Although he had some God Crystals with him, it wasn't worth it to use it in buying Demon Crystal, so he could only rely on his eldest disciple.

Lu Sulan didn't mind this. She was able to advance to the early stage of the 9th-rank Saint realm solely because of her master's help. She was even given the chance to awaken her supreme physique. Aside from that, Jiu Shen also gave her pointers in sword techniques and cultivation. His help to her was immense and it could not be bought with True Crystals, so she was willing to do anything for her master.

"2500 True Crystals." Lu Sulan's calm voice reverberated inside the auction house. Everyone inside knows of her identity since they were the most elite people of the Silver Wing Empire, so after she spoke, some people hesitated in continuing their bids.

Elder Kuan who was among those who are bidding for the Demon Crystal also hesitated. He knew that standing behind Lu Sulan was a person that even the patriarch and supreme elder of their Xue Family dreaded so much. That was also why he didn't dare provoke them even after they took the fourth VIP room from him.

"2500 True Crystals going once! 2500 True Crystals going..."

"Wait a second! I bid 2600 True Crystals for this Demon Crystal." The cold voice of the second prince drifted into everyone's ears.

Lu Sulan wrinkled her eyebrows, but she didn't stop bidding. Jiu Shen told her that he wants this item, so she didn't want to disappoint him. "2800 True Crystals!" Her voice became increasingly colder as she spoke.

The second prince's mouth twitched, but he wasn't willing to give up. After all, this was his subordinate's Demon Crystal! He didn't want it to end up as a tonic for someone. It was such a great humiliation for a demon to have his Demon Crystal taken after his death only to be used as a tonic...

"3000 True Crystals!" Second Prince Arslan's voice was a volume louder this time. He could barely hold back the rage in his heart.

3100 True Crystals!"

"3400 True Crystals!"

"..."

"5000 True Crystals!" The second prince's voice now sounded like a beast. It was obvious that he was angry, and everyone could sense it.

Emperor Elyk frowned when he saw the expression of his second son. He hasn't seen his son display such a dark expression, so he was somewhat suspicious. He also recalled the words that Jiu Shen spoke to him earlier; 'Elyk, be careful of your second son. He isn't someone he used to be...'

'Wine Master Jiu, your words... What does it mean?' Emperor Elyk thought it in his heart as he watched his second son with a heavy look.

"5100 True Crystals!" Lu Sulan's voice remained calm and cold, but she was inwardly displeased by the second prince's anger that was directed at her.

Just as the second prince was about to increase his bid, Emperor Elyk suddenly slammed the armrest of his chair as he shouted.

Bang!

"Arslan! That's enough!"

The second prince's bloodshot eyes regained clarity when he heard the outburst of the emperor.

"Emperor father, why are you siding an outsider?! I'm your son!" Prince Arslan put on a disappointed look as he glanced at the emperor.

"Insolence!" Emperor Elyk thought of slapping him, but he discarded the idea. Arslan was his son, so he didn't want to embarrass him so much in front of a lot of people. He was also feeling conflicted in his heart especially after his talk with Jiu Shen.

Prince Arslan's eyes flashed for a moment. 'Did this old fart discover my identity, or did that Jiu Shen told him something a while ago!? Dammit! The time is not yet ripe! The reinforcements need a bit more time before they would arrive here. Do I really have to let go of this Demon Crystal?'

In the end, Prince Arslan sighed as he bowed and said. "Emperor father, I apologize for my behavior. I will step down from this bidding and I will also leave the auction house to atone for disrespecting you."

Emperor Elyk's gaze softened, but he still replied in a cold voice. "Leave. I don't want to see you today!"

The second prince rose from his seat and bowed to the emperor before he left the fifth VIP room, leaving behind three stunned princes who were looking at his retreating back figure. They were also confused as to why their father sided with Lu Sulan, but they didn't dare voice it out.

"5100 True Crystals going once! 5100 True Crystals going twice! 5100 True Crystals for the Demon Crystal, sold! Congratulations to the guest from the fourth VIP room for getting this precious item!" Tang Tianyin announced with a sweet smile.

Quite a few rare items were sold after that, and Jiu Shen also told Lu Sulan to get some of them. However, he was yet to see a 9th-rank spiritual fruit or spiritual plant for his wine brewing mission.

Chapter 192 - Blue Fire Lotus And The Damaged Sword

"There are only a few items left for the auction tonight, but the remaining ones are also the best I've seen. I shall not waste your time anymore. Let's proceed to the next auctioned item. It is a 9th-rank spiritual plant, the Blue Fire Lotus."

Right after Tang Tianyin had spoken those words, everyone immediately erupted into a series of heated discussions. After all, this was a 9th-rank spiritual plant! Its value was extraordinary and this Blue Fire Lotus also had many different uses.

The eyes of the alchemists inside the Silver Dragon Auction House shone. High-level spiritual plants were very fatal temptations for them, and it would be a lie if they said that they didn't want it. However, there were quite a lot of distinguished alchemists inside the venue, and even the famous alchemists from the Alchemy Hall were present, so it would be hard for them to get their hands on this spiritual plant.

Jiu Shen's lips curved upwards when he saw this Blue Fire Lotus. In his eyes, it was just a low-level spiritual plant that didn't even deserve to be planted in his garden, but this item could be added as an auxiliary ingredient for brewing his own recipe of wine.

The Blue Fire Lotus had nine petals in total, and each petal was five inches long. It looked like an ice-type spiritual plant at first glance because of its color and outward appearance, but this spiritual plant releases a blue-colored fire once every year to expel the toxins within its system. This Blue Fire Lotus is actually a dual-attributed spiritual plant, so its value is twice as much as other 9th-rank spiritual plants or spiritual fruits.

"The starting price for this Blue Fire Lotus is 1800 True Crystals, and every increment should be at least 100 True Crystals!"

"1900 True Crystals! I must get this item for the Beiming Family! I apologize in advance to the noble alchemists of the Alchemy Hall." A commanding voice echoed from the second VIP room where the Beiming Family's people were seated. This voice sounded cold, but everyone could sense the respect he had given to the alchemists of the Alchemy Hall.

"Hahaha! No need to hold back! This is an auction, and everyone is free to place their bids here! I bid 2100 True Crystals!" This voice sounded familiar and Jiu Shen didn't need to guess who it was since this person was someone he knew. It was none other than Master Fengzi.

Jiu Shen glanced at Lu Sulan and the latter immediately understood her master's gaze, so she nodded her head at him.

"I bid 2500 True Crystals." Her calm voice echoed from within the fourth VIP room.

"2600 True Crystals!" The people of the Liu Family who were seated inside the third VIP room could no longer sit still. They also placed their bids. This 9th-rank spiritual plant had many uses and this could strengthen the foundation of any noble family if it was used well.

"2800 True Crystals!"

"..."

"4000 True Crystals!"

"4200 True Crystals!"

"4300 True Crystals!"

The bidding for the Blue Fire Lotus continued fiercely and no one seemed to have the intention of giving up on this spiritual plant. The only ones who remained quiet

throughout the entire bidding were the people from the fifth VIP room where the emperor was seated.

Initially, the emperor also planned to join the bidding, but when he heard Lu Sulan placing her bid, Emperor Elyk decided to stop. He knew that Lu Sulan wasn't an alchemist, so why would she need a 9th-rank spiritual plant? There was only one reason why she wanted to get it; Jiu Shen told her to do it.

With this thought in mind, the emperor could only choose to let go of this Blue Fire Lotus. It wasn't worth much compared to his friendship with Jiu Shen.

"6500 True Crystals!" The elder from the Beiming Family's side gritted his teeth as he placed his bid. Their Beiming Family was a military family and their wealth was not comparable to the Xue Family. How much more the alchemists of the Alchemy Hall who could be considered as 'walking banks'...

The elder from the Liu Family also hesitated, but he didn't continue to bid. This 9th-rank Blue Fire Lotus was indeed a great treasure, but its worth had already exceeded the current bidding price. Besides, they still had to pay for the pill concoction after they bid for this item, and it was not even guaranteed that the alchemist would succeed in refining a pill from this Blue Fire Lotus.

Lu Sulan glanced at her master and saw him nod his head, so she immediately said. "I bid 6600 True Crystals."

'I already have the Fragrant Luminous Clam's pearl, the Earth Origin Dragon Fruit, the leaves of the True Heart Icy Sword Tree, and other miscellaneous ingredients. I only need one core ingredient so that I can start brewing my own recipe of wine. Where can I find it?' Jiu Shen muttered in his heart.

"6900 True Crystals!" The voice of Master Fengzi was starting to waver. The current bidding price had already exceeded the true price of the Blue Fire Lotus by a lot, so he was a bit hesitant to continue bidding.

"7000 True Crystals!" Lu Sulan's voice echoed, and it was as calm as before without any hints of hesitation, but in reality, this price was also too much for her. However, she would do anything for her master, and she could feel that her master needed the Blue Fire Lotus for a very important reason.

"I bi- sigh. Nevermind. Congratulations Sect Mistress Lu! I give up on bidding for this Blue Fire Lotus." Master Fengzi said with a slightly sour tone. He was feeling depressed. He thought that no one could match the wealth of their Alchemy, but he didn't think that Lu Sulan was actually willing to empty the resources of her Ice Cloud Sword Sect just to buy everything that her master wants.

"7000 True Crystals going once! 7000 True Crystals going twice! 7000 True Crystals for the Blue Fire Lotus, sold! Congratulations to the guest from the fourth VIP room!" Tang Tianyin announced with a wide smile.

Lu Sulan heaved a sigh of relief. She then glanced at Jiu Shen and she could not help but ask him. "Master, what do you need this Blue Fire Lotus for?"

Jiu Shen lightly smiled at her and replied. "I want to use this as an auxiliary ingredient to brew a new wine. As you can see, our store only has a few kinds of wine on display, so I have to come up with a new recipe, but this time, it wouldn't be just any ordinary wine."

Lu Sulan's full lips twitched when she heard that her master wanted to use it as an ingredient for his wine brewing, but she still didn't regret bidding it for him. The wine that her master makes were all precious and it could even help cultivators increase their cultivation level and power! Thinking about it, she could already envision herself drinking the first batch of this wine with a satisfied expression on her face.

"The next auctioned item is a Saint Weapon! It was found on an ancient battlefield where countless remains of the top experts from over fifty thousand years ago can also be seen. This Saint Weapon is damaged, but its power is still astonishing and it could be compared to a mid-rank Saint Weapon. Expert blacksmiths said that this was a God-rank weapon, but unfortunately, it was damaged so it only has the power of a Saint Weapon at this moment." Tang Tianyin said in a regretful voice as she pointed at the rusty sword placed inside an opened sword box made from rosewood. The dark blue blade of the sword had long lost its luster with quite a few nicks and scratches, and a major part of it was covered in rust. The handle of the sword appeared to be rusty as well, but everyone could see that it was cleaned by an expert blacksmith.

"Too bad this sword is damaged. If it was in pristine condition, then the Silver Dragon Auction House would surely not auction it off."

"If this sword only had a few scratch marks and damage, I would be willing to bid for it, but from the looks of it, it could break any time from now. What a pity! Sigh."

Looking at this sword, everyone felt that it was such a pity. This was indeed a God-rank Weapon, but it had lost the prestige and might of a weapon at such a level. However, it still has the power of mid-rank Saint Weapon, so its price was still high.

Looking at the expressions of the crowd, Tang Tianyin sighed, but she still put on a smile as she said. "The starting price for this sword is 1000 True Crystals, and every increment should be at least 50 True Crystals!"

Everyone hesitated, but someone from the crowd placed his bid after a moment of hesitation. "1050 True Crystals!"

"1100 True Crystals!"

Jiu Shen's eyes narrowed as he stared at this damaged God Weapon. He used his spiritual perception to take a look at the components of this damaged sword and he found out that it was indeed a God Weapon. Furthermore, it wasn't just an ordinary God Weapon. It was an Origin God Weapon at the very least.

"Sulan, this is most likely an Origin God Weapon. If you can get it, I will help you repair this sword to its peak condition." Jiu Shen's words made Lu Sulan's eyes twinkle in anticipation. She was a bit envious of her junior brother's Supreme Eternal Knife Set, and she truly wanted to have a God Weapon of her own. Now that she had this chance, she wouldn't let it slip by.

Chapter 193 - Should I Change Profession?

"1200 True Crystals!" Lu Sulan placed her bid with a calm tone, but she was inwardly screaming in excitement.

According to her master, this damaged sword was an Origin God Weapon!

She wanted to get this sword so that she can already change her main weapon. Although her current sword was a Saint Weapon, it no longer holds any significant value to her. After all, Jiu Shen had continuously widened her horizons after interacting with him for more than a month, and she could sense the disdain in his eyes every time he looked at her Saint Weapon.

"1300 True Crystals!" The people from the Beiming Family placed their bid. Quite unexpectedly, they also appeared to be interested in this damaged sword. However, Lu Sulan remained unfazed at this.

'My Ice Cloud Sword Sect has vast amounts of accumulated True Crystals, so it wouldn't be a problem even if the three great noble families bid against me for this damaged sword. I'm just worried about the Alchemy Hall since they are definitely the richest guest in tonight's auction... I hope they won't join in the bidding for this sword...' Lu Sulan thought nervously.

"1500 True Crystals!" The Liu Family placed their bid.

"1550 True Crystals!" The Beiming Family added 50 True Crystals. They weren't as rich as the other noble families because their power lies in their individual strength.

"1700 True Crystals!" Lu Sulan shouted calmly.

"Why are they fighting so fiercely for a damaged sword? Are they idiots? This weapon might have the power of a mid-rank Saint Weapon at this moment, but from how it looks, it seemed as if it is about to break. They might not even be able to use this on a

battlefield, so why waste our True Crystals on this?" Elder Kuan muttered coldly as he watched the bidding process of the damaged sword with contempt. He didn't think too much about this sword since it looked like a rusty piece of garbage.

Elder Kuan glanced at the ten disciples of his Xue Family and saw he saw that none of them looked interested in this sword, so he let out a satisfied smile. 'These kids are smart. They can be nurtured well.'

"1800 True Crystals!"

"1900 True Crystals!"

"1950 True Crystals!"

"..."

"3650 True Crystals!" The elder from the Beiming Family shouted with clenched fists. The bid was almost reaching his bottom line, and from the looks of it, the damaged sword wasn't fated to be owned by his Beiming Family.

"3800 True Crystals!" The elder from the Liu Family continued to bid.

"4000 True Crystals!" Lu Sulan wasn't the least bit intimidated by the price. She was willing to get this sword no matter how expensive it was!

"Sigh! You both continue. Our Beiming Family won't join in the bidding for this sword anymore."

The elder from the Liu Family hesitated, but he still shouted. "4300 True Crystals!" This was the final bid he could place and if Lu Sulan would continue, then he would stop by then.

Lu Sulan could sense the hesitation of her competitors, so she could not help but smile excitedly. "4400 True Crystals!" She shouted.

"4400 True Crystals going once! 4400 True Crystals going twice! 4400 True Crystals for the damaged sword, sold! Congratulations to the guest inside the fourth VIP room." Tang Tianyin announced with a smile as she lightly clapped her hands.

Lu Sulan's smile widened and she also heaved a sigh of relief. She then glanced at her master and asked curiously. "Master, is this damaged sword really an Origin God Weapon?"

Jiu Shen nodded his head calmly and replied indifferently. "I'm 80% sure that this is an Origin God Weapon, and even if it's not, I have my ways to upgrade it one level higher."

Lu Sulan's eyes brightened upon hearing that.

"There are still two items left for this auction. The next one is a 9th-rank cultivation pill called the Expanding Essence Pill. It has the effects of increasing one's cultivation level, but one should be at least at the 7th-rank Emperor realm in order to consume this pill since the ingredients used in concocting it are very potent. One may explode if they eat it without sufficient strength. The starting price for this pill is 4000 True Crystals and every increment should be at least 100 True Crystals!" Tang Tianyin said as she slowly explained the effects of the Expanding Essence Pill. She was also quite tempted to get this pill, but she knew that she had no way of fighting for it in front of these tycoons.

A 9th-rank Pill was indeed expensive. Not to mention something like the Expanding Essence Pill which could permanently increase someone's cultivation level.

"Woah! There is actually such a high-level pill auctioned tonight! In the Profound Dragon Continent, the only known Alchemy Saint is the supreme elder of the Alchemy Hall, Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian. Is he the one who concocted this pill?"

"Hey brother, don't be stupid! There are a few other Alchemy Saints in our Profound Dragon Continent. It is just that they are not as high-profile as Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian. Even so, the possibility that Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian concocted this pill is high."

Jiu Shen glanced at the 9th-rank Expanding Essence Pill that was placed inside a small jade bottle, but his eyes twitched when he saw it. 'That is indeed the Expanding Essence Pill, but this is only at the High State, so its efficacy is not that strong. It could at most enhance a 7th-rank Emperor's strength by two minor realms. As for the others, they could only enhance their cultivation by one minor realm after consuming it. What a waste of ingredients!' He muttered in his heart.

There are six levels of pills according to their efficacy: Low State, Medium State, High State, Peak State, Perfect State, and Profound State.

The Expanding Essence Pill that was on display was only at the High State, so Jiu Shen's disdain was understandable, but in the eyes of others, this level of pill was already valuable.

Lu Sulan was also disinterested in this cultivation pill. Her master provided them with high-level pills from time to time, so she wasn't even tempted to bid for this pill.

Other than Jiu Shen's group, everyone else discussed animatedly when the Expanding Essence Pill was taken out. Even the emperor appeared to be tempted to bid for it. In fact, he knew that this was concocted by Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian, and he even tried to directly buy it from him. However, Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian declined his offer since he wanted to auction it off to gain more profit.

"4500 True Crystals!"

"4800 True Crystals!"

"5000 True Crystals!"

The bidding for the Expanding Essence Pill became chaotic. Everyone was eager to get this pill since it could permanently increase their strength. Who wouldn't want such a treasure?

Jiu Shen wasn't surprised by this sudden spike in price, but he still felt a bit dumbstruck by the crowd's enthusiasm for such a low-level pill.

'Should I change profession? Maybe I can earn more as an alchemist...'

Of course, this was merely a passing thought for Jiu Shen...

Chapter 194 - Accepting Two Alchemy Disciples

The bidding for the Expanding Essence Pill concluded and the final winner was the emperor.

He got the 9th-rank pill with an astronomical price of 9100 True Crystals! Even the noble families participating in the auction gasped at the wealth of the Silveria Imperial Family. It wasn't a surprise because the Silveria Imperial Family reigned the Silver Wing Empire for more than fifty thousand years and their accumulated wealth could even drown the other households...

There were several items auctioned after that and almost all of them were taken away by the three great noble families. The other noble families couldn't do anything about it since they weren't rich enough to bid against them. As for Jiu Shen, he remained silent when the other auctioned items were displayed. He didn't even show an ounce of interest when he saw the auctioned items. Only Lu Sulan placed her bid occasionally, but she didn't manage to outbid the others since she didn't bring many True Crystals with her. However, she wasn't disheartened about this because she already had the damaged sword which was actually an Origin God Weapon!

The auction concluded after that.

Some people went out of the Silver Dragon Auction House with wide smiles on their faces, while the others left with regretful looks.

Jiu Shen and Lu Sulan went to retrieve the items that they bid for in the claiming area of the auction house. Some people were also there to do the same thing, and they even saw a few familiar faces.

"Greetings, Wine Master Jiu!"

"Greetings, Wine Master Jiu!"

Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian and Master Fengzi bowed reverentially at Jiu Shen as they greeted him. They didn't even bother to hide the admiration on their faces as they glanced at Jiu Shen who had an expressionless face.

"Greetings, Supreme Elder Qi."

"Greetings, Master Fengzi."

Lu Sulan cupped her fist at the two old men to show her respect. They were the ones who helped her when she was still succumbing to her 'illness', and she was grateful for their help.

Lu Sulan then glared at her disciples and Yang Zenke's group. The youths immediately understood her gaze, so they hurriedly greeted the two old men as they cupped their fists respectfully.

"Greetings, Supreme Elder Qi!"

"Greetings, Master Fengzi."

The two old men smiled at them with a warm look. They then shifted their gaze to Jiu Shen who merely nodded at them perfunctorily.

Looking at this, the two old men could only smile wryly.

During the past month, they always pestered Jiu Shen to accept them as his alchemy disciples, but Jiu Shen remained unmoved and he rejected them every single time. This didn't stop the two old men, and they continued to beg him almost on a daily basis.

"Wine Master Jiu, I-I..." Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian said, but Jiu Shen cut him off.

"I accept." Jiu Shen said without letting him continue to speak. His eyes remained calm and indifferent as he stared at the two old men in front of him.

"Huh? What do you mean, Wine Master Jiu?" Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian's heart thumped as he asked with a bewildered tone. Did Jiu Shen just accept them as his disciple? He wasn't certain.

"I said I accept you both as my alchemy disciples." Jiu Shen replied calmly, but his words came as a surprise to everyone who was listening to them.

"This..." Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian and Master Fengzi glanced at each other with perplexed looks, but their expressions turned into excitement not long later. They were already expecting to be rejected, but Jiu Shen actually accepted them without even letting them speak. Did they finally move his heart after begging him non-stop for more than a month?

Jiu Shen sighed in his heart while looking at Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian and Master Fengzi. The other one was more than a hundred years old, while the other was more than eighty years old. In any other circumstances, he wouldn't even bother to glance at them since their talent wasn't even comparable to the talent of the servants that he had in his past life. However, this wasn't a problem to him since he had a way to nurture them into top alchemists, but since they were already old, the best that they could reach would be at the level of an Origin Alchemy God.

'Sigh. I have no choice. There are just a few talented individuals in the art of alchemy, so I'll just train these two and let them handle the concoction of my future sect. It would be better if they agree to incorporate the Alchemy Hall into my sect.' Jiu Shen said in his heart.

"Don't get happy too soon. Come find me in my store after the martial arts competition is over. This isn't a good place to pay respects to me." Jiu Shen said.

The two old men glanced at each other before they turned to glance at the crowd who were looking at them curiously. They didn't mind kneeling before Jiu Shen as his disciples, but it appears that their master didn't want to embarrass them so much. This made them feel grateful in their hearts.

"Master, we will do as you command." Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian said respectfully.

He didn't mind calling Jiu Shen as his master despite how young the latter looked. Alchemy proficiency wasn't based on someone's age or strength, it was based on someone's ability to refine a pill or dan! Besides, Jiu Shen wasn't just an Alchemy Saint!

The two could still remember the day when they saw how the one-armed barbarian Hu Xiandao managed to regrow his severed limb after he consumed Jiu Shen's Body Reforging Heavens Pill. They knew that the minimum requirement to concoct that pill was to be at least a Nascent Alchemy God! In the minds of the two old men, Jiu Shen was already an immortal who had transcended the realms of mortals, so how could they not respect such a man?

Jiu Shen nodded his head at them. He had the thought of taking the Alchemy Hall under him, but he still had to convince Qi Hongtian and Master Fengzi. Jiu Shen was confident that he could convince them, so he didn't take this matter too seriously.

"You both may leave. Just come to my store after this contest is over. I have matters to discuss with you two." Jiu Shen said.

Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian and Master Fengzi bowed their heads and cupped their fists as they said.

"Yes, master."

"Yes, master."

Lu Sulan was happy for the two of them, and she could already imagine them calling her 'senior sister' in the future. Just the thought of it made her feel slightly embarrassed since the both of them were much older than her.

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(Please Read Author's Note for more info)

Chapter 195 - Shocked Emperor Elyk

Jiu Shen stashed the Demon Crystal and the Blue Fire Lotus. The first item was prepared for Hu Xiandao, while the latter was prepared for his wine recipe.

"Master, how are you going to repair this damaged sword." Lu Sulan asked while looking at the sword box in her hands. Lying inside of this sword box was the damaged sword that Lu Sulan won in the auction.

Jiu Shen glanced at her calmly and explained. "It's not that difficult to repair this sword. Just that, we need a few materials before I can repair this. The sword's body isn't broken, but the sharpness and flexibility of this sword were severely affected after being left to rust for thousands of years. We need some rare metals and other resources to sharpen this sword. As for its flexibility, I can refine it again using an array formation. I will give you a list of items later, and you have to gather them first before I can start repairing this sword."

Although the sword was indeed a true Origin God Weapon, it was greatly damaged and it would be difficult for an ordinary weapon maker to repair it, but to Jiu Shen, this wasn't a problem at all! He also studied the art of weapon making in his past life and his attainment in it was even more remarkable compared to his alchemy proficiency.

"I understand, master."

Lu Sulan felt slightly disappointed when she heard that. However she knew that weapon making wasn't as easy as what her master said. In the whole Profound Dragon

Continent, there were only a few high-level weapon makers and all of them were respected individuals with profound levels of cultivation. It wasn't easy to contact them, and one needs a lot of resources to pay in order to get them to make a weapon.

Lu Sulan was also shocked because one needs to be a weapon maker so that they can repair a damaged weapon, and the weapon in her hands wasn't just an ordinary weapon, so the fact that her master could repair it was slightly surprising to her.

'So aside from master's high cultivation level, and high mastery in alchemy, he is also a peak-level weapon maker? He even mentioned about array formation. Is he also an Array Formation Maker?' Lu Sulan felt herself going dizzy with just the thought of it.

"Don't think too much about this. You can begin searching for the materials after the martial arts competition is over. For now, you should focus your attention on this contest. You can see the progress of your disciples through their battles. This is a valuable opportunity for them, so you must not take this lightly." Jiu Shen said as he patted the shoulders of Lu Sulan.

"Yes, master."

Lu Sulan nodded her head in obeisance.

"Wine Master Jiu! Sect Mistress Lu! How's the auction? Were you surprised about the auctioned items? Hahaha!" The familiar voice of Emperor Elyk resounded beside their ears.

The emperor had a wide smile on his face as he walked towards Jiu Shen's group. Following behind him were three of his sons and his only daughter. The second prince wasn't present since he excused himself before the auction ended.

Lu Sulan cupped her fists at the emperor as she greeted. "Your Majesty."

"No need for formalities, Sect Mistress Lu. By the way, where are you guys planning to rest for tonight?" Emperor Elyk asked with a smile.

Jiu Shen remained silent, so Lu Sulan answered for him. "Your Majesty, we will look for an inn and have our rest there."

"No way! That won't do! How about this. Your group will come with us to the imperial palace and I'll have my people arrange accommodations for you. What do you think?" Emperor Elyk said.

The crown prince and the third prince frowned when they heard that, but they didn't voice out their thoughts. They had seen how their father reacted when the second prince opposed Jiu Shen, so they just remained silent and hid their disagreement inside their hearts.

Lu Sulan thought that it was a good idea because they could save a lot of time if they could come with the emperor inside the imperial palace, but she still turned to look at Jiu Shen to seek for his opinion. "Master, what do you think about this?"

Jiu Shen was silent for a moment before he eventually nodded his head. "Alright. We can go with you, Elyk, but I don't want people disturbing our rest after we arrive in the imperial palace." He said indifferently. These words made the crown prince curse silently in his heart. He was already planning to make things difficult for Jiu Shen's group once they were already inside the imperial palace, but it seemed like it wasn't possible to do it now.

Emperor Elyk slightly furrowed his eyebrows. He could sense that Jiu Shen was intentionally saying those words, but he still nodded his head with a smile. "Don't worry, Wine Master Jiu. I'll have my imperial guards protect your rooms, so you don't have to worry about this."

"In that case, I accept your offer." Jiu Shen said.

Emperor Elyk laughed heartily as he led everyone to the imperial palace. He felt flattered to have Jiu Shen in his home.

"Wine Master Jiu, these kids look familiar. Are they..." Emperor Elyk's voice trailed off as he stared at the youths behind Jiu Shen. He wasn't able to take a closer look at them when he went inside the fourth VIP room in the auction house since he was focused on his conversation with Jiu Shen. However, he could now see that the young men behind Jiu Shen were definitely part of the one hundred slaves that he gave to Jiu Shen!

"No need to guess. They are indeed among the batch of slaves that you brought to me." Jiu Shen replied calmly, but he felt a bit proud in his heart since he was the one who nurtured them from the very start.

Emperor Elyk was stunned and he could not help but take a clearer look at the youths. His eyes widened and he felt that it was incredulous. 'What the hell?! If I remember correctly, the kids I brought that day were yet to start cultivating. How come these kids are already this strong?! The strongest among their group is even at the early stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader realm! Just how did Wine Master Jiu train them...'

"This... After just a little more than a month, you were able to train these kids into elites of the younger generation. In the whole continent, I think only you are capable of achieving this, Wine Master Jiu." Emperor Elyk didn't skimp on the flattery since he was too astonished about the growth of the youths.

The crown prince, the third prince, the fourth prince, and the fifth princess were dumbfounded after hearing the emperor's words. These young men only took a little more than a month to reach their current level of cultivation? Even the fifth princess and the fourth prince who were recognized as the most talented youths in the younger

generation of the Silver Wing Empire needed several years to reach their present level of cultivation, so how could this not shock them?

Jiu Shen remained silent after hearing the emperor's praise, but an imperceptible smile flashed on his lips for a second.

Chapter 196 - Day Of The Martial Arts Contest

The day of the martial arts contest finally arrived and the one hundred battle platforms were already surrounded by countless onlookers. It was crowded with people, but no one was dissatisfied about this because this was the same venue and atmosphere since the founding of the Silver Wing Empire.

"I heard that the arrogant young patriarch of the Liu Family will join in this contest. I don't know what kind of wine he drank in Wine Master Jiu's store that it actually made him join this annual martial arts competition. He must have gone crazy or maybe he was forced by the patriarch himself."

"Are you talking about Liu Mengdi? He's such a joke! I heard that he's still an early stage 3rd-rank Crusader realm at the age of twenty-one. It might be high compared to other youths, but for someone heavily nurtured by the Liu Family, his talent seems fairly ordinary. How did he have the guts to join the competition this year?"

Liu Mengdi sat together with his father and some of his subordinates. The Liu Family also sent a few of their young elites to participate in the contest, but they didn't sit together with their young patriarch.

Seeing the behavior of his so-called family members, Liu Mengdi snorted in his heart. 'Just watch closely. I will show everyone that I am the only one deserving to become the patriarch of the Liu Family!'

Liu Mengdi was one of Jiu Shen's first customers and he was even forced by the latter to buy his wine during their first encounter. However, he was now one of Jiu Shen's most loyal customers and he was also a frequent visitor of his store.

This guy had been putting up an arrogant facade in front of everyone to make them feel that he was a silkpants young master. However, no one knew that this was actually just an act that he had been putting up since he was young. Liu Mengdi knew that his uncles were vying for the position of his father, and they would do anything to get it, so he devised a plan together with his father to fool the rest of the world. And now, he was planning to let everyone know who the true Liu Mengdi was!

In a different spot, the patriarch of the Beiming Family, Beiming Liqiang, led his young elites to their seats. The faces of the youths behind him were rigid. It was as if they were soldiers who were about to join a war.

More notable sects and noble families arrived with their young disciples and young elites, but the most noticeable were still the disciples of the three great noble families and the elites brought by the imperial family.

"Look! It's Wine Master Jiu's group! They are on top of flying swords again!"

Following that shout, everyone raised their heads to look at the sky. They saw more than twenty flying swords descending to the ground. Even though they already saw this during the registration, the crowd still felt surprised at this. No one was able to achieve this kind of precise control in true essence, so this sword technique made everyone admire Jiu Shen.

"That pretty lady... She's the prettiest woman I've seen in my life. I would be willing to die if I could make her mine."

"Are you tired of living?! Can't you see that she has a close relationship with Wine Master Jiu? I wouldn't even be surprised if I found out that she is his wife..."

Everyone's gazes weren't focused on the youths behind Jiu Shen. They were looking at the new member of his group. She was a tall young lady with long purple hair. She was wearing a long white dress that stuck closely to her body, exposing her curvy figure and bountiful assets. The men could not help but fantasize when they saw this woman. Who is she? What is her relationship with Jiu Shen? No one knows.

"Is that Wine Master Jiu's daughter? She looks cute. Like father like daughter. The heavens is truly unfair! Sigh."

Jiu Shen walked calmly despite the crowd's piercing gaze. Everyone could see that he was carrying a young girl with short white hair in his embrace. They could not help but speculate in their hearts when they saw this little girl. Is this little lolita Wine Master Jiu's daughter? If that's the case, then the woman beside him should be his wife...

Jiu Shen continued walking wordlessly. He didn't know what the crowd was thinking, but even he learned about it, he would still not give an explanation and just remain silent. Who gives a damn about them?

Emperor Elyk went forward and greeted Jiu Shen with a smile. He also took a brief look at the purple-haired young lady beside him and the little girl in his embrace. Could they really be a family? Emperor Elyk was curious, but he didn't speak about it.

"Wine Master Jiu, come with me. I've already prepared the seats for your group." Emperor Elyk said.

Jiu Shen nodded his head at the emperor to express his thanks.

Emperor Elyk grinned when he saw that. He then led Jiu Shen's group to the area just right beside where the Silveria Imperial Family were seated.

The crowd frowned when they saw how courteous the emperor was to Jiu Shen, but no one said a word. They were afraid of the emperor's might and they didn't want to offend him just because of a sitting arrangement.

Elder Kuan of the Xue Family snorted in his heart when he saw this. 'Enjoy your high and mighty positions now since it won't be long before my Xue Family will trample you all!'

"Xue Tong, are you confident that you can beat the fourth prince? He should be the strongest competitor in this martial arts contest." Elder Kuan glanced at the young man beside him. This was Xue Tong, the son of Supreme Elder Xue Yangkun!

Xue Tong's bearing took a drastic change after his sudden growth in strength. He wasn't the same blindly arrogant young master anymore. His cold pair of eyes turned warmer as he looked at Elder Kuan.

"Strongest? Elder Kuan, I must admit that the fourth prince is indeed strong, but if we had the same level of cultivation, I could defeat him in less than ten moves!" Xue Tong said with confidence. If it was before, he wouldn't even dare utter such bold words, but after the special training he had undergone in the Undying Corpse Sect, his confidence was sky-high!

Elder Kuan smirked when he heard his reply. He had seen the astonishing growth of Xue Tong, and he was also confident about his strength.

'Even with Xue Tong's growth, it might still be hard for him to defeat the fourth prince at this moment, but this is not a problem. It wouldn't take long for him to surpass the fourth prince's level after a few more months of training. I'm just worried that the Silveria Imperial Family would no longer be there to see the growth of our Xue Family! Hahahha!' Elder Kuan guffawed in his heart and he could not conceal the cold smile on his face as he looked at where the emperor was seated.

Chapter 197 - Competition Begins!

"Wine Master Jiu, I prepared this area for your group. What do you think about this spot?" Emperor Elyk smiled as glanced at Jiu Shen.

Jiu Shen stared calmly at the emperor and replied. "Thanks."

Emperor Elyk felt slightly uncomfortable by his casual reply, but he did not take this to heart. He merely smiled wryly at Jiu Shen as he said. "You're welcome, Wine Master Jiu. Anyway, I shall not stay here any longer since the competition is about to start. Good luck to your disciples!"

Jiu Shen nodded his head calmly at the emperor. Emperor Elyk took his silence as a signal for him to leave.

The emperor was not offended by Jiu Shen's attitude. He knew that the man was just like that and he could not blame him for this. He also wanted to ask Jiu Shen about the identity of Long Meili, but it seemed like Jiu Shen did not want to speak about it, so he tactfully chose to stay silent as he walked away with his group. However, the emperor was still curious about this as he thought to himself. 'I wonder who that young lady is... Also, that little girl in his arms... Could it be that they are truly Wine Master Jiu's wife and daughter? But... I do not think he is the sort of person who would have a family of his own. In that case, just who are they to him?'

Long Meili sat beside Jiu Shen unceremoniously, while Lu Sulan sat on his other side.

Lu Sulan stared at the purple-haired beauty who was sitting beside her master. This was not the first time she had seen this young lady, but she was still clueless about her identity. Her master did not tell them anything about her and he merely said that she was her subordinate.

Lu Sulan was knowledgeable about the top experts of the Profound Dragon Continent, but she could not recall anyone that looked like Long Meili.

Long Meili could sense the gaze that was directed at her, but she chose to ignore it. She was disinclined to care about anyone else's thoughts. All she cared about was Jiu Shen and nothing else mattered to her.

Jiu Shen was unaware of what everyone was thinking since his attention was focused on the young disciples participating in today's competition. He was confident about Yang Zenke and the others, but he was curious to know if there would be anyone that could give them a hard fight.

In his opinion, the only ones that could make Yang Zenke and the others use all of their skills are the disciples of the three great noble families, but upon closer inspection, he was able to discover a few talented youths that weren't part of the three great noble families. Some of them were even commoners. This discovery made him slightly interested in the battles later.

'Looks like Yang Zenke would have a hard time getting the first place, but all ten of them should have no problem in getting into the top fifty. Yang Zenke and Han Sen should be able to get into the top ten if there are no mishaps.' Jiu Shen thought to himself.

The pairing for the fights was chosen randomly by the organizers and no one objected to this arrangement since this was how the annual competitions were done back then. Of course, the organizers were part of the Silveria Imperial Family, and no one dared to question their impartialness.

While the organizers were pairing the participants, an elder from the Silveria Imperial Family hovered in the air using a flying carpet. It was a flying treasure, but its quality wasn't that high compared to Liuli's flying boat.

"Everyone! Welcome to the Annual Martial Arts Contest of our Silver Wing Empire's young elites! Today, the best of our empire's younger generation would battle it out to find out who among them are the best of the best! The..." The elder continued his speech with an excited tone that managed to garner everyone's attention. The crowd was infected by the elder's excitement and they all cheered in unison, making the entire venue erupt into sonorous and joyous exclamations.

Not long later, the more than tens of thousands of the participants were separated into one hundred groups since there were one hundred battle platforms prepared for this event.

The elder standing on top of the flying carpet announced in a loud voice. "Alright! There are exactly one hundred battle platforms and each of which has at least two hundred participants. Now, I would like all the participants to go to their respective battle platforms to prepare for the first part of the competition!"

Everyone held their breaths. They knew what would happen in the first part of this contest.

The participants that were grouped in the same battle platforms would fight a battle royale until only 128 people are left standing. The remaining ones will then proceed to the next part of the next contest.

Yang Zenke and the others stood up and bowed at Jiu Shen before they went towards their assigned battle platforms. They were excited and nervous about this since this was the first martial arts competition that they had participated in. However, they silently told themselves to not disappoint Jiu Shen.

Luckily, all ten of them were separated into different groups, so there would be no way that they would fight in the first round.

It took more than twenty minutes before the participants were able to go to their respective battle platforms, but everyone waited patiently.

The elder on top of the flying carpet cleared his throat and said. "I assume all the participants already know about the first part of the competition, but for the sake of those who don't know, I will explain it again. Look at the people around you, all of them

are your opponents. All of you will fight a battle royale and only the last 128 participants standing would be able to proceed to the next round. Let me remind you guys. No one is allowed to kill! No one is allowed to cripple anyone's cultivation! And no one is allowed to use poisons and berserk pills!"

The elder paused for a moment before he continued.

"There are elite imperial guards spectating each battle platform, and whoever is seen breaking the rules, they would immediately be disqualified and they will also be punished accordingly, so I hope that no one would be stupid enough to break the rules. I will give every one of you ten minutes to prepare. After the ten minutes is up, the battle royale would begin!"

The elder pressed something in his sleeves and a pale blue light flashed through the skies, letting everyone see a gigantic timer.

The crowd spectating the event erupted into loud cheering after the elder's announcement. They were also looking at the participants with excited expressions.

"Do you think that Liu Mengdi would survive this battle royale? I mean, he's only an early stage 3rd-rank Crusader. In his battle platform, he would be fighting against an early stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader from the Xue Family. I don't think Liu Mengdi could even last one strike from that guy."

"Who knows? Maybe a miracle would happen and he would come out as the winner. Hahaha!"

Chapter 198 - A Father's Resolution

Jiu Shen took a glance at the battle platforms of Yang Zenke's group. He used his spiritual perception discreetly to check the cultivation levels of their opponents.

In just a few seconds, Jiu Shen was already able to picture out everything about their opponents. Including their cultivation level, weapons of expertise, etc. And from what Jiu Shen saw, he was confident that Yang Zenke and the others would emerge as the winners of their respective battle platforms.

'Yang Zenke, Han Sen, and the others shouldn't have a problem winning in the first round. As for Sulan's disciples, although their cultivation level is almost similar to Yang Zenke's group, their battle experience is practically non-existent, so some of them might have a hard time getting past the first round...' Jiu Shen's eyes continuously scanned the young disciples on the battle platforms and he already had his guesses on who among them would be the final 128. However, this was merely his assumption based on what he had seen from his spiritual perception.

Many things could happen in a fight. Not to mention a battle royale such as this which involves the best of Silver Wing Empire's younger generation. Jiu Shen may be able to deduce the power of the youths, but he could not guess the final outcome of the first round. After all, he wasn't a seer or a prophet.

Jiu Shen then glanced at Liu Mengdi who was silent throughout the entire time.

Right from the beginning, he knew that the young man was concealing his strength. Everyone could sense that Liu Mengdi only had an early stage 3rd-rank Crusader realm cultivation level, but Jiu Shen knew that this guy was actually an early stage 5th-rank Spirit realm! His strength was on par with the fourth prince, so their talents should be almost on the same level!

'The kid truly knows how to hide. He even deceived the entire Silver Wing Empire into believing that he is just a silkpants young master of a noble family. He must have his reasons as to why he is doing this.' Jiu Shen muttered in his heart as he observed Liu Mengdi who was surrounded by multiple youths who were eyeing him with malicious intentions. From the looks of their eyes, they wanted to kick Liu Mengdi out of the platform and make him as their stepping stone.

From Jiu Shen's experience, he could somehow guess Liu Mengdi's reasoning on why he was keeping up a facade all this time. 'According to the intel that Ren Shuang gathered, the Liu Family's internal affair is unstable. Liu Mengdi's uncles are vying for the patriarch position, and they are merely waiting for the death of their supreme elder before they would snatch it with force. Their supreme elder is already in his twilight years and it is only a matter of time before he leaves this world... To think that a kid as young as him actually managed to fool everyone... Such a talent! A pity that he does not have a supreme physique. However, it isn't a problem to let him join my sect...'

On Liu Mengdi's battle platform, he was in the encirclement of more than a dozen youths. Each of them carrying different weapons, and their eyes revealed their contempt.

Liu Mengdi smirked coldly in his heart, but he put on a calm expression on his face throughout this ordeal.

The youths that surrounded him were merely 3rd-rank Crusaders, and there were even some at the 2nd-rank Elite Warrior. It was truly laughable for them to believe that he was just a soft cotton that they could casually knead.

'I've been waiting for this day to come! I've had enough of everyone's contemptuous stares! This is the day that I, Liu Mengdi would be known by the whole Silver Wing Empire as a young elite!' Liu Mengdi screamed inside his head. His heart was beating wildly in excitement as he glanced at the group of youths around him.

"Young Master Liu, we apologize in advance for our offense. If you don't want to get hurt, you can jump out of the battle platform."

"That's right! We don't want to offend you Young Master Liu. You're an elite of the Liu Family, so it shouldn't be a problem if we join hands to take you out." A voice filled with sarcasm echoed about.

Liu Mengdi frowned and stared at the young man who had just spoken.

He had a short black hair and he was wearing a battle suit that fitted nicely to his bulky frame. The young man was two meters tall and he was holding a giant axe with both his hands. This guy was the strongest among the group of youths that surrounded him, and he was already at the peak stage of the 3rd-rank Crusader realm.

"Hahaha! Hahaha!" Liu Mengdi covered his face with his left palm as he guffawed exaggeratedly.

Everyone was stunned at his sudden peals of laughter, but they promptly shook their heads with different kinds of expressions. Some of them felt pity, regret, disdain, and even happiness.

"Looks like Liu Mengdi had gone crazy after being cornered like this. Sigh!"

"If I had his resources, I would have already been a 4th-rank Knight Crusader! Everything that was given to him was practically wasted! Beat him up!"

"Beat him up! He is just shaming the Liu Family's prestige!"

A few people from the crowd voiced out their scornful remarks. They weren't afraid of the Liu Family because they were also from noble families. The Liu Family might be one of the three great noble families, but it did not have the power to oppose multiple noble families simultaneously.

The Liu Family's patriarch had a dark look when he heard the insulting remarks aimed at his son. He knew that his son was merely hiding strength. In fact, he was the one who told Liu Mengdi to hide his cultivation level. The situation of their Liu Family wasn't good, and his brothers' fox tails were already showing. In a few months, they might try to assassinate him to get the patriarch position. Thinking about it made his heart filled with sadness.

He then recalled the things he talked about with Liu Mengdi the night before the martial arts contest.

"Son, show the world your real strength! And you don't have to worry about the retaliation from your uncles. Your father will handle them for you."

"But father! If I show everyone my true power, those bastards would surely feel threatened and they might ignore the supreme elder and kill you! Our plans would fall apart if we do this!"

"Son, I've already made up my mind. I have planned about this a few months ago, and I am confident that I could kill those bastards! Remember, the position as next patriarch of the Liu Family is only yours..."

The patriarch of the Liu Family clenched his fists tightly as he watched his son on his battle platform. He had a proud smile on his face as he looked at Liu Mengdi.

"My son, Liu Mengdi, show them who you truly are... Don't worry, I will handle everything in the Liu Family. Even if I die, the position of the next patriarch can only be taken by you..."

Chapter 199 - Liu Mengdi's Speed

Liu Mengdi ceased his laughter. He then took a glance at the cyan necklace on his wrist. It was an item that helped him hide his true strength from everyone. If he was wearing it, other people could only see him as a 3rd-rank Crusader. However, this item was only effective to cultivators who are below the 9th-rank Saint realm. A 9th-rank Saint could easily see through his true power even he had this bracelet on himself.

This item was called the Essence Sealing Bracelet. It was an item capable of sealing someone's strength two levels lower, so if a 5th-rank Spirit realm cultivator is wearing it, their strength would regress to that of a 3rd-rank Crusader.

Liu Mengdi glanced at the youths around him and smirked coldly in his heart. 'I don't even need to unequip this Essence Sealing Bracelet to defeat these bugs.'

"Hey! What are you looking at?! Do you think I'm afraid of you?!"

Liu Mengdi ignored the guy and shifted his gaze to the huge timer in the skies.

03:02

03:01

03:00

Only three minutes was left before the start of the battle royale and he was already itching to show his real strength to the world. He wanted to shock them with his feats!

Liu Mengdi slowly took out his sword as he calmed his turbulent feelings. He was too excited that he couldn't stop the shivering of his arms. However, this was taken differently by the crowd.

"Look! Liu Mengdi is shaking in fear! Hahaha! What a coward! He's finally showing his true face!"

"What a pity! It looks like the Liu Family's young patriarch isn't worthy of his position."

The tall and bulky youth who was holding a huge axe stared at Liu Mengdi with unconcealed disdain as he said in a voice laced with mockery. "Young Master Liu, don't worry. I will be very gentle with you. How about you give up now? You won't be injured that way. Hahaha!"

The rest of the youths laughed in response to that. Their gazes towards Liu Mengdi was filled with derision and contempt.

Liu Mengdi's breathing was already calm, but his shivering arms was still evident. He then looked at the timer above.

00:10

00:09

00:08

...

00:02

00:01

00:00

Bang!

A loud bang was issued to signal the start of the battle royale.

Liu Mengdi suddenly let out a smile as his silhouette disappeared from where he previously stood.

Whoosh!

Smack! Smack! Smack! Smack!

A series of smacking sounds echoed as Liu Mengdi smashed his sword that was still on its scabbard onto the heads of the youths who were around him. They weren't even able to see his movements and they could feel a stinging sensation at the back of their heads as they slowly plopped to the ground while grimacing in pain.

Liu Mengdi's swift movements created a light gust of wind and he looked like an agile savage beast that speedily attacked its prey!

Liu Mengdi glanced at the tall youth and smashed his sheathed sword towards the latter.

Hm?!

The tall youth was also unable to see the movements of Liu Mengdi, but this time, he could feel that the attack was aimed at him. He took a step backward as he raised his gigantic axe with both his hands. He was confident that he could block Liu Mengdi's swift attacks with his gigantic axe. He was honestly surprised with the speed that Liu Mengdi showed and his contempt was long gone. It was replaced by a serious and grim expression.

Bang!

Liu Mengdi's sheathed sword smashed on the youth's giant axe, making the both of them stagger and take several steps backward.

The crowd was stunned at what they saw and their mouths unconsciously opened to form an 'O' shape.

Was this still the flamboyant Young Master Liu who always used the name of his Liu Family to scare everyone? Was this still the Young Master Liu that everyone never took seriously?

They couldn't contain their shocks at all and the crowd was rendered speechless by the sudden turn of events.

Among the group that surrounded Liu Mengdi earlier, more than ten youths were now lying on the battle platform while grimacing in pain. They were not yet unconscious, and they were still within the battle platform, so they were still eligible to join the battle royale, but with their current status, it was obvious that they could no longer fight.

It was truly amusing to think that they were still laughing contemptuously at Liu Mengdi just a minute ago, but now, they couldn't even muster the strength to stand on their feet!

Liu Mengdi's smack might have looked weak, but he had skillfully hit everyone's weak points. He was already merciful enough to not claim their lives. Not to mention that he was yet to unsheath his sword!

The tall youth stared nervously at Liu Mengdi and he reflexively tightened the grip on his weapon.

Liu Mengdi smiled warmly at the youth, but his next actions made the latter gulp anxiously.

Liu Mengdi was slowly unsheathing his sword!

Shing!

His sword didn't look too precious and it was fairly ordinary in appearance, but those with keen eyes knew that this sword was actually an Earth Weapon!

"Friend, how about you jump out of this battle platform? That way you won't be hurt." Liu Mengdi said with a smile, but his voice was filled with sarcasm. He was just throwing back the same words that were spoken by the youth!

Since you insulted me, then don't blame me for insulting you!

The tall youth gritted his teeth as he glared at Liu Mengdi.

"Liu Mengdi, you might have taken them by surprise, but you won't be able to do the same to me! I am a peak stage 3rd-rank Crusader while you are only an early stage 3rd-rank Crusader! What right do you have to act arrogant in front of me?!" The youth shouted through gritted teeth.

Liu Mengdi suddenly smiled when he heard his words. He cupped his left hand into his ears and said while looking at the youth in a taunting manner. "Can you repeat that, please? I wasn't able to understand it because I don't know the language of dogs."

His words and expression made the tall youth incensed. The latter then raised his giant axe while sprinting towards Liu Mengdi with a dark look. "Damn you, Liu Mengdi! I'll beat you up!"

Liu Mengdi remained composed as the youth dashed towards him. The smile on his lips was still hanging on his face. When the tall youth was just ten meters away from him, Liu Mengdi suddenly slashed his sword multiple times, leaving behind a series of white lights in the air.

Jiu Shen who was looking at their battle from his seat silently praised Liu Mengdi in his heart. From what he saw, Liu Mengdi already reached the first level of Sword Comprehension, Sword Intent Manifestation!

Sword Comprehension is a sword cultivator's understanding of the sword dao and it has five levels:

Sword Intent Manifestation

Sword Ray Manipulation

Heart of Sword

Birth of Sword Soul

Extreme Sword Dao

The deeper someone's Sword Comprehension, the stronger their sword attacks would become.

In the Primordial God Realm, there were only a handful of people that managed to reached the final level of Sword Comprehension, and all of them were considered as the strongest sword cultivators! Of course, Jiu Shen was included on the list of those that reached that level. One of the three Celestial Emperors was also included on the list, Sword God Jian Wang!

It must be noted that Sword Comprehension could only be achieved after countless battles of life and death, so the experience that Liu Mengdi had wasn't small.

"This kid has potential." Jiu Shen muttered quietly.

Chapter 200 - Yang Zenke's Power

Following Liu Mengdi's fast sword slashes, the tall youth who was madly charging at him received more than a dozen cuts and wounds. He almost lost his grip on his axe and he could barely hold it with his wounded arms.

Arghh!

'Since when did Liu Mengdi become this strong?! Was he hiding his strength all this time?!' The youth muttered in his heart as he looked at Liu Mengdi. A hint of respect could be seen at the corner of his eyes.

"Woah! Young Master Liu is actually hiding his strength! Although he is only a 3rd-rank Crusader, his sword techniques and fast movement speed is more than enough to fight toe to toe with someone at the 4th-rank Knight Crusader realm, so this tall guy here would not be able to defeat him!"

"I never thought that the arrogant Young Master Liu was actually this awesome! So his arrogance isn't unfounded!"

"Young Master Liu should be laughing right now after smacking those youths. They mocked him earlier, but now, they are grimacing beneath his feet!"

The patriarch of the Liu Family smiled proudly as he looked at the confident figure of his son. What kind of father would not be happy after hearing praises for his son?

'This isn't the end. Liu Mengdi has not yet shown his true power!' He muttered in his heart as he looked at his son with excitement.

Those who mocked Liu Mengdi earlier felt as if they had swallowed a fly after seeing this scene. They regretted having said those words. Now, they had to be careful about Liu Mengdi's retaliation!

The tall youth glanced at Liu Mengdi with newfound respect, but he wasn't willing to back down.

"Young Master Liu, I must admit that your strength has surprised me, but if you think that this would stop me from going all out, then you are terribly wrong! I have waited for this martial arts contest and I don't want my path to end in the first round of the competition!" The youth shouted as he abruptly raised his giant axe, ignoring the fresh wounds on his arms. Blood gushed out profusely from the cuts on his arms, but the tall youth ignored the pain as he aimed his strike towards Liu Mengdi.

Liu Mengdi admired the man's tenacity. Not anyone could have this kind of spirit, and he admired this kind of people the most. Although the young man had mocked him earlier, he didn't take it seriously.

With a wave of his sword, Liu Mengdi muttered softly. "Brilliant Sword Ray."

Baang!

A blinding sword light streaked towards the tall youth and it resoundingly smashed his axe. This attack threw him out of the battle platform and his bulky body helplessly tumbled on the ground a few times before someone from the organizers managed to catch him.

The person who caught the youth checked his condition and heaved a sigh of relief after seeing that the young man was alright.

Liu Mengdi glanced at the young man and said. "I admire your courage and spirit. Can you please tell me your name?"

The tall youth stood up with difficulty with the help of the person who had caught him earlier. He then glanced at Liu Mengdi and answered. "Kal Bo!"

Liu Mengdi smiled at him and raised his right thumb upwards.

* * *

On a different battle platform, Yang Zenke was effortlessly knocking out his opponents and he didn't even need to take out his sword to defeat them. He was merely using his fists and kicks to subdue his opponents! They weren't even able to last a few rounds against him before they found themselves lying outside of the battle platform with pained looks.

"That guy is one of those young men that followed behind Wine Master Jiu! So strong! No one was even able to last five strikes from him!"

"His strength is at the early stage of the 4th-rank Knight Crusader realm and he could be considered as one of the strongest among the younger generation! Look! All the youths who came with Wine Master Jiu had a blood-red sword on them, but these guy has not even used it yet! How strong could he be if unsheathes his sword?!"

The crowd shifted their gazes on Yang Zenke's battle platform. His fights were fairly one-sided and no one among his opponents was even able to give him a good fight. His performance was even more fascinating compared to what Liu Mengdi had shown, so the crowd's surprise wasn't unfounded.

Yang Zenke glanced at the people around him and frowned. Most of the participants who were on the same battle platform as him were only 3rd-rank Crusaders, and they weren't even able to give him a satisfying battle.

"Why are they so weak? They aren't even as strong as the savage beasts that we fought in the forest." He muttered silently in dissatisfaction.

The savage beasts that Yang Zenke's group fought in the Spirit World were all wild creatures and they fought with those kinds of enemies without rest for more than a week! They had learned a lot from that training and their battle experience was already equivalent to that of an experienced soldier. Coupled with the high-level techniques that they learned from Jiu Shen, they were practically invincible among those with the same level of cultivation as them!

Yang Zenke's eyes then hovered on a young man who had a similar level of cultivation. This young man was wearing the robes of the Beiming Family.

"A disciple of the Beiming Family? Hm, this is a bit interesting!" Yang Zenke's cold eyes revealed a trace of excitement as he swiftly dashed towards the youth.

He could feel that this young man from the Beiming Family was different to the ones that he had defeated earlier. 'From what I know, the Beiming Family is a military family loyal to the Silveria Imperial Family. All their descendants are strictly trained to learn the art of war, and even the women in their family are also strong. I hope this guy could get me to unsheathed my sword!'

Hm?

The young disciple of the Beiming Family sensed a strong presence locking on him, so he immediately shifted his gaze to Yang Zenke who was just twenty meters away from him.

"Who is this guy?" He muttered in shock.

Yang Zenke halted his steps when he was only five meters away from the youth. He then said in a calm voice. "Take out your weapon and let me see the strength of a disciple from the renowned Beiming Family."

Yang Zenke's words sounded arrogant to the eyes of others since this was equivalent to challenging the Beiming Family, but he didn't care about what the others thought of him. His goal in this competition was to get the first place and fight with the strongest young elites of the Silver Wing Empire!

The disciple from the Beiming Family frowned at Yang Zenke's words. He saw that Yang Zenke didn't even take out his sword, and this made him a bit angry. "The swords of the Beiming Family's disciples aren't taken out lightly. Only opponents deserving of it could see its shadow!" He said while holding his anger.

Yang Zenke smiled at his words.

"If that's the case, then I won't hold back my fists!"