

The Immortal's Wine Store

Chapter 36 - Alchemy Saint?

Chapter 36: Alchemy Saint?

In actual fact, Jiu Shen had countless ways to help her resolve her issue. But he only stated that he had two ways in order to make him seem more believable.

"Lord Jiu Shen, my name is Lu Sulan. If you can indeed help me resolve my illness, then taking ten years worth of Frozen Cloud Glacier is not an issue." Lu Sulan said expectantly. She was getting very restless and afraid of her present condition. If she was not the sect leader of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect, she didn't have problems with dying, but she was the strongest person in their sect. And if she died, the sect would lose a backbone and they would then face countless hungry eyes who had been eyeing their secret technique for many years.

"It's good that Sect Leader Lu is a very straightforward person. Since that's the case, I will tell you the two things that will help you resolve your issue."

Hearing his words, Lu Sulan's eyes brightened in excitement. She perked up her ears and listened attentively to what he was about to say.

"The first one is a bit hard since it needs you to consume a 9th-grade pill, the Crimson Astral Blaze Pill. And no one in the Silver Wing Empire is capable of concocting such a pill. Even if someone is capable of making such a pill, the materials needed are very rare." Jiu Shen stated while tapping his fingers on the table.

"The second option is for me to apply acupuncture on your body. With your current realm, we need to do acupuncture once a week for three months. And each treatment will last for one to two hours. Sect Leader Lu, which one would you choose?" Jiu Shen asked calmly.

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When Lu Sulan heard the first option, she frowned and she appeared to be in deep thought. She didn't know anything about alchemy, but the Crimson Astral Blaze Pill that Jiu She mentioned should be real. But the difficulty of concocting such a pill was very high, and even the old masters from the Alchemy Hall would not be able to concoct it.

And when she heard the second option proposed by Jiu Shen, she involuntarily blushed. She then concealed her crimson-red face by making her heart calm down. "Lord Jiu Shen, the first option is doable but we have to find someone who is capable of concocting that pill. As for the second option... Ah-we can do it if we don't have any other choice."

Jiu Shen turned a blind eye to her ever-changing expressions. His heart was as calm as a mirror. 'Why are the mortals so indecisive regarding these kinds of matters?'

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"You don't have to find someone else. I can concoct this pill for you. But we have to gather all the ingredients first because I don't have the necessary ingredients on hand." Jiu Shen said.

"Yeah, I know it's hard to find someone who can... What?! What did you say?! Did you just say that you can concoct a 9th-grade pill?!" Lu Sulan could no longer maintain her calm.

Someone who could refine a 9th-grade pill was at least a 9th-rank Alchemy Saint!

Meaning to say, their soul force had reached the 9th-rank which is equivalent to a 9th-rank Saint realm cultivator in terms of power. Of course, an Alchemy Saint's physical body was way weaker than a 9th-rank Saint realm cultivator in terms of martial power. But an Alchemy Saint can attack using their soul force!

So when Jiu Shen said that he can refine a 9th-grade pill, she was scared senseless. As for the authenticity of his words, she didn't doubt it in the slightest. How else did he know her conditions in one glance if he was not a 9th-rank Alchemy Saint?

Alchemists are also classified into nine realms: Alchemy Disciple, Alchemy Adept, Alchemy Master, Alchemy Grandmaster, Alchemy Ancestor, Alchemy King, Alchemy Emperor, Alchemy Sovereign, and Alchemy Saint.

For one to train in becoming an alchemist, they have to connect their spiritual nodes. But the process of doing so requires high willpower and pain tolerance since connecting spiritual nodes was very painful.

As for Jiu Shen being a 9th-rank Alchemy Saint, it was indeed true. In fact, he was not just an Alchemy Saint, but he didn't boast his alchemy skills too much. His attainments in alchemy can only be considered as superficial in the Primordial God Realm er... trash to be exact. But in Nuar, he was more than qualified to call himself an Alchemy Saint.

11

"I can concoct this pill, but I don't have the ingredients. Perhaps the Alchemy Hall had some of the ingredients in their storage..." Jiu Shen muttered after recalling the map that the system integrated into his brain. There was a branch of the Alchemy Hall in the Silver Wing Empire, and as a holy land for alchemists, they should have some of the ingredients needed for refining the Crimson Astral Blaze Pill.

Lu Sulan's doubtful look was then replaced by a much more gentle gaze. This Jiu Shen might really be able to help her get rid of her illness. "Lord Jiu Shen, let's dally no longer. Let's go to the Alchemy Hall to check if they have the ingredients that you'll need for refining the pill. As for your request about the Frozen Cloud Glacier, give me one moment. Excuse me, Lord Jiu Shen."

Like an excited little girl, Lu Sulan left the room in a hurry. When she came back, she was already holding a space ring. She then took out a huge block of an icy blue glacier which froze the air around them making the room's temperature drop by several degrees. "Lord Jiu Shen, this is more than ten years worth of Frozen Cloud Glacier."

Jiu Shen calmly grabbed the block of Frozen Cloud Glacier before putting it inside his space earring. "Good. Do you mind if I stay here in your sect for the night? We can leave by tomorrow."

For the first time today, Lu Sulan smiled at Jiu Shen. "Of course, it's not a problem, Lord Jiu Shen. I will arrange everything for you, please follow me."

Jiu Shen nodded his head expressionlessly.

The Immortal's Wine Store Chapter 37 - Crappy Sword Techniques

Chapter 37: Crappy Sword Techniques

2

Lu Sulan arranged Jiu Shen to stay inside one of their sect's most luxurious guest rooms. It was even comparable to their elders' quarters.

Towards this arrangement, Jiu Shen remained calm. 'The word luxurious is too much for such a shabby room. Even the servants that I had before were living in a much better place than this.' He thought to himself.

13

"I hope you like this room, Lord Jiu Shen. This is the best guest room in our Ice Cloud Sword Sect." Lu Sulan said gently.

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Jiu Shen looked unperturbed, but he was internally speechless at this 'best guest room'. 'Oh well, it's only for the night anyway. I still prefer the room in my store though.'

1

"I will take my leave for now, Lord Jiu Shen. I still have to instruct the sect's disciples about swordplay." Lu Sulan nodded her head elegantly at him. She did not mind being respectful at him, especially after learning that he was an Alchemy Saint. Although it was still uncertain whether his claim was genuine, his unfathomable power alone was enough for her to respect him.

"Instructing swordplay huh?" Jiu Shen muttered to himself in nostalgia.

In the Primordial God Realm, Jiu Shen was one of the top sword immortals. In fact, only one of the three celestial emperors, Sword God Jian Wang was stronger than him in sword techniques.

3

There were also countless supreme beings and supreme immortals that wished to take him as their master, but he refused all of them.

But even after his refusal, some still chose to follow him. Sometimes, he would discuss his insights on swordsmanship with them which greatly helped them in their path towards swordsmanship.

Jiu Shen sighed at his own thoughts and turned to look at Lu Sulan who was looking at him in bewilderment.

"Sect Leader Lu, I would like to watch how you train the young elites of your sect. I know that this sounds absurd, but I hope you don't mind." Jiu Shen said calmly.

Lu Sulan was surprised at his request, but she did not decline. She will only be teaching the disciples about the fundamentals of swordsmanship. It was not the secret technique of their sect, so she did not really mind.

"Not a problem at all, Lord Jiu Shen. Since that's the case, follow me towards the training grounds." Lu Sulan glanced at Jiu Shen.

Jiu Shen followed behind her with distant thoughts. 'If I had a sect of my own during my past life, that old fogie Lao Gou wouldn't have been able to trap me so easily inside his God Sealing Tower... Maybe I should establish my own sect in this mortal world and foster my own army of elites...'

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Celestial Emperor Lao Gou was the one who sealed Jiu Shen inside the God Sealing Tower.

5

Celestial Emperor Lao Gou found out that his second wife would secretly go out of her living quarters to join the other supreme beings every time Jiu Shen would discuss his insights in swordsmanship. Later on, he even heard his second wife was slowly falling for Jiu Shen.

And as a celestial emperor, how could he allow his wife to blindly listen to Jiu Shen's insight in swordsmanship? Wouldn't others say that his sword techniques were way weaker than Jiu Shen's? Aside from that, she had also taken a liking to Jiu Shen when she was already his woman. So due to his anger, Celestial Emperor Lao Gou ordered the sect he nurtured, the Celestial Paragon Tower to capture Jiu Shen using the God Sealing Tower.

10

Jiu Shen fought against more than several dozen thousands of supreme beings and was able to escape despite his severe injuries.

Left with no choice, Celestial Emperor Lao Gou personally took action and fought with Jiu Shen for more than seven days. He then sealed him inside his God Sealing Tower...

2

Back to the story...

4

Not long after, they arrived inside the Ice Cloud Sword Sect's training grounds. Jiu Shen heard multiple sweet grunts and lovely shouts as several young ladies executed their flashy sword techniques.

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One young lady slashed her sword causing a burning sword radiance to materialize. Another young lady struck her sword on the ground which then produced earthen sword spikes around her.

3

Jiu Shen glanced at their display of sword techniques with an expressionless face while he internally shook his head in disdain. 'What kind of crappy sword techniques are these? They're full of flaws and openings.'

1

Lu Sulan glanced at Jiu Shen to check his reaction at the wonderful display of her disciples. But when she saw his unchanging expression, she felt a bit annoyed.

"Lord Jiu Shen, what do you think about my disciples' skills?" Lu Sulan asked tentatively.

Jiu Shen who was unconsciously revising their sword techniques was awoken by her sudden question. "They can be considered as dregs err... I mean they are good and can be further polished. Your disciples only needed to train the basics in detail so that they will be able to execute your sect's sword techniques with much greater strength. Furthermore, the sword techniques that you guys taught them were somewhat flawed. It lacks substance and focused much on appearance. It can still be revised though..." Jiu Shen realized that he spoke too much, so he chose to remain silent.

1

As for Lu Sulan, she was surprised by his words. She was indeed going to teach her disciples with the basics of swordsmanship in order to strengthen their foundations. She was able to realize their shortcomings after watching them for several months, but Jiu Shen saw through them in one look? 'Was he able to see their flaws after just one glance? Or was it just a coincidence?'

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As for his remarks about their sword techniques being flawed, she ignored it and took it as him spouting bullshit.

1

How could their sect's sword techniques be flawed? It was, after all, the byproduct of their former sect mistresses' efforts. All of them were awe-inspiring figures that brought fear and worship towards the Silver Wing Empire's citizens. And the sword techniques that they made were powerful and profound.

"Lord Jiu Shen, our sword techniques are made by the previous sect mistresses of our Ice Cloud Sword Sect. A few of them were even 9th-rank Saint realm experts. So how could their techniques be flawed?" Lu Sulan replied in a slightly dissatisfied tone of voice.

Hearing her words, Jiu Shen shook his head calmly and remained silent.

The Immortal's Wine Store Chapter 38 - Jiu Shen Demonstrates His Skill

Chapter 38: Jiu Shen Demonstrates His Skill

After seeing him remain silent, Lu Sulan spoke no more. She then walked towards her disciples and displayed a milder gaze.

When the disciples saw Lu Sulan walking towards them, they bowed their heads respectfully and greeted her. "Greetings, Sect Mistress Lu."

Lu Sulan nodded her head with a gentle look. She then glanced at Jiu Shen with a cheeky smile and replied. "Before we start with our practice, let me introduce this man first. He is Lord Jiu Shen and he will be checking all of your flaws, so make sure to do good when you execute your sword techniques."

1

When Jiu Shen heard her words, he remained serene and tranquil with no hints of ripples in his emotions. He had expected this kind of development after speaking too much about their sword techniques. In his uncountable eons of life, he had already grasped the human's heart.

11

After speaking with Lu Sulan, he was able to tell that she was a headstrong woman that would not allow anyone to mock their teachings. She had an unyielding nature who would not easily back down. Even after knowing that he was an Alchemy Saint, she still risked offending him just because he said that their sword techniques were flawed.

After listening to their sect mistress' words, the disciples glanced at the man standing behind their sect mistress. His long silver hair was tied in a ponytail. With skin as fair as white jade and a face that could make a woman breathless.

They were surprised to see such a handsome man and they all thought that he might be one of their sect mistress' pursuers.

"Okay, let's start everyone. Xiao Hua, you'll go first." Lu Sulan called out for someone with a kind smile.

3

A young lady with beautiful facial features stepped forward. She appeared to be slightly shy as she walked towards Lu Sulan. "Greetings, Sect Mistress Lu." Xiao Hua bowed her head slightly as she greeted Lu Sulan.

1

"Little Hua, let me see if there is an improvement in your Radiant Sword Slash." Lu Sulan stroked her hair with a doting look.

"Yes, sect mistress." Xiao Hua answered shyly, her face blushing. She took in a deep breath and calmed herself down before performing her Radiant Sword Slash.

Jiu Shen calmly observed Xiao Hua as she executed her sword technique. 'Manipulation of true essence, subpar. Conversion of true essence, average. Execution of attack, trash. Damage produced, average. Overall rating, below average.'

7

All the disciples exclaimed after seeing the brilliant radiance produced by Xiao Hua's sword slash. They also felt that it was strong enough to kill a mid-stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader realm expert.

1

It was already good for Xiao Hua who was only an initial-stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader to be capable of producing an attack that was one minor realm higher than her cultivation.

Even Lu Sulan was happy with her progress. She smiled and patted Xiao Hua's little head causing the latter to blush in embarrassment. "Good job, Little Hua. But you still have to sharpen your skills. If you weren't nervous, you could have executed a much stronger attack."

"I will work hard, sect mistress." Xiao Hua replied respectfully.

Lu Sulan then glanced at Jiu Shen with a smile. "Do you want to say something, Lord Jiu Shen?"

Jiu Shen wanted to maintain a low-profile, but he did not want to see Lu Sulan's annoying smile. How could he allow a little girl to act so willfully in his presence?

He stared at Lu Sulan deeply causing the latter to look away.

His gaze was so penetrating that it made her feel a hint of fear.

Jiu Shen then turned to look towards Xiao Hua who was looking at him expectantly.

"You have great potential, but the way you manipulated your true essence was mediocre at best. The way you executed your technique looked flashy, but it's full of holes and openings. There was also an unnecessary pause of half a second midway through your execution and this might have been related to your anxious state of heart. Furthermore, because your manipulation of true essence was subpar, the damage of your attack was significantly reduced." Jiu Shen's words were harsh but everything was on point. He was able to see the flaws of Xiao Hua's sword technique with one glance. He was even able to tell them the reason for such flaws.

His words were like sharp arrows that pierced Xiao Hua's little heart. Her body faintly trembled and her eyes also watered, but she suppressed her urge to cry. Everything he

said was right, but she didn't know how to improve her control in manipulating her true essence. Even their sect mistress could only correct them slowly.

Looking at her distressed look, Jiu Shen remained unperturbed. If he had complimented her, she would grow complacent and her sword techniques would never progress. It was better to tell her about her mistakes so that she can slowly correct them herself.

Seeing Xiao Hua's sad look, Lu Sulan was about to berate Jiu Shen, but before she could speak...

"Your name is Xiao Hua, right?" Jiu Shen asked.

Xiao Hua nodded her head slowly while biting her lips.

"Observe this carefully, Xiao Hua. I will execute the same sword technique and I will also suppress my realm to the initial-stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader... Can I borrow your sword?" Since he had already told Xiao Hua about her flaws, then he might as well help her improve her shortcomings.

Xiao Hua was surprised, but she obediently handed her sword to Jiu Shen.

Everyone, including Lu Sulan observed Jiu Shen's every move. They wanted to see what he would do.

Jiu Shen suppressed his realm, making everyone sense the aura of an initial-stage 4th-rank Knight Crusader on him.

Without making any superfluous movements, Jiu Shen nonchalantly brandished the sword in his hand causing a raging sword wind to materialize in midair. It then hit a nearby boulder making it explode into countless pieces.

His attack caused all the disciples to widen their eyes in surprise. It was actually twenty times stronger than Xiao Hua's attack! And the way he executed the sword strike was more natural as if he merely executed a random slash.

As for Lu Sulan, she was covering her mouth with an expression of utter disbelief. "That's... How did he execute our sect's Radiant Sword Slash?! The attack he made can also threaten a 5th-rank Spirit realm expert. I must be dreaming..." She muttered to herself while feeling shocked in her heart.

1

Because of the silence, everyone heard Jiu Shen as he muttered. "This sword technique is truly lousy. Even after revising it, I can only increase its power by a bit..."

After hearing his words, everyone was speechless.

The Immortal's Wine Store Chapter 39 - Gaining Respect

Chapter 39: Gaining Respect

"Lord Jiu Shen... you...you... How come you can perform our sect's Radiant Sword Slash?" Lu Sulan asked with a bewildered look.

"What's so surprising about that? Isn't that your sect's most lousy sword technique?" Jiu Shen replied indifferently.

Upon hearing his words, Lu Sulan had the urge to beat him up. 'What lousiest sword technique?! It's one of the strongest sword techniques in our Ice Cloud Sword Sect!'

Lu Sulan tactfully chose to remain silent. She then called another disciple's name.

The disciple she called was nervous especially after seeing how easily Jiu Shen was able to discern the flaws in their techniques.

After executing her sword technique, Jiu Shen told her about her flaws and he also displayed how it should be done.

The scene happened to all of the disciples that Lu Sulan called, making her heart turn numbed.

With a horrified look, she glanced at Jiu Shen.

She finally realized that this man was not just an Alchemy Saint. He might even be a 9th-rank Saint realm expert! She felt goosebumps all over her body when she recalled how she had deliberately opposed him earlier.

1

Jiu Shen returned the sword that he had borrowed from Xiao Hua before he glanced at Lu Sulan who was trying to conceal the dread in her heart. He then walked towards her at a normal pace, but to Lu Sulan, it felt as if it was an eternity.

Jiu Shen then gently patted Lu Sulan's shoulder causing the latter to almost jump in fright.

"You have great disciples, Sect Mistress Lu. Just train them according to what I have said earlier. Anyway, I shall not take much of your time. Farewell." Jiu Shen left after saying those words.

Lu Sulan glanced at his broad back with a complicated gaze. Would his arrival change her fate?

After seeing his abilities, she was now more certain that Jiu Shen indeed has the capability of concocting the Crimson Astral Blaze Pill. She was looking forward to the day when she would no longer feel a sense of discomfort and pain every time she cultivates.

Xiao Hua and the other disciples stared at Jiu Shen's disappearing back figure and bowed their heads respectfully. Although he was harsh on his choice of words, they were able to realize their mistakes easily. He had even demonstrated to them how their techniques should be executed. With his teachings, they were confident in improving their sword techniques.

Lu Sulan did not stop the actions of her disciples. After all, Jiu Shen helped them in recognizing the flaws in their sword techniques. With his intervention, it would save a great deal of time for them.

For young cultivators, time was precious. They would never forget Jiu Shen's help.

Meanwhile, inside his 'luxurious' guest room. Jiu Shen sat cross-legged while cultivating. Although he could not break through using normal means, he could still strengthen himself through cultivation.

1

The true essence inside the guest room was thick, but to Jiu Shen, it means nothing.

2

Jiu Shen gathered the true essence in his surroundings and refined them inside his dantian. His dantian was like a bottomless abyss that could not be filled even after cultivating for many years.

"This might be related to my new body being a Seamless Deity Physique. It looks like I have to rely on the system if I want to breakthrough realms..." Jiu Shen muttered to himself but he continued to patiently cultivate.

"Host, a Seamless Deity Physique can't be cultivated like this. Only with the system's help can you increase your strength. Host, work hard on completing your tasks!" The system's solemn voice echoed inside his head like a bucket of cold water.

11

He sighed and stopped cultivating his true essence. "Since I can't cultivate my true essence nor cultivate my soul force, then I might as well perceive the mysterious fourth realm of the Heart Realm, the Heartless Void. System, this is possible, right?"

Jiu Shen did not hear any reply from the system, but he did not feel discouraged.

That night, he tried perceiving the Heartless Void.

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The glaring sun shone like a celestial fireball in the sky. Its scorching beams splashed onto the world basking everyone with its warm glow.

Jiu Shen opened his eyes with a regretful look in his face. "The Heartless Void is too profound. I might have been able to faintly recognize its intricacies when I had my previous cultivation, but with my current realm in this life, achieving a breakthrough in the Heart Realm is impossible..." He muttered and released a soft sigh.

6

"Today, I will go with Lu Sulan to the Alchemy Hall to check for the ingredients of the Crimson Astral Blaze Pill. Considering their background, they should have one set of the auxiliary ingredients I needed for the pill. As for the main ingredient... I wonder if they have one piece of Earth Origin Dragon Fruit..."

Jiu Shen thought about the four bonsai err... four spiritual plants inside his store. All four of it were 9th-rank spiritual plants, the Earth Origin Dragon Tree, but they haven't borne a single fruit yet.

With the system's show-off nature, it should have added a heavenly soil on the pots. But even if that's the case, it would still take two to three weeks before it can bear Earth Origin Dragon Fruits.

1

"If the Alchemy Hall does not have one piece of the fruit, then all we can do is wait for the spiritual plants in my store to bear fruits. But I need a ripe one...so in total, we need to wait for one whole month... In that case, do I really have to use my acupuncture on her to suppress the discomfort she feels? The question is, would that little girl even allow me to do my acupuncture on her?" Jiu Shen felt slightly annoyed in his heart, but he still looked serenely calm on the surface.

5

"Knock! Knock! Knock!"

Jiu Shen glanced at the door and felt the familiar aura of Lu Sulan. "Come inside, Sect Mistress Lu."

1

Lu Sulan came inside with dark circles under her eyes. Although it was faint and was covered by makeup, Jiu Shen could still perceive it with his acute eyesight.

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With a tired and weary gaze, Lu Sulan spoke in a mild tone. "Lord Jiu Shen, it's time for us to go."

Jiu Shen nodded his head calmly and jumped out of his bed with a whooshing sound.

1

The Immortal's Wine Store Chapter 40 - Master Fengzi

Chapter 40: Master Fengzi

1

Jiu Shen and Lu Sulan stepped out of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect's ice castle amidst the inquiring gazes of the disciples guarding the entrance.

Lu Sulan gracefully tapped her foot and hovered in midair like a celestial fairy. She still looked beautiful despite having a sleepless night yesterday due to her excitement.

She had been looking for countless ways to remove the pain she was feeling. She had even eaten a few high-level spiritual herbs with the thought, that maybe, it could help in her predicament. Who knew that even after eating all of them, nothing changed. In fact, her situation grew worse by the day.

And now, Jiu Shen's sudden arrival caused her to regain her hope. 'Maybe this man could help me resolve my situation.' She thought to herself.

3

And because of her intense excitement and eagerness, she was unable to properly meditate last night, causing her to feel a bit weak and tired.

Jiu Shen took out a bottle of Deep Sea Spring Dew from his storage earring and he handed it to Lu Sulan.

"Sect Mistress Lu, this wine is called the Deep Sea Spring Dew. It could help you lower the pain you're feeling and it can also help you hasten your cultivation speed." Jiu Shen said.

The Deep Sea Spring Dew contained the essence of Yin and Yang. And it was what Lu Sulan needed the most in her current situation.

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Her innate physique was that of the Verdant Flames Saintly Vermilion Body. It was a True Yang physique, and this kind of innate body needed a technique that was of True Yang to further nurture it. But Lu Sulan cultivated the Ice Cloud Sword Sect's secret technique which was of True Yin in nature. This caused her Verdant Flames Saintly Vermilion Body to slowly grow weaker through time.

6

But since it was a saintly body, it was not that easy to suppress it. The Verdant Flames Saintly Vermilion Body consumed itself in order to remain active in Lu Sulan's body. This was also the root cause of the discomfort and pain that she felt every time she cultivated.

Lu Sulan didn't stand on ceremony either. After hearing that it could help her alleviate a bit of pain, she carefully received the bottle of wine. "Thank you, Lord Jiu Shen." She said with a grateful look.

1

Jiu Shen nodded his head and flew beside her.

The Alchemy Hall was located inside Beltran City, so it was not that far from the Ice Cloud Sword Sect's ice castle.

1

With their speed, they arrived in less than an hour's time.

In front of them was a tall tower with a scholarly aura and atmosphere.

They landed on the ground causing shock exclamations from the surrounding crowd of cultivators and mortals.

The cultivators knew that only 8th-rank Divine realm experts were capable of flight. So when they saw that the two of them flew from above, their gazes were painted with excitement, curiosity, respect, jealousy and other kinds of emotions.

1

"Look, those two seniors descended from the sky!"

"Eh?! Does that mean that they are 8th-rank Divine realm experts?!"

As for the mortals, it was as if they had seen a god and a goddess especially with Jiu Shen and Lu Sulan's otherworldly facial features.

"They are a match made in heaven! An immortal couple!"

Jiu Shen and Lu Sulan ignored the crowd as they walked inside the Alchemy Hall.

When the guards at the entrance saw Lu Sulan, they were surprised.

It was not the first time they saw her. In fact, they have seen her a few times before, and every time she went out of the Alchemy Hall, she would always be accompanied by the branch head. And they had also seen her fly in midair.

With all those facts added together, they knew that she was someone of important status. With a face full of flattery, they opened the door for the both of them and was able to go inside without a problem.

One guard led them towards the branch head's office.

"Knock! Knock! Knock!"

"Who the hell is outside that damned door?! I'm in the middle of concocting a high-level pill here! Scram!" An angry shout reverberated inside the branch head's room.

The guard turned pale and he hurriedly glanced at the two people behind him. He sighed in relief after seeing that both of them still looked calm. He was about to say something when...

"Master Fengzi, it's me. I apologize for visiting you with no prior appointment." Lu Sulan said in a gentle voice.

"Oh, so it's Sect Mistress Lu? Wait, give me one moment here." The aged voice of an old man resounded once again inside the branch head's room, but this time, it sounded gentle and benign.

1

The door opened slowly and revealed the face of an old man with disheveled hair. When he saw Lu Sulan's face, he smiled brilliantly and opened the door wide. "Haha! You're back, Sect Mistress Lu! Come, come inside."

Jiu Shen and Lu Sulan came inside the old man's room. They saw a charred cauldron at the center of the room and they could also smell the pungent scent of burnt herbs.

"Sorry for disturbing you during your time of pill concoction, Master Fengzi." Lu Sulan said apologetically.

"Not a problem at all, Sect Mistress Lu. It's not even a high-level pill anyway." Master Fengzi said with a chuckle while waving his aged hands as if it was nothing of great importance.

3

So he was indeed not lying when he said that he was concocting a pill.

Jiu Shen observed the old man calmly before observing the cauldron. He sniffed the pungent scent of the burnt herbs and nodded his head internally. "You don't have to apologize to him. He was not concocting a pill when we arrived. The concoction was done last night, and based on the smell of these burnt herbs, the pill he was trying to concoct was an 8th-grade pill, the Invigorating Meridians Pill. This is a high-level pill, and not just some random low-level pill."

2

An awkward silence followed after Jiu Shen spoke those words.

Master Fengzi stood with a look of disbelief, while Lu Sulan was wearing a forced smile.