

## Bottleneck 171

### Chapter 171: Foundation Establishment Pill Auction, Inviting Chen Sheng to Come Out

Liang Sheng was looking from the outside in at the chess game, clearly understanding the situation in the Market. The tricks and strategies of the Three Sects and Six Orders were remarkable; it was practically a reincarnation of the Great Qing silver plan from the past life.

They have to push someone into a situation of despair and then offer them a glimmering hope. How else would they get these Loose Cultivators to work relentlessly for them and gain Cultivation Resources?

Given Liang Sheng's cultivation level, he even caught snippets of private discussions amongst the Three Sects and Six Orders. They felt quite helpless about Pei Shiping's Foundation Establishment breakthrough.

Pei Shiping was an uncontrollable factor in their calculated plan, but this wasn't a big issue for them. They were simply astonished.

As long as the Loose Foundation Establishment Cultivator could not mass produce Foundation Establishment Pills, then there was nothing to worry about. How different was it from selling one extra Foundation Establishment Pill to a Loose Cultivator?

Luckily, Liang Sheng had revisited his spiritual field recently and so didn't have to worry about Huang Yifan and his brothers running out of Qi Refining Pills for now.

Liang Sheng's life remained peaceful. The Loose Cultivation Alchemists from the Market had thoroughly become his fans. Under such circumstances, the Three Sects and the Six Orders finally brought forward three Foundation Establishment Pills.

The Foundation Establishment Pills were placed in the Administration Office. Any cultivator at the ninth level of Qi Condensation could go to the Second Floor of the office to participate in the auction. There were Foundation Establishment Stage Cultivators from the Sky Solar Sect around and no one could make trouble.

Of course, cultivators who haven't reached the Qi Cultivation Ninth Layer could also attend, but who would want to? Even if they had the funds to purchase Foundation Establishment Pills, it would only invite trouble.

On that day, the atmosphere in the Market was peculiar. The rarely seen cultivators at the ninth level of Qi Cultivation looked grim as they entered the Administration Office one by one.

Having a Foundation Establishment Pill doesn't necessarily guarantee a breakthrough into the Foundation Establishment Stage, but without one, a breakthrough is impossible.

Moreover, the original controllers of the black market, including Pei Shiping, appeared at the Administration Office. Even though he had already reached the Foundation Establishment Stage, he was still determined to get a Foundation Establishment Pill.

For a Cultivating family, you can never have too many Foundation Establishment Pills. The looks Ban Zhihe and Fu Liantao gave Pei Shiping were complicated.

The word "fate" indeed left them speechless.

Over the years, their once close relationship had gradually become distant. After all, there was a huge difference between Foundation Establishment and Qi Cultivation.

But this time, they didn't want to miss out again.

"Senior Pei, if you feel you do not have enough resources to acquire the Foundation Establishment Pill, could you give us a chance and let us borrow the resources for a while to purchase the pill?"

A friend becoming a senior signified the harsh reality of the Cultivational World, but no one felt anything wrong about it.

Once one has reached the Foundation Establishment Stage, their Lifespan would increase by 500 years. They were no longer the same as others.

Fu Liantao and Ban Zhihe bowed pretty low, but Pei Shiping simply shook his head, leaving the two with a bitter look on their faces.

They were ultimately strangers now, but they still didn't want to give up and they intended to continue persuading...

Just at that moment, Foundation Establishment Cultivator Yao Mu from the Sky Solar Sect suddenly appeared. Everyone looked at him. To be precise, they were looking at the Jade Bottle in his hand.

They couldn't help but rush their breaths, and their eyes shone with an intense desire. The Foundation Establishment Pills were right there!

Without any delay, Yao Mu announced the start of the auction. The Qi Cultivation Ninth Level Cultivators naturally proceeded to give it their all to win the Pill, even if it meant risking everything they owned.

This was their hope for promotion!

After some intense competition, three cultivators at the ninth level Qi Cultivation grinned widely as they successfully obtained the Foundation Establishment Pill.

Pei Shiping's face turned slightly unpleasant. The resources he had spent on establishing his family were too enormous, so he could not measure up against these independent Qi Cultivation Ninth Level Cultivators.

"Congratulations to you three Daoist Friends. If you do not mind, you can stay and cultivate in the Market. I guarantee no one will disturb you."

The three naturally would not refuse. Cultivating in the Market with the protection from the Three Sects and the Six Orders was absolutely safe.

Although Pei Shiping was unwilling, with things as they were, he could only accept reality and leave dispiritedly. He held back his emotions, after all, he was an esteemed Foundation Establishment Stage Cultivator.

Having a Foundation Establishment Pill does not necessarily mean they would become Foundation Establishment Cultivators. Fu Liantao and Ban Zhihe were examples of this from before.

Watching Pei Shiping leave, and casting another look at the three lucky Qi Cultivation Ninth Level Cultivators, they glanced at each other and made a firm decision.

Decades ago, they had obtained Foundation Establishment Pills from a Loose Cultivation Alchemist, and they could do it again.

This has always been their plan, considering their lifespan was not plentiful anymore. Their success or failure, it all hinged on this!

While Liang Sheng was watching from the sidelines, he realized one should never underestimate a cultivator. Who could have thought that in the end it would be three relatively obscure cultivators from the Qi Cultivation Ninth Layer to get the Foundation Establishment Pills?

But what he admired even more was the Three Sects and the Six Orders. They merely had three Foundation Establishment Pills yet they made profits that were almost ten times more. They could be hailed as extraordinary profiteers.

Sects...

In the midst of his admiration, Liang Sheng suddenly received an invitation. Ban Zhihe and Fu Liantao arrived together to ask for his help.

Huh?

They wanted him to come out of retirement to aid them in refining Foundation Establishment Pills?

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Market.

After Fu Liantao and Ban Zhihe returned, they couldn't help feeling a little gloomy. After all, they had missed the chance to obtain the Foundation Establishment Pill this time, and they might not have another opportunity in this lifetime.

After all, the Three Sects and Six Orders would not frequently sell Foundation Establishment Pills. Comparatively speaking, the cultivators of their generation had already been incredibly lucky to encounter the Three Sects and Six Orders selling Foundation Establishment Pills.

Actually, if Pei Shiping had failed to break through to the Foundation Establishment Realm as they did, they wouldn't be so upset. After all, if everyone was in the same situation, there would be disappointment, but not such unbearable pain.

The key to their being able to jointly create the black market to overcome difficulties was their shared bond through thick and thin. This very bond also illustrated the depth of their relationship.

But why must you alone prosper!? Why can't it be me who succeeds in the Foundation Establishment!?

This is simply human nature.

In times of adversity, while others hope you do well, they also hope you don't do too well. Besides, their relationship with Pei Shiping couldn't be the same after their experience with the auction of Foundation Establishment Pills.

After all, it is rare to find someone in life who genuinely wants the best for you, regardless of their circumstances. Even among close relatives, such people are scarce and precious.

At this moment, Fu Liantao and his partner couldn't help but miss the Qi Cultivation Ninth Layer alchemist they met in the black market. Since he could refine Foundation Establishment Pills, there was a high probability he had already reached the Foundation Establishment.

After all, would an alchemist who could refine Foundation Establishment Pills be short of them themselves?

With this thought, they grew more regretful. If only they had tried to learn more about this mysterious alchemist and kept a closer eye on his whereabouts, perhaps they could have succeeded in reaching the Foundation Establishment by now?

However, there is no medicine for regret in this world. At this point, their lifespan was running out, and they had nothing left to lose.

Over the years, they had made their preparations, even collecting seven sets of the Spiritual Grass needed for the Foundation Establishment Pill.

This was their plan for when their lifespans would be nearing their end. But now that they had reached this point, they had no other choice.

The first step now was to find a suitable alchemist to refine Foundation Establishment Pills for them. It might be the last gamble they'd take in their lives.

After settling their resolve, Fu Liantao and his partner didn't hesitate. After investigating the alchemists in the Market, they set their sights on Wang Kuo, a Qi Cultivation Eighth Level alchemist.

Wang Kuo was already the highest-ranking alchemist known in the Market. However, his expression turned uncertain when he learned what they wanted from him.

He could see their intentions, but he was afraid that if he failed to refine the Foundation Establishment Pill, they might take some desperate actions.

After all, Wang Kuo himself had no confidence in refining the Foundation Establishment Pill. If it were possible for a Loose Cultivation Alchemist to easily refine one, why would these practitioners still be struggling?

However, facing the two of them, he knew he couldn't refuse their request without consequences. He might never be able to leave the Market again if he did.

What kind of cultivator in the Market is the most terrifying?

Those with their lifespan about to run out are the ones to be afraid of. These cultivators act without any restraint, so it's best to not offend them.

Moreover, he also thought of Liang Sheng. After all, the theory of refining high-level elixirs to enhance alchemy skills resonated with him as well. With this in mind, he gritted his teeth and agreed.

However, he thought of Liang Sheng's unyielding spirit in alchemy and made a request. He wanted Liang Sheng to assist him as a secondary alchemist.

Naturally, Fu Liantao and his partner were aware of the market's "Pill Maniac" reputation. If not for Liang Sheng's current Qi Cultivation Fifth Realm, they might have chosen him to refine the pills for them.

So upon hearing Wang Kuo's request, they didn't hesitate, directly accompanying Wang Kuo to ask for Liang Sheng's assistance. Liang Sheng was bewildered when he heard their request.

Of course, Liang Sheng flatly refused their request.

What a joke! If he agreed once, he'd be setting a precedent, opening a door to endless troubles.

After all, if he'd help Wang Kuo, how could he refuse others?

He was the spiritual leader of the Market's alchemists, "Master Chen"!

Fu Liantao and his partner didn't expect this outcome and thought their compensation wasn't enough. Willing to give up everything for the Foundation Establishment Pill, they doubled the reward.

But Liang Sheng still refused outright, and Wang Kuo didn't press any further. After saying goodbye to Liang Sheng, he watched Fu Liantao and his partner leave and couldn't help but shake his head.

The two characters 'luck'...

Cannot be sought.

When he initially got the Foundation Establishment Pill recipe and refined the Foundation Establishment Pills, he gave them to Pei Shiping, Fu Liantao, and Ban Zhihe.

However, the results for the three were drastically different. Pei Shiping had already broken through and was now the undisputed number one Loose Cultivator in the Foundation Establishment.

As for Fu Liantao and his partner, they still struggled to find success. Now, they were making their last-ditch effort, and one could not help but sigh.

Nevertheless, Liang Sheng remained true to his principles, refusing to get involved in anything unrelated to his own cultivation and seeking protection of the Dao.

Fu Liantao and his partner were accompanied by Wang Kuo to make pills in a secluded place. Word of this couldn't be kept from the well-informed, and Pei Shiping knew about their actions from the start.

"Shi Liang, watch your two uncles closely and don't let them be disturbed. If they succeed in refining the pills, notify me immediately.."

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"Ancestor, do you want to..."

Pei Shiliang was somewhat puzzled in his heart. The relationship between the Ancestor and Fu Liantao was indeed close, but they had very little contact recently. He did not expect that the Ancestor would suddenly help them at this time.



But if that was the case, why was the Ancestor so ruthless back when the Three Sects and Six Orders were auctioning Foundation Establishment Pills?

At this moment, Pei Shiping's eyes were deep, "Our Pei family does not have any extra Foundation Establishment Pills. If they can successfully refine them, wouldn't it be a great thing?"

Huh?

Upon hearing this, Pei Shiliang suddenly looked up at Pei Shiping, never expecting that this was what the Ancestor had in mind.

If this was the case, and they really managed to refine Foundation Establishment Pills, wouldn't it mean that he would also have a chance to take a Foundation Establishment Pill in the future?

Thinking of this, his heart now strongly hoped that Fu Liantao would successfully refine the Foundation Establishment Pills. As for the doubts about the Ancestor's attitude that just surfaced in his heart, they had completely vanished.

What about brotherly love?

Which is more important than the path of cultivation?

Moreover, having established a Cultivation family, who would have the mood to care about others?

At this moment in the market, the atmosphere was somewhat strange; many cultivators would occasionally look in the direction of the Administration Office.

That was because there was a high possibility that the second Foundation Establishment Loose Cultivator of the market would emerge, stepping into the path of pursuing immortality from then on.

Foundation Establishment could increase lifespan by as much as 500 years, making it extremely desirable!

As for Fu Liantao asking Wang Kuo to refine pills, only those who were really interested would pay attention to this. After all, if Foundation Establishment Pills were so easy to refine, why would the market have been in such a state all these years?

The Three Sects and Six Orders could be said to have reaped enormous benefits from the market by steadily using Foundation Establishment Pills, batch after batch. Liang Sheng hid behind the scenes, watching indifferently.

Over these years, the elixirs he had refined had been rather extraordinary. After all, the pill formulas in the hands of the Loose Cultivation Alchemists, which they had collected over many years, were not few.

There were even poison pills that could instantly kill Qi Cultivating Stage cultivators, which made Liang Sheng even more cautious in his heart.

After all, who knew whether the cultivators had any trump cards in their hands? If they had to take action, it would have to be a one-hit kill.

Because the Loose Cultivators' attention was on the Administration Office during this period, Liang Sheng also took the opportunity to return once to his spiritual field to replenish the supply of High-Quality Qi Cultivation Pills to be given to Huang Yifan and his brothers.

When Huang Yifan saw Liang Sheng, he wanted to speak but hesitated. Liang Sheng naturally knew the reason for his poor mental state but said nothing.

He wasn't Huang's nanny. Huang helped him irrigate his spiritual field, and he gave Huang Qi Cultivation Pills. This was just a fair deal.

As for whether Huang Yifan could break through the bottleneck of the Qi Cultivation Eighth Level, that was ultimately up to him and had nothing to do with Liang Sheng.

And then Liang Sheng's life returned to its usual regularity, until a month later when the three cultivators who had obtained Foundation Establishment Pills finally emerged from the Administration Office. Everyone knew what had happened.

They had failed to break through to Foundation Establishment.

Many people regretted not witnessing the miracle of the fish leaping over the dragon's gate, but even more, people were secretly relieved, especially those cultivators at the ninth level of Qi Condensation who had not obtained Foundation Establishment Pills.

As for Fu Liantao and his partner, they had no time to pay attention to this and were closely watching Wang Kuo, or more accurately, the pill furnace in front of Wang Kuo.

Suddenly, a burnt smell appeared. Immediately, Wang Kuo nervously opened the pill furnace, avoiding the danger of the furnace exploding, and then looked helplessly at Fu Liantao and his partner.

"It's nothing; it's just the first furnace. How can Foundation Establishment Pills be so easy to succeed? Daoist Wang, you don't have to worry. Shall we continue now?"

Fu Liantao and his partner quickly comforted Wang Kuo, who shook his head at this time. More than a month of refining Foundation Establishment Pills had already left him exhausted.

After all, this was almost beyond his grasp, so he had put all his heart and soul into refining the Foundation Establishment Pills, under tremendous pressure.

However, it was not the failure of the refining that made him uncomfortable at this moment, but the courage and determination that Liang Sheng had mentioned earlier when he was refining medium-high-grade elixirs without hesitation.

How strong must one's perseverance be to do that? He couldn't imagine how Liang Sheng could have persisted with it, yet he wanted to retreat after just one failure.

Fu Liantao and his partner didn't force Wang Kuo at this time. They naturally knew the truth of "haste makes waste," but their hearts were inevitably disappointed.

When Pei Shiping received the news, he didn't have any significant reaction, and only told Pei Shiliang to keep watching without any slack.

With the successive failures of the three Qi Cultivation Ninth Layer cultivators who had obtained Foundation Establishment Pills, Liang Sheng had once again regained the title of Number One Loose Cultivator in the market with his indifferent attitude.

At this moment in the Administration Office, Foundation Establishment Stage Cultivator Yao Mu of the Sky Solar Sect silently watched the outside situation, remaining speechless.

Since there was already one Foundation Establishment Loose Cultivator in the market, that was enough, and it didn't affect the plans of the Three Sects and Six Orders.

However, there couldn't be a second Foundation Establishment Loose Cultivator among the loose cultivators. This was the bottom line of the Three Sects and Six Orders, and no one was allowed to break it.

Time passed slowly in this situation, and in the blink of an eye, another half-year had passed.

At this moment, Fu Liantao and his partner had bloodshot eyes, as the sixth furnace of Foundation Establishment Pills had just failed to be refined. Now, they only had one set of ingredients left.

Wang Kuo looked completely disheveled, his previous elegance as an alchemist nowhere to be found. But what he was most worried about was the state Fu Liantao and his partner were in.

At this point, he finally didn't dare to refine the last furnace of pills. He was afraid that in the extreme disappointment, the two might lose their reason.

If that happened, he would probably be affected by their anger and might even be killed....

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Just then, Fu Liantao's hoarse voice sounded, "Daoist Wang, don't have any burden in your heart. Just do your best in refining pills. There is no better alchemist in the market than you."

However, Wang Kuo really didn't have the courage to refine pills at this moment. For a short while, the atmosphere became tense.

After many unsuccessful persuasions, Ban Zhihe finally lost his patience, "Daoist Wang, we have already paid you in advance. You have no choice but to continue refining the elixirs."

At this moment, Fu Liantao and his partner were like drowning people grasping for their last straw, causing Wang Kuo to feel even more terrified. He offered to return some of the payment.

But how could Fu Liantao and his partner agree to this condition?

Their lifespan was running out, and they had almost no other chances to make mistakes. At this point, Wang Kuo was full of regrets.

If he had known this earlier, he wouldn't have waded into these muddy waters. What should he do now?

His alchemy skills seemed the strongest in the marketplace only because he had the highest cultivation level. In reality, there were several people who were not inferior to him in alchemy skills.

But at this moment, he had no way out. Seeing the looks in Fu Liantao and his partner's eyes, he knew he had to refine pills.

If he failed to refine the Foundation Establishment Pill again, he didn't dare to think about it, as he couldn't bear the consequences in the end.

Thinking of this, he clenched his heart, and while apologizing several times in his heart, a feeling of guilt flashed by, then he raised his head suddenly.

“Senior, if you really want me to refine pills, then I must need Master Chen’s help this time!”

This was Wang Kuo’s last chance, and he couldn’t think of any other possibility for success other than Liang Sheng’s guidance from the side.

In terms of alchemy skills, Master Chen was most definitely unmatched in the marketplace, which was Wang Kuo’s most genuine response at the moment.

Looking at the resolute Wang Kuo, Fu Liantao and his partner exchanged glances, knowing each other’s determination and then nodded in agreement. “Alright, Daoist Wang, wait for our good news.”

Pei Family Mansion.

“Ancestor, it seems that the two seniors have gone to ask Master Chen Sheng to refine pills for them. The previous six attempts at refining pills have all failed.” Pei Shiping nodded upon hearing this, feeling somewhat disappointed in his heart. After all, he also wished for the two old friends to succeed in refining pills.

However, the more this happened, the more he felt fortunate that the mysterious alchemist he encountered back then was extremely cautious.

What a pity...

“Keep an eye on them. As long as they are still refining pills, keep watching them.”

“Yes, Ancestor.”

Marketplace.

Liang Sheng couldn't believe it when Fu Liantao and his partner showed up at his door again, asking for the same favor as before.

He didn't know what to say at this moment because it was his own reputation that had led to this situation, where he was constantly sought after by them. However, it was precisely because of this reputation that they didn't dare to act recklessly and were extremely polite. Besides, in order to obtain the pill formula, this situation was already within his expectations.

If there were ever any accidents, he would no longer be Qi Cultivation Fifth Level Alchemist Chen Sheng, but Foundation Establishment expert Liang Sheng, who would eradicate all dangers from their roots.

At this time, Liang Sheng decided not to get involved, but Fu Liantao and his partner did not leave. Liang Sheng had no choice but to close his cave dwelling and not go out for the time being.

However, Fu Liantao and his partner were determined to stay outside Liang Sheng's cave dwelling, waiting for Liang Sheng to compromise.

Soon, this situation spread throughout the marketplace. Qin Chen even went to visit Liang Sheng to ask about the situation. After leaving, he cast a strange glance at Fu Liantao and his partner.

The two of them had no dignity of cultivators at the ninth level of Qi Condensation, but Qin Chen felt a bit proud in his heart.

No wonder people praised his Master Chen; even if he was only at the ninth level of Qi Cultivation, what difference did it make?

After he left, the other alchemists also had the same thought as Qin Chen, marveling at Liang Sheng's far-reaching reputation in their hearts.

However, half a month later, they couldn't stand it anymore.

Due to Fu Liantao and his partner blocking the entrance, they hadn't been able to discuss Dao with Liang Sheng for a long time. The alchemists, who were already accustomed to gathering for discussions,

couldn't endure it any longer. Finally, after three more days had passed, Qin Chen could no longer hold back. "Fellow Daoists, shall we advance and retreat together to visit Master Chen?" The other alchemists had long had this idea in their hearts, and when they heard Qin Chen's suggestion, they immediately agreed, filled with indignation. "Fellow Daoist Qin, let us all go."

"Master Chen, don't panic, we are coming!"

"A cultivator at the ninth level of Qi Condensation? We're going to see Master

Chen no matter what!"

Even if they were not afraid of the Pei Family, what could two old cultivators at the ninth level of Qi Condensation possibly do to them?

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Market.

Overwhelming momentum!

At this moment, Qin Chen and the others gathered together, exuding an aura that made the people in the market unconsciously salute them.

These alchemists were usually very aloof and somewhat disorganized, but now what were they trying to do?

The last time something like this happened was when Patriarch Pei blocked Chen Sheng's cave. Could it happen again?

Amongst the Market, the more clever cultivators immediately thought of the situation when Fu Liantao and his partner blocked Liang Sheng's cave, and couldn't help but follow behind to watch the excitement.



When Fu Liantao and his partner saw Qin Chen and the others joining hands and coming over, they were also a little stunned. Although they had heard about the Pei family's incident, they didn't expect Chen Sheng to have such prestige that he could gather loose cultivators and alchemists from the market here.

Somehow, their hearts eagerly anticipated the situation where Wang Kuo requested Liang Sheng's help in refining pills and regretted not insisting on asking the other party to refine pills beforehand.

"Senior," Qin Chen inhaled deeply at this moment, saluted towards Fu Liantao after the encounter, and didn't sound too polite, "I don't know why you are blocking Master Chen's door? It is said that one should not do anything difficult for others, so why are you both so persistent?"

Fu Liantao waved his hands repeatedly, "I'm afraid Fellow Daoist Qin must have misunderstood us. We won't force Chen Daoist to do anything.

We just heard that Chen Daoist is passionate about refining medium-high-grade elixirs to improve his alchemy skills, and we happen to have this opportunity. We just want to cooperate for mutual benefits.

Fellow Daoist Qin, you can rest assured, we have the utmost respect for alchemists and will never force anyone. We will also show our sincerity, and we believe that one day, Chen Daoist will understand us."

Upon hearing this, Qin Chen couldn't help but laugh out of anger. This was simply twisting words and logic, and the other party was still acting innocent. If this were the case, why would Master Chen hide?

However, Fu Liantao and the other person didn't forcefully take Liang Sheng with them, so Qin Chen could only helplessly shake his head.

lie looked at the alchemist behind him, then gritted his teeth and said, "Both seniors, why don't 1 go ask Master Chen right now? If he is unwilling to let you go, 1 hope both of you will leave as soon as possible and not disturb Master Chen's normal life."

After saying this, he went straight to Liang Sheng's cave without waiting for Fu Liantao and his partner's response. Then, he was invited by Liang Sheng to enter and didn't come out for a long time.

At this moment, more and more people gathered outside Liang Sheng's Cave Mansion to watch the excitement. However, Fu Liantao and his partner remained unmoved. As the news spread, even the shops of the Three Sects and Six Schools received the news.

It seemed that Fu Liantao and his partner were really at their wit's end and prepared for a desperate fight. However, this was the helplessness of loose cultivators.

Even if you overcome numerous obstacles and reach the Qi Cultivation Ninth Layer, in the end, you lose everything just because of a Foundation Establishment Pill.

Although the disciples of the sects cannot guarantee success in their Foundation Establishment when they take the Foundation Establishment Pill, at least they all have the opportunity to obtain the Foundation Establishment Pill.

Therefore, only those with deep blessings have the possibility to see farther scenery on the path of cultivation. Yang Zhaoyu, the manager of Hua Tian Sect, thinks about this, and can't help but look at Zhou Kang and sigh that the Zhou family belongs to such a family with deep blessings.

In the past hundred years, three members of the Zhou family have successfully established the Foundation, an unprecedented situation.

At this time, not only the reasons for the dynasty luck of the mundane world imperial dynasty, the Zhou family's young members have already entered Hua Tian Sect's view because of their talent.

Every one hundred years, accepting the Zhou Family's young members as sect disciples has become a consensus of Hua Tian Sect.

If it weren't for Hua Tian Sect's consideration of internal resource allocation, the number of Zhou Family's young disciples would be even more terrifying.

Thinking of this, Yang Zhaoyu couldn't help but say to Zhou Kang, "Junior Brother Zhou, do you want to return to the secular world to take a look? After all, returning to one's hometown is also a great achievement."

Yang Zhaoyu's subconscious mind left something unsaid. After all, since the last time Upper Green Sect disciples violated the agreement and entered the secular world, which nearly caused a big problem for the Great Zhou Dynasty, the channel to the secular world became more strictly guarded.

Of course, after that incident, the Upper Green Sect has paid a considerable price, not to mention that now they have given the right to stay in the Hundred-Year Market for the next time to Hua Tian Sect, which shows that the struggle among the higher echelons behind the scenes was far from simple.

Besides, as an ordinary disciple dispatched to the market as a manager, they naturally wouldn't be without connections. So, he also knew some inside information.

Thinking of this, Yang Zhaoyu began treating Zhou Kang even more politely, but Zhou Kang remained as polite as before and never overstepped his boundaries.

Now, when Zhou Kang heard Yang Zhaoyu's kind intention, he shook his head, "Thank you for your kind intentions, but after all, there is a barrier between the immortal and mortal world, and I'd better stick to the rules."

If he returned to the secular world at this time, it might not necessarily be a good thing for the Great Zhou Royal family. After all, it was better to let the secular world remain unclear about the Zhou family's bloodline situation in the cultivation world and maintain a careful and cautious attitude.

However, at this moment, he was also very interested in the excitement of the alchemists in the market because he felt a sense of foreboding about the matter due to his bloodline abilities.

Although the disciples of other sects looked at this situation as a joke, for some reason, Zhou Kang felt that this matter might not end so easily..

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However, at this moment, he had no other thoughts. He wished to quietly observe how the situation would develop without getting involved.

On the other hand, Liang Sheng felt helpless in his Cave Mansion at this moment. His plan was not progressing, and now there were other troubles that made him feel helpless.

He hadn't expected that Fu Liantao and his partner, whose lifespans were about to end, would really become so desperate that they lost their dignity.

As for this, Liang Sheng naturally felt annoyed. He hadn't even found the recipe for his Golden Core Pill, so how could he care about these trivial matters?

Qin Chen was sitting opposite him at this time, softly advising, "Master Chen, we actually need to think carefully about this matter. Thank you for your care during this time. Under your guidance, our alchemy skills have improved, and we will definitely stand behind you.

However, we are ultimately Loose Cultivators. Although being an alchemist seems superior, we are not disciples of a sect after all.

In front of sect disciples, we are nothing more than side door left road. Otherwise, why would Fu Liantao and his partner dare to block the entrance to Master Chen's cave?"

However, at this moment, Qin Chen's words made a flash of inspiration in Liang Sheng's mind. It seemed that he had made a mistake in all his previous plans.

At this moment, Liang Sheng's mind was filled with four words: side door left road!

In his previous actions, he had been cautious and meticulous, hiding in the market with Chen Sheng's identity.

Such actions, along with his planning, would allow him to gain prestige among Loose Cultivators. However, in the end, Loose Cultivators would ultimately fall short in the face of sects.

The class distinction in this world is so obvious, and even trying to get a Golden Yuan Pill among Loose Cultivators seems nearly impossible in his current situation.

He had previously underestimated the matter, and the ability for Loose Cultivators to possess the Foundation Establishment Pill recipe was because they still had a chance to succeed in establishing their foundations.

But in the many years of the market's history, has there ever been a Loose Cultivator who became a Golden Core Daoist?

Not even one!

At this moment, Liang Sheng couldn't help but mock himself. He had grown accustomed to being cautious and ensuring his own safety first, entirely unwilling to involve himself with sect forces.

But he had forgotten one fact: The strongest Loose Cultivator would probably only be able to obtain Spiritual Pills like the Foundation Establishment Pill, and everything else would be extremely difficult.

The Three Sects and Six Orders are not good people. How could they allow a Golden Core Daoist to emerge among Loose Cultivators? Such a cultivator could already establish a sect and create a small order.

When Liang Sheng realized this, his face couldn't help but change. Qin Chen also felt that something was wrong at this time and couldn't help but ask softly, "Master Chen?"

Liang Sheng saw his worried look and shook his hands continuously, indicating that he was thinking and there was nothing unexpected.

If it hadn't been for today's event, Liang Sheng might have wasted a long time before realizing this problem.

He still lacked deep roots and a broad perspective in the end. However, luckily, he had unlimited time to revise his plans, and time was his greatest confidence.

In any case, although there was a deviation in this plan, at least the main plan had no problems. It had made him famous and gave him confidence to change the following plan directly.

Fortunately, the trouble Fu Liantao and his partner caused today also provided him with an opportunity to make up for the shortcomings of his previous plan.

Liang Sheng then thought through all the situations in his mind. Once he was sure that his life was absolutely safe, he finally figured out the next compensation plan.

In the end, Loose Cultivators cannot satisfy his desires. If he wants to get the Golden Yuan Pill recipe through them, it's most likely impossible.

Today's incident is also a blessing in disguise, allowing him to revise his plan. His extremely poor qualifications at the Qi Cultivation Fivefold level have now become his best protective charm.

With this in mind, Liang Sheng no longer hesitated and finally opened the cave gate. Qin Chen didn't know his current thoughts and hurriedly followed him out.

Seeing Liang Sheng appear, Fu Liantao and his partner couldn't help but show a flash of joy in their eyes, secretly thinking that they were not afraid of his refusal, but they were afraid of him ignoring them.

"Daoist Chen..."

Just as Fu Liantao was about to greet him, Liang Sheng didn't even look at him and went straight out.

Fu Liantao and his partner's faces didn't look good, but at this time, they had no choice but to restrain their tempers and hurry after him.

Liang Sheng walked up to the alchemist, nodded in agreement, then, without caring about the surprised gazes of the others, he went straight ahead.

Hmm?

Where is Chen Sheng going?

Why isn't he responding to Fu Liantao and his partner?

Although they had doubts in their hearts, the others didn't dare to ask at this time. Nevertheless, they didn't want to leave at this time either, so they closely followed Liang Sheng.

In a short while, they arrived at the center of the market and immediately saw Hua Tian Sect's store. Without any hesitation, Liang Sheng stepped in.

At this moment, Manager Yang and Zhou Kang were drinking tea in the shop's backyard. The others were already used to this, since Zhou Kang was not an ordinary disciple, and nobody dared to say anything.

But just then, there was a sudden commotion outside Hua Tian Sect's store, and Yang Zhaoyu couldn't help but feel unhappy. Who would dare to cause trouble in front of Hua Tian Sect's store?

Feeling slightly angry, he headed for the shop's front yard, but as soon as he reached the entrance, he saw a Loose Cultivator saluting him.

"Manager Yang, I, Chen Sheng, a humble Daoist, wish to join Hua Tian Sect's store and become an Outer Disciple Guest Elder Alchemist at the store.. I wonder what the requirements are?"

Chapter 177: Going with the flow, have we been organized too!?

Ah?

Upon hearing this, Yang Zhaoyu couldn't help but be stupefied. Was there such a good thing?

It was said earlier that the Three Sects and Six Orders also wanted to recruit Liang Sheng, but they couldn't offer any conditions to do so because Liang Sheng's situation was unique.

But Yang Zhaoyu never expected such a good thing now. Even if Liang Sheng couldn't refine medium-high-grade elixirs with his current cultivation level, he knew that the other party had many amazing pill refining techniques. These could be demonstrated to other loose cultivation alchemists for guidance.

He was like a living pill refining technique manual. Now that he had actively come to join them, it was like a huge profit.

Such a good thing, he'd be glad to have it happen a few more times. At this point, he couldn't help but be somewhat incredulous, "Daoist Chen, are you joking? I don't mean to offend you, but we don't have any good conditions to recruit you."

Yang Zhaoyu cautiously probed with this statement, but Liang Sheng's response was firm and decisive.

"Manager Yang, be at ease. I, a mere Qi Cultivation Fivefold alchemist, don't need any special treatment. Just follow the established rules for the shop," "Alright!"

Hearing this, Yang Zhaoyu agreed directly and then took out a jade slip from his hand without caring about other people's astonished looks.

"Daoist Chen, these are the conditions for guest alchemists of our Hua Tian Sect. If you still wish to become an Outer Disciple alchemist of our Hua Tian Sect's store after reading it, you can make your Heavenly Dao oath."

Liang Sheng glanced at it briefly and put his worries aside. After all, the Heavenly Dao oath was made by Chen Sheng – what did that have to do with him, Liang Sheng?

Even if it did matter, a mere 200 years of life was something he didn't care about!

"I, a poor Daoist Chen Sheng, hereby make an oath to the Heavenly Dao. From now on, I will take on the identity of a guest alchemist of the Hua Tian Sect's Outer Disciple store in the market, following and abiding by the agreement in this jade slip. If I break my promise, I am willing to lose 200 years of my lifespan."



“Good,” said Yang Zhaoyu, excited. “Daoist Chen, from today onwards, you are an alchemist Guest Elder of our Hua Tian Sect’s Outer Disciple store.”

After finishing, he turned his gaze towards the door, particularly staring at Fu Liantao and his partner. He couldn’t think of any other reason for Chen Sheng’s sudden decision to join them except for Fu Liantao and his partner’s

involvement.

“Daoist Chen, is there anything you need our help with? We are already family, so don’t worry.”

Upon hearing this, Liang Sheng took a deep breath and pretended to be very annoyed, “Manager Yang, please help me persuade Daoist Fu and his partner. I really don’t want to get involved in their affairs.

In this life, my cultivation is hopeless. I just want to refine pills in peace and hope they will not bother my study of pill techniques anymore.”

“Alright, don’t worry Daoist. Leave everything to us.”

After finishing, Yang Zhaoyu walked in front of Fu Liantao and the other, politely saying, “Fellow Daoists, can you give me some face?”

At this point, Fu Liantao dared not say anything more. He never thought that Liang Sheng would be so hard-hearted, preferring to suffer losses himself rather than help him refine pills. In this place, how could they dare to cause trouble? They could only leave helplessly.

At this moment, they felt a bit down. Was the hope of reaching Foundation Establishment really gone for them? The other alchemists were also somewhat at a loss – how did things suddenly develop to this point?

Liang Sheng spoke a few more words with Yang Zhaoyu, clarifying that he needed to take care of some mundane matters today but would return immediately afterwards to fulfill his duties as a guest alchemist.

Yang Zhaoyu certainly wouldn't mind. In the market, who would dare to mess with them? So he even warmly instructed Liang Sheng to take care of his business first and not to worry about this matter.

When Liang Sheng returned to his cave mansion with the alchemists, the atmosphere in the entire market was somewhat strange for a short while.

The managers of the other stores of the Three Sects and Six Orders were also somewhat puzzled – why did he suddenly choose the Hua Tian Sect's store?

It was too sudden.

If they had known this, as long as there was no price to pay for recruiting the other party, why wouldn't they have invited him?

This Chen Sheng really was something – if it was going to be like this, he could have just said so earlier. Today, he joined whichever store he set his sights on first, which was truly annoying.

At this moment, in the backyard of the Upper Green Sect's store, there seemed to be a roar, followed by new rumors in the market that the Upper Green Sect manager had gone to the administration office to discuss with Yao Mu whether they should swap the locations of the stores of the Three Sects and Six Orders.

Of course, the loose cultivators didn't know if it was true or not. As for Yang Zhaoyu, at this moment, he was grinning from ear to ear. Maybe if this matter spread back to the sect, it would make the higher-ups of the sect happy.

It was a deal where they didn't lose anything – a steady profit!

A huge profit!

And that night, loose cultivation alchemist Chen Sheng resolved his personal affairs and directly moved into the Hua Tian Sect's store.

That night, Yang Zhaoyu even held a small welcoming ceremony, with the store inside and out filled with laughter and joy.

Liang Sheng couldn't help but tease himself – did this count as gaining an extra layer of skin?

Had he been enlisted for the first time in this life!?

Chapter 178: Kidnapping Chen Sheng, Mantis catching the Cicada

Market.

One month had passed since Liang Sheng had changed his plans. At this point, he had transitioned from a loose cultivation alchemist to a guest alchemist at an outer store of Hua Tian Sect's Market.

Name: Liang Sheng

Age: 567

Talent: Innocent Foolishness (Top grade)

Techniques: Upper Pure Immortal Scripture (10th Layer), Twenty Life-Nurturing Techniques (19th Layer), Nail-Head Seven Arrows Technique (Curse)

Realm: Early Foundation Establishment Stage

Lifespan: 21164

While Liang Sheng's cultivation level remained the same without any improvements, he was not overwhelmed by any urgency. His heart was more at peace due to the adjustment of his previous plans.

Considering his current identity as Chen Sheng, he had several decades to strategize. If he were fortunate enough, he might receive information about the Golden Yuan Pill Formula.

Even if his luck was not that great, it would not matter. At the very least, he had managed to gain some valuable experience that would provide a better basis for implementing his next plan.

For Liang Sheng, time was never a problem, just as he was never worried about cultivation bottlenecks. His only key to breaking through to the Jin Dan Stage was the Golden Core.

As for Fu Liantao and his partner, after their failed attempt to enlist the help of Liang Sheng, they could only accept their reality. Wang Kuo had no choice but to refine pills himself, but the result was transparent.

Ultimately, the attempt to refine the Foundation Establishment Pill had failed.

Fortunately, after the failed attempt of enlisting Liang's help, Fu Liantao and the others had prepared themselves mentally for this defeat.

They attributed their failure to their poor luck and personally escorted Wang Kuo back. Wang Kuo specifically visited Liang Sheng to express his regret, to which Liang Sheng naturally responded that all was well.

However, upon returning, Wang Kuo felt out of place among the group of alchemists. He wondered why, despite his repeated recommendations, Liang Sheng had been forced to join the sect.

Due to this, Liang Sheng, who was no longer independent, could not meet them frequently for discussions like before.

Therefore, after staying in the market for a few days, Wang Kuo sadly left the Market a month ago.

It is said that he went to another market in the area under the jurisdiction of the Three Sects and Six Orders to start anew. Since then, there has been no news of Wang Kuo.

Market, Hua Tian Sect's store.

At this point in time, Liang Sheng was in the process of refining Qi Refining Pills. This was a part of the contract he had signed with Hua Tian Sect as a guest elder. Of course, at this time, he was not using his full strength to refine the pills.

Shortly after, a fragrant aroma filled the air. Yang Zhaoyu, who had been sitting not far away, couldn't help but stand up, revealing a bright smile on his face.

With just a whiff of the pill fragrance, he knew that these must be Qi Refining Pills of at least middle grade quality. Chen Sheng, renowned in the market as a pill maniac, truly had an amazing alchemy skill!

These were already the third batch of Qi Refining Pills that Liang Sheng had refined in the last month. With this, Liang Sheng's performance could be considered perfect.

A batch of high grade, two batches of middle grade, his performance was incredibly stable.

Yang Zhaoyu was just about to bring Liang Sheng a cup of tea with a smile on his face, especially since Liang Sheng had already exceeded the tasks he had assigned for the month.

However, someone else had already taken the initiative. Seeing this, he didn't persist but he had no other thoughts because this person was Zhou Kang.

At this point, Liang Sheng was looking at Zhou Kang, who was coming over with a smile. He couldn't help but marvel at the wonders of fate and cause-effect in the world. Suddenly, a flash of inspiration popped into his head, which excited him greatly. However, when he tried to grab onto that fleeting feeling, he couldn't quite capture it, which left him with a sense of regret.

"Alchemist Chen?"

Zhou Kang's smiling face froze, seeing Liang Sheng's reaction, he was taken aback. He had just come over to say hello, why the unusual response?

Luckily, Liang Sheng soon regained his composure and smiled, "Brother Zhou, is there something you need?"

Zhou Kang quickly shook his head, "Nothing in particular. I just wanted to come over and have a chat with Daoist Chen."

For some reason, Zhou Kang felt that Chen Sheng was extraordinary. Under the effects of the Auspicious Ability to Avoid Evil, he couldn't help but want to get closer to Chen Sheng.

Although he was only at the Qi Cultivation 8th Layer State, compared to Chen Sheng's Qi Cultivation Fivefold, he was already out of reach.

Additionally, given his status as a sect disciple, he was curious as to why he would still consider Chen Sheng as a sign of great fortune?

This was confusing for him but naturally, Zhou Kang would not ignore such feelings. The Zhou Family's disciples would never question their instincts, otherwise, how would he have smoothly reached the Qi Cultivation 8th Layer State?

Not to mention the three clan members who had successfully reached the Foundation Establishment stage. They too had discussed privately that their fortune was largely due to their bloodline abilities which allowed them to encounter opportunities and establish a successful foundation.

This bloodline ability was their fortune in disguise.

After hearing Zhou Kang's suggestion for a chat, Liang Sheng naturally would not refuse. After observing for a month, he clearly understood Zhou Kang's status in the Hua Tian Sect's store.

Since Zhou Kang was fond of him, why would he want to dismiss Zhou's advances? After all, Liang Sheng intended to establish a good relationship with everyone in the store, from top to bottom.

After all, he had only one goal, and that was to acquire the Golden Yuan Pill formula.

Just then, an alchemist from the sect in charge of the store ran over, incessantly saying, "Daoist Chen, could you take a look at where I went wrong? The furnace that I was using to refine the spiritual pills exploded again."

As soon as the words fell, the man ran in. It was only then that he noticed Zhou Kang there and hurriedly made a respectful bow. Being a disciple of the sect, he naturally treated Zhou Kang with utmost respect..

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Catches the Cicada

Zhou Family disciples have special status.

Zhou Kang was not too surprised in his heart. Although it was only a little over a month, Liang Sheng had convinced the alchemist in the shop, which showed that the other party indeed had alchemy skills and was worthy of his desire to get close to.

At this time, Liang Sheng looked at Zhou Kang apologetically, his eyes indicating that he wanted to go over and take a look. Zhou Kang immediately let him go, not caring about himself, and feeling free to do so.

Watching Liang Sheng leave with the Alchemist, Zhou Kang's eyes were full of brilliance, wondering when the other party would be able to help him.

Just then, Yang Zhaoyu's voice came from behind him, "Chen Sheng becoming an Alchemist Guest Elder in the shop is really a great deal. Speaking of which, we have to thank Fu Liantao and his partner Ban Zhihe. If it weren't for them, how could Chen Sheng have achieved this?"

Upon hearing this, Zhou Kang nodded without speaking, and Yang Zhaoyu continued.

“However, in this month, we can see that the other party is indeed a Pill Maniac. Otherwise, why would he have exchanged all his Guest Elder shares for the spiritual grass needed to refine True Yuan Pills? It’s just a pity that he finally failed in the refining process.

But 1 asked the Sect’s alchemists in our shop, and they all said that it wasn’t a problem with Chen Sheng’s alchemy skills, but rather that the other party’s cultivation level was not enough. Otherwise, Chen Sheng might have succeeded in refining True Yuan Pills.”

“Oh?”

Zhou Kang was not aware of this matter. Yang Zhaoyu could not help but laugh: “Don’t doubt that you heard it wrong. If Chen Sheng can reach the Qi Cultivation Eighth Layer, he may be able to refine True Yuan Pills. If he reaches the Qi Cultivation Ninth Layer, it’s not impossible for him to refine medium-quality True Yuan Pills.

This is actually what our chief alchemist, Junior Brother Wang, said. He also admires and respects Chen Sheng’s alchemy skills.”

“What a pity.”

“Yes, it’s a pity!”

This person’s fate is simply not enough.

However, on the path of cultivation, how many gifted people have missed the view of the cultivation journey because of the word “fate”?

At this time, Zhou Kang looked at Liang Sheng, who had already entered the room of another alchemist, always feeling that the other party might still have other special features, as his intuition would not deceive him.



While Liang Sheng's plan successfully infiltrated the Hua Tian Sect's store, on the other side, something went wrong in the black market outside the Market.

For many years now, the black market has been running steadily, especially since Pei Shiping established his Foundation and the black market became more stable.

However, Pei Shiping also began to pay attention to his image, and from time to time, he only went to the black market once in a while, as Fu Liantao and his partner were in charge, and no problems occurred in the black market.

But this time, by the time the black market opened, all the invited guests brought their own treasured collections to the black market, only to be tragically robbed by Fu Liantao and his partner in the end.

Fortunately, Fu Liantao did not kill anyone, otherwise, many people would have died inexplicably. However, this robbery left everyone somewhat dumbfounded.

They didn't know the true identity of the Black Market Controller and lost all their treasured resources. Though their anger went through the roof, they didn't know where to vent it.

This was the black market after all; they couldn't ask the Three Sects and Six Orders for justice. In this situation, they suddenly realized that they couldn't do anything.

While the situation in the black market was reported to Pei Shiliang that night, his face turned bad at the time, and without any hesitation, he directly reported the situation to Pei Shiping.

"Fu Liantao and Ban Zhihe have great courage."

Pei Shiping's face was not very good either. He had thought that the black market might have an accident, but he just didn't expect Fu Liantao and his partner to start so early, after all, they still had a few good years to live.

"Immediately send someone to keep an eye on the loose cultivators' whereabouts in the Market. As soon as Fu Liantao and his partner appear, come and find me."

“Yes, Ancestor.”

At this moment, Liang Sheng was unaware of what had happened in the black market and was proceeding with his plan according to his own rhythm.

With his reputation as a Pill Maniac, he had completely won over the Hua Tian Sect’s alchemists in the shop over the past month.

After all, they were just Alchemists dispatched outside; their alchemy skills might be a bit stronger than those of the loose cultivators, but how much stronger could they be?

Otherwise, why would they be sent to the shop in the Market?

Yang Zhaoyu was very satisfied with Liang Sheng’s performance during this period, as the Qi Refining Pills he refined were very profitable.

Without a single failure in alchemy, he couldn’t help but feel more pity that Liang Sheng’s cultivation aptitude was too poor.

Over the past month, he had watched the other party consume Qi Refining Pills like candy, but unfortunately, the cultivation speed was extremely slow. With the other party’s ability to reach the Qi Cultivation Fifth Realm, it was already a great feat for an alchemist.

If it weren’t for his alchemy skills, he would probably struggle to reach the Third Layer of Qi Cultivation at this moment. If only his aptitude was better, he would have made a greater effort to turn him into an official disciple of the Hua Tian Sect.

Of course, with his status, he could only make Liang Sheng become an Outer Sect Disciple, but the result was ultimately a pity.

At this moment, Liang Sheng was preparing to leave the shop. After saying goodbye to Yang Zhaoyu, he headed in the direction of the Cave Mansion.

However, as soon as he stepped out of the shop, he noticed something strange.

Hmm?

Is someone following me?

It seemed that the other party had ill intentions; otherwise, why would they disguise themselves? If it weren't for Liang Sheng's Foundation Establishment Realm cultivation level, he might have been fooled by the other party's concealment.

Concealment Talisman!

Fu Liantao, Ban Zhihe!

Liang Sheng immediately figured out the other party's identity and what methods they used, but he was not sure how they would launch their attack.

After all, he was in the Market. However, the next moment he understood what the other party wanted to do, because the two had already approached him.. How could he, a "Qi Cultivation Fifth Realm", possibly escape them?

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At the next moment, Fu Liantao's voice rang in his ear, "Don't talk, I have reached a dead end. If you don't want to die, cooperate with us, or you will definitely die. Anyway, my time on earth is limited."

Liang Sheng felt extremely helpless, wondering why so many troubles had befallen him. Despite his reluctance, he could only cooperate at this point. He lowered his head and was escorted out of the market by the two of them.

Although Chen Sheng's fame had already spread throughout the market, many people didn't pay attention to Liang Sheng, who walked out of the market with his head down, escorted by Fu Liantao and his partner.

And so, Liang Sheng was taken out of the market in this way, becoming more and more helpless.

Why were there more and more people?

It was because someone was following them from behind. It was none other than Pei Shiping, who had personally taken action after getting the news.

Pei Shiliang had been keeping an eye on the market all this time, and Fu Liantao had been discovered by Pei Family's secret agents as soon as they appeared in the market.

As Pei Shiliang reported the situation, he couldn't help but ask, "Ancestor, now that Chen Sheng has been abducted by them, should we inform the Hua Tian Sect?"

"There's no need. Those two old fellows have a lot of things on them. If we involve the Hua Tian Sect, I'm afraid we won't even be able to taste the soup.

Moreover, the black market's affairs can't be leaked. Even if the Three Sects and Six Orders have some suspicions, without evidence, they won't care too much.

So, I'm going to take action personally. But, for now, everything has to remain the way it was. We can't startle the snake in the grass. When I'm sure all the things are in place, I'll consider when to make a move.

But I don't know what preparations those two old guys have made, so I might not be back for a while. You have to take care of the family affairs in the meantime."

"Rest assured, Ancestor, everything at home will be fine."

After that, the hidden agents from the Pei Family who had been tracking them didn't leave the market, acting as if they knew nothing, while Pei Shiping followed them quietly.

Liang Sheng also breathed a sigh of relief at that moment, as none of the people from the Three Sects and Six Orders had come after them, which was undoubtedly good news for him.

At this moment, Fu Liantao and his partner didn't care much about Liang Sheng, who was just a Qi Cultivation Fivefold rookie. After leaving the market, the two of them visibly relaxed.

So, while they were off guard, Liang Sheng activated the one thousand stacked Vajra Talismans on his body, to which they had no reaction.

They had no idea who they had captured. Liang Sheng's defensive measures on himself were far from just the Vajra Talisman.

After an unknown number of turns, Fu Liantao finally stopped at a cliff.

"Master Chen!"

Hmm?

Wang Kuo?

The moment Liang Sheng saw Wang Kuo, he understood what was going on.

It seemed that Fu Liantao and his partner hadn't given up yet. As it turned out, Wang Kuo said that he had originally gone to another market but was found by Fu Liantao and his partner.

Wang Kuo had been too relaxed, thinking that since Fu Liantao had let him go, they wouldn't come after him again. Little did he know that they had only released a smokescreen and had tampered with him all along.

Fu Liantao and his partner had just been putting on a show earlier, aiming for the final deal in the black market. Moreover, they had already exchanged all their resources in another market where Wang Kuo was located.

They got ten sets of materials for Foundation Establishment Pills.

This showed that their actions were now nothing less than a last-ditch effort.

“Daoist Chen, sorry for the inconvenience.”

As he spoke, Fu Liantao stared intently at Liang Sheng, who didn’t resist and remained calm.

Pei Shiping, on the other hand, hid behind them. As a fellow Foundation Establishment Stage Cultivator, Liang Sheng was naturally even more cautious. However, Pei Shiping thought he was the mantis catching the cicada, not knowing that Liang Sheng was actually the oriole coveting from behind.

Seeing Liang Sheng behaving so sensibly, Fu Liantao was delighted but also somewhat regretful. If they had known, it would have been better to tie him up directly in the first place, instead of causing such a big stir.

Just when they thought they could refine pills smoothly, Liang Sheng suddenly asked, “Daoist Wang, do you know why my alchemy skills are better than all of yours?”

Wang Kuo nodded his head in admiration, “Because you are obsessed with refining pills, even if it’s a medium or high-grade spiritual pill that’s impossible to refine, you will never give up and will never be shaken in your heart by failure.”

“Actually, that’s only part of the reason. No one knows that there’s another reason for my excellent alchemy skills, which has to do with my nose.”

“Your nose?”

“Yes, I can smell the condition of the Spiritual Grass during the pill refining process. I can grasp even the slightest differences. Just like right now, I can smell the scents of five people.”

“Five people’s scents?”

Immediately after, Fu Liantao and his partner realized what was going on. They quickly stood up and scanned the surroundings. The next moment, a burst of laughter rang out.

“Daoist Chen is truly a Pill Maniac, what a remarkable ability.”

Fu Liantao and his partner changed their expressions as soon as they heard the laughter and took a defensive stance right away.

“Pei Shiping!”