

## Doctor 1491

### Chapter 1491: Astonishing Everyone

Liuyinghong said "I dare not," but after taking the jade bottle, she immediately opened it and poured out a Spirit Pill into her palm for examination.

"It's... it's a Holy Grade mid-level Creation Pill! Thank you, Senior Fang! Thank you so much, Senior Fang!"

As Liuyinghong looked at the Spirit Pill in her palm, feeling the rich spiritual energy it emitted, her excitement carried a tremble in her voice, while internally, she couldn't help but marvel. Senior Fang created this bottle of Spirit Pills using just a single set of ingredients, doesn't this mean his pill refining success rate is an astonishing ten out of ten?

Of course, Fang Bai only refined one bottle of Spirit Pills, there might be a stroke of luck involved, and we can't judge his skill just yet, but if he manages to maintain a fifty percent success rate, he can place himself among the top-tier alchemists.

The other female disciples from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion looked at the Creation Pill in Liuyinghong's hand with both envy and excitement and, glancing at the stone house, their gaze carried a hint of admiration.

In the entire Flaming Sun City, only a handful of alchemists could refine Holy Grade mid-level Spirit Pills, and only Fang Bai could complete it within two hours.

As such, in the eyes of these female disciples from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, Fang Bai appears extremely outstanding and brilliantly radiant.

The alchemists from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, although they can also refine Holy Grade mid-level Spirit Pills, are far inferior in terms of refining time and success rate compared to Fang Bai, who outshines them.

What's more, Fang Bai is also an Artifact Refiner?

With such alchemical skills, how lacking could his artifact refining skills be?

Liuyinghong stowed away the jade bottle containing ten Holy Grade mid-level Creation Pills and once again gazed toward the stone house where Fang Bai resided, feeling a sudden surge of inspiration.

Currently, the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion is in turmoil due to the fall of Elder Yang Dong, leaving Pavilion Master Mu Enze both sorrowful and enraged. If she could introduce Senior Fang to Pavilion Master Mu, as a replacement for Elder Yang's position within the pavilion, wouldn't that be a great achievement?

Thinking of this, Liuyinghong's eyes shone brightly, growing even more excited.

The few companions beside Liuyinghong noticed her abnormal expression but did not venture to guess what she might be thinking, instead hastening to pass their ingredients or materials to Han Xiangtian to give to Senior Fang within the stone house.

They all wished ardently for their luck to be as good as Senior Sister Liu's, hoping Senior Fang could refine a Spirit Pill or upgrade a Spiritual Artifact using just one set of ingredients or materials.

"Junior is Yang Caiyun, an External Courtyard disciple of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion. Here are two pieces of Green Wood Marrow. Junior wishes to ask Senior Fang to upgrade this Jade Bamboo Sword to a Holy Grade mid-level Spiritual Artifact. I wonder if it's possible?"

A female disciple from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion hurried ahead of the other companions, handing over two pieces of Green Wood Marrow to Han Xiangtian and asking cautiously.

Though Fang Bai is also an Artifact Refiner, upgrading a Spiritual Artifact is generally more difficult than refining a Spirit Pill. The female disciple of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion spent years of effort to acquire these two small pieces of Green Wood Marrow, wishing to upgrade her Jade Bamboo Sword to enhance her own combat power.

If the upgrade fails and the Green Wood Marrow is wasted, she would be heartbroken.

If it weren't for Fang Bai's recent successful Spirit Pill refining, boosting her great confidence, she might not have readily taken out the two pieces of Green Wood Marrow.

"Senior Fang said it's okay. Please wait patiently here for two hours, miss."

Receiving Fang Bai's message, Han Xiangtian took the Jade Bamboo Sword and two pieces of Green Wood Marrow from the female disciple and brought them into the stone house where Fang Bai was residing.

These two pieces of Green Wood Marrow, although Holy Grade mid-level materials, are unfortunately too few to directly forge a wood attribute Spiritual Artifact but are more than sufficient for upgrading a Spiritual Artifact.

Holy Grade mid-level artifact refining materials naturally do not appeal to the current Fang Bai, but the value of artifact refining materials is typically higher than Spirit Pills of the same grade, allowing for more cultivation resources in exchange, thus Fang Bai was quite pleased upon receiving the two pieces of Green Wood Marrow.

He casually threw one piece of Green Wood Marrow into his own Space Ring and chipped off a small portion from the other to upgrade the Jade Bamboo Sword, keeping the remainder for himself.

Two hours later, under the tense and hopeful gaze of the Jade Bamboo Sword's owner, the female disciple from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, the stone house door opened. Han Xiangtian emerged holding the Jade Bamboo Sword with both hands and handed it to her.

Upon receiving the Jade Bamboo Sword, the female disciple once again sprayed essence blood onto the sword body and sent a wisp of Divine Sense into it, instantly feeling a unison between herself and the sword.

"Oh, my Jade Bamboo Sword, it has really been successfully upgraded!"

Holding the Jade Bamboo Sword, the female disciple from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion sensed a power vastly greater than before emanating from within, causing her to exclaim excitedly.

Though she was originally an External Courtyard disciple from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion with a Foundation Establishment mid-level cultivation, now that the Jade Bamboo Sword has been upgraded from a Holy Grade low-level to a Holy Grade mid-level Spiritual Artifact, her combat power has increased significantly, allowing her to stand against even opponents with higher Foundation Establishment levels, how could she not be delighted?

Following Liuyinghong's success in refining pills and the female disciple's successful artifact upgrade, the other female disciples from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion completely abandoned their hesitation or observant mindset and rushed to hand their alchemy ingredients or artifact upgrading materials to Han Xiangtian.

Two female disciples from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion even made an extra effort to gain precedence, offering higher remuneration, leading to a fierce dispute.

Ultimately, Senior Sister Liuyinghong intervened, deciding the sequence based on strength, thus calming the dispute.

In any case, Senior Fang's pill and artifact refining only takes two hours, what harm would there be in waiting a bit longer?

While Fang Bai was refining pills and artifacts for the female disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, a dozen of alchemists and artifact refiners were observing all around.

Seeing Fang Bai achieving successful pill and artifact refining for two female disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion within a short period of two hours, their expressions varied from gloomy to extremely gloomy, and their hearts started to panic.

They were initially secretly hoping for Fang Bai to fail in refining pills and artifacts, yet never did they expect Fang Bai's skills to be so formidable.

Though a couple of successful refinement attempts do not precisely represent Fang Bai's true capabilities, the fact that Fang Bai refined Holy Grade mid-level Spirit Pills and upgraded a Holy Grade low-level artifact to mid-level is real.

On these merits alone, Fang Bai is enough to firmly overshadow these low-tier alchemists and pharmacists.

It's foreseeable that from today onward, Fang Bai's name will spread throughout Flaming Sun City, establishing himself as a top-tier alchemist and artifact refiner.

By then, countless Martial Artists will flock to Fang Bai, even powerful sects like the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect will seek to woo and affiliate closely.

Dozens of alchemists and artifact refiners sighed, faces filled with dejection.

They were initially poised to join forces against Fang Bai, the "outsider," yet facing Fang Bai's absolute formidable skills, they became disheartened.

The dozen of alchemists and artifact refiners aren't passionate impulsive youths but rather thick-skinned shrewd individuals, seeing they cannot fight against Fang Bai, they decided to offer their goodwill.

Chapter 1492: Shentu Cheng

At dusk, several female disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion got what they needed and left happily together.

Han Feng'er also left with them.

Before leaving, Han Feng'er and her brother Han Xiangtian exchanged a smile.

The meaning of that smile was understood only by the two of them.

"Senior Fang, we succeeded!"

Watching his sister leave, Han Xiangtian turned and saw Fang Bai coming out of the stone house, looking somewhat exhausted. He met him excitedly and said.

Fang Bai had expected this, smiled faintly, waved his hand, and said, "Go back and rest! We'll be busy tomorrow!"

Liuyinghong, Han Feng'er, and others had already promised to spread word of Fang Bai upon returning to the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion.

The Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion had tens of thousands of disciples, and most were in the internal and external courtyards. Even if Liuyinghong, Han Feng'er, and others brought only one percent, there would still be hundreds. When these hundreds go back and spread the word for Fang Bai, one can imagine how bustling business would be in the coming days.

Once Fang Bai and Han Xiangtian left, the surrounding dozen or so Pill Masters and Artifact Refiners also left, each with their own thoughts.

That evening, at the "Guest Arrival" inn where Fang Bai stayed, a dozen Pill Masters and Artifact Refiners visited with lavish gifts, feeling anxious. After receiving Fang Bai's promise of "no exclusion or suppression," they left with relief on their faces.

That night, the city east area managed by the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion in Flaming Sun City was frequently noisy in streets and inns. Fang Bai extended his Divine Sense, knowing that Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion Master Mu Enze was dispatching the pavilion's high-ranking members everywhere to find the murderer of Elder Yang Dong, whose Soul Lamp had extinguished.

Fang Bai secretly sneered in his heart, thinking if it were another Martial Artist, they might have left a trace of the opponent's aura after the killing, but after he killed Yang Dong, he even refined his Golden Core into a part of his own Chaos Origin Energy, rid himself entirely of his aura, making it impossible for Mu Enze even if he came in person to find any clues.

However, Han Xiangtian, Ren Tianfu, Ren Tianlu, and others who knew of this matter were terrified most of the night, fearing that experts from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion might suddenly raid and attack them.

Luckily, when an elder of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion arrived with some disciples at their residence, they merely checked briefly and left, allowing them to breathe a sigh of relief.

In the latter half of the night, a Martial Artist checking into the "Guest Arrival" inn drew Fang Bai's attention.

The aura of that Martial Artist was very similar to the Nine Heavens Palace Elder Shen Zhenhai, whom Fang Bai had previously killed, evidently from the same Sect as Shen Zhenhai.

Fang Bai released his Divine Sense to secretly monitor the Martial Artist's every move and quickly discovered that he was Shentu Cheng, the current Palace Master of Nine Heavens Palace and Shen Zhenhai's elder brother.

Amusingly, Shentu Cheng came to Flaming Sun City to seek help from Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion's Elder Yang Dong, hoping Yang Dong could use his influence in the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion to help find his brother's killer and avenge him.

"Yang Dong is dead, and the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion is in chaos; who will bother with you?"

Fang Bai secretly sneered.

Initially, Fang Bai did not intend to deal with Shentu Cheng, but he soon realized that during their journey to Flaming Sun City, there had been a conflict with Nine Heavens Palace disciples led by Shen Zhenhai. If Shentu Cheng investigated seriously, it would be easy to find traces pointing to Lingxu Palace disciples, leading to suspicions that Shen Zhenhai's death was related to Lingxu Palace disciples and then provoking Lingxu Palace.

The overall strength of the Nine Heavens Palace was already slightly superior to that of Lingxu Palace, and with Lingxu Palace's Master severely wounded and two elders fallen, they were no match for Nine Heavens Palace. If Nine Heavens Palace launched a massive attack under the pretense of revenge, Lingxu Palace might be unable to resist.

Hence, if the matter of Shen Zhenhai was not settled, it would always remain a hidden danger for Lingxu Palace.

Fang Bai's mind raced, deciding to take out this Shentu Cheng first, thereby causing the leaderless Nine Heavens Palace to fall into chaos and be unable to trouble Lingxu Palace for some time.

Before leaving Lingxu Palace, Fang Bai planned to help its disciples enhance their strength as much as possible, allowing them to surpass formidable opponents like Nine Heavens Palace and Soul Hall comprehensively.

Shentu Cheng did not know that from the moment he checked into the "Guest Arrival" inn, he had already fallen under Fang Bai's surveillance.

When Fang Bai harbored murderous intent, Shentu Cheng, who was meditating in his room, suddenly felt restless and uneasy.

Shentu Cheng had just entered Flaming Sun City when he heard the shocking news of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion Elder Yang Dong's death, leaving him astonished and upset.

It must be known that the superior strength of Nine Heavens Palace compared to Lingxu Palace and Soul Hall was mainly due to Yang Dong's deep ties with Nine Heavens Palace, providing some high-rank Spirit Pills for cultivation.

Yang Dong's death caused Nine Heavens Palace to lose a strong backing, and if Lingxu Palace and Soul Hall learned of this, they would no longer fear Nine Heavens Palace as before.

Shentu Cheng had come to Flaming Sun City intending to ask Yang Dong to mobilize the strength of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion to find his brother Shen Zhenhai's killer. Now that Yang Dong was dead, the matter might not proceed.

Yet Shentu Cheng was unwilling to leave immediately, so he decided to stay temporarily in Flaming Sun City and visit Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion Master Mu Enze with a heavy gift the next day.

Perhaps Mu Enze, in consideration of the gift, would help him with this favor.

But Shentu Cheng never imagined that from the moment he walked into the "Guest Arrival" inn, he would have no chance to leave.

When the restless Shentu Cheng left his room to get some air in the courtyard, he suddenly noticed a figure standing there.

"Who are you?"

Shentu Cheng was shocked, his eyes locked onto the figure as he shouted in a deep voice.

Shentu Cheng was, after all, a Sect Master and a Foundation Establishment perfection expert. The fact that someone could appear silently in his courtyard without him noticing indicated the person was far stronger, understandably frightening him.

"I killed Shen Zhenhai."

The figure slowly turned around, facing Shentu Cheng with a mocking smile on his handsome face.

Shentu Cheng's pupils contracted suddenly, his fists clenched tightly, and fighting intent surged throughout his body as he stepped forward, demanding fiercely, "Why?"

The figure replied, "Because he wanted to kill me, so I killed him! Is that reason enough?"

Shentu Cheng was momentarily speechless.

He knew what kind of temper his younger brother had, always stirring up trouble, relying on his strength and the identity of a Nine Heavens Palace Elder, and liking women excessively, which made it unsurprising he met with such a deadly predicament.

However, Shen Zhenhai was still his younger brother. Having been killed by someone, how could he, as the elder brother, not seek revenge?

Chapter 1493: Explosive

The figure that appeared in the small courtyard of Shentu Cheng was, of course, Fang Bai.

After entering the courtyard, Fang Bai immediately formed a layer of Qi Shield with spiritual energy, isolating the courtyard from the outside world. Thus, no third party could hear any movements occurring within the courtyard.

Fang Bai knew that Nine Heavens Palace and Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion had some connections, and since the "Guest Arrival" inn was located on Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion's territory, he planned to silently and swiftly resolve the situation with Shentu Cheng without alerting the Pavilion's disciples.

So, after a simple exchange of two sentences, Fang Bai made his move.

Shentu Cheng only saw Fang Bai's fist flicker, and the next moment, he was engulfed by an overwhelming flame. The intense pain from the high-temperature burning spread throughout his body, causing him to quickly lose consciousness.

"Can't even withstand one blow of the 'Furious Flame Fist'... Seems like the Palace Master of Nine Heavens Palace is just an empty title!"

Fang Bai glanced at Shentu Cheng, who had fallen to the ground, lifeless and his body reduced to charcoal, and disdainfully smirked.

What he didn't realize was that it wasn't Shentu Cheng's weakness, but rather that Fang Bai's cultivation level had reached such an astonishing realm after achieving Foundation Establishment perfection, that he could compete with Golden Core high-rank experts like the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion Master.

Therefore, a Foundation Establishment perfection expert like Shentu Cheng was not on the same level as Fang Bai.

Even a casual strike from Fang Bai was beyond what Shentu Cheng could withstand, let alone when Fang Bai gave his all to deliver a fatal blow.

After obliterating Shentu Cheng, Fang Bai initially thought of completely destroying his corpse, but after a moment of consideration, he decided to collect it along with the bodies of the Yang Fei and Yang Dong duo.

Since there were connections between Nine Heavens Palace and Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, Shentu Cheng's corpse could indeed be used to create some leverage.

As the master of a sect, Shentu Cheng was bound to have substantial cultivation resources on him. Thus, after his demise, the space ring on his finger naturally became Fang Bai's possession.

From the moment Fang Bai appeared in Shentu Cheng's courtyard to when he left, it only took a matter of moments. Even if there were experts in Flaming Sun City who sensed the abnormal fluctuations in the air here, they wouldn't have time to find out what happened.

Shentu Cheng's sudden disappearance did not draw anyone's attention. It wasn't until a few days later, when a runner from the "Guest Arrival" inn came to urge payment for the room that they discovered the guest had vanished without a trace.

Early the next morning, Fang Bai and Han Xiangtian came to the martial artists trading market's stall as they did yesterday.

Although Han Xiangtian had anticipated that many martial artists would come seeking Senior Fang's alchemy and artifact refining services today, he was still taken aback by the scene before him.

No matter where, in any martial artists trading market, wherever there are Alchemists or Artifact Refiners, martial artists are always drawn. Usually, the area around Fang Bai's stall was bustling with martial artists, all eager for business, each alchemist and artifact refiner busy and in demand.

But today, the flow of martial artists in this area was several times higher than usual, especially around Fang Bai's stall, it was densely packed to the point of being impenetrable, appearing as a sea of black heads.

Roughly speaking, there were actually several thousand martial artists gathered around Fang Bai's stall.

Not only was Han Xiangtian shocked, but even the other alchemists and artifact refiners at the stalls were surprised when they arrived early at the martial artists trading market and saw thousands of martial artists waiting. They immediately felt a mix of envy, jealousy, and admiration.

They realized that Fang Bai's successful alchemy and artifact refining yesterday had already spread through a few female disciples of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, creating a word-of-mouth effect, leading to today's grand gathering.

Of these thousands of martial artists, the vast majority were disciples from both the internal and external courtyards of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion. A small portion had the serendipity of witnessing Fang Bai's alchemical and artifact refining processes yesterday and were so impressed that they called their friends to come today.

"It's only the second day since the stall has been opened, and already so many martial artists have come for alchemy and artifact refining. Just imagine the earnings over time!"

Han Xiangtian looked at the thousands of martial artists before him, as if seeing piles of cultivation resources, and was almost jumping with excitement.

"Xiangtian, tell these people that from today on, I'll only be taking orders for mid-grade Holy Grade Spirit Pills or Spiritual Artifacts. For lower-level spiritual artifacts, they should look for other alchemists and artifact refiners."

After Fang Bai conveyed this message to Han Xiangtian, he walked midair, as if ascending an invisible Heavenly Ladder, over thousands of martial artists' heads, landing behind the stall, and then entered the stone chamber designated for alchemy and artifact refining.

"Look, that's Senior Fang!"

"Senior Fang, this junior has come admiring your name and wishes to request your help in refining a bottle of mid-grade Holy Grade Spirit Pill!"

"This junior wishes to upgrade this low-grade Holy Grade Spiritual Artifact to a mid-grade Holy Grade one!"

"I have a Yellow Core Stone here and wish to forge an earth-element mid-grade Holy Grade Spiritual Artifact. Is that possible?"

"Senior Fang..."

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The thousands of martial artists gathered in front of the stall seemed aware that this young martial artist in white, like snow, was the renowned Fang Bai, who was both an Alchemist and an Artifact Refiner. Seeing him appear, they couldn't help but become emotionally stirred, shouting loudly and squeezing forward.

Like Fang Bai, Han Xiangtian walked over their heads, floated to the front, then extended his arms horizontally to block them, and said loudly, "Everyone, line up and don't be chaotic! Senior Fang specially instructed me just now to tell you that from today, he only crafts mid-grade Holy Grade Spirit Pills or Spiritual Artifacts. For anything else, please seek someone else!"

As soon as Han Xiangtian finished speaking, the crowd became agitated. Some martial artists applauded, while others shouted dissatisfaction.

Meanwhile, the dozen or so alchemists and artifact refiners with sparse business, who were standing at their stalls watching helplessly towards Fang Bai's direction, heard these words and became excited. Their envy, jealousy, and hatred towards Fang Bai turned into goodwill.

"I thought Fang Bai was hogging all the business, leaving us with no room to survive. Now it seems, he's not narrow-minded. Not only hasn't our business been taken away, but because of Fang Bai's presence, it will actually improve! Hmm, this person is quite righteous!"

The dozen or so alchemists and artifact refiners, who had prepared to join forces to stand against Fang Bai, now realized that Fang Bai was snagging Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect's business, not threatening theirs. This would instead bring more martial artist traffic to them, quite beneficial. How could they not be thrilled?

If in the future, at this martial artists trading market, everyone operates without interference, it would indeed be a good thing to live in harmony. Perhaps they might even become friends, gathering together leisurely to discuss and exchange insights on alchemy and artifact refining, wouldn't that be splendid?

Seeing the thousands of martial artists on Fang Bai's side disperse after Han Xiangtian's words, some heading to their stalls, the dozen or so alchemists and artifact refiners were overjoyed, immediately retreating to their alchemy and artifact refining chambers, ready to welcome the incoming business.

On Fang Bai's side, although two-thirds of the martial artists left after Han Xiangtian's words, one-third remained, intending to have Fang Bai craft mid-grade Holy Grade Spirit Pills and Artifacts.

Just these martial artists' commissions alone were enough to keep Fang Bai busy for several days.

Of course, after completing these tasks, the cultivation resources Fang Bai accumulated would be substantial, and Han Xiangtian would also receive a significant share, something he could scarcely imagine before.

#### Chapter 1494: Rising Turbulence

In the following two days, the name Fang Bai spread throughout Flaming Sun City, causing a great sensation among millions of martial artists.

Almost every martial artist in Flaming Sun City learned about a young martial artist at the largest Martial Artists Trading Market in the city, whose cultivation level had reached the perfection of Foundation Establishment. He excelled in alchemy and artifact refining, with a remarkable success rate exceeding fifty percent, and his fees were much lower than those of other alchemists and artifact refiners of the same level.

Some martial artists who had their Spiritual Artifacts refined or upgraded by Fang Bai highly praised him, calling him the "Number One Alchemist and Artifact Refiner in Flaming Sun City."

In fact, those martial artists were unaware that Fang Bai intentionally held back his skills to avoid being too extraordinary, occasionally making deliberate "mistakes" during alchemy and artifact refining. Otherwise, his success rate would have been ten out of ten.

After Fang Bai's fame skyrocketed in Flaming Sun City, a large number of martial artists came to meet him every day. Some came directly to seek his alchemy and artifact refining services, while others wanted to observe his abilities before making a decision.

In short, the name "Fang Bai" became hugely popular in Flaming Sun City, drawing the attention of the two major powers, the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect.

The high-ranking members of both the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect came to extend an olive branch to Fang Bai, hoping to invite him to reside in their sect and offering him the treatment befitting an elder.

Fang Bai neither accepted nor declined the invitations from the two sects, only saying he would carefully consider it before making a decision.

The Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion had been facing a series of unfortunate events recently, with several core disciples and elders falling, especially the death of Yang Dong, who was best at alchemy, causing significant losses.

Therefore, compared to the Golden Sword Sect, the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion was more eager to recruit Fang Bai, offering more tempting conditions.

After weighing the options, Fang Bai finally "begrudgingly" accepted the invitation from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, agreeing to fill the vacancy left by Yang Dong's fall.

Fang Bai's decision brought great joy to the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, while it left the Golden Sword Sect deeply disappointed.

Once joining the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, Fang Bai diligently and meticulously crafted numerous spirit pills and sublime liquids, earning high praise from Pavilion Master Mu Enze and the leadership, who valued him even more than they had Yang Dong.

Yang Dong had been aloof, arrogant, and narrow-minded during his life, keeping everyone at arm's length. Even within the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, he had few close friends.

In contrast, Fang Bai was generous and approachable, chatting amiably with everyone from the Pavilion Master to the menial servants, and he never refused to help even the lowest-ranked servant with alchemy and artifact refining, as long as he had some free time.

Thanks to Fang Bai's generosity, many disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion advanced in their cultivation and combat power through the spirit pills he helped refine or the upgraded Spiritual Artifacts.

This made Fang Bai far more popular than Yang Dong had ever been.

In less than a month of joining the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, Fang Bai won the heartfelt affection and support of tens of thousands of disciples, attaining a prestige in the pavilion second only to Pavilion Master Mu Enze.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that should Fang Bai raise his arm and call, at least half of the pavilion's disciples would follow him through fire and water, leading the charge.

Thus, Fang Bai had to alter some of his original plans.

Previously, Fang Bai planned to instigate a conflict between the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect, aiming to destroy the two sects entirely. However, upon reflection, he realized that the numerous crimes committed by the sects were due to their leadership, with other disciples merely executing orders.

Eliminating the high-ranking members of the two sects would sever the root of their evil deeds, leading to a reformation among the subordinate disciples, hopefully ushering in a new ethos for the two sects.

With this in mind, Fang Bai started to actively recruit and unite disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, focusing primarily on the external courtyard disciples, as they were the largest group and the main force of the pavilion.

Meanwhile, Han Feng'er, Han Xiangtian, and several disciples from Lingxu Palace roamed the city like phantoms. No one knew what they were doing, nor did anyone pay attention to them.

The intense standoff by the Lotus River between the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect initially drew much attention, enveloping the whole of Flaming Sun City in a tense atmosphere.

However, with Fang Bai's rising fame recently, martial artists across Flaming Sun City, including disciples from both sects, flocked to him for alchemy and artifact refining. As a result, the tense atmosphere in the city eased considerably.

Both the sect disciples and martial artists within Flaming Sun City hoped to avoid conflict, as it would result in mutual losses and affect many innocent martial artists. Thus, the easing tension brought relief to many martial artists.

Although the standoff between the two sects continued, it was no longer a powder keg ready to explode at any moment. Flaming Sun City seemed to return to its previous state of calm and harmony.

However, only a few martial artists realized that beneath this calm facade lay hidden undercurrents, potentially leading to disastrous consequences once unleashed.

A few days later, one morning, a corpse in the Lotus River, like a boulder cast into a tranquil lake, stirred waves once more.

The body belonged to the Nine Heavens Palace Master, Shentu Cheng.

All signs indicated that Shentu Cheng's death was closely linked to the Golden Sword Sect.

While the incident seemed unrelated to the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, many of its disciples knew of the deep connection between Shentu Cheng and the pavilion's elder, Yang Dong. Adding to this, Yang Dong's mysterious fall and his body's disappearance raised suspicions that his death might also be tied to the Golden Sword Sect.

Another two days passed, and before the ripples caused by Shentu Cheng's death had settled, another body appeared in the Lotus River, stirring even larger waves.

This time, the deceased was Yang Fei, a core disciple of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion who had been dead for several days.

Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion disciples found a small piece of cloth tightly clutched in Yang Fei's hand. Once opened, the cloth turned out to be a part of someone's garment, embroidered with a small golden sword.

Having clashed with the Golden Sword Sect's disciples for millennia, Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion disciples immediately recognized the garment belonged to a Golden Sword Sect disciple.

Although Yang Fei's death was full of dubious points and even hinted at an attempt to frame the Golden Sword Sect, at this moment, the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion disciples, blinded by fury, doubted nothing else.

Filled with hot-blooded impulsiveness, some Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion disciples secretly attacked Golden Sword Sect disciples in and around Flaming Sun City, causing significant casualties to the Golden Sword Sect, which retaliated strongly.

The conflict between the two sects reignited, and the atmosphere in Flaming Sun City grew more tense than before. At this time, a single spark might ignite a full-scale clash between both parties.

#### Chapter 1495: Two Sects at War

Originally, the full-scale conflict between the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect only needed a spark to ignite, but the appearance of Yang Dong's corpse undoubtedly added fuel to the fire.

Yang Dong's body was discovered at Burial Artifact Ridge by a few disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion who were out on a training mission. The body had first been burned by a fierce fire, then destroyed by a spiritual artifact, resulting in an extremely tragic death.

Among those disciples training outside was Han Feng'er, and it was Han Feng'er who first saw Yang Dong's body and brought it back to the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion.

If Yang Dong had died elsewhere, it might not have been a big issue, but Burial Artifact Ridge is where the Golden Sword Sect discards damaged spiritual artifacts, and it is considered one of their most sensitive territories.

Burial Artifact Ridge is heavily guarded by many Golden Sword Sect disciples, and ordinary martial artists cannot enter. The only possibility people could think of for Yang Dong's body appearing there was that the Golden Sword Sect killed him to silence him and then dumped his body.

No matter how the Golden Sword Sect explained it, they could not clear it up.

The tens of thousands of disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, already harboring a great deal of anger over the death of their fellow disciple Yang Fei, could no longer hold back their rage when Yang Dong's body was brought back from Burial Artifact Ridge.

"This is a conspiracy by the Golden Sword Sect. They want to break us down one by one, gradually nibbling away at the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion until they devour us completely!"

"The Golden Sword Sect is sinister and vicious. Their hearts deserve to be condemned!"

"If we don't avenge this, how can the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion stand in Flaming Sun City?"

"Fight the Golden Sword Sect to the death!"

"Kill the old scoundrel Tie Han!"

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Tens of thousands of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion disciples were in high spirits, attributing the deaths of Yang Fei and others to the Golden Sword Sect. They clamored and gathered in front of the Pavilion Master's main hall, demanding Mu Enze to lead them into battle.

Tens of thousands of martial artists gathered together, with spiritual energy permeating the atmosphere, their fighting spirit soaring and pressure enveloping the surroundings, causing half of Flaming Sun City to tremble.

Upon hearing the news, the Golden Sword Sect on the other side of Flaming Sun City immediately began calling their disciples back, preparing to respond to a possible war.

However, just as the Golden Sword Sect's call was issued, tens of thousands of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion disciples, led by Pavilion Master Mu Enze and the high-ranking members, stormed across the Lotus River, launching a fierce attack on the Golden Sword Sect's territory.

Unlike previous small-scale conflicts between the two sects, this time the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion had an all-out mobilization of nearly every disciple, demonstrating an attitude of not resting until the Golden Sword Sect was destroyed.

Due to their thorough preparation, as soon as the battle began, the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion side was sweeping through with unstoppable force, occupying many of the Golden Sword Sect's territories, seizing vast amounts of cultivation resources, and leaving thousands of Golden Sword Sect disciples dead or injured.

Although the Golden Sword Sect suffered heavy losses, they were ultimately a strong sect with deep foundations. After initially responding hastily and losing vast cultivation resources along with numerous personnel casualties, they finally steadied the situation, halting the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion's attacks.

Now, across the entire Flaming Sun City, aside from the likes of Fang Bai and a few others, only the upper levels of the Golden Sword Sect knew they were wronged.

The deaths of Yang Fei, Yang Dong, and even the bodies of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion disciples found on the Lotus River had no connection to the Golden Sword Sect.

But to the frustration of the Golden Sword Sect's leaders, the evidence found on those corpses all pointed to them, causing even many Golden Sword Sect disciples to suspect their own sect leaders were responsible.

Even though the leaders of the Golden Sword Sect felt very "wronged," they knew there was no way to argue their case when faced with the all-out attack from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion.

At the same time, the unrelenting attacks from the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion enraged the Golden Sword Sect. Knowing this battle was about the sect's survival, they prepared to fight with the resolve to destroy their means of retreat, engaging in a great war against the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion.

The Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion had the upper hand early on, but as the overall strength between both sides was not vastly different, the vigorous resistance from the Golden Sword Sect gradually eroded that advantage, eventually leading both sides into a stalemate with both offensive and defensive tactics.

This was the result both leaders feared most.

They knew that the prolonged depletion of strength would inevitably lead to rapid decline, opening opportunities for those scheming sects dreaming of taking over to sweep in, potentially seizing the dominant position in Flaming Sun City.

Yet by this point, both sides were stuck; whichever side showed any weakness might be crushed by the other in one blow, even if not annihilated, finding it difficult to stand in Flaming Sun City.

The promising stability and harmony in Flaming Sun City ended with the onset of the war between the two main sects, the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect.

Order within the city began to unravel, and conflicts and disputes among martial artists grew like mushrooms after the rain, with powerful martial artists rampaging unchecked, while the weak lived in constant fear.

And at this moment, Elder Fang Bai, who was trusted by all levels of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and responsible for safeguarding its headquarters, quietly rescued Li Sanfu from captivity, healed his injuries, and arranged for him and Ren Tianfu, along with other Lingxu Palace disciples in Flaming Sun City, to swiftly return to Lingxu Palace.

Tong Yaoyao and the other Medicine King Mountain disciples, after receiving assurances from Fang Bai, left in high spirits and hurried back to Medicine King Mountain.

Soon, elite disciples from Lingxu Palace and Medicine King Mountain would arrive in Flaming Sun City, filling the power vacuum left by the collapse of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect, and becoming the new rulers and hegemonies of Flaming Sun City.

The other sects attempting to fish in troubled waters were destined for futile efforts and would reap no benefits.

After the Lingxu Palace and Medicine King Mountain disciples left Flaming Sun City, Fang Bai didn't idle. He began to maneuver between the various forces within and outside the city. Through a combination of soft and forceful tactics, he quickly assembled a powerful force centered around himself.

This force quickly surpassed even the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect at their peak.

Even more astonishing, nearly all the alchemists and artifact refiners in Flaming Sun City became part of this force.

The reason Fang Bai could quickly unite this force boiled down to the word "interest."

For those disciples of small sects or individual cultivation martial artists, Fang Bai promised that after Flaming Sun City stabilized, they would be given priority access to spirit pill refinement and spiritual artifact upgrades, as well as guidance in cultivation techniques and martial dao, highlighting their areas for improvement.

For alchemists and artifact refiners, Fang Bai promised to impart some alchemy and artifact refining techniques to notably increase their success rate.

When encountering sects or martial artists who resisted, Fang Bai wasted no words, directly using his Golden Core Realm strength to forcefully suppress them into submission.

With power to intimidate and benefits to entice, all parties within and outside Flaming Sun City flocked to Fang Bai, looking to him for leadership.

It could be said that if Fang Bai wished, he could effortlessly take control of the entire Flaming Sun City and become its sole ruler.

However, Fang Bai's pursuit lies in returning to the Immortal Realm and reaching the pinnacle again, not stopping his progress for the sake of a mere city.

#### Chapter 1496: Annihilation

The life-and-death battle between the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect dragged many of their dependent small sects into this fierce conflict.

Among those small sects were the Nine Heavens Palace and the Soul Summoning Hall, both of which were familiar to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai knew that the Nine Heavens Palace had connections with the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and would undoubtedly stand on their side. However, he did not expect the Soul Summoning Hall to be a vassal force of the Golden Sword Sect.

Both of these sects had conflicts with the Lingxu Palace, especially the Soul Summoning Hall, which had formed a life-and-death enmity with it.

Fang Bai initially planned to wait until the two sects' battle in Flaming Sun City was over and let the Lingxu Palace resolve its grievances with those small sects. However, it turned out not to be necessary. In this war, small sects like the Nine Heavens Palace and the Soul Summoning Hall were essentially playing the role of cannon fodder, and after this battle, they would inevitably suffer heavy losses and face possible annihilation.

Days later, when the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect were exhausted from their battle, other sect martial artists began to take advantage of the situation, hoping to seize the fruits of the battle.

It was at this time that Fang Bai presented himself.

With a dominant presence, Fang Bai descended upon the battleground of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and the Golden Sword Sect, wielding the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and slaughtering the top figures of both sects.

The Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, having soaked in the blood of martial artists, surged with evil qi, becoming even more powerful, leaving no opponent undefeated wherever it struck.

Originally, if Mu Enze and Tie Han, these two high-rank Golden Core experts, teamed up, it would not have been easy for Fang Bai to kill them.

Yet, first, the two had been in fierce combat for a long time, depleting over half of their spiritual energy, and their combat power was less than half of their peak. Second, they had deep grudges against each other and never trusted one another, making it impossible for them to unite against an enemy.

Moreover, the evil qi released by the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade confused their minds, creating hallucinations before their eyes and severely diminishing their combat strength, allowing Fang Bai to easily slay them while wielding the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade with overwhelming power.

With all the high-ranking members of the two sects falling, and some rebellious disciples were also slain by Fang Bai, the leaderless disciples of the two sects were immediately thrown into chaos.

The majority of the disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion recognized Fang Bai and were bewildered as to why this usually gentle elder, whom they admired, suddenly went mad, slaughtering not only the high-ranking members of the Golden Sword Sect but also their own sect.

"Elder Fang, what has happened to you? Why are you killing even our Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion disciples?"

A brave disciple of the Neding Pavilion asked loudly.

"Regardless of whether you are disciples of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion or the Golden Sword Sect, if you don't want to die, stop fighting at once! I, Fang Bai, have something to say!"

Fang Bai leaped onto the top of a hundred-foot-high tower nearby, speaking from above.

His voice, resembling a clap of thunder, boomed in the ears of the disciples from both sides, causing them to stop fighting involuntarily and look up at Fang Bai on the tower top.

To thoroughly shock and subdue these martial artists, Fang Bai released his aura unreservedly, enveloping several miles around.

At this moment, in the eyes of these martial artists, Fang Bai standing proudly atop the hundred-foot tower resembled a god of slaughter emerging from ancient times, exerting an overwhelming pressure that made them tremble and cower.

With hands behind his back, Fang Bai scanned the countless martial artists below. Each martial artist who was looked at felt as if Fang Bai could see through them entirely, leaving them nowhere to hide.

Even some sect disciples who intended to take advantage of the chaos were intimidated by Fang Bai's pressure, standing frozen and not daring to move recklessly.

The originally fierce battlefield, due to Fang Bai's shout, quickly calmed down. Only the heartbreaking cries of the wounded martial artists echoed occasionally, making one shudder.

"What I want to say is, on the surface, the two major sects Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect appear just and righteous, but in reality, they have committed many heinous and despicable acts! Some of you may be unaware of this, while others may know even more than I do. Let me choose some to speak of..."

Fang Bai's voice wasn't loud, yet it clearly reached the ears of the tens of thousands of disciples from both sects below.

What Fang Bai revealed were some of the dark secrets he had recently gathered about the past heinous acts committed by the two major sects.

These dark secrets were initially the most core and top secrets of the two sects, known only to a few. However, Fang Bai, using his means, easily learned about them.

The secrets Fang Bai unveiled were related to several sensational unsolved cases that had taken place in Flaming Sun City over the years, with some even involving relatives and friends of the present disciples from the two main sects.

For example, a disciple from the inner court of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion had parents who, years ago, found a treasure in the nearby mountains and brought it back to their village. The next morning, over a hundred villagers, including his parents, were massacred by a group of mysterious people, and the treasure vanished.

Another example was a disciple from the external courtyard of the Golden Sword Sect, whose gifted sister was being nurtured as a key disciple in a certain sect. While out training with more than a dozen fellow female disciples, they were ambushed and killed by mysterious individuals. Their cultivation resources were robbed, and they were brutally tortured to death.

Such incidents were endless, and Fang Bai merely listed a small part of them, all with real evidence in hand, making it impossible not to believe.

Each time Fang Bai spoke of a monstrous crime committed by the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion or Golden Sword Sect, tens of thousands of martial artists below stirred in turmoil—some cursed aloud, some were filled with righteous indignation, and some martial artists who lost their kin to these incidents cried out upon learning the truth.

"I never thought the high-ranking members of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion would commit such outrageous, unforgivable acts. It's laughable that I have been in the dark for over a decade since joining! It's better not to be a disciple of this sect at all!"

"Indeed! From this day on, I am leaving the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and will no longer be its disciple!"

"You of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, we Golden Sword Sect are no better! I swear, from now on, I sever ties with the Golden Sword Sect!"

"I can't believe, as a disciple of the Golden Sword Sect's inner court, my own relatives would perish at the hands of the sect's high-ranking members! I vow never to reconcile with the Golden Sword Sect!"

A disciple from the Golden Sword Sect, whose relatives were killed by the high-ranking members of the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion, roared towards the sky, venting his deep-seated grief and indignation.

Some disciples from the two major sects tore off their sect clothes in anger, threw them to the ground, and stomped on them in disgust.

Realizing the demise of the two sects was imminent, some disciples who had participated in the dark and secretive acts of the sects before now stepped forward to expose even more of the sects' sinister deeds—some of which were even more malicious than what Fang Bai had revealed, chilling those who heard them.

Once mighty and untouchable, the two major sects were now reduced to something everyone despised overnight; their fame ruined, and their disciples became like mice crossing the street, everyone wanting to hit them.

Some quick-witted disciples from the two major sects quietly took off their sect clothes, disguised themselves in the attire of ordinary individual cultivation martial artists, and joined in the campaign against the two sects.

Previously subdued and dependent sect forces under Fang Bai's control also gathered in Flaming Sun City, accusing the two sects of their wrongdoings. Under Fang Bai's leadership, they ultimately seized the headquarters of the two sects and declared their complete annihilation.

#### Chapter 1497: Fortuitous Opportunity

Who could have imagined that the two great sects, Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect, which dominated the fate of Flaming Sun City for thousands of years, would fall overnight.

Even more unexpected was that the destroyer of these two sects was not a more powerful force, but a young man in his twenties named Fang Bai, a Foundation Establishment Expert in perfection.

Although Fang Bai had assistance from some external forces in the battle to destroy the Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect, it was he alone who slew more than twenty Golden Core Realm experts, showcasing his formidable and frightening strength.

Many martial artists who witnessed that battle vividly described its thrilling and extraordinary nature to their friends and family, their words filled with admiration and praise for Fang Bai.

Due to such word-of-mouth, Fang Bai's fame in Flaming Sun City became unrivaled, almost mythical.

After the downfall of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect, Fang Bai became the undeniable first person and ruler of Flaming Sun City. No one dared challenge his supreme position, and all the great sects and individual cultivation martial artists, even those distinguished alchemists and artifact refiners, looked to Fang Bai for leadership.

Under Fang Bai's strong intervention and soothing, the chaotic Flaming Sun City quickly regained peace. The martial artists in the city were able to calm down and resume their usual lives.

Having witnessed the downfall of the two sects, the martial artists of Flaming Sun City finally understood that Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect were massive hidden tumors beside them, and if not removed in time, they themselves could suffer from them sooner or later.

Now, with the two tumors gone, under Fang Bai's sole lead, Lingxu Palace, Medicine King Mountain, and several other powerful sects jointly elected ten esteemed experts to govern Flaming Sun City.

In front of hundreds of thousands of martial artists, these ten elected experts promised to work together to create a fair, stable, peaceful, and prosperous new Flaming Sun City.

The remnants of Alchemy Cauldron Pavilion and Golden Sword Sect either fled to distant lands or were absorbed by several sects, unable to revive.

Once everything in Flaming Sun City returned to normal, Fang Bai began to convene experts from various sects, as well as those alchemists and artifact refiners within the city, to teach them the Martial Dao Arcane and impart his techniques in alchemy and artifact refining.

Fang Bai continued to lecture tirelessly for three days and nights. On the fourth morning, he silently left Flaming Sun City to continue his travels, pursuing the supreme Immortal Dao.

Before leaving, Fang Bai left a set of martial arts techniques to the senior members of Lingxu Palace.

This set of martial arts techniques was incomparable to ordinary ones; if one had high aptitude and good fortune, they could even cultivate to the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

In the Three Thousand World, once a martial artist crosses the Ninefold Heavy Tribulations, they can ascend to the Immortal Realm and become one with it.

Even if the disciples of Lingxu Palace do not have enough fortune to cultivate to the highest realm of Three Thousand World, understanding just a fraction of its truth is enough to ensure that Lingxu Palace continually produces strong experts, maintaining its exalted position in Flaming Sun City, unshakable by anyone.

This could be considered a great fortune and opportunity sent by Fang Bai to Lingxu Palace.

Those martial artists and alchemists, artifact refiners who were fortunate to listen to Fang Bai's explanation, also benefited greatly, though not receiving as much advantage as Lingxu Palace disciples.

Of course, Sun Lin, Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, Huang Zhong, as well as Han Feng'er and Han Xiangtian siblings, were the ones Fang Bai focused on, not wasting their acquaintance with him.

It is said that shortly after Fang Bai left Flaming Sun City, many martial artists who listened to his explanation of Martial Dao Arcane broke through and reached their dream realms, moving to tears and bowing to Fang Bai from afar.

In the following ten years, a large number of Foundation Establishment Realm martial artists ascended to the Golden Core Realm, leading to the original saying in Flaming Sun City, "Innate perfection is less than dogs; Foundation Establishment Experts walk everywhere," to change to "Foundation Establishment cultivation level is less than dogs; Golden Core Experts walk everywhere."

Of course, this is a story not mentioned further.

On the day Fang Bai left Flaming Sun City, Han Feng'er, Han Xiangtian, Sun Lin, Shi Ming, Zheng Hong, Huang Zhong, and others searched everywhere for his traces, hoping to keep him in Flaming Sun City.

However, after searching tens of thousands of miles, they could not find Fang Bai's traces, returning despondent, but each person's heart kept the mysterious and legendary young man firmly in mind.

Leaving Flaming Sun City, Fang Bai sat on a Golden Core Realm White-Headed Eagle he had tamed, flying towards an ancient place at the intersection of Spirit Martial Realm and Profound Spirit Realm.

Although Fang Bai's previous life ascended from the Three Thousand World to the Immortal Realm for tens of thousands of years, he still remembered that ancient place clearly.

The ancient place, named "Nether Corpse Land," is like a hellish ancient battlefield, covering tens of thousands of miles, littered with the remains of thousands of powerful experts and fierce beasts.

But at the same time, within the Nether Corpse Land, due to the immense fall of experts and fierce beasts, the evil qi is dense and poisonous mists diffusely spread.

The poisonous mists there are extremely toxic; without strong power or a tough body, one dares not approach.

Moreover, the evil qi there easily interferes with a martial artist's mind, causing terrifying illusions to appear in their brain.

Over the years, countless martial artists have tried to enter the Nether Corpse Land to seek the legendary rare cultivation resources scattered within, but succumbed to the invasion of poisonous mists and evil qi and perished within.

Hence, many martial artists regard Nether Corpse Land as Forbidden Zones of Life; unless one's cultivation level reaches that of a Golden Core Realm expert, they can only halt at the edge, salivating over the scattered cultivation resources within.

During his youth, before ascending to Immortality, Fang Bai had traveled the entirety of the Three Thousand World, visiting tens of thousands of ancient places, and Nether Corpse Land was just one of them.

Fang Bai once received some great fortunes in Nether Corpse Land that laid a solid foundation for his path of Martial Arts.

Yet, tens of thousands of years have passed, stars shifted, the world drastically changed; he wonders if that Nether Corpse Land still exists.

Even if Nether Corpse Land still exists, it is uncertain whether the cultivation resources scattered within have been scavenged clean by later martial artists.

What impressed Fang Bai most about Nether Corpse Land was not the martial artists and fierce beasts' corpses scattered everywhere, but their astounding cultivation realms before they died; even the weakest seemed to be Golden Core Experts, many were Nascent Soul Experts, and a few Soul Severing Experts' corpses were also present.

Why such many experts and spirit beasts battled there has always intrigued Fang Bai; back then, his power was too weak, ultimately he did not dare to delve into the core area of Nether Corpse Land, or he might have had a chance to unravel the puzzling mystery.

Afterwards, Fang Bai ascended to Immortality, and while busy cultivating in the Immortal Realm, he also lived freely with his beloved companion across the nine heavens. Restricted by the rules of heaven and earth, he could not easily descend, thus never returned to Nether Corpse Land to see.

Coming here this time, though Fang Bai's cultivation level was similar to that of his previous life, he possessed a more robust "Chaos True Body" than before, and if given the opportunity, he very much wanted to seek answers.

Chapter 1498: Peach Blossom Empress Yan Qingyu

The White-Headed Eagle carried Fang Bai with lightning speed, flying high against the mighty celestial winds, tracing a brilliant arc through the sky.

The White-Headed Eagle, possessing strength comparable to a human at the Golden Core Realm, not only had incredible speed but also endurance, capable of flying continuously for days, covering tens of thousands of miles.

On this particular morning, as Fang Bai was riding the eagle, he suddenly felt something in his heart and glanced downwards, his emotions surging with excitement.

Beneath the thin layer of clouds, a small town several miles in circumference came into view. The streets were bustling with people and filled with lively activity, with faint fluctuations of Spiritual Energy detectable.

The figures on the streets were all martial artists of quite ordinary cultivation levels, engaged in transactions of Cultivation Resources.

Around the town, tens of thousands of peach trees were in full bloom. From ten thousand meters up, these trees appeared like a continuous pink ribbon.

"There... there... it's Peach Blossom Town!"

Fang Bai gazed at the familiar yet unfamiliar small town below, and the image of a redolent woman, his dearest from a past life, surfaced in his mind.

The woman named Yan Qingyu met him in Peach Blossom Town, and together they traversed the vast worlds, achieving immortality as a renowned Empress in one of the nine vast Heavenly Domains of the Immortal Realm.

Throughout her life, Yan Qingyu adored peach blossoms, always holding one in public, earning her the title "Peach Blossom Empress" in the Immortal Realm.

"Qingyu... Qingyu... how are you now?"

Fang Bai murmured to himself, softly calling out Yan Qingyu's name, as if he could see the charming Empress, stepping on Auspicious Clouds, surrounded by celestial mist, dressed in a pink gown, walking gracefully and smiling alluringly towards him.

That woman's face was exquisite, her skin like creamy jade, and her beauty far surpassed that of thousands of peach blossoms.

As Fang Bai caught sight of the peach-blossom-clad small town below, he could not help but feel a surge in his heart, his eyes slightly moist.

At the peak of his past life as the Immortal Emperor, he was attacked by the other eight Immortal Emperors, his physical body destroyed, his remnant soul forcefully reincarnating. If the Peach Blossom Empress knew, she would undoubtedly be heartbroken and spare no effort to avenge him.

However, each of the eight Immortal Emperors wielded immense power, each heading vast forces. Even Fang Bai almost perished completely at their hands, so how could the Peach Blossom Empress be their match?

In his previous life, Fang Bai had many friends across the Immortal Realm and numerous cherished confidants. If these forces united, they could potentially confront the eight Immortal Emperors.

Yet, the attack by the eight Immortal Emperors on Fang Bai was clearly premeditated. Once he was slain, they would hardly give those forces any chance to unite, certainly aiming to divide and conquer.

Though the Peach Blossom Empress and others might have the heart to avenge him, they probably found themselves powerless.

But for someone with such unwavering loyalty as the Peach Blossom Empress, despite countless hardships, she would press on without hesitation. Thus, regardless of whether it was the Peach Blossom Empress, Fang Bai's other friends, or confidants, their fates now remained unpredictable.

Moreover, the rules between the three thousand great worlds and the Immortal Realm prevented them from sensing each other's presence, making it impossible to know one another's circumstances.

"Since I'm passing by, I might as well go down for a look!"

Fang Bai reached out and gently patted the White-Headed Eagle beneath him.

The eagle understood Fang Bai's intention, let out a sharp cry, retracted its wings, and dove towards the ground.

In Peach Blossom Town, many of the Peach Blossom Empress's close relatives resided. However, since the Empress ascended to the Immortal Realm many millennia ago, it is unknown if her relatives still remain.

As the White-Headed Eagle descended a thousand meters above the town, Fang Bai leaped down gracefully, landing gently and leaving the eagle circling in the sky, ready to respond to his call instantly.

The Peach Blossom Town before him, compared to tens of thousands of years ago, still had peach blossoms, though the faces had changed.

There was little change to the town itself, just a few more buildings, more residents, and a slightly larger scale. Some places Fang Bai still remembered to this day.

Back then, the home of Yan Qingyu, the Peach Blossom Empress, was in the center of the town.

When Fang Bai first met Yan Qingyu, the Yan Family was one of the top families in town. Besides Yan Qingyu, there were also several remarkable martial artists in the family. It is unknown what has become of the Yan Family after tens of thousands of years.

As Fang Bai approached Peach Blossom Town, he plucked a peach blossom from a tree, holding it in his hand. He inhaled its fragrance, reminiscing about the past with the Peach Blossom Empress, and slowly walked into the town's streets.

Watching the thousands of martial artists in front of him engaging in various Cultivation Resource transactions amidst a cacophony of sounds, Fang Bai moved his lips slightly, feeling a mix of lament and wistfulness.

Tens of thousands of years ago, Peach Blossom Town's population was only a few thousand, and the entire town was serene and quiet.

Now, the town had developed into a bustling Martial Artists Trading Market, much more prosperous than in his past life.

Whether this change was for better or worse, Fang Bai couldn't say. Yet in his heart, he preferred the tranquil town where he first met Yan Qingyu.

Fang Bai walked straight to the town center, following his memory to find the Yan Family.

The gate of the Yan Family was tightly shut, overgrown with weeds. The two sculptures of unicorn lions lying on the ground in front were broken and dilapidated.

Clearly, this place had long been abandoned, without anyone to repair or clean it for years.

"Big brother, where are the people of the Yan Family?"

Fang Bai approached a shop selling Spirit Pills across the street, asking a middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man, a martial artist at the initial stage of Foundation Establishment, scrutinized Fang Bai but could not discern his Cultivation Level. Knowing that he was facing a warrior stronger than himself, he respectfully answered: "Senior, you might not know, but the Yan Family moved their entire clan to the Female Immortal City tens of thousands of miles away many years ago. Initially, some Yan Family members returned to maintain this old house, but over time, none have appeared, and the house fell into ruin."

"Female Immortal City?"

Fang Bai frowned and asked, "What is this Female Immortal City?"

The middle-aged man replied with surprise: "Senior, you don't know about Female Immortal City?"

Seeing Fang Bai shake his head, the middle-aged man smiled and explained: "Female Immortal City is located at the border between the Spirit Martial Realm and Profound Spirit Realm, merely eight thousand miles from the Nether Corpse Land. It was built tens of thousands of years ago by several ancestors of the Yan Family. It's called 'Female Immortal City' because the Yan Family produced a Martial Dao genius who later ascended to immortality..."

As the middle-aged man spoke, he showed a face of admiration, put his hands together in reverence, and bowed to the sky before continuing: "When Female Immortal City was first built, it was just a nameless small city. Later, due to the influence of 'Nether Corpse Land,' martial artists from all directions gathered here, gradually forming a large city with a population of millions. Today, the Yan Family is the administrator of Female Immortal City. The Family Head of the Yan Family is also the City Lord of Fairy City."

Chapter 1499: Female Immortal City

Fang Bai listened to the middle-aged man talk about the Yan Family and relaxed his furrowed brows, a smile reappearing on his face.

It seems that after Yan Qingyu ascended to the Immortal Realm, the Cui Family she belongs to has managed quite well in these three thousand worlds, not needing his assistance.

After lingering briefly in Peach Blossom Town, Fang Bai took a stroll in the peach orchard outside the town, then summoned the White-Headed Eagle to continue his journey towards Nether Corpse Land.

The landscape beneath him, mountains and rivers, sped by as the White-Headed Eagle flew tens of thousands of miles in a few days, drawing ever closer to Nether Corpse Land.

"This must be Female Immortal City, right?"

When the White-Headed Eagle flew over a city, Fang Bai looked down, seeing a city spreading a few hundred miles at the start of a mountain range.

If one sees the mountain range as dragon-shaped, then this city, built at the dragon's head, is ideally located.

Indeed, even from ten thousand meters up, Fang Bai could sense the abundant spiritual energy pervading the city's surrounding mountains and waters.

The entire city can be described as a cultivation holy land.

Though this city is smaller than Flaming Sun City, it's far more suitable for martial artists to live in.

In Fang Bai's memory, this city didn't exist when they ascended thousands of years ago, yet now it suddenly appears here, presumably the Female Immortal City mentioned by the middle-aged man from Peach Blossom Town.

When Fang Bai flew near Female Immortal City, he found martial artists on spiritual artifacts or riding birds around him, many of them Golden Core Realm experts, likely preparing to head to Nether Corpse Land like himself.

What puzzled Fang Bai was that every martial artist passing over Female Immortal City invariably descended and entered the city, for reasons unknown.

Thinking that Fairy City is not far from Nether Corpse Land anyway, and that the White-Headed Eagle was showing signs of fatigue after flying tens of thousands of miles, Fang Bai decided to enter the city to rest for a day and inquire about any major events in Nether Corpse Land over the thousands of years, preparing himself adequately.

After landing, the White-Headed Eagle flew into the nearby mountains to rest on its own.

Fang Bai's cultivation level was only Foundation Establishment perfection, not remarkable among those entering and leaving Female Immortal City.

Yet being a Foundation Establishment perfection expert in his twenties was undoubtedly outstanding, drawing many curious glances.

"Little brother, are you planning to go to Nether Corpse Land?"

Before entering Female Immortal City, Fang Bai was stopped outside the city gates by a female martial artist in her thirties, who smiled and chatted him up.

The female martial artist was at the initial stage of the Golden Core realm, with a graceful figure and snow-white skin, somewhat pretty, especially her alluring peach blossom eyes.

Behind the female martial artist stood five martial artists, three men and two women, half at Foundation Establishment perfection, half at the initial stage of the Golden Core realm.

Fang Bai didn't understand the female martial artist's intentions, frowned and asked, "What is it? Is there something?"

The female martial artist smiled and said, "Don't misunderstand, little brother. I mean, if you're planning to go to Nether Corpse Land, we can team up and go together. If not, then never mind."

Martial artists take significant risks, even life-threatening ones, when entering perilous places or cultivation holy lands to train. Those from the same sect can travel together and support each other, but individual cultivation martial artists dare only to enter as a team.

Nether Corpse Land is inaccessible to anyone weaker than a Golden Pill expert, but a few Foundation Establishment perfection experts teaming up can venture to the outskirts, perhaps encountering some opportunities.

However, to gain greater opportunities in any perilous place or cultivation holy land, one must enter the core area.

For example, accessing Nether Corpse Land's core requires at least five Golden Core initial stage experts working together.

Only Golden Core high-rank or Golden Pill perfection experts dare to venture alone.

The six, including the female martial artist, clearly constituted a team of loose cultivator martial artists, although the combination of three men and three women seemed somewhat lacking in strength.

Surveying his surroundings, Fang Bai noticed that outside the city gates, besides this team, many loose cultivator martial artists were inviting others to team up, some having formed teams and entering Female Immortal City together.

Perhaps because this team formed late, they weren't able to recruit more Golden Core experts, resorting to inviting a Foundation Establishment perfection martial artist like Fang Bai.

"It's my first time here; I don't know anything."

Fang Bai scratched his head, grinned, and asked, "Is Nether Corpse Land really as terrifying as they say? Do only powerful martial artists dare to enter? Aren't the six of you enough?"

The female martial artist smiled wryly and said, "Since Nether Corpse Land was discovered, countless martial artists have entered; at least thirty percent never returned, becoming one of the corpses inside. Even many Golden Core realm experts have perished."

She paused here, seeing Fang Bai's unchanged expression, indifferent, thinking this young fellow is fearless in his ignorance of Nether Corpse Land's dangers, advised sternly, "Honestly, even if you join us, with just the seven of us, we don't have enough strength to reach the core area of Nether Corpse Land."

"Don't hesitate, brother, join us quickly!"

"Tomorrow is the best date to enter Nether Corpse Land; if we can't form a team tonight, we'll miss the opportunity."

"More friends, more pathways. Little brother, once you join us, we're friends, sharing blessings and hardships."

"If we gain cultivation resources, we'll distribute fairly based on effort, no empty promises!"

"Come on, little brother, we need you, and you need us too!"

...

Standing behind the female martial artist, the others, aware of time's urgency and unlikely to meet a martial artist like Fang Bai again, surrounded him, persuading earnestly.

"Excuse me, can I join you?"

Just then, a tender voice sounded behind them.

Everyone, including Fang Bai, turned to look, discovering the speaker was a young girl only five or six years old.

The young girl had rosy cheeks, bright eyes, skin like jade, hair tied into two cute buns, wearing a pink jacket embroidered with peach blossoms, appearing like a porcelain doll, endearing.

She blinked her lively black eyes, gazing at Fang Bai and the others, finally fixing her eyes on Fang Bai.

In her left hand, she held a peach blossom branch picked from somewhere, its faint fragrance wafting from the little blossoms, refreshing the soul.

Seeing the young girl holding peach blossoms, resembling a childhood version of Peach Blossom Empress Yan Qingyu, Fang Bai's heart trembled.

Chapter 1500: Young Girl

As Fang Bai was studying the little girl, she was also evaluating him. Her dark eyes showed a trace of curiosity, confusion, and bewilderment. Her eyebrows occasionally furrowed slightly, as if she was trying to recall something.

From the moment she saw Fang Bai, the little girl felt a sense of familiarity, as if this big brother was a close relative, which made her feel a spontaneous affection. Since appearing here, she had kept her gaze fixed on Fang Bai.

"What... what's your name?"

Fang Bai exhaled gently, calming his excitement upon seeing the little girl, then squatted down in front of her with a warm expression and asked softly.

For a moment earlier, Fang Bai saw a reflection of Yan Qingyu in the little girl. Especially her gaze, which made Fang Bai feel slightly dazed.

"Big brother, my name is Yan Muyu. The 'Mu' as in envy, and 'Yu' as in words."

The little girl's eyes darted over Fang Bai's face, her voice childish and clear as she spoke again.

"Yan Muyu... Yan Qingyu... Muyu... Qingyu..."

Fang Bai murmured the two names, looking at the little girl who somewhat resembled the Peach Blossom Empress. His heart stirred slightly, and he asked, "What is your relationship with the Yan Family of Peach Blossom Town?"

"Me, uh..."

When Yan Muyu heard the words "Peach Blossom Town Yan Family," a hint of panic flashed in her eyes. Her pupils darted around, then she replied with a serious demeanor, "I don't know about any Peach Blossom Town or Yan Family! I'm just a loose cultivator out for some training..."

Fang Bai was amused by Yan Muyu's demeanor, laughing out loud, realizing the little girl was lying. She likely snuck out without her family's knowledge and somehow ended up here.

Fang Bai was certain Yan Muyu had deep connections with the Yan Family of Peach Blossom Town. He was confident because he sensed a familiar Martial Artist Aura from the little girl.

In his past life, after meeting the Peach Blossom Empress Yan Qingyu, Fang Bai had gifted several Martial Arts Techniques to the Yan Family of Peach Blossom Town out of love for her. This little girl clearly practiced the techniques Fang Bai had left in the past, resulting in an aura similar to Yan Qingyu's, allowing Fang Bai to easily deduce her identity.

"Big brother, why are you laughing? Did I say something wrong?"

Yan Muyu looked at Fang Bai, puzzled, tilting her head as she asked.

"Little sister, tell big brother, who taught you the Withered Tree Spring Art?"

Fang Bai asked with a warm smile, looking at Yan Muyu.

"Ah?"

Yan Muyu's eyes widened, her mouth slightly open. After a while, she stammered, "Big... big brother, how do you... how do you know about the Withered Tree Spring Art? Have you also practiced it?"

Fang Bai chuckled, "You haven't answered big brother's question yet."

Reluctantly, Yan Muyu bit her finger and said, "Fine, I'll tell you. My ancestors were from the Yan Family of Peach Blossom Town, but they moved to Female Immortal City many years ago. The Withered Tree Spring Art was taught to me by my parents... Okay, now it's big brother's turn to answer my question!"

So she is a descendant of the Yan Family of Peach Blossom Town; no wonder she felt so familiar!

Looking at the little girl before him, with her jade-like complexion and features slightly resembling the Peach Blossom Empress, Fang Bai felt a sense of affection and couldn't resist patting her head.

"Because big brother once had a fortuitous encounter and learned the Withered Tree Spring Art from a remarkable person. I sensed the Wood Spirit Qi derived from the Withered Tree Spring Art on you, so I knew you practiced it too."

Of course, Fang Bai wouldn't reveal that the Withered Tree Spring Art was a cultivation technique he left to the Yan family's ancestor. Instead, he casually made up a lie.

Yan Muyu blinked her bright eyes and said, "Oh... a senior from our Yan Family also mentioned that the Withered Tree Spring Art I practice was taught by a remarkable person long ago. Big brother, do you think the person who taught you and the one who taught our Yan Family could be the same?"

Fang Bai evasively replied, "Well... perhaps!"

While Fang Bai was conversing with Yan Muyu, several Martial Artists trying to recruit him managed to stop three Individual Cultivation Martial Artists and persuade them to join their team.

If Fang Bai agreed to join them, they could form a ten-member team strong enough to venture into the Nether Corpse Land.

"Little brother, have you made a decision? If you agree to join us, we'd have a complete team. We can rest for a day in Female Immortal City and head to Nether Corpse Land the following morning!"

The Female Martial Artist approached Fang Bai again, looking at him expectantly.

By this time, it was getting dark, and Martial Artists entering or leaving Female Immortal City were scarce. It would be challenging to encounter a Golden Core Expert or even someone like Fang Bai, a Foundation Establishment Expert. Hence, the Female Martial Artist was eager to recruit Fang Bai, her sincerity evident.

"Big brother, can you please take me to the Nether Corpse Land as well? I heard from my brother and sister that it's really fun there, and I want to see for myself! Please... pretty please..."

Yan Muyu lightly tugged on Fang Bai's sleeve, looking up at his face. Her upper teeth gently bit her lower lip, her big eyes misty, pleading pitifully.

Seeing the little girl begging him, Fang Bai's resolve softened, and he almost agreed.

He distinctly remembered that, in the past life, the Peach Blossom Empress, who was decisive and formidable in the eyes of others, always loved to tug at his sleeve playfully like this, seeking favors. And he could never bear to refuse her requests.

"Fun?"

Nearby, the Female Martial Artist chuckled, pinched Yan Muyu's tender cheek, and said, "Little sister, the Nether Corpse Land is filled with corpses and ferocious beasts. Surviving is a slim chance; it's really not fun at all! You're too young to enter!"

Yan Muyu pouted, then lifted her chin defiantly, in a tender voice, "I'm not afraid! I'm a Foundation Establishment Expert too!"

Initially, her Aura was weak, making her seem like a novice just stepping on the path of Martial Dao. However, as she spoke, her Aura surged, revealing her Foundation Establishment level cultivation.

While Foundation Establishment at the initial level might only be a lower-tier existence in Female Immortal City, for a little girl no more than four or five years old to reach such a cultivation level was indeed astonishing.

The Female Martial Artist and several Martial Artists exchanged glances, all showing signs of shock.

They had previously focused on recruiting other Martial Artists and had not paid attention to Fang Bai and Yan Muyu's conversation. Thus, they were unaware of Yan Muyu's identity, only guessing that the little girl couldn't possibly be a loose cultivator but was likely a Direct Disciple of some powerful Sect. Otherwise, how could someone so young have such cultivation?