

The Immortal's Wine Store

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Hmph!

Ice merely snorted in response to his words. Her huge pair of wings continuously flapped, producing snowflakes because of her inherent coldness.

"That... How did such a creature suddenly appear?!"

"You moron! That's the little girl in Wine Master Jiu's embrace earlier! She transformed into a beautiful white tiger in just a blink of an eye! Who would have thought that she was actually a savage beast with great power..."

Elder Ming carefully stared at Ice as he silently gauged her power. In his mind, he was evaluating Ice's cultivation level and he also compared it to his own. He was confident that their raw power was almost on par, but he was feeling slightly perturbed because there was still a certain someone who has yet to show his power.

'Fuck! This little girl is actually a Nascent God Realm savage beast! Do I have to postpone my attack on the Silver Wing Empire?! No way! But that brat Jiu Shen has yet to attack... What if he is also a Nascent God Realm expert?' He cursed in his heart. He was hesitating at this moment, and this was definitely not a good sign.

He has waited many years for this day. He planned for this scheme for so long, and just as he thought that he had already taken a grasp of everything, he suddenly discovered this duo trying to mess everything that he had painstakingly planned.

Ice opened her mouth, creating tens of ice arrows that shot towards Elder Ming instantaneously.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Elder Ming snarled and long sharp claws suddenly extended from his knuckles. Those claws looked deadly and incredibly sharp. Anyone would be turned to shreds if they were hit by these claws.

Elder Ming slashed the ice arrows with his claws. He seemed to have done it casually, but he knew that every time he had hit those ice arrows, chilling coldness seeped through his arms! The

extreme coldness he was feeling made his movements slow down as time goes by, but he refused to back down at this instant! He did not want all of his efforts to go down the drainage!

A few ice arrows managed to impale Elder Ming, causing him to groan.

"Fuck!" He cursed as he pulled out the ice arrows from his body. He then glared coldly at the massive Glacial Sovereign Tiger in front of him.

Elder Ming knew that he was now at a disadvantage, but he felt slightly reluctant to retreat. After all, he had spent many years to formulate everything, so how could he easily give up on it?!

"God fucking dammit!" Elder Ming shouted angrily. His figure disappeared from his spot and reappeared behind Ice all of a sudden. He was so fast that everyone down below was yet to discover where he was. Only Jiu Shen was able to clearly see his movements.

Ice snorted once again. She fiercely flapped her wings, creating freezing gales that swept towards Elder Ming's figure.

Countless ice shards and snowflakes dotted the skies as Ice turned to cast another attack by a mere wave of her claws.

Elder Ming's eyes turned red upon facing this scene. He gritted his teeth as he poured out his true essence! He might die if he was careless, so he might as well bring out everything he had!

"DIE!!!!!" He shouted maliciously as he brandished his claws at Ice's figure.

Ten streaks of dark claw lights tore through the skies, shooting swiftly towards Ice. The sky turned dark after this attack, and everyone on the battlefield held their breaths at this fearsome sight!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Multiple ice shards shattered upon direct contact with the ten streaks of dark claw lights.

Ice opened her mouth and spat a huge ice spear. It looked slightly incorporeal, but it almost looked life-like with its transparent white color as if it was carved out of a glacier.

Swoosh!

The ice spear collided with the ten claw lights!

Boooooommmmm!!!

Everyone held onto something to prevent themselves from being thrown away, but even with their efforts, some of them were still flung away by the strong winds!

Elder Ming's eyes turned bloodshot after seeing his strongest attack dissipating after clashing with that gigantic ice spear and it only managed to reduce half the size of the spear and it continued to travel towards him like a flash of lightning!

Pu!

His shoulder was accurately hit by the spear, skewering him in the process!

Aaarrghhh!!!

Elder Ming used his true essence to melt the ice spear impaled on his shoulder. He emitted a pained scream as he clutched the bloody fist-size hole that unceasingly spurted blood.

I have to retreat! Shit!

Elder Ming thought as he fearfully glanced at the Glacial Sovereign Tiger. He gritted his teeth while holding back the pain in his shoulder. He could already feel it going numb and he could hardly move his right arm. Every time he tried to move his right arm, a crippling pain would follow. It was so excruciating that he almost passed out!

Elder Ming hurriedly turned around and fled from the scene. He did not even glance at his comrades who were looking at his fleeing silhouette with wide eyes. They were dumbfounded to see this happen.

Elder Ming, who they thought was an undefeatable being turned tail and fled? How was that possible?!

"You want to escape?! Foolish old man!" Ice's beastly voice echoed chillingly. She pounced at the retreating Elder Ming with a wide-open mouth that sported two sets of sharp serrated teeth.

Ah!

Elder Ming cried out in fear when he sensed that he was being chased.

"Is this real? I think I'm dreaming..." Xue Yangkun muttered with a dazed look. His pair of murky eyes resembled that of a dead fish's soulless eyes.

Xue Yangkai remained silent, but the confidence that he had earlier can no longer be seen.

Both men did not feel safe despite having two corpse puppets at the peak stage of the 9th-rank Saint. If someone like Elder Ming was beaten like an idiot, then how would they end up with their meager cultivation level?

At that moment, they suddenly felt their hearts sinking into oblivion.

Chapter 222 - Capturing Elder Ming

After seeing Elder Ming escaping with his life, everyone from the Xue Family and the Undying Corpse Sect lost their will to fight. They immediately scrambled out of the scene, running swiftly as if they could not wait to leave this hellhole.

Only a retard would remain there after seeing the battle between Elder Ming and the Glacial Sovereign Tiger...

"Run!!!"

"Flee!!!"

Emperor Elyk instantly ordered his men to kill the escaping enemies, his eyes burning with grim light. He knew that Wine Master Jiu would not fail him, but he did not think that he would help them this way. He did not even have to fight himself and Wine Master Jiu just commanded a little girl who was actually a Nascent God Realm savage beast to fight.

"Kill them! Don't let them escape!" Emperor Elyk shouted as he raised his Silver Wing Sword. He then sprinted towards the retreating enemies like an enraged lion, slashing the enemies' bodies viciously.

Ahhh!!

Urghhh!

Bloodcurdling screams rang out as the raging subordinates of the emperor pounced on their enemies with sky-high fighting morale. They knew that they have the advantage, so they did not want to waste this precious opportunity to kill more of their enemies.

Up above the skies, Elder Ming's body was already dyed red with his own blood. His face was pale and his eyes were bloodshot. He could hardly maintain hovering in the air because of his severe injuries.

While clutching the gaping hole on his shoulder, Elder Ming stared at the huge white tiger that was growling at him with hungry eyes. He knew this kind of look since this was how he stared at the people that he turned into corpse puppets.

Thinking about this, Elder Ming shuddered and his legs were visibly trembling. Who would have thought that there was actually a terrifying being serving Jiu Shen? What made him even more confused was how did Jiu Shen managed to make this Nascent God Realm savage beast serve him willingly?

Well, if he knew that Jiu Shen was merely giving milk to this Nascent God Realm savage beast, Elder Ming might die in exasperation...

Left with no choice, Elder Ming gritted his teeth and took out an item from his spacial ring. It was a jade slip that emitted thick amounts of space energy.

"Fuck you! I will come back and kill all of you to avenge my fallen comrades! JIU SHEN!!!" Elder Ming shouted like a cornered beast as he activated the jade slip in his hands.

Ice swiftly pounced at him, but it was already too late.

Elder Ming's figure vanished from his spot.

Ice roared at the skies when she witnessed this. Her opponent had actually escaped right in front of her eyes?

In her anger, Ice conjured hundreds of ice arrows and shot the remaining members of the Xue Family and the Undying Corpse Sect.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Pu! Pu! Pu! Pu! Pu!

The emperor's subordinates could only stare at their enemies with horror in their eyes. The bunch of them looked as if they had turned into porcupines with all those ice arrows impaling them.

"Is it done?" Someone asked with a blank look.

Hundreds of peak experts died just like that? They were not even able to put on a fight as they died in a blink of an eye...

"Nascent God Realm... So that's why they are referred to as 'Immortals' fifty thousand years ago. Their combat strength is way beyond that of a 9th-rank Saint. Even someone like me who is already at the peak stage of the 9th-rank Saint will still die with one blow from that kind of attack... Terrifying indeed..." The emperor's father muttered with awe and worship. He had tried to break through to the Nascent God Realm, but he failed to overcome his tribulation lightning. He had even almost lost his life at that time.

Emperor Elyk merely nodded his head with a complicated look when he stared at the battlefield. It could not even be called a fight. All their enemies died in a matter of seconds without even a chance of resisting.

Emperor Elyk glanced at the huge white tiger in the skies. He could see that it was still fuming because of Elder Ming's sudden escape.

"So that little girl was actually such a strong being... I wonder how Wine Master Jiu got her..." Emperor Elyk muttered absentmindedly.

Jiu Shen who was seated on his chair slowly rose to his feet, his silver eyes slowly turned gold.

"No one can escape from my grasp..." He uttered calmly as he grabbed the empty air.

Om!

A portal emerged in front of him and he stretched his right arm towards the portal. Dozens of rusted chains suddenly shot towards the portal, producing clanking sounds.

The chains then trembled as if they had captured something.

Looking at this, everyone stared at Jiu Shen with bewildered looks. Even Ice was looking at him with a confused expression.

Jiu Shen beckoned with his fingers and the chains slowly tightened.

From the looks of it, the chains seemed to be pulling something out from the portal.

"Could it be..." Emperor Elyk muttered in shock as he guessed in his heart.

Everyone stared at this scene with unblinking eyes. Everyone no longer believed that Jiu Shen was merely an Alchemy Saint or a normal expert. How could he have taken a Nascent God Realm savage beast if he was merely that?

Suddenly, everyone could hear a loud scream filled with extreme trepidation.

Ahhhh!!

Ahhhh!!!

Don't kill me!!!

Coming out of the portal was a bloodied figure of a man wrapped tightly with dozens of rusted chains. The rust from the chains aggravated his injuries, making him scream like a pig in a slaughterhouse.

The portal slowly vanished and everyone could finally identify the captured man and they could not help but quiver in fear when they realized that it was actually Elder Ming.

How did Jiu Shen manage to capture him? From what they have seen, Elder Ming seemed to have activated a teleportation jade slip which could transport him thousands of miles away from his initial location, so how come Jiu Shen was still able to get him?

In the end, everyone could only stare fearfully at the man with long silver hair. His expression was calm and sedated as if he had done something inconsequential.

Chapter 223 - Sealing Elder Ming's Immortal Soul

Ice changed back into her human form and swiftly darted in front of the tightly wrapped Elder Ming. She placed her hands on her hips as she smiled mockingly at Elder Ming.

"Old man, I initially wanted to devour you, but looking at your ugly face, I suddenly lost appetite. I might have a stomachache if I eat you. Meow!" Ice said.

Elder Ming trembled when he heard her words, but he could not do anything since he no longer had any strength left from his body. He could only stare at this little devil with a terrified look. Why wouldn't he be scared when the other party mentioned about wanting to devour him?

With his current state, Elder Ming could only await his death. 'How the hell did Jiu Shen capture me when I'm already thousands of miles away from this place? Even if he is a Nascent God Realm expert, he should not be this strong, right?' He thought as he glanced at Jiu Shen's expressionless face.

"Wine... Wine Master Jiu... Cough! Cough!" Elder Ming called out, but he suddenly coughed blood.

"I honestly don't want to involve myself in the internal affairs of the Silver Wing Empire, but your rebellion is something that might damage my business..." Jiu Shen said calmly.

"No! I wouldn't dare to! Please, don't kill me!" Elder Ming cried out with snot and tears.

Jiu Shen shook his head lightly. "I need your Immortal Soul to cleanse my disciple's weapon. That way, that damage sword would recover a bit of its power." He said without even batting an eye.

Elder Ming flinched when he saw the frightening calmness in his gaze. It was as if he was just a tiny creature looking at a greater being.

Jiu Shen snapped his fingers and the rusted chains that wrapped Elder Ming suddenly tightened.

Ahhhh!!!

Ahhhh!!!

Elder Ming's eyes widened as if it was on the verge of exploding. His skin slowly turned purple and blood continuously leaked out of his mouth as he screamed.

Ahhhhhhh!!

Pu!

Elder Ming's body suddenly exploded into thousand pieces! It was a brutal sight and even the toughest subordinates of Emperor Elyk flinched at the sight of it.

A white shadow darted out, but before it could even escape, the unmoving rusted chains wrapped around it, preventing this white shadow from escaping.

Upon closer look, this white shadow looked transparent and it looked similar to that of Elder Ming. It was because this was Elder Ming's Immortal Soul!

Emperor Elyk and his subordinates stared confusedly at the scene. They could not see anything, but there seemed to be something wrapped around the rusted chains. Just that, they could not see it nor sense.

An Immortal Soul could not be seen by a mortal's eyes. Only those at the Nascent God Realm would be able to see it.

Jiu Shen then took out a bottle from his space earring before pointing a finger at Elder Ming's Immortal Soul. "Soul Seal." He muttered calmly.

An invisible ray of light struck Elder Ming's Immortal Soul and when it hit him, he suddenly stopped moving as if he had been electrocuted.

After that, Jiu Shen opened the bottle and placed Elder Ming's Immortal Soul inside. He then put the bottle back inside his space earring.

"Hey, stinky human, don't forget about my milk. Meow." Ice crossed her arms as she haughtily spoke those words.

Jiu Shen shrugged his shoulders before pinching her chubby cheeks.

They then descended to the ground under the worshipping gazes of everyone.

"Wine Master Jiu, thank you for your assistance. Everyone would have died if not for you. Also, thank you for your help, Young Lady. I would gladly offer you the best kinds of milk we could offer. I heard from Sylvia that you like to drink milk. I wonder if this is enough for you. Hehe." Emperor Elyk bowed lightly at Jiu Shen and Ice as he said. His subordinates followed suit as they also bowed at the pair in gratitude.

Emperor Elyk's father also bowed at them, his clear eyes revealed a trace of admiration and awe. 'This man looks young. He should have reached the Nascent God Realm before the age of 100. I wonder how old is he right now...'

Jiu Shen merely nodded his head at the emperor, while Ice smugly raised her head as she nodded with a satisfied look.

"Old man, you're quite smart. If the milk that you offer is palatable, then I don't mind accepting it. Meow." She said proudly.

Emperor Elyk laughed confidently as he said. "Young Lady, you don't have to worry about that. Hahaha!"

He could still not believe that this adorable young girl was actually a Nascent God Realm savage beast. And from the suffocating aura that she exuded earlier, she did not look like an ordinary savage beast either. If his guess was not wrong, then this little girl might be a descendant of a god beast!

"Oh, by the way, Wine Master Jiu, this is my father. Father, this man is the Wine Master that I mentioned to you. His name is Jiu Shen." Emperor Elyk introduced them with a smile.

Emperor Elyk's father smiled humbly as he looked at Jiu Shen. Although Jiu Shen looked much younger than him, he did not put on airs. After all, this guy was a Nascent God Realm expert.

"It's my honor to meet you, Wine Master Jiu. I've heard a lot about you from my good for nothing son." The old man smiled warmly as he extended both his arms.

Jiu Shen nodded his head at him and stretch his right arm.

After reluctantly shaking the old man's hands, Jiu Shen swiftly retracted his arms.

"Wine Master Jiu, I also want to apologize for this. I know you must have wanted that little guy Yang Zenke to end up as the champion in the martial arts competition, but it looks like it's no longer possible with the current state of things." Emperor Elyk smiled wryly as he shook his head.

Jiu Shen shook his head and replied calmly. "It doesn't matter. I only want them to experience fighting a real battle against those on the same generation as them."

"In that case, I have nothing to worry about. I'll take my leave first since I still have to command my men to clean up this place." Emperor Elyk smiled.

Chapter 224 - The Emperor's Name List

A day later, news about the Xue Family's downfall instantly circulated around the whole of the Silver Wing Empire. Everyone was surprised when they heard about it. After all, the Xue Family was one of the three great noble families with power and authority that was only second to the Silveria Imperial Family.

Stories about the Xue Family's illegal dealings with the Blue Fang Empire and the Undying Corpse Sect also sparked the hatred of the citizens. They could not believe that the Xue Family had actually planned to start a rebellion.

"Man, I heard that the Xue Family colluded with those crazy people from the Undying Corpse Sect to rebel against the throne! And they even attacked during the annual martial arts competition. It happened at the final part of the competition. Too bad, the martial arts competition this year got suspended because of the Xue Family's sudden attack."

"Well, I heard from my friend who is an imperial guard that the emperor managed to defeat the Xue Family's experts with the help of an unexpected person! You guys will be very surprised if you hear this. It is the emperor's father, the former emperor of our Silver Wing Empire!"

"Woah! The former emperor is still alive? Man, according to my great grandfather, the former emperor was unstoppable all those years ago! If he's still alive until now, I bet his strength should be at the very peak of the whole Profound Dragon Continent!"

These kinds of conversations were the main topic of everyone, but the most discussed topic was still about the Xue Family's sudden rebellion. Some of the citizens even joked about them for having been destroyed on the very first day of their rebellion...

Of course, everything about Jiu Shen's involvement was omitted on purpose. He was the one who told the emperor to do it. Aside from making the citizens feel secured, all outside forces would think twice about invading the Silver Wing Empire if they heard it.

Inside the imperial palace's throne room.

"Defender Duanmu, lead the Embroidered Dragon Guards to destroy the remaining members of the Xue Family! Kill everyone! We must not leave any roots behind or it might come back to haunt us in the future! Leave!" Emperor Elyk ordered coldly, his tone was filled with rage and fury.

Defender Duanmu saluted and replied. "I'll get it done as you command, Your Majesty!"

He then left the throne room with heavy strides.

Looking at his retreating figure, Emperor Elyk nodded in appreciation. He then stared at the old man who was standing beside the throne.

This was his father, Elyk Silveria II.

"Father, are you sure that you'll be able to handle the Undying Corpse Sect on your own? Even if their sect master is already dead, they still have a few top experts in their midst. I don't want anything bad to happen to you, father." Emperor Elyk said worriedly.

The old man chuckled warmly when he heard that, but he then shook his head a moment after that. "You don't need to worry about me, Elyk. Your old man is still a peak stage 9th-rank Saint realm expert. Who among their remaining members could possibly hurt me? Just focus on exterminating the Xue Family. I'll handle things on my end, so just rest assured."

Emperor Elyk sighed and rubbed his temples. He knew how stubborn his father is, so he no longer said another word.

"Just bring the three guardians with you." He said with a defeated look.

"Those three idiots? What help could they even give me? Just let them remain here to protect Sylvia and Dante. I'll handle the Undying Corpse Sect alone." The old man said confidently.

"You... Sigh! Nevermind." Emperor Elyk shook his head after releasing a heavy sigh.

"By the way, that man Jiu Shen... I want to meet him. We should visit him after we complete things." The old man said with his hands behind his back.

Emperor Elyk was not surprised by this. He knew what his father's goal was in this meeting with Jiu Shen, so he nodded his head in agreement. "Of course! We still have to give the reward to that Young Lady for helping us yesterday." He chuckled when he recalled the little girl that liked to put on airs. He did not mind her attitude though since her ability was already apparent. In fact, he was quite fond of that little girl's temperament which was almost similar to Sylvia's.

Upon hearing his words, the old man also thought about that huge and beautiful tiger with thick and silky white fur. 'That Wine Master Jiu has the support of a Nascent God Realm savage beast. I wonder what is so special about him... I'll soon find out after I meet him...'

"I have to go now, son. The Undying Corpse Sect might escape if I continue to remain idle here." The old man said and swiftly left the throne room as if he was in a hurry. He wanted to end things faster so that he could meet Jiu Shen at an earlier date.

Looking at his father's scurrying figure, Emperor Elyk chuckled. He then looked at the empty throne room with a complicated look. "Why does everyone want to claim this place so badly? Becoming an emperor is such a pain in the ass. Sigh..." He muttered as he dragged his exhausted body back to his room.

Inside his room, the emperor sat on a chair and took out something inside a drawer under his table.

It was a piece of paper with words written on it:

Xue Family

Undying Corpse Sect

Blue Fang Empire

Clear Water Empire

Scorching Sun Sect

Emperor Elyk took out a quill pen and a small inkwell filled with dark ink. He then crossed the words 'Undying Corpse Sect' and 'Xue Family'.

"After my investigations, I came up with the names of those who want to destroy or invade my Silver Wing Empire. Two of them are now destroyed, but there are still a few left... Not to mention the thing that Wine Master Jiu told me during the auction..." The emperor muttered with a cold look. He hesitated for a moment before writing another name on the piece of paper:

Arslan Silveria

Chapter 225 - Giving The Demon Crystal To Hu Xiandao

Inside Jiu Shen's wine store, it was business as usual.

Tens of customers came inside the wine store with meek looks. No one dared to cause a commotion and everyone found themselves a seat in a practiced manner. Who would have believed that even the most callous mercenaries would actually display such carefulness?

Well, everything is not ordinary inside 'The Immortal's Wine' especially with a pair of terrifying blonde eyes looking at everyone coldly.

"Young Miss Theia, is the master here?" An aged voice suddenly interrupted Theia who was observing everyone inside the store. She stared at the two newcomers and nodded her head at them.

"Master already told me that the both of you will come today. He said that you should meet him on the second floor." Theia answered in a mild tone.

Hearing her respectful manner of speaking, the two older men felt a bit surprised, but when they thought that they could already be considered as Jiu Shen's disciples, they felt that her sudden change in attitude was understandable.

"Thank you so much, Young Miss Theia. We will go upstairs then." Master Fengzi said with a smile. He then dragged Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian to the second floor with an excited look on his aged face.

Upon reaching the second floor, they discovered the expressionless Ren Shuang standing outside of the second floor's entrance. They greeted him respectfully before they entered.

The two old men saw their master discussing something with a barbarian.

"Hu Xiandao, I have something here for you." Jiu Shen said as he looked at the bewildered barbarian with a calm look.

Hu Xiandao tactfully remained silent and waited. He was curious about the thing that Jiu Shen had for him. 'I wonder what Lord Jiu Shen has for me this time...'

Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian stood behind Jiu Shen. They did not dare interrupt the discussion between Jiu Shen and Hu Xiandao. They knew that this must be important...

Jiu Shen took out the Demon Crystal that he had gotten from the Silver Dragon Auction House. It was a piece of mineral that looked like the most beautiful piece of garnet.

Hu Xiandao stared at it with a captivated look. He could sense a huge amount of energy from this piece of crystal and he could feel that this was a very valuable treasure that could help him increase his strength.

From the energy that it exuded, he felt that he might be able to reach the 9th-rank Saint if he could consume all the energy it contained!

"Lord Jiu Shen... That crystal..." He gulped inaudibly as he stared at the red crystal.

"That is..." Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian immediately identified the red crystal after seeing it. They knew that it was a Demon Crystal that Jiu Shen got from the Silver Dragon Auction House. It was a precious item for body enhancers!

"This is a Demon Crystal from a 9th-rank Saint demon. If you manage to refine even seventy percent of the energy it contains, you will be able to break through to the 9th-rank Saint. The process of extracting the energy inside this Demon Crystal might be painful, but I am confident that you can handle it. Take it." Jiu Shen calmly tossed the Demon Crystal as if it was just an ordinary stone.

The eyes of the three men instantly widened upon seeing this. Hu Xiandao was flustered and he barely caught the Demon Crystal with both his hands. He sighed in relief and held it carefully in his hands.

"Lord Jiu Shen, this thing is too precious. Although I need it very much, I can't accept it." Hu Xiandao shook his head and smiled wryly. He then extended his right hand towards Jiu Shen.

Jiu Shen did not even glance at his extended hand. He just calmly stared at the barbarian's face. "Listen, I am not giving that to you for free." He uttered.

"Hm? What do you want me to do, Lord Jiu Shen? I will do anything for you even without this..." Hu Xiandao said honestly. Jiu Shen had already given him a huge favor by healing his severed arm, so he could not really make himself accept another precious gift from him.

Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian admired the barbarian's integrity. It was a very rare trait in the cruel world that they live in.

Jiu Shen pressed his back on his chair with a lazy look and replied. "I want you to help me train a few kids for me. Of course, you are not alone in this endeavor. My second disciple, Can Ye, will help you train those kids. Can Ye already has the training schedule and everything else is also prepared. You just have to help him monitor the kids' progress."

Hu Xiandao was already prepared to receive a difficult mission, but when he heard that it was only to teach a bunch of kids, he was dumbfounded. "Huh? I mean, that's it?" He asked while looking at Jiu Shen.

The job was too easy in exchange for a Demon Crystal, so he was still a bit reluctant to accept it.

Jiu Shen shrugged and uttered a sound of agreement. "Mn."

Hu Xiandao glanced speechlessly at him and he was at loss for words. Should he accept it or not?

"Brother Hu, just accept it. Master wants to give it to you, and Brother Hu just has to work hard in training those kids." Master Fengzi said.

"Fengzi is right, Brother Hu. Just accept master's grace." Qi Hongtian added.

Hu Xiandao wavered when he heard the two old men. In the end, he sighed and retracted his extended arm. He then stood up and bowed at Jiu Shen respectfully. "Lord Jiu Shen, I can't express my gratitude with words from your grace, but I can promise that I will train those kids and meet your expectations for them."

The corner of Jiu Shen's lips slightly rose for a brief moment.

"Good! In that case, scram..." Jiu Shen shooed him away as if he was shooing a stray dog, but Hu Xiandao merely laughed as he left the second floor. His smile was so wide that his lips were almost torn...

Chapter 226 - Xue Family's End

Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian stared at the barbarian's departing figure. They felt slightly jealous of the Demon Crystal that he got from Jiu Shen. Although they were not body enhancers, they could still use the Demon Crystal as an ingredient for refining pills. It was

a very rare ingredient and it was capable of enhancing a refined pill's efficacy with its abundant energy.

'What a lucky guy!' They muttered in their hearts.

Without turning his head back, Jiu Shen gestured for the two old men to sit down as he said. "Sit."

Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian and Master Fengzi glanced at each other before they bowed at Jiu Shen while respectfully greeting. "Greetings, master."

The two old men then sat down across Jiu Shen with expectant looks.

Jiu Shen glanced at them with a calm look and said. "You both might be curious as to why I changed my mind and accepted you as my disciples."

Master Fengzi remained silent, while Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian nodded his head lightly. They were indeed curious as to why Jiu Shen suddenly accepted them when he had rejected them countless times. They thought that he was moved by their resolve, but that did not seem to be the case when they saw his indifferent eyes scanning them.

"In fact, I have already stated that your talents are nothing worthy in my eyes. In the place where I come from, even an outer disciple of a low-rank sect has much better talent than you guys added together. Do you know what that means? That means the both of you are not even qualified to enter a low-rank sect in that place." Jiu Shen's tone was calm and unhurried, but his words were like multiple bombs exploding beside the old men's ears.

Just what kind of place did Jiu Shen come from?!

They gulped audibly as surprise covered their aged faces.

"Master... Where..." Master Fengzi suddenly closed his mouth when he saw Jiu Shen gesturing him to remain silent.

"In the place where I came from, Alchemy Saints are abundant. It is also the lowest requirement needed before one could join the Divine Alchemy Pavilion, the holy land for alchemists." Jiu Shen paused and looked straight into their eyes. He could see the dumbfounded looks of the two which made them look a bit silly.

"Alchemy Saints are abundant and it is just the lowest requirement? This..." Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian muttered with a shocked expression.

Master Fengzi was speechless and he could not even utter a single word after hearing what Jiu Shen said.

"I'm not exaggerating at all. That place is called the Primordial God Realm. It is a world ruled by Immortals and Goddesses. With your current skills and cultivation levels, the both of you could only become slaves or servants of the wealthy nobles." Jiu Shen added with a stern look.

Upon hearing that, the faces of the two old men turned grim. If anyone else said this, they would have surely laughed it off, but the man in front of them was Jiu Shen and he was not someone who casually jokes around.

'Is there really such a world?' They thought.

"Master, if that world is so great, then why are you here?" Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian asked curiously. If his master came from such a place, how come he left from there?

Master Fengzi was similarly curious, so he waited for Jiu Shen to speak.

Jiu Shen's expression remained tranquil when he heard that. His indifferent eyes were glued into Qi Hongtian's face, making the latter flinch. The old man felt a chill ran down his spine upon seeing that pair of golden eyes. The depths of Jiu Shen's gaze was like a bottomless void, frightening and cold.

"You don't want to know. Trust me." Jiu Shen uttered coldly.

Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian immediately shut his mouth when he heard Jiu Shen's icy voice.

"I said all these things not to mock you, but to tell you that there is always a taller mountain out there. With my teachings, although you won't become peak-rank alchemists, you should still be able to reach the heights that are unattainable for others in Nuar. However, because of your meager talents, you have to work much harder than everyone. Are you prepared to exhaust yourself into bitterly refining pills to reach such heights?" Jiu Shen asked as he eyed the two with a solemn gaze.

The two old men turned serious upon seeing Jiu Shen's look. They felt that something was amiss from his words, but the thought of breaking away from their shackles was just too tempting for them to pass on. In the end, the both of them nodded their heads as they answered in unison.

"Yes, master! We are willing!"

Jiu Shen smirked in his heart. Now, he did not have to worry about refining low-level pills...

* * *

A day later.

The soldiers led by Defender Duanmu killed the remaining members of the Xue Family. The son of their supreme elder, Xue Tong was also captured and would be beheaded in public to serve as a warning for others.

The news sent everyone into a frenzy. A huge noble family like the Xue Family was obliterated just like that. Not even a cat or dog survived the rage of the Silver Wing Empire's soldiers!

"When will that traitor, Xue Tong, be beheaded? I want to see the look on his face in his moment of death! Hmph!"

"Too bad I could not kill him personally! His Xue Family actually colluded with those crazy bastards from the Undying Corpse Sect! So hateful!"

"I heard that the Silveria Imperial Family is doing this on purpose."

"What do you mean? Come on! Don't keep us in suspense! Goddammit!"

"I heard from a wandering bard that the Blue Fang Empire and Clear Water Empire are planning to become allies! This is not a good sign since those two are enemies of our Silver Wing Empire! Not to mention that those two are not any weaker compared to our Silver Wing Empire! It would be terrible if they suddenly invade us with their combined power!"

Chapter 227 - Shocked Old Man

Five days after the rebellion of the Xue Family and the Undying Corpse Sect, 'The Immortal's Wine' greeted an unexpected guest.

It was an amiable-looking old man with long white hair that reached his waist. He looked like a refined individual with his graceful bearing and sagacious charisma. This old man was none other than Emperor Elyk's father.

Behind the old man was Emperor Elyk who wore a broad grin on his face as they entered the wine store.

"What the?!" The old man revealed a look of surprise as he surveyed the store. The exterior design was already great enough to shock him, but to think that even the interior design surpassed his expectations!

From the ceiling down to the floor, everything inside the wine store could only be described as luxurious and exquisite! Heck! Even the tables and chairs looked impressive!

"Oh my! Oh my! Our imperial palace looks like a shabby cottage in comparison to this place! Truly beautiful!" The old man exclaimed with a shining gaze.

Emperor Elyk could only chuckle dryly when he heard that. He felt the same as his father when he first saw the change in the wine store.

"Wait! Wait! Wait! Are my eyes deceiving me!? Those spiritual plants... Aren't they... Earth Origin Dragon Trees?! And those right there! Aren't they... the already extinct True Heart Icy Sword Tree?!" The old man who was still calm just a few moments ago was now panting heavily as he stared at the 9th-rank spiritual plants displayed like some sort of bonsai.

Even their Silveria Imperial Family only had one 9th-rank spiritual plant, and it was even placed in a very secure location that was tightly guarded by their most elite soldiers! So how could he not be surprised to see such high-level spiritual plants displayed so openly in public? One of which was even an extinct type. And to the old man's surprise, not even one customer bothered to glance at these precious spiritual plants!

Looking at the customers' faces, the old man was bewildered. He discovered a few mercenaries among them and most of these mercenaries were known for their greedy nature, so how come not even one dared to look at those spiritual plants? However, when the old man recalled Jiu Shen's strength, he felt that it was slightly understandable, but even so, it would not hurt to look at it for a moment, right?

Behind him, Emperor Elyk snickered secretly when he saw the look on his father's face. The emperor's lips trembled as he suppressed his laughter.

The old man failed to notice the silly expression of his son since his focus was only on the sights before his eyes. He inched closer to the spiritual plants, but before he could take another step forward, the old man suddenly felt a pair of cold eyes staring at his back piercingly. He furrowed his eyebrows and turned his head.

He saw a valiant young lady with golden hair. She was dressed like a knight and a sword was strapped behind her back.

When the old man sensed her strength, he drew a gasp of surprise. 'Late stage 9th-rank Saint! And from the youthful aura she exudes, she should be no older than thirty! What the hell!'

"If I were you, I wouldn't take another step forward." Theia said with a cold expression.

The old man felt a slight sense of oppression from Theia's icy gaze. 'She is one minor realm weaker than me, so how come I have a strange feeling that she could easily defeat me?' He muttered in his heart.

Even so, the old man did not flinch outwardly. He stared back at Theia like an unbending pine tree. "Young Lady, I mean no harm. I only want to take a closer look at them." He said while feigning calmness.

Theia furrowed her eyebrows. The old man's gaze was clear and did not contain any hint of malice, but she still stubbornly stared at him, refusing to back down.

Emperor Elyk felt a sense of déjà vu as watched this scene. He did not make a move since he knew that nothing bad would happen. He just wanted to see the defeated look of his old man. Thinking about it, Emperor Elyk chuckled in his heart.

"What's going on here, Theia?" A tantalizing voice of a seductress suddenly drifted, making Theia, Emperor Elyk, and the old man stare at the newcomer.

She was a tall young lady with long purple hair. She wore a short crystal white dress that accentuated her curvy figure.

"Meili." Theia greeted warmly. At first, Theia did not like this dragon lady, but after more than a month of seeing each other, they became as close as sisters.

Long Meili smiled at her. She then shifted his gaze to the emperor's father and asked in a polite tone. "Is there anything wrong with our service, sir?"

The old man remained silent. It was as if he did not hear her question. He just glanced at Long Meili with a stupefied look on his aged face. 'This aura! I'll never be wrong about this! Another Nascent God Realm expert! What kind of place is this?! Is this really just a wine store?! Not to mention that none the staffs look weak...'

"Sir? Long Meili waved her right hand in front of the old man which made the latter break away from his dazed state.

"Ah, this... I only want to take a closer look at the Earth Origin Dragon Tree and the True Heart Icy Sword Tree. I mean no harm, Young Lady." He said, looking rather composed, but he was inwardly screaming in his heart.

"Oh, in that case, just allow this gentleman to take a closer look, Theia. It doesn't matter as long as he doesn't touch them." Long Meili said to Theia with a smile.

Theia reluctantly nodded her head.

"Okay, but you must not touch them." She said while glaring at the old man.

"I promise." The old man said seriously.

After this short exchange, Long Meili left the scene after saying a few words to Theia. The latter also went back to her spot to continue observing the other customers.

The old man heaved a sigh of relief when the two women left. "So that's why everyone is so well-behaved here, huh." He muttered.

Chapter 228 - The Old Man Visits The Second Floor

Suddenly, the old man heard a suppressed laughter behind him. He turned around and saw Emperor Elyk looking away without an innocent expression. "You brat! So that's why you did not say anything about this wine store's secret! You badly want to see your old man make a fool of himself, huh?! See how I teach you a lesson after we got back to the imperial palace!" The old man's amiable face warped as he raised his right hand as if he wanted to spank this son of his.

Emperor Elyk's expression turned stiff and he immediately pacified the old man as he said. "Oh, come on, father! How could I do that? I was just too busy these past few days. How about we go to the second floor? Let me show you something incredible." The emperor's eyes flashed with imperceptible cunningness after saying those words. He could not wait to see his father's reaction after seeing what the second floor has for him.

The old man felt that something was amiss, but he was also curious about what the second floor of the store would look like. If the first floor was already so great, then the second floor should be even more exaggerated, right?

Hmph!

"Watch how I beat you up later." The old man muttered.

Emperor Elyk chuckled at his words. He then led his father upstairs, his eyes shining with eagerness.

The old man scanned everything around them as he walked up the stairs.

The wine store has a warm and tranquil atmosphere that made him feel incredibly great. It was as if he had regained his youthfulness.

'That chandelier looks very extravagant and I don't even know what kind of crystals or precious gems it is made from. Crazy! Everything inside this wine store is a treasure!' He exclaimed in his heart.

As the old man was observing the surroundings, he suddenly heard Emperor Elyk greeting someone with respect, so he focused his attention on the man in front of them.

"Greetings, Lord Ren Shuang." Emperor Elyk said with a smile.

Ren Shuang remained silent and his eyes were still closed as if he had heard no one. The emperor was not offended at this since he was already used to Ren Shuang's coldness and lack of expression. He then dragged his stunned father inside the second floor.

'What the heck?! That man... I can sense that he is on the verge of breaking through to the Nascent God Realm! His true essence is so vigorous and stable and he should have no problem if he wants to break through to the next realm, so why is he intentionally suppressing his breakthrough?' He muttered as he allowed Emperor Elyk to drag him.

As the old man was deep in his thoughts, he suddenly felt that his slumbering true essence was slowly awakening.

Hm?

The old man closed his eyes and checked his dantian.

'How? I thought I would no longer be able to stimulate my true essence after that injury! This...'
He was so shocked that he failed to notice that everyone on the second floor was already looking at him.

Emperor Elyk poked his father's shoulder lightly, making the old man abruptly open his eyes. His gaze was still unfocused since his attention was on the surroundings. "This! The true essence here is so thick!" He unconsciously said what was on his mind because of his shock.

Ehem! Ehem!

Emperor Elyk faked a cough to get his father's attention.

"Elyk, you brat! Why did you not say that such a place exists in our Silver Wing Empire?! You goddamn bastard! I'll beat you up really good!" The old man was prepared to beat up his son, but he suddenly discovered a sizable amount of crowd looking at them while suppressing their laughter.

The old man slowly retracted his fists. He then smiled at everyone as if nothing happened, but he was inwardly surprised. 'What the hell?! Everyone here is at least a 7th-rank Emperor realm expert! And the most surprising thing is that there are at least thirty of them here! Crazy!'

He scanned everyone inside the second floor and saw the familiar silhouette of a man with long silver hair. A little girl with short white hair can be seen sitting on his lap while sucking a bottle of milk.

Looking at this pair that looked like a typical father and daughter pair, the old man could still not believe that these two were already Nascent God Realm experts...

"Greetings, Wine Master Jiu. I brought my old man here since he wishes to see you. I hope you don't mind." Emperor Elyk said as he cupped his fists at the sitting Jiu Shen.

Jiu Shen nodded his head calmly and stared at the old man behind Emperor Elyk. "Old brat, you might want to take a look at those paintings. One of them might help you." He said mysteriously.

'Old brat? He talks as if he's so much older than me. I bet he is just a hundred years older than me.' The old man chuckled in his heart when he heard Jiu Shen's form of address.

"Wine Master Jiu, what do you mean these paintings on the wall could help me?" He asked in bewilderment.

Everyone inside the second floor was also bewildered, so they curiously waited for Jiu Shen's response.

"You'll know it if one of these paintings was meant for you..." Jiu Shen replied vaguely.

The old man was confused at his reply, but he still turned his gaze on the paintings pasted on the wall. Each painting looked plain and ordinary, but he felt that they contain something incomprehensible within.

The old man furrowed his eyebrows as he went closer to one of the paintings. It was a depiction of a towering mountain with tall trees and strong-looking savage beasts living on it.

The old man looked deeply at the painting as if he was fascinated by it. Among all the paintings on the second floor, this was the only one that made him feel a sense of connection.

"What's wrong with him? He's been standing in front of that painting for more than ten minutes already."

"Quiet. He is in the state of enlightenment." Jiu Shen muttered as he looked at the old man. His pair of golden eyes flashed with a hint of expectation.

Chapter 229 - He Will Come Out Alive. Maybe...

The old man appeared to be oblivious of his surroundings and he seemed to have gone inside the world of the painting.

"This is... Where am I?" The old man muttered in his heart as he found himself suspended in midair. He tried to move, but he found himself unable to even lift a finger nor close his eyes. All he could do was stare at the towering mountain in front of him.

"This mountain looks familiar... Wait! Isn't this the mountain in the painting?" He muttered inside his head.

He couldn't even see the peak of the mountain since it had already pierced the heavens with its limitless heights. This tall mountain was covered by tall trees and healthy shrubberies. He could also see thousands of savage beasts walking freely on the mountain.

Suddenly, everything in front of him changed.

Baaaangg!!

Baaaaangg!!

The towering mountain was struck by a fearsome wave of lightning. His tribulation lightning looked nothing in comparison to what he was seeing right now.

The mountain remained standing tall and erect, but its vast greeneries was left with nothing but charred remains. Even the savage beasts living within the mountain was not spared and had become ashes, scattering along with the wind.

The old man remained silent as he stared at the damage done on the mountain. And just as he was about to feel pity for it, he suddenly discovered that the sky had turned dark.

He could see from his peripheral vision that thousands of large meteors were descending from the skies. The old man also felt the extreme heat that these meteors brought along with them.

Rumble! Rumble!

More than several thousand meteors struck the lofty mountain, producing multiple earth-shaking sounds.

A long while later, the cloud of dust subsided and he saw the broken state of the mountain. It lost its former loftiness and had now crumbled into several large pieces.

He empathized with the mountain since he had experienced something similar. He was already at the peak of his life and he stood at the very top of the Profound Dragon Continent as one of the strongest experts, but his dream of achieving Immortality was destroyed after he failed to overcome his tribulation lightning.

"No matter how lofty you become in your life, there will come a time that your growth would stop or it is even possible that you'll lose everything..." The old man muttered in his heart as a wave of melancholy struck him.

Hm?

The old man focused his attention back on the broken mountain. It was still a mess, but he could see that life was slowly sprouting back to it as years passed by.

Green grass, tall trees, and even living creatures slowly emerged once again.

The lifeless mountain had sprung back to life after a thousand years!

The old man suddenly laughed in his heart.

"So that's it! So that's what is missing! Now, I know!" If anyone could hear his thoughts, they might believe that this old man had become a madman.

On the second floor of Jiu Shen's store, an old man staring at a painting suddenly staggered and spat a mouthful of black blood.

"Father!" Emperor Elyk called out in surprise when he saw his father coughing a mouthful of dark blood.

Everyone was also surprised by this, and just as they were about to offer help to the old man, a calm voice drifted to their ears.

"Don't move. He might suffer a backlash if he is disturbed in his current state. This is an opportunity for him to break through from his shackles and become a full-fledge Immortal."

Everyone was shocked when they heard Jiu Shen's words.

Emperor Elyk was also stunned at his words. He knew the condition of his father and he was aware that the old man could no longer stimulate his true essence and was thus stuck at the peak stage of the 9th-rank Saint.

'So this is what Wine Master Jiu was talking about when he said that one of the paintings might be of help to him... Amazing! A painting that could help someone break through to the Nascent God Realm? Woah!' Emperor Elyk exclaimed as he stared at his father with excitement.

The old man had already sat cross-legged and he seemed to be meditating.

Everyone could sense that a vast and profound aura was slowly enveloping the old man.

Crackle! Crackle!

The crackling sound of thunder reverberated above the skies.

Jiu Shen frowned as he looked at the sky with his spiritual perception. "Tribulation lightning..." He muttered.

- Ding!

- The system has detected an individual going through his tribulation inside the store. Host, please bring this guest to the rooftop. If we forcefully protect him from his tribulation lightning, the Heavenly Law will produce a more terrifying form of tribulation lightning and it may be harmful to the store. Requesting host to immediately bring this guest to the rooftop.

Jiu Shen abruptly rose to his feet after hearing the system's mechanical voice. He did a motion with his hands and a small portal suddenly appeared in front of the old man.

After teleporting the old man to the rooftop, Jiu Shen went back to his seat and calmly said. "Hestia, don't allow anyone to come out of the store. Tell them that they will die if they come out at this moment."

Everyone was horrified when they heard Jiu Shen's words and their faces were enveloped by a sense of panic.

Hestia who was standing behind Jiu Shen bowed at her master and replied.
"As you say, master."

She then went to the ground floor to announce to everyone what Jiu Shen had said.

"Wine Master Jiu, what's happening? Where is my father? And what do you mean that people will die if they come out of the store?" Emperor Elyk asked worriedly.

Jiu Shen glanced at him and replied indifferently. "Your father was able to stimulate his true essence to a certain degree after looking at the painting and this event summoned his tribulation lightning. I brought him outside so that he won't destroy my store, but you don't have to worry. He will come out alive. Maybe..."

Emperor Elyk felt a wave of cold air striking his face when he heard those words.

Chapter 230 - The Old Man's Tribulation Lightning

Crackle! Crackle!

Everyone inside the wine store was shaken when they heard the loud crackling of thunder.

"Eh? Is there a storm or something? No way! When I walked here, I am certain that the sun was shining so bright, so how come there are these sudden crackling sounds of thunder?"

"Man, I guess we'll have to stay inside the store until the rain is over. I hope Young Miss Theia would not punish us for this..."

"This thunder doesn't sound normal. It seemed much louder and stronger compared to normal ones. What the hell is going on?!"

The customers discussed among themselves when they heard the roaring thunder outside.

"Dear guests, may I have your attention for a moment, please?" A beautiful voice suddenly echoed amidst the chaotic chattering of the crowd.

Everyone glanced at Hestia who had spoken and waited for her to speak.

"My master, Jiu Shen, said that everyone should not step out of the store because it is still very dangerous to go outside with this sudden change in the weather. We don't want our valued guests to be injured because of this, so I hope that everyone will stay here." Hestia said politely as she stared at the crowd.

"Young Miss Hestia, don't worry! We will stay here. Hehe."

"Right! Don't worry about us going out, Young Miss Hestia. We will certainly stay here!"

Hestia smiled charmingly when she heard everyone's words.

"In that case, I hope everyone will enjoy their stay here." Hestia curtsied with a smile.

Theia who was standing at the entrance of the store took a peek at the flashes of lightning above the skies through the gap in the windows. She raised her eyebrows as she muttered silently. "Someone is undergoing their tribulation lightning. Was it that old man?"

* * *

On the rooftop of Jiu Shen's store, an old man with a pale face can be seen seated cross-legged. He appeared to be in deep thought and he seemed to be unaware of his current predicament.

Crackle! Crackle!

The sky lit up as violent streaks of lightning flashed about. The most surprising thing was that there were no dark clouds in the sky, so it means that there wasn't a storm.

"So that's it! Hahaha! So it's not yet the end, huh? I sure got lucky to stumble upon this place! Now, I don't know if I should still beat up that good for nothing son of mine or thank him for bringing me here." The old man said as slowly stood up with a wry smile.

"Wait, where am I? Is this the roof of the wine store? Strange." The old man muttered in surprise after discovering that he was no longer inside the second

floor. He then stared at the streaks of lightning above the skies and a hint of understanding dawned upon him.

"Hm, I see. Wine Master Jiu must have brought me outside after knowing that I have summoned my tribulation lightning. However, am I already prepared for this? Even with the help of that painting, I'm still not that confident about achieving a breakthrough..." He muttered worriedly while looking above.

The terrifying experience he had during his last tribulation lightning was deeply rooted in his head. He knew for sure that the tribulation lightning this time would be as destructive as the one he had before.

Jiu Shen who was inside the second floor frowned when he saw the current state of the old man through his spiritual perception. From the looks of it, he was certain that the old man was feeling anxious to face his tribulation lightning.

'Sigh. I think I've become soft after experiencing life in this peaceful world. Nevermind, I'll help this old brat this time.' Jiu Shen muttered in his head. He then teleported to the rooftop with a thought.

Hm?

The old man was gobsmacked at the sudden arrival of Jiu Shen in front of him.

"Wine Master Jiu, what are you doing here? It's too dangerous outside." He said as he pointed at the skies.

Jiu Shen remained silent for a moment as he deeply looked at the old man with a calm gaze. After a brief moment of silence, he then asked with an indifferent tone. "Old brat, are you really chickening out after receiving that much of a reward from the painting? Or do you want to fail once again? Don't waste this opportunity since this might be your last chance to become a Nascent God Realm expert!"

The old man felt ashamed upon hearing his words. He had indeed taken so much from that painting, so it would truly be a pity if he could not survive from his tribulation lightning after getting all of it.

The old man took a deep breath and stared back at Jiu Shen. The uncertainty in his eyes was now gone and had become clear and bright once again. He looked at Jiu Shen with gratitude and laughed all of a sudden. "Kid, you underestimate this old man too much. This tribulation lightning is nothing to me. Hahaha! Just go back inside the store and wait for my good news!"

His confidence skyrocketed that he even called Jiu Shen 'kid', but the latter looked as if he did not care about this slip of the tongue.

'Ho. This snot-nosed old brat actually called me a kid?' Jiu Shen chuckled in his heart.

"Well, good luck, old brat. I hope you would not be burnt to death on my rooftop." Jiu Shen said as he shrugged his shoulders. He then teleported back inside the second floor.

"That kid... Did he really have to jinx me?" The old man muttered as he stared at the empty spot where Jiu Shen was standing just a few seconds ago. He chuckled dryly before he shifted his gaze to the darkening sky.

"This tribulation lightning seems to be much stronger than last time. I've read from an old book that the stronger one's tribulation lightning is, the greater their strength would become after overcoming it. I hope that is true..." The old man said as he slowly circulated his true essence to protect his body. He put more true essence to his most vulnerable spots like his eyes, heart, dantian, etc.

After that hasty preparation, the old man waited for the first wave of tribulation lightning. His eyes flashed with a hint of nervousness, but it was instantly replaced by a glint of determination.

Crackle!

Zappp!!

The darkened sky lit up as a streak of lightning swiftly struck the figure of the old man.

The old man gathered his fist and released a punch to meet the lightning.

Bang!

He felt a wave of numbness from his fist and it instantly circulated around his body, but the old man merely grunted lightly when he felt that.

"That's more than fifty percent stronger than last time's tribulation lightning..." He said weakly as he gritted his teeth.

Zappp!!

Zappp!!

This time, two streaks of lightning descended from the sky to smite the old man.

The old man took out a cyan sword from his space ring. It was a Saint Weapon, but its quality seemed a bit lower than the emperor's Silver Wing Sword. However, it was still a genuine Saint Weapon, so its power was not weak.

The old man brandished his sword with all his might! His slash created a brilliant sword light that struck the two incoming lightning bolts.

Baanngg! Baanngg!

Two deafening explosions rang out as the two lightning bolts exploded in midair. This sudden explosion created violent ripples in the air!

"Eh? Was I always this strong?" The old man muttered in surprise as he stared at his sword with a comical look.

"It looks like the painting gave me more benefits than what I have thought. I should properly express my gratitude to Wine Master Jiu after this." He said with a smile.

Zapp!! Zapp!! Zapp!! Zapp!! Zapp!!

Multiple bolts of lightning followed after he had just spoken those words, but the old man was already prepared for this.

He drew a diamond diagram with his sword and uttered. "Sky Diamond Protective Halo. Materialize."

This was one of the strongest techniques of their Silveria Imperial Family and he was also the one who taught Emperor Elyk about this defensive technique, so his familiarity and expertise with it were a notch greater compared to the emperor.

A huge diamond-shaped shield appeared in front of the old man.

Bannngg!! Baaanngg!! Baanngg!!

Several explosions reverberated loudly as the bolts of lightning hit the incorporeal shield that the old man created.

Crack. Crack. Crack.

Spiderweb-like cracks surfaced within the shield, but it still managed to fully block the streaks of lightning. This elated the old man, but before he could even smile, he saw more than a dozen lightning bolts descending from the sky.

"Strengthen! Sky Rendering Sword Phantom! Release!" The old man shouted as he strengthened the broken incorporeal shield with his true essence. He then released a sword skill which almost sucked all of his remaining true essence.