

Doctor 1821

Chapter 1821: Hu Yichen's Sorrow

Hu Yichen spoke, a sudden wave of sorrow surging within him.

For years, he and his wife had been hiding and fleeing, all to evade the pursuit of the Divine Eagle Sect. It wasn't until their beloved daughter was born that they finally settled down in a secluded place outside Alchemy Immortal City.

Currently, Hu Yichen's wife, Feng Ziyu, was taking care of their daughter at their residence outside the city, while Hu Yichen, a Pill Master, changed his appearance and name to enter the Martial Artists Trading Market of Alchemy Immortal City, crafting Spirit Pills for people to earn the cultivation resources needed by his family.

Hu Yichen originally thought that unless his family's power grew strong enough to rival the Divine Eagle Sect, they might spend their entire lives incognito. But to his dismay, disciples of the Divine Eagle Sect still tracked him down.

Although Fang Bai temporarily resolved his predicament, Hu Yichen was certain that if he stepped half a foot out of Alchemy Immortal City, he would either be captured or killed; there was no third option.

The Divine Eagle Sect wouldn't easily let him go after they found him.

It's imaginable that if the Divine Eagle Sect captured him, they'd use every method to force him to reveal his wife's whereabouts.

The interrogation techniques of the Divine Eagle Sect's upper echelon were many and cruel. Hu Yichen feared that if he fell into their hands, he might not withstand their various methods.

Thus, the only way to keep his wife and daughter's whereabouts hidden would be to kill himself before falling into their hands, leaving the Divine Eagle Sect no opportunity for questioning.

Even though Hu Yichen was prepared for a heroic death, he felt a bit reluctant, hoping that if he could escape successfully, he would immediately flee with his wife and daughter to some distant land, continuing their hidden lives.

“Brother Fang, there’s something I want to entrust you with. I hope you can do me this favor, for the sake of our acquaintance...”

Hu Yichen suddenly spoke to Fang Bai using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique.

Fang Bai didn’t utter a word but nodded, clearly agreeing.

Hu Yichen’s expression relaxed, giving Fang Bai a grateful look, and continued to transmit his voice: “If I die at the hands of the Divine Eagle Sect, I hope Brother Fang can convey this news to my wife and daughter. It’s just...”

He sighed again, face full of worry: “My wife is deeply in love with me, and I fear that upon hearing the news of my demise, she would commit suicide out of grief. So... please dissuade her for our daughter’s sake, and stop her from thinking about such a thing.”

Fang Bai solemnly nodded: “If Big Brother Hu really falls, I will definitely deliver this news. However, I think things might not be as bleak as imagined. Perhaps, upon careful thinking, a solution can be found?”

Hu Yichen smiled bitterly and shook his head: “Divine Eagle Sect Master Feng Lingxiao harbors deep resentment for me for kidnapping her daughter. How could she let me go? Although I too wish to escape, the hope is thin, and I can only try with a bit of gambler’s luck.” Original content can be found at find-novel.net

Fang Bai contemplated for a moment and said: “I have an idea, though I am not sure if it will work!”

Hu Yichen listened to Fang Bai’s detailed explanation with a dumbfounded and astonished expression, murmuring: “If Brother Ruofang truly has such ability, then... then the City Lord Mansion of Alchemy Immortal City would surely treat him as an esteemed guest, and my life might be saved.”

Fang Bai laughed: "If that's the case, let's first get the fame out there so the City Lord Mansion will invite us."

"Then I'll lend Brother Fang a hand."

With a chance to preserve his life, Hu Yichen felt revitalized and decisively packed up all his items from his stall and began helping Fang Bai.

Before long, a lofty sign was erected in front of Fang Bai's stall, elegantly inscribed with "Crafting Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, failure compensated with double rewards."

Although there were many Pill Masters in Alchemy Immortal City, those capable of crafting Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills were almost all concentrated in the City Lord Mansion. Pill Masters in various Martial Artists Trading Markets usually could only craft Royal Grade Inferior and Royal Grade Medium Spirit Pills.

Even if there were a few Pill Masters who could craft Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, their success rate was pitifully low, unable to compare with the top-tier Pill Masters of the City Lord Mansion.

However, the remuneration for top-tier Pill Masters in the City Lord Mansion was very high, unbearable for most elites. Moreover, their success rate was only three to four in ten, and one had to wait in line patiently.

Thus, when the sign in front of Fang Bai's stall was erected, it immediately attracted the attention of many Pill Masters and elites in the Martial Artists Trading Market.

Someone saw Hu Yichen acting as a runner at Fang Bai's stall and couldn't help but be greatly astonished, curiously asking: "Hu Pill Master, what are you doing?"

Hu Yichen replied: "My Brother Fang can craft Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, and I'm helping him. If any of you need Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, feel free to have them crafted here!"

Someone asked: "Seeing your Brother Fang so young, can he really craft Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills? Don't deceive us!"

Originally, Hu Yichen also doubted Fang Bai's ability to craft Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, but seeing Fang Bai's confident demeanor and firm tone, he believed a bit and pointed at the sign, saying to the person: "You only need to provide three batches of pill materials, and if crafting fails, my Brother Fang will compensate you six-fold!"

The person said: "Sounds well! The herbs for crafting Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills are very precious. If he fails, can he afford to compensate?"

Hu Yichen was momentarily silenced, turning his head to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai smiled and displayed hundreds of Spiritual Medicines capable of crafting various Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills on the stall before him, then said to the person: "Are these enough to compensate?"

Looking at the hundreds of rare Spiritual Medicines in front of Fang Bai, the person was stunned and finally realized that Fang Bai indeed had some capability, hurriedly nodding: "Enough... enough... but alas, I don't have materials for crafting Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, otherwise I would definitely ask you to craft it. Anyway, with double compensation for failed crafting, this business deal is worth it!"

Among the gathered elites, some were strong martial artists of the Fourth and Fifth Heavenly Tribulation realm, carrying herbs for crafting Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills.

Initially, they planned to queue-up at the City Lord Mansion, but upon discovering someone here could also craft Royal Grade Superior Spiritual Artifacts, they surged forward with the crowd. One of them squeezed close and said to Fang Bai: "Esteemed Pill Master, how many batches of materials are needed for crafting Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills?"

Fang Bai held up three fingers: "Three batches will suffice."

The person asked again: "Three batches of materials, how many Spirit Pills can be produced?"

Fang Bai thought for a moment and said: "At least five pills."

Given Fang Bai's pill crafting skill and high success rate, three batches of materials would normally yield at least twenty Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills if everything proceeded smoothly.

Saying five pills, Fang Bai actually harbored a smaller selfish intent, aiming to earn more rewards from other experts, as his own cultivation resources were running low.

Moreover, Fang Bai was aware that other Pill Masters would consider crafting one or two pills from three batches of materials as a success, while his claim of at least five pills was indeed a pleasant surprise to those seeking pills.

Chapter 1822: You Can't Be Serious, Right?

"At least five pills? Fail and double compensation for materials?"

The pill seeker was instantly excited upon hearing this, and asked again, wanting final confirmation.

He came to Alchemy Immortal City this time, intending to ask the City Lord Mansion's alchemists to help refine Royal Grade Superior Creation Pill to increase his chance for advancing to the fifth realm of Heavenly Tribulation.

The three portions of materials needed for refining the Royal Grade Superior Creation Pill were found through great hardship; if they were all wasted, he would have nowhere to cry.

However, asking alchemists to refine Elixir is equivalent to a gamble. If wasted, one can only accept fate.

Of course, this is the result when handing it to other alchemists.

Yet the alchemist before him guaranteed that three portions of materials would be successfully refined into five Spirit Pills, with double compensation for failure, making it a win-win deal. So why not?

Moreover, among the nearly hundred Royal Grade Superior Spiritual Medicines casually taken out by this alchemist, there are even materials for the Creation Pill, no need to worry about his inability to compensate.

“Yes, at least five pills, less than five, double compensation for materials.”

Under the pill seeker’s gaze, Fang Bai again nodded to confirm.

“Alright, I’ll ask this Pill Master to make a few Royal Grade Superior Creation Pills for me!”

The pill seeker made up his mind and presented his three portions of Creation Pill materials.

Hu Yichen beside him helped to inspect the materials and then nodded to Fang Bai, indicating the materials were correct.

“May I ask this Pill Master, how many days are needed to refine these Spirit Pills?”

The pill seeker asked again.

In his understanding, the top alchemists of the City Lord Mansion need a minimum of three to five days, and a maximum of seven to eight days, to finish refining the three portions of materials. Even though the young alchemist before him might have superior alchemy techniques, he thought it would still take at least five days.

Not only did this pill seeker think so, but Hu Yichen, who was assisting Fang Bai, also thought the same.

Fang Bai said, “At most, three to five hours. You can just wait here.”

Saying so, he took the three portions of materials from Hu Yichen and turned to enter the alchemy room, leaving the pill seeker and Hu Yichen stunned.

“Three to five hours, is he... is he joking?”

The pill seeker blinked his little eyes, asking Hu Yichen.

Hu Yichen shrugged his hands, giving a “I don’t know” look.

Three to five hours was a very short time for the strong people watching on site, so most of them did not leave, wanting to stay and see if the young alchemist was truly a genius or just bragging.

Hu Yichen sat cross-legged at the side of the stall, looking at the alchemy room, thinking to himself, “Brother Fang, my life and death are in your hands now. Don’t let me down!”

In the crowd not far away, a disciple from Green Rainbow Sect, who had been following Fang Bai here on Tong Mengjiao’s orders, looked at the alchemy room with interest and muttered, “Didn’t expect this kid to be an alchemist, and if Junior Sister Tong finds out, she might be even more interested in him?”

Then thought again, “Junior Sister Tong came to Alchemy Immortal City to plan a marriage with the immortal’s apprentice. If this matter becomes known to the Alchemy Immortal, there might be trouble! Anyway, I just need to follow Junior Sister Tong’s orders, as for other matters, I don’t care and can’t care!”

This Green Rainbow Sect disciple, like other strong people present, then sat cross-legged, waiting quietly for Fang Bai’s alchemy result.

Fang Bai said the pills would come out in three to five hours, but before two hours had passed, he completed the alchemy.

“So fast?”

When Fang Bai left the alchemy room, the strong people present stared at each other in disbelief, then all eyes turned to the special pill bottle crafted with Spirit Stone in his left hand.

“Seeing his smile, he probably succeeded in alchemy. Could he really have refined five Royal Grade Superior Creation Pills in such a short time?”

Hu Yichen saw Fang Bai coming out of the alchemy room and stood up eagerly, his eyes locked onto the pill bottle in Fang Bai's hand, his whole being trembling slightly with excitement.

If Fang Bai indeed has the ability to refine Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, he will certainly attract the City Lord Mansion's attention.

And if Fang Bai's ability to refine Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills is exceptional, he is very likely to become an honored guest of the City Lord Mansion and be respected by the strong people there.

By then, as long as he follows Fang Bai into the City Lord Mansion, he will be under the protection of the City Lord Mansion, and Divine Eagle Sect won't be able to harm him.

By that time, if Fang Bai talks to the Alchemy Immortal, asking him to speak on his behalf, then maybe Divine Eagle Sect Master Feng Lingxiao will consider the face of the Alchemy Immortal and spare his family of three.

Even if Feng Lingxiao doesn't give face to the Alchemy Immortal, at least in this Alchemy Immortal City, he won't face any trouble anymore.

"Pill Master, how was it?"

The pill seeker who had asked Fang Bai to refine the Royal Grade Superior Creation Pills saw Fang Bai coming out, was excited and rubbed his hands anxiously.

Fang Bai smiled slightly and said, "Glad I didn't fail, five pills were made! You can check them!"

He flicked his finger, and the pill bottle in his hand slowly flew toward the pill seeker.

As soon as he said this, the scene instantly buzzed, with thousands of gazes focused on that pill bottle.

The pill seeker reached out to take the pill bottle, carefully opened the lid, and a rich burst of spiritual energy accompanied by an enticing scent overflowed and spread in the surrounding space.

“Indeed, Royal Grade Superior Creation Pills!”

Among the strong people on site, someone knowledgeable, upon sensing the spiritual energy and fragrance escaping from the pill bottle, immediately had their eyes light up and exclaimed.

Other strong people also recognized the quality and nodded in agreement.

As such, nearly a hundred alchemists and nearly a thousand strong people present cheered and looked at Fang Bai with changed gazes.

“Five pills... Indeed, five Royal Grade Superior Creation Pills!”

The pill seeker verified the Spirit Pills and confirmed them, tightly holding the pill bottle as if afraid it would be lost once his grip relaxed.

He placed the pill bottle into his Space Ring, suppressed his excitement, bowed deeply to Fang Bai, and respectfully said, “Two hours, three portions of materials, refining five Spirit Pills... You are the most brilliant Pill Master I’ve ever met! Thank you!”

Fang Bai nodded with a smile, without a trace of arrogance on his face.

During his first days of alchemy, Fang Bai felt his performance was somewhat abnormal; he made only twenty Spirit Pills from three portions of materials, gave five to the pill seeker, and kept fifteen for himself.

To Fang Bai, such a harvest was not good.

If other alchemists knew Fang Bai thought like this, they would definitely cry.

Other alchemists, if successful in alchemy, would find one or two Spirit Pills a rare feat, five would be fortunate, twenty would be a miracle.

And what was a miracle to other alchemists, turned out to be an underperformance for Fang Bai, leaving those alchemists speechless.

Chapter 1823: In the Spotlight

The pill seeker received five royal-grade superior Creation Pills, thanked Fang Bai profusely, and then left joyfully amidst envious gazes.

“Pill Master, I also want to refine royal-grade superior Creation Pills!”

“I wonder if the Pill Master can refine royal-grade superior Gathering Yuan Pills?”

“I’d like to ask the Pill Master to refine a few royal-grade superior Gathering Spirit Pills, willing to pay double the usual reward!”

“Please, Pill Master, help refine royal-grade superior Wood Element Pills!”

“My brother’s Qi Sea is destroyed, we beg the Pill Master to refine a royal-grade superior Nine Revolutions Rebirth Pill to save him!”

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After the first pill seeker left, the crowd of strong Martial Artists suddenly seemed to explode, swarming forward around Fang Bai’s stall, clamoring for Fang Bai’s help in alchemy.

There were even two strong individuals glaring at each other and swearing over getting the best spot.

If it weren’t for the rules of the Martial Artists Trading Market, they might have already started a fight.

“Succeeded! Today, Fang Bai’s name will surely spread across Alchemy Immortal City!”

Seeing the excited faces and enthusiastic crowds, Hu Yichen clenched his fists, his heart bubbling with excitement.

Not only can Fang Bai refine royal-grade superior Spirit Pills, but he also holds such high efficiency. As one tells ten, ten tells a hundred, he will certainly attract more pill seekers in a short time.

Perhaps it won't be long before the City Lord Mansion sends someone to meet Fang Bai.

The City Lord Mansion would try to recruit any alchemist appearing in Alchemy Immortal City, inviting them to join the City Lord Mansion's Alchemist Team.

If the alchemist agrees, they can live in the accommodations provided by the City Lord Mansion, enjoying various generous benefits.

If an alchemist prefers not to join the City Lord Mansion and chooses instead to lease a stall in the Martial Artists Trading Market to practice alchemy, the City Lord Mansion won't push them and will provide various favors and support.

This is why the City Lord Mansion is very popular in Alchemy Immortal City; its dominant position is unshakable.

Fang Bai's high-profile alchemy aims to enter the City Lord Mansion; when its people come to recruit him, he will readily agree and take up residence there.

Regarding Hu Yichen, he'll be Fang Bai's assistant and enter the City Lord Mansion alongside him.

The disciples of the Divine Eagle Sect wouldn't dare to barge into the City Lord Mansion to seize anyone, so once Hu Yichen enters the City Lord Mansion, he doesn't need to worry about safety for the time being.

Once Fang Bai demonstrates more alchemy capabilities and gains some influence in the City Lord Mansion, they can invite the Alchemy Immortal to mediate the grudges between Hu Yichen and the Divine Eagle Sect.

Fang Bai and Hu Yichen had planned this in advance, and Hu Yichen was deeply grateful for Fang Bai's painstaking efforts in helping him.

Actually, Hu Yichen was unaware that even without his issue, Fang Bai would deliberately get closer to the City Lord Mansion, leveraging its vast network to search for Tang Wenrou, Dragon Maiden, and others.

Helping Hu Yichen was merely a convenience for Fang Bai.

Under Fang Bai's direction, Hu Yichen took on a few more deals, and Fang Bai continued to open the furnace and practice alchemy.

In the next few hours, Fang Bai sent out a bottle of Spirit Pills every two hours or so, and most were five pills per bottle, occasionally more by one or two, but never less.

In the eyes of the strong on-site, an alchemist like Fang Bai, stable and efficient, is undoubtedly considered one of the top alchemists in Alchemy Immortal City, almost able to rival Hua Yanqing—the current City Lord, known as the “Alchemy Immortal.”

Thus, the crowd's gaze toward Fang Bai had not only respect but also reverence.

The Green Rainbow Sect disciple tracking Fang Bai had quietly left without anyone noticing.

An alchemist capable of refining royal-grade superior Spirit Pills is rare in the vast Three Thousand Worlds, and those as stable and efficient as Fang Bai are even scarcer.

The Green Rainbow Sect disciple reckoned that if the sect recruited him, they'd be greatly strengthened, so he prepared to inform several high-ranking sect members immediately.

He thought that if Junior Sister Tong knew this person was so outstanding, she'd likely be unable to contain her excitement and might personally come to entice him, or even seduce him, into joining the sect.

"Senior Brother Feng Zihua is infatuated with Junior Sister Tong; it's known that they've even cultivated together as one. If he enters the Green Rainbow Sect, what will become of Senior Brother Feng? Poor Senior Brother Feng; it seems there'll be a green shade over his head..."

The Green Rainbow Sect disciple couldn't help but feel for Senior Brother Feng during his return to his residence.

As Hu Yichen expected, overnight, Fang Bai became the most sensational celebrity in Alchemy Immortal City.

Almost all strong individuals knew that a remarkable, astonishing alchemist had arrived at the central Martial Artists Trading Market in Alchemy Immortal City.

The alchemist never failed in his alchemy, managing to refine at least five royal-grade superior Spirit Pills each time.

Such superior alchemy techniques even eluded Hua Yanqing, the City Lord renowned as the "Alchemy Immortal!"

Though the alchemist was only a third-level Heavenly Tribulation powerhouse, his youth made people envious, and almost everyone believed that someday, he'd surpass Hua Yanqing in strength and become the first in Alchemy Immortal City.

The next morning, in front of Fang Bai's stall, thousands of strong individuals lined up, waiting to request Fang Bai to refine Spirit Pills.

Such a flood of business was expected by Fang Bai and Hu Yichen.

However, to Fang Bai and Hu Yichen's surprise, no one from the City Lord Mansion arrived, but a large group of Green Rainbow Sect disciples did.

Among them was Tong Mengjiao, a core disciple of the Green Rainbow Sect, whom Fang Bai had previously seen on the street, possessing a fourth-level Heavenly Tribulation cultivation level.

"Hey there, we're meeting again; what a coincidence!"

Tong Mengjiao greeted Fang Bai with a charming smile, her voice sweet as honey, full of seductive charm in her brows and eyes.

"Truly a woman exuding allure to the bone!"

Many strong individuals on-site couldn't help but be captivated by the beauty of Tong Mengjiao, their eyes brightening, some throats swallowing with difficulty, unable to look away.

Tong Mengjiao's appearance instantly made her the center of attention, and her cordial greeting with Fang Bai incited envy among many.

"Brother Fang, do you know this woman?"

Hu Yichen used the Voice Transmission Technique with Fang Bai, his face puzzled.

Tong Mengjiao's fame was widespread, and Alchemy Immortal City was a hub of information; Hu Yichen naturally heard of her reputation and felt her character didn't match Fang Bai's.

"We only met once in Alchemy Immortal City, but this woman seems quite interested in me..."

Fang Bai shrugged, speaking with a look of helplessness.

Hu Yichen spoke earnestly, "This woman's character is dubious, not a good match. Brother Fang must not be charmed by her and disturb your cultivation."

Fang Bai laughed, "Hu brother needn't worry! Even if this woman were a hundred times, a thousand times more beautiful, I wouldn't fancy her!"

Hu Yichen breathed a sigh of relief, "Then I'm reassured."

Their conversation occurred through the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique; otherwise, should Tong Mengjiao hear, she would surely be infuriated.

Chapter 1824: Slapping Himself in the Face!

"Hey little guy, why are you ignoring me? I haven't offended you. Is it really so difficult to say a word to me?"

Seeing Fang Bai exchanging glances with Hu Yichen, seemingly communicating secretly and ignoring her, Tong Mengjiao was upset, but outwardly, she maintained a charming smile, her eyes twinkling as she put on a pitiful look.

To the other experts present, Tong Mengjiao appeared both lovable and tantalizing, making them wish they could hold her in their arms and play with her wantonly.

Fang Bai crossed his arms and watched the coquettish Tong Mengjiao with great interest, chuckling as he said, "How do you want me to respond to you?"

Tong Mengjiao inwardly cursed him as an "unromantic brat," bit her lower lip lightly, and said coquettishly, "I said we are destined, shouldn't you be showing a pleased expression?"

Fang Bai lazily replied, "You're not my woman, so seeing you doesn't make me excited at all!"

Tong Mengjiao, hearing Fang Bai's words, narcissistically thought he was hinting at something. With eyes full of mischief, she giggled and said, "What if I became your woman?"

Fang Bai snorted with laughter and said mockingly, “You want to be my woman? You... don’t deserve it!”

“How audacious!”

Even Tong Mengjiao’s thick skin couldn’t handle Fang Bai’s public mockery. Her previously smiling face turned icy as she coldly said, “You ungrateful fellow! Me taking a liking to you is your blessing!”

Fang Bai pouted and said, “Your blessing, I can’t afford!”

Tong Mengjiao’s killing qi suddenly flared, and she stepped forward, enveloping Fang Bai in her aura as she said coldly, “Do you know who I am? Make me angry, and you’ll pay dearly!”

She was a Thunder Tribulation fourth-level expert and believed herself to be one realm stronger than Fang Bai. Under her suppression, Fang Bai would surely stumble back in disgrace.

Unexpectedly, Fang Bai stood there unaffected, without even a change in his expression.

Clearly, the pressure Tong Mengjiao released had no impact on Fang Bai, who dispelled it effortlessly.

“Are Green Rainbow Sect disciples always this domineering? Oh dear, I’m so scared!”

Fang Bai claimed to be frightened, but his face was still smiling, showing no sign of fear.

The Green Rainbow Sect was a top sect of the time, with a cloud of Thunder Tribulation experts including several Great Calamity Period experts holding the fort, commanding respect across the three thousand great worlds.

But it was precisely such a powerful sect whose disciples often acted arrogantly, using their power to bully others, inciting public resentment.

For instance, after the Green Rainbow Sect disciples arrived at Alchemy Immortal City, Tong Mengjiao and her group, riding dragon horses, rampaged through the city, injuring many experts, causing much controversy.

However, due to good relations between Green Rainbow Sect and Alchemy Immortal City, with their outstanding young disciples set to marry, the injured could only swallow their disgust in silence.

Among the experts present, some had suffered under Green Rainbow Sect disciples. If they saw a sect disciple humiliated by Fang Bai, they would be delighted.

Seeing Tong Mengjiao's face turn pale and her body quiver in anger, those who had suffered at the hands of Green Rainbow Sect disciples secretly rejoiced, with some even laughing out loud.

"Junior Sister Tong, I'll teach this guy a lesson for being rude to you!"

The Green Rainbow Sect disciple Feng Zihua, who had come with Tong Mengjiao and had been worried she might get entangled with Fang Bai, secretly felt pleased upon seeing their dispute.

He wanted to show off in front of Tong Mengjiao, so he took a step forward, unleashed his aura, and prepared to attack Fang Bai.

Feng Zihua knew the rules of no provoking in the Martial Artists Trading Market but thought they were about to ally with the Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion, so he felt fearless, believing the market managers would turn a blind eye.

However, unaware that the managers were already trembling from a previous Divine Eagle Sect incident, they wouldn't tolerate further disturbances.

Before Feng Zihua could act, several market managers stepped forward and sternly stopped him.

"Feng Zihua, this isn't your business! Get lost!"

Tong Mengjiao angrily dismissed Feng Zihua, ignoring his awkward embarrassment, took a deep breath to suppress her anger, and spoke through her thoughts, "Have you forgotten what the Sect Master instructed before we came?"

Feng Zihua hesitated, murmuring in response, "The Sect Master asked us to recruit him..."

Tong Mengjiao said, "Right! This person is a highly skilled Alchemist. We can't act on impulse and completely fall out with him. Otherwise, if the Sect Master finds out and gets angry, who can bear the consequences?"

Feng Zihua felt it was more unbearable than swallowing a fly to apologize to Fang Bai.

"Hey little guy, I was a bit thoughtless in my words earlier. Please don't mind! I'm here to apologize,"

Tong Mengjiao's expression changed quickly, from flushed with anger to dignified and pure, bowing as a form of apology to Fang Bai.

Feng Zihua had no choice but to also bow with hands cupped in respect and apologize.

Fang Bai sneered at Feng Zihua, "Weren't you going to teach me a lesson? Come on, I'm ready for it!"

Feng Zihua was furious but didn't dare show it, blushing with frustration as he repeatedly said he wouldn't dare.

Tong Mengjiao giggled softly, "Hey little guy, we know we were wrong. Can't you be the bigger person and let this go?"

Fang Bai shook his head and said, "No way! I'm petty. If someone offends me, I feel bad if I don't get justice."

Tong Mengjiao glanced at Feng Zihua, smiled, and said, "Then tell us, how can we make you feel better?"

Fang Bai pointed at Feng Zihua and said, "Let him slap himself... until I'm satisfied!"

"You..."

Feng Zihua was furious. Fang Bai asking him to slap himself in public was a public humiliation. If he really did it, he would lose all face and become a joke among his peers.

"Fine. I agree."

Tong Mengjiao gave Fang Bai a long look, then put away her smile and spoke seriously to Feng Zihua, "Senior Brother Feng, do as the little guy says, alright?"

"Junior Sister Tong..."

Feng Zihua was anxious and about to argue, but Tong Mengjiao shot him a fierce glare, reminding him of the Sect Master's instructions, forcing him to swallow his words.

"Senior Brother Feng, if you don't want to, we'll go back immediately, and I'll report everything truthfully to the Sect Master... You decide!"

Tong Mengjiao frowned impatiently.

Feng Zihua's face turned shades of blue and white, changing constantly. After a long moment, he finally said sullenly, "Fine! I'll do it! I'll slap myself..."

Chapter 1825: Recruitment

"Pa... pa... pa..."

The crisp sound echoed in the ears of the strong people present.

This was Feng Zihua raising his hand and slapping his own face.

Each time Feng Zihua slapped himself, he would glance at Fang Bai, hoping he would say “stop.”

Unfortunately, Fang Bai turned his head and whispered with the Alchemist beside him, not intending to call for a stop at all.

“The humiliation you give me today, I will repay double in the future!”

Feng Zihua was filled with hatred, resenting his junior sister for aiding his enemy and not standing with him, and hating Fang Bai for humiliating him like this, secretly vowing revenge.

Tong Mengjiao, although somewhat disgusted with Feng Zihua, seeing him slapping his own face non-stop with redness and swelling setting in, finally felt some compassion in her heart and said to Fang Bai, “Young sir, even striking someone deadly requires restraint; you must have vented enough anger by now?”

Fang Bai glanced at Feng Zihua, let out a sound, and waved his hand, saying, “Forget it!”

Feng Zihua, as if granted a great pardon, stopped his self-slapping, grimacing and gasping in pain.

Seeing the vicious intent in Feng Zihua’s eyes towards him, Fang Bai knew that person must hate him to the core, but he didn’t care, laughing, he said, “If you two have nothing else, please make way for others. I am about to take on some business.”

The strong people around were already displeased with Tong Mengjiao, Feng Zihua, and other Green Rainbow Sect disciples blocking them, so once Fang Bai spoke up, they also started to clamor: “Yeah, if you’re not here for alchemy, step aside, don’t delay us!”

“I was first in line here today; if it weren’t for you, perhaps Alchemist Fang’s first batch of Spirit Pills would be out already!”

“Yesterday, there were also members from Divine Eagle Sect causing trouble here, you know what happened to them, right?”

“Indeed, there are rules at this Martial Artists Trading Market, nobody can provoke an Alchemist!”

“Want to mess with Alchemist Fang, we won’t agree!”

“Right! We won’t agree!”

...

The strong people present could see that these Green Rainbow Sect disciples came to trouble Fang Bai, and although they later seemed to relent to Fang Bai for some unknown reason, this did not stop the strong people present from condemning the Green Rainbow Sect disciples.

Yesterday, the Divine Eagle Sect caused a scene at Fang Bai’s stall and were eventually expelled from the trading market. Tong Mengjiao of course heard of this and thought that the Green Rainbow Sect’s relationship with the City Lord Mansion was far better than that of the Divine Eagle Sect, and such expulsion would not happen. However, seeing the current fierce public sentiment, she couldn’t help but lose confidence.

“We’re not here to cause trouble; we’re here to invite Alchemist Fang to become an Honorary Elder at the Green Rainbow Sect!”

Tong Mengjiao cleared her throat and spoke in a crisp voice.

As soon as she said this, a hush fell over the scene, and all the strong people stopped speaking and turned their attention to Fang Bai.

Although Fang Bai’s cultivation level couldn’t even compare with the core disciples of the Green Rainbow Sect, his youth and limitless potential, with alchemy skills on par with top-ranking contemporary Alchemists, entitled him to the role of Honorary Elder at any sect.

Although it seemed there was some grudge between Fang Bai and the Green Rainbow Sect, a cooperation would be mutually beneficial with no drawbacks, a win-win situation, so the grudge seemed insignificant.

All the strong people present were watching intently to see how Fang Bai would respond.

From their standpoint, they naturally didn't wish Fang Bai to join the Green Rainbow Sect because if Fang Bai became an Honorary Elder there, any Spirit Pills he crafted would be exclusively sold by the Green Rainbow Sect, making them pay a greater price to acquire them.

However, joining the Green Rainbow Sect would not only bestow the title of Honorary Elder upon him but also grant him ample cultivation resources and security protection.

Faced with such favorable terms, could young Fang Bai really refuse?

At this moment, several Thunder Tribulation experts in green robes with embroidered pill furnaces appeared at the edge of the crowd, and one of them spoke aloud: "Everyone, please make way! Someone from the City Lord Mansion is here to invite Alchemist Fang to visit!"

The strong people present, hearing this voice, all turned around, and upon seeing who had arrived, immediately displayed a respectful demeanor and voluntarily made a path.

"So it turns out the City Lord Mansion also wishes to recruit Alchemist Fang."

"And it is Elder Shi En who has personally come to invite him, a sign of utmost sincerity!"

"There's talk that the City Lord Mansion and the Green Rainbow Sect are considering an alliance marriage? Yet they're recruiting Alchemist Fang at the same time... ha, interesting! This situation just got intriguing!"

"I wonder which side Alchemist Fang will choose to join."

“If it were me, I’d join the City Lord Mansion.”

“Not so! The City Lord Mansion has many Alchemists, with resources spread thin; joining the Green Rainbow Sect should offer better benefits!”

“In my opinion, not joining either side is best; that way, it would be easier for us to seek alchemy from Alchemist Fang!”

“True that!”

...

Several strong individuals from the City Lord Mansion strode forward from that pathway to Fang Bai’s stall and fixed their gaze upon him.

The lead individual was white-haired and bearded, yet vigorous and energetic, possessing a Thunder Tribulation Seventh Level cultivation, precisely one of the four great Elders of the City Lord Mansion in Alchemy Immortal City, Shi En.

Shi En was also an Alchemist capable of crafting Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, second only to City Lord Hua Yanqing in the City Lord Mansion.

Behind Shi En were three stewards of the City Lord Mansion, all Thunder Tribulation Sixth Level experts.

For these four top figures of the City Lord Mansion to come jointly to invite Fang Bai was considered extremely high regard, demonstrating their particular respect for him.

Compared to the City Lord Mansion’s entourage, the Green Rainbow Sect’s effort to recruit Fang Bai seemed much more modest and lacking in sincerity.

“May I ask, are you Alchemist Fang Bai, young friend?”

When Shi En saw Fang Bai for the first time, he confirmed it was indeed the young Alchemist who had risen to fame overnight, but he hadn't expected him to be so young, leading to a look of surprise.

An ordinary Thunder Tribulation Third Level expert, when facing a Thunder Tribulation Seventh Level expert like Shi En, would even if not trembling, surely show great respect and lower themselves.

But Fang Bai remained neither humble nor arrogant, smiling faintly as he said, "I am."

Such demeanor made Shi En regard him even higher, smiling warmly as he introduced himself: "I am Shi En, presently an Elder and Chief Alchemist at the Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion."

"So it's Elder Shi, your renowned name has long been like thunder to my ears."

Fang Bai casually complimented him.

Upon entering Alchemy Immortal City, Fang Bai had already heard of Shi En's notable name, knowing him to be a Thunder Tribulation Realm Great Calamity Period expert, a top-tier Alchemist capable of crafting Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills, and also the City Lord Mansion's Chief Alchemist.

In fact, if anyone were to talk about the number one Alchemist in Alchemy Immortal City, it would be City Lord Hua Yanqing, but as his age advanced, and seeing through worldly matters, he no longer personally engaged in alchemy.

Thus, this title of "Chief Alchemist" at the City Lord Mansion fell to Shi En.

If someone else offered such compliments, Shi En would graciously receive them, but now, Fang Bai's name was spreading throughout Alchemy Immortal City, famed for never failing in alchemy and achieving at least a five-pill yield rate.

On this point, even Shi En felt inferior.

Shi En chuckled self-deprecatingly and waved his hand, saying, "I dare not accept it! Fang Bai's reputation, to me, truly is thunderous."

Chapter 1826: Hua Yanqing

The flower sedan is carried by others.

Although Fang Bai and Shi En had a vast age difference and were meeting for the first time, both were top alchemists of the Three Thousand Great Worlds. Upon meeting, they felt an affinity, and complimented each other accordingly.

Nearby, Tong Mengjiao and other disciples of the Green Rainbow Sect initially wanted to greet Shi En, but Shi En seemed not to notice them, exchanging pleasantries only with Fang Bai, leaving them awkwardly ignored.

"Oh? Miss Tong, why are you here too?"

After chatting with Fang Bai for a while, Shi En pretended to suddenly notice Tong Mengjiao and the others, asking with apparent surprise.

Tong Mengjiao was no fool and realized Shi En had intentionally snubbed her and the others. Although furious inside, she dared not show it on her face.

After all, Shi En's status was prominent, even the Sect Master of the Green Rainbow Sect had to pay him respects, let alone these juniors?

"Elder Shi, hello."

Tong Mengjiao forced a smile and said, "We came to invite Alchemist Fang..."

"I heard that your Green Rainbow Sect once had a grudge with Alchemist Fang, right?"

Shi En interrupted Tong Mengjiao before she could finish, sternly saying, "You are simply being foolish! Alchemist Fang can refine Royal Grade Superior Spirit Pills and is a top alchemist of this era. Others can barely contain their respect, yet you dared to disrespect him like that! It's really... really..."

He stopped here, stamping his foot in frustration, and said, "If you were disciples of my City Lord Mansion, you would've been punished to reflect by facing the wall! Enough, enough, your Green Rainbow Sect's matters are beyond my jurisdiction!"

"I..."

Tong Mengjiao wanted to say that they were trying to recruit Fang Bai as an Honorary Elder of the Green Rainbow Sect, but was once again interrupted by Shi En after just one word.

"It's already broad-minded of Alchemist Fang not to trouble you. Any other alchemist would make you suffer. Oh, we are here to invite Alchemist Fang to the City Lord Mansion as a guest, so we won't continue our chat. Greet Sect Master Tong for me when you see him."

Shi En said, warmly inviting Fang Bai to the City Lord Mansion as a guest.

Fang Bai exchanged a quick glance with Hu Yichen and went with joy.

Tong Mengjiao swallowed back her words, feeling unbearable until Fang Bai and Hu Yichen left with Shi En and other experts from the City Lord Mansion. She exhaled a long breath.

"That old Shi En, he must have done it on purpose! He's surely worried that I would recruit Fang Bai to our Green Rainbow Sect! And that Fang Bai, he's detestable too! I won't let him off!"

Tong Mengjiao stomped her foot in anger, thinking furiously.

"Junior Sister Tong, now that Fang Bai has gone to the City Lord Mansion, what do we do? If the Sect Master finds out we couldn't bring in Fang Bai, will we be punished?"

Seeing Fang Bai follow Shi En to the City Lord Mansion, Feng Zihua was secretly delighted and approached Tong Mengjiao, pretending to be worried.

Tong Mengjiao cast him a disdainful look and frowned, "Punishment then punishment, what else can we do? Hmph, this is all your fault! If you hadn't offended Fang Bai before, he might have gone with us to the Green Rainbow Sect!"

Feng Zihua touched his still swollen face, feeling aggrieved, and said with an innocent look, "I offended Fang Bai because I care too much about you, Junior Sister Tong! You must believe me, I'm the only one who truly means well for you in this world! But alas... alas you're marrying into the City Lord Mansion, and becoming someone else's woman!"

He thought of his Junior Sister's flawless body being nestled under another man, feeling both envious and resentful, his face twisted with indescribable dissatisfaction.

Tong Mengjiao had no idea what he was thinking, irritably waving her hand, "Alright, alright! Stop with the nauseating words! Go meet my father and see what he says!"

Saying this, she took the lead, and Feng Zihua along with other Green Rainbow Sect disciples followed suit.

With Fang Bai and the others leaving, the remaining strong figures also showed regretful expressions and dispersed.

Fang Bai and Hu Yichen, accompanied by Shi En, left the Martial Artists Trading Market, mounted dragon horses, and soon arrived in front of the City Lord Mansion of Alchemy Immortal City.

Shi En led Fang Bai and Hu Yichen into the City Lord's Hall, where they met City Lord Hua Yanqing of the Alchemy Immortal City, known as the contemporary "Alchemy Immortal".

Seated in the City Lord's Hall were other high-level figures from the City Lord Mansion.

Fang Bai originally thought the City Lord would be a man, but to his surprise, it was a woman.

Because of her great strength and beauty-maintaining techniques, despite being nearly five hundred years old, Hua Yanqing looked only about fifty, with a kind face that made her appear quite approachable.

“City Lord, Alchemist Fang has been brought here.”

Entering the City Lord’s Hall, Hua Yanqing was already seated, while Shi En stepped forward to pay respects and introduced Fang Bai to Hua Yanqing.

“I heard before that Alchemist Fang wasn’t very old, but I didn’t expect him to be this young, truly amazing! At such a young age, he possesses unparalleled alchemy skills; remarkable individuals like Alchemist Fang are truly admirable!”

Upon seeing Fang Bai, Hua Yanqing felt that this young man was extraordinary. After Shi En’s introduction, her face displayed surprise. She approached Fang Bai, observing him carefully, nodding frequently, evidently quite appreciative of him.

Fang Bai had heard from Hu Yichen about some of Hua Yanqing’s past and knew that this woman, although looking kind, was also decisive and possessed a Heavenly Tribulation eighth level cultivation, close to becoming one of the top contemporary powerhouses.

Facing such power, Fang Bai did not dare to show any disregard, so he clasped his fist humbly and spoke a few modest words.

He greeted her as an equal, while Hu Yichen dared not be complacent, introduced himself, and gave a deep respectful bow, greeting as a junior.

Hua Yanqing, noticing that despite Fang Bai having only a third-level Heavenly Tribulation cultivation, remained calm and unafraid in front of her, a formidable eighth-level Heavenly Tribulation expert. She was not upset but expressed her amazement.

Having encountered countless people with remarkable insights, she recognized that Fang Bai’s demeanor indicated he was not merely a top alchemist; he must have other things to rely on.

After the host and guests sat down and exchanged pleasantries, they got to the main topic.

"I wish to appoint Alchemist Fang as an Honorary Elder of the City Lord Mansion, willing to provide all the resources needed for Alchemist Fang's future cultivation. What do you think? Of course, if there are any dissatisfactions, please bring them up, and we will do our best to accommodate."

Hua Yanqing spoke straightforwardly without any pretense.

Fang Bai pretended to ponder for a moment before pointing to Hu Yichen, "My friend here has some past grievances with the Divine Eagle Sect. If City Lord Hua would mediate and resolve the issues between them, I see no objection to joining the City Lord Mansion."

Chapter 1827: Envy, Jealousy, and Hatred

Hua Yanqing, upon hearing the matter involved the Divine Eagle Sect, did not dare to immediately agree. Frowning, he asked, "I do not know what past grievances this friend has with the Divine Eagle Sect? Could you tell me? If there's no deep-seated enmity, I would be willing to help with this."

"The matter between myself and the Divine Eagle Sect isn't really any enmity..."

Seeing Hua Yanqing looking at him, Hu Yichen gave a bitter smile and recounted the story of his love affair and elopement with Feng Ziyu, the daughter of the Divine Eagle Sect Master.

After listening, Hua Yanqing's frown gradually relaxed, followed by a burst of light laughter.

"I thought it was some deep-seated and irreconcilable grudge; turns out it is such a trivial matter. Rest assured, consider this matter taken care of by me."

Fang Bai made the promise on the spot.

Hu Yichen was overjoyed and expressed his gratitude repeatedly.

Although Hua Yanqing is not the most elite strongman in the Three Thousand Great Worlds, he is a top-notch alchemist, respected and esteemed by many powerful figures. If she were to speak on Shen Yuezong Patriarch Feng Lingxiao only afraid he would have to give her some face.

Fang Bai, who facilitated this matter, earned even more gratitude from Hu Yichen, who thought that no matter the outcome, he owed Fang Bai a great favor he would repay handsomely in the future.

Seeing that Hua Yanqing was willing to mediate with the Divine Eagle Sect for Hu Yichen, Fang Bai also kept his promise and agreed to join the City Lord Mansion.

The Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion, such a powerful force, hiring an honorary elder is naturally a remarkable thing.

The next day, Hua Yanqing gathered all the high-ranking members and elite disciples of the City Lord Mansion in the square before the City Lord's Hall. At the same time, she invited the high-ranking members of the Divine Eagle Sect and Green Rainbow Sect to witness. In a lively manner, she held a grand welcome ceremony for Fang Bai, officially confirming his identity as an honorary elder.

This time, the Green Rainbow Sect's alliance with the Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion was personally led by their Sect Master, Tong Shun, along with his daughter.

Seeing Fang Bai become an honorary elder of the City Lord Mansion, Sect Master Tong Shun of Green Rainbow Sect felt an indescribable depression.

According to his expectations, they were supposed to draw Fang Bai into the Divine Eagle Sect; unfortunately, because of his daughter and disciple Feng Zihua's rashness, they upset Fang Bai, which made him become a guest of honor at the City Lord Mansion instead.

When Tong Shun received Hua Yanqing's invitation, although he felt deeply resentful, he still came out of consideration for Hua Yanqing, but during the ceremony, his smile turned stiff, and his expression was somewhat awkward.

Thinking that if it weren't for his daughter and disciple offending Fang Bai, he might have had the chance to become their Divine Eagle Sect's honorary elder, Tong Shun felt even more furious and gave his

daughter Tong Mengjiao and disciple Feng Zihua a fierce glare, blaming them for their lack of social adeptness.

Tong Mengjiao and Feng Zihua both seemed aware that they had done wrong and, noticing Tong Shun's fierce gaze, immediately lowered their heads and did not dare make a sound.

As for the Divine Eagle Sect, this time, several of the sect's high-ranking members brought with them Sect Master's disciple Tu Dajiang and some elite disciples, intending to form a marital alliance with Hua Yanqing's granddaughter, Ning Yuze.

When they recognized Hu Yichen, who had eloped with the sect master's beloved daughter, standing behind Fang Bai, they had it not been for the fact they were at the City Lord Mansion, they would have already attempted to seize Hu Yichen.

Although they couldn't act for now, their gazes towards Hu Yichen carried intense killing intent.

However, Hu Yichen, at this moment, appeared composed, showing no signs of fear or anxiety.

Now that Fang Bai was an honorary elder of the City Lord Mansion, holding great power and a revered position, as Fang Bai's "follower" and "junior", as long as Fang Bai was willing to protect him, the Divine Eagle Sect would hesitate to act rashly against him.

In the City Lord's Hall, where strong figures were plenty, there were those who envied, those who were jealous, and those who resented Fang Bai becoming the honorary elder of the City Lord Mansion.

Tong Mengjiao, sitting among the crowd, was scrutinizing Fang Bai, her gaze filled with both jealousy and resentment.

When Tong Mengjiao first met Fang Bai, she was enchanted by his handsome appearance and unique temperament and wanted to make him her Martial Dao partner. She didn't expect to first be coldly rejected by Fang Bai and then humiliated later.

Her feelings for Fang Bai had turned from affection to hatred, and now, seeing him become an honorary elder of the City Lord Mansion, granted another layer of protection, her jealousy and resentment only intensified.

“So what if you’ve become the honorary elder of the City Lord Mansion? In the end, you’re just a Heavenly Tribulation Third Stage expert! If I ever have the chance, I will surely kill you to avenge my shame!”

Tong Mengjiao quietly clenched her fist, her mind beginning to plot how she might silently eliminate Fang Bai.

“Today, my dear daughter, Tong Mengjiao, will be betrothed to City Lord Hua’s disciple Leng Rui. Meanwhile, one of the Divine Eagle Sect’s direct disciples, Tu Dajiang, will be betrothed to City Lord Hua’s granddaughter Ning Yuze. Furthermore, City Lord Hua has gained Alchemist Fang as a top-tier alchemist... truly, this is a triple fortune, worthy of celebration!”

During the subsequent banquet, Sect Master Tong Shun of the Green Rainbow Sect laughed and said.

Although Hua Yanqing usually seldom smiled, at this moment, her face also beamed with joy as she said with a smile, “It truly is a triple fortune! Today’s events signify a more glorious future for the City Lord Mansion!”

After a round of joyous drinking, City Lord Hua Yanqing, Green Rainbow Sect Master Tong Shun, and an Elder from Divine Eagle, witnessed by many strong figures present, exchanged marital alliances and set a wedding date.

Both the Green Rainbow Sect and the Divine Eagle Sect are top-notch sects, and with their alliance with the City Lord Mansion, the biggest beneficiary is naturally the City Lord Mansion, but it will also bring greater convenience for the Green Rainbow Sect and Divine Eagle Sect in requesting alchemy from the City Lord Mansion in the future.

Thus, this alliance among the three powerful sects ends in a win-win-win situation.

Fang Bai, sitting beside Hua Yanqing, looked at Leng Rui, who was soon to be betrothed to Tong Mengjiao, feeling somewhat sorry for him.

Leng Rui is one of the ten direct disciples of the City Lord Mansion, a Heavenly Tribulation Fifth Stage expert at just over thirty, clearly of excellent aptitude.

Leng Rui's appearance and image were also quite good, with sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, elegant and graceful, making him a rare handsome man, more than worthy of Tong Mengjiao.

Fang Bai felt sorry for Leng Rui because Tong Mengjiao, a woman, was fickle and not a suitable match. She had already lost her Primordial Yin Body and had been with more than one man, possibly still maintaining intimate relations with several Martial Dao partners to this day.

Fang Bai didn't know whether Leng Rui was aware of Tong Mengjiao's nature.

If he's unaware, that's one thing; if he is, and still cannot disobey the sect's orders and is forced to marry Tong Mengjiao as a Martial Dao partner, that would be rather tragic.

As for Ning Yuze, she is Hua Yanqing's granddaughter, in her twenties, as beautiful as a flower, petite and exquisite, possessing a Heavenly Tribulation Fourth Stage cultivation level.

Tu Dajiang, who will be marrying Ning Yuze, is just over thirty, with slightly dark skin, thick brows, a broad mouth, burly and strong, standing almost two heads taller than Ning Yuze.

This height difference made Fang Bai unwittingly think of Beauty and the Beast when he saw them together.

Chapter 1828: Give Me Some Face

In short, Fang Bai was not optimistic about the political marriages among the City Lord Mansion, Divine Eagle Sect, and Green Rainbow Sect.

The direct disciple of the City Lord Mansion, Leng Rui, either due to his indifferent nature or dissatisfaction with Tong Mengjiao, did not look at this fiancée even once, despite sitting not far from her.

On the contrary, the direct disciple of the Divine Eagle Sect, Tu Dajiang, couldn't take his eyes off his fiancée Ning Yuze and frequently grinned with satisfaction.

Facing Tu Dajiang's gaze, Ning Yuze looked at her nose with her eye, and the heart with her nose, expressionless and revealing neither joy nor sorrow.

Hua Yanqing, Tong Shun, and the elders of the Divine Eagle Sect, however, did not pay attention to these junior disciples and continued to revel in their drinks and conversations.

To them, the marriage of junior disciples was a decision they made themselves, and regardless of the juniors' satisfaction, it had to be executed unconditionally.

After all, in their eyes, sect interests outweigh everything, and sacrificing individuality for the sect's benefit is natural.

The banquet proceeded in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

During this time, Green Rainbow Sect Master Tong Shun and the elders of the Divine Eagle Sect paid special attention to Fang Bai and were particularly cordial.

To them, such a top-level alchemist as Fang Bai, even if not pulled into their sect, is beneficial to establish friendly relations with, both for the sect and personally.

The previous grievances between Tong Mengjiao, Feng Zihua, and Fang Bai were resolved through Hua Yanqing's mediation, and they came to apologize to Fang Bai, who magnanimously forgave them, assuming the demeanor of a senior, which made Tong Mengjiao and Feng Zihua indignant but helpless.

"I share a close friendship with your Sect Master Feng, and it's a pity he couldn't personally attend this time."

Seeing Fang Bai subtly gesturing to him, Hua Yanqing suddenly understood and sighed, saying to the elder of the Divine Eagle Sect, "I heard Sect Master Feng has already set out for the Blood Sea Desert, is that right?"

The elder of the Divine Eagle Sect named Xue Hongxing, the chief among the four elders of the Divine Eagle Sect, possessed a Thunder Tribulation Level Seven cultivation level.

Upon hearing Hua Yanqing's inquiry, Xue Hongxing respectfully replied, "Yes! The Sect Master left some time ago. Before departing, he specifically instructed me to apologize to City Lord Hua and ask for forgiveness for his absence!"

Hua Yanqing waved his hand with a smile and said, "Sect Master Feng is too kind. The Blood Sea Desert is a rare ancient battlefield ruin, only discovered three years ago. Which expert does not want to try their luck? Not to mention Sect Master Feng, even I would have gone if not for some trivial matters delaying me."

The numerous experts from the three major forces present showed longing expressions upon hearing Hua Yanqing mention the ancient battlefield ruins of the Blood Sea Desert, as many had originally planned to explore there once the matter here was settled.

The Blood Sea Desert is located in the western part of the Eastern Desolate Continent, an endless desert named for its blood-colored sand.

Three years ago, a Thunder Tribulation expert inadvertently discovered an ancient battlefield ruin spanning ten thousand miles deep in the Blood Sea Desert and found many unprecedented rare cultivation resources within.

The news spread, causing a sensation in all directions, and many experts from the Great Thousand Worlds embarked on a journey to explore its mysteries.

It is said that the ancient battlefield ruins deep in the Blood Sea Desert were the battleground of the top Thunder Tribulation experts from the Great Thousand Worlds during ancient times, fighting over several relics from the Immortal Realm.

Therefore, not only are there relics of top Thunder Tribulation experts in the ancient battlefield ruins, but also relics from the Immortal Realm that are coveted by all Thunder Tribulation experts.

This is precisely why experts like Tong Shun, Hua Yanqing, and Feng Lingxiao are preparing to journey to the Blood Sea Desert for exploration.

“Elder Xue, there’s something I’d like to ask whether your Divine Eagle Sect could do me the honor...”

Under the gaze of Fang Bai and Hu Yichen, Hua Yanqing finally broached the main topic.

“City Lord Hua, what are you talking about! In this Great Thousand Worlds, who wouldn’t give City Lord Hua some respect? Please, speak your mind, I am all ears.”

Xue Hongxing straightened up and said solemnly.

Hua Yanqing pointed to Hu Yichen and said, “I wonder if Elder Xue recognizes this friend, Hu Yichen?”

Although Xue Hongxing had been drinking and chatting with Hua Yanqing and the others, he had also been discreetly observing Hu Yichen.

Having abducted their Sect Master’s daughter, which enraged the Sect Master to no end, Xue Hongxing had little affection for Hu Yichen. He originally planned to seize Hu Yichen and escort him back to the sect to face the Sect Master’s wrath but felt somewhat apprehensive upon seeing his good relationship with Fang Bai.

Although Fang Bai’s cultivation level isn’t high, he is a top alchemist and also became an honorable elder of the City Lord Mansion, placing him in a position that made Xue Hongxing more cautious, unwilling to act rashly.

When Hua Yanqing abruptly inquired about Hu Yichen, Xue Hongxing was momentarily surprised before nodding, “Naturally, I recognize him. This person is...”

He was about to say “this person is the little thief whom the Sect Master wants to eliminate as soon as possible” when Hua Yanqing smiled and interjected, “Recognizing him is good! I heard that this young friend Hu and your Sect Master’s daughter are mutually in love, deeply fond of each other, and have long become martial dao companions, having even borne a daughter... is that correct?”

Xue Hongxing was surprised that Hua Yanqing not only referred to Hu Yichen as a “young friend” but also described what Hu Yichen had done—eloping with the Sect Master’s daughter—in terms of “mutual love and deep fondness,” seemingly showing some protection toward Hu Yichen.

Alarmed, Xue Hongxing immediately said, “City Lord Hua, you must be mistaken. This Hu Yichen abducted my Sect Master’s daughter, angering the Sect Master, who issued a sect-wide order to hunt him down, swearing to kill him...”

“Elder Xue, that’s quite incorrect!

Not waiting for Xue Hongxing to finish, Hua Yanqing shook his head dismissively and said, “From what I know, your Sect Master’s daughter Feng Ziyu is quite formidable. If she was adamantly unwilling, how could young friend Hu have taken her away and borne a daughter with her? I suspect there is some misunderstanding here...”

Seeing Xue Hongxing wanting to argue further, she gestured to interrupt, continuing, “Young friend Hu is a friend of Elder Fang, which also makes him one of our City Lord Mansion’s people. When Elder Xue returns to your sect, please pass a message from me to Sect Master Feng: that I, Hua Yanqing, am willing to mediate and reconcile, allowing both sides to turn hostility into harmony. Would that not be better? What does Elder Xue think?”

Upon hearing this, Xue Hongxing couldn’t help but smile wryly, thinking that since Hua Yanqing’s words had reached this point, refusing would surely displease the other party.

Moreover, the affairs between Hu Yichen and their Sect Master weren’t his concern, so why be the villain?

“Since City Lord Hua has spoken, I naturally have no objections. Upon returning to the Divine Eagle Sect, I will surely convey your words to Sect Master Feng.”

After speaking, Xue Hongxing glanced meaningfully at a visibly excited Hu Yichen, as if indicating: You're a lucky one, evading a disaster.

Chapter 1829: Bluewater Cold Pond

Hua Yanqing and Xue Hongxing were in conversation, while Hu Yichen listened intently on the side. When he heard Hua Yanqing speak up for him, his eyes couldn't help but tear up, and his nose felt slightly sour, almost moved to tears.

He knew that although Xue Hongxing couldn't promise to spare his family on behalf of the Divine Eagle Sect, at least with Hua Yanqing's influence, his family wouldn't be in mortal danger for a while.

Hu Yichen had already decided that after the banquet, he would bring his wife and daughter, who were in hiding outside the city, into the Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion to live in the same courtyard as Fang Bai. He wouldn't take a single step outside the courtyard until the Divine Eagle Sect revoked their pursuit order against his family.

Two hours later, the guests and hosts parted happily.

That night, Hu Yichen, accompanied by Fang Bai and two elders from the Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion, went to a secret location several hundred miles outside Alchemy Immortal City and found his wife and daughter.

Hu Yichen's family's hiding place was in a valley surrounded by mountains. The valley wasn't large, with dense branches and leaves of ancient trees above providing cover. If not careful, it was truly hard to find.

On the north side of the valley, leaning against the mountain wall, stood two small bamboo huts. Surrounding the huts were wildflowers and grasses everywhere, with a refreshing fragrance in the air.

Several hundred meters east of the bamboo huts was a deep pond about several feet in diameter, with water as green as jade. Mist hovered over the pond, spiritual energy gathered and swirled there, lingering for a long time.

Upon entering the valley, Fang Bai's eyes were immediately drawn to the pond, and he said to Hu Yichen, "Brother Hu, the place where your family lives is not only tranquil, but also a cultivation treasure ground!"

Seeing his gaze fixed on the pond, Hu Yichen asked curiously, "A cultivation treasure ground? Brother Fang, do you mean that pond?"

Seeing Hu Yichen's manner, as if unaware of the pond's wonders, Fang Bai was surprised and said, "With Brother Hu's insight, can't you see that the pond contains rich Water Spirit Qi, and frequent soaking in it would greatly benefit cultivation?"

Hu Yichen smiled bitterly, "I can see it, but I don't dare soak in it!"

Seeing Fang Bai's puzzled expression, Hu Yichen reached down and grabbed a stone from the ground. He then threw it toward the pond.

The stone traced an arc in the air and fell toward the pond.

Instead of the expected "thunk" of water, the stone exploded with a "snap" as soon as it touched the layer of Water Spirit Qi above the pond, turning into a cloud of dust falling into the pond.

"This pond is sinister!"

The two elders who had accompanied Fang Bai and Hu Yichen approached within three zhang of the pond, cried out in surprise, and quickly retreated with furrowed brows.

Fang Bai focused his eyes and saw that the two elders were trembling slightly, and a layer of white frost had already formed on their hair and beards.

"To think this pond is so chilling that it instantly shattered the stone, and even those with a Heavenly Tribulation level cultivation of seven are hard pressed to resist!"

Fang Bai looked at the pond, both surprised and pleased.

Surprisingly, the pond resembled the extremely cold and frigid "Bluewater Cold Pond" in the Immortal Realm, the temperature was incredibly low. It would be difficult for even those at the pinnacle of Heavenly Tribulation Level nine to withstand the cold.

The delightful part was that his Chaos True Body could stay in this pond for a while. Although the pond fell short of the Bluewater Cold Pond in the Immortal Realm, the Water Spirit Qi within was nearly substantial, and immersing himself in it for cultivation would be very beneficial.

Unexpectedly, accompanying Hu Yichen here led to the discovery of such a cultivation treasure ground, truly an unexpected surprise.

It was a pity that Hu Yichen and his family guarded such a cultivation treasure ground but couldn't practice. However, it was a stroke of luck for him.

Though the pond was good, others besides himself likely wouldn't dare to practice in it. Therefore, Fang Bai didn't say much more to Hu Yichen and the two elders, planning to return later when he had free time to cultivate alone.

The arrival of Fang Bai and the others startled Hu Yichen's wife and daughter residing in the bamboo hut.

Hu Yichen's wife, Feng Ziyu, holding her daughter's hand, walked out of the bamboo hut. Seeing Fang Bai and others standing near the pond with her husband, she realized they were friends, not foes, and heaved a sigh of relief.

Hu Yichen turned around and, seeing his wife and daughter standing in front of the bamboo hut, his face lit up with joy.

"Daddy!"

A childish voice rang out, and Hu Yichen's four- or five-year-old daughter shouted enthusiastically, running towards him.

"Xue'er, be careful, don't fall!"

Feng Ziyu hurriedly followed.

Hu Yichen opened his arms, stepped forward, and picked up his daughter who plunged into his embrace. He kissed her rosy cheek and nodded to his wife standing behind her.

"Brother Fang, Elders, this is my wife Feng Ziyu and my daughter Hu Xue'er."

Holding his daughter in one hand and his wife's hand with the other, Hu Yichen stepped forward and introduced them to Fang Bai and the two Alchemy Immortal City Lord Elders.

"Ziyu, this is Brother Fang Bai, and these are the elders from the Alchemy Immortal City Lord Mansion..."

Then, Hu Yichen introduced Fang Bai and the two elders to his wife and told her about Hua Yanqing's mediation on their behalf.

Understanding that Fang Bai and the City Lord Mansion were their saviors, Feng Ziyu hastily clasped her hands and bowed deeply.

The two elders from the City Lord Mansion, knowing this charming young woman was the daughter of the Divine Eagle Sect Master, didn't dare be negligent and quickly returned the courtesy.

Feng Ziyu, born in the top-tier Divine Eagle Sect of the Three Thousand Great Worlds, had been cultivating since childhood and was now a fourth-level Heavenly Tribulation powerhouse.

Her daughter Hu Xue'er, though only four or five years old, had already reached Foundation Establishment.

"You're called Hu Xue'er? Hmm, tell uncle, how old are you this year?"

Fang Bai, seeing Hu Xue'er's cheeks as white as snow and her adorable, tender appearance, couldn't resist pinching her little cheek and asked with a smile.

Hu Xue'er rolled her eyes, pouted her little mouth, and protested, "Mom said a girl's face shouldn't be pinched casually by boys."

Fang Bai was taken aback, then laughed heartily, "Uncle Fang is your daddy's good friend; can't I even pinch you a little?"

"Well..."

Hu Xue'er blinked, tilted her head in thought, then seriously said, "Last year, Daddy brought home an uncle named Zhang, he gave me a gift, and I let him hug me. Uncle Fang, do you have a gift? If you do, I won't mind you pinching my face!"

Having already learned of Fang Bai's identity from her husband, Feng Ziyu couldn't help but glare at her daughter and chide lightly, "Xue'er, don't be naughty! Or Mommy will be angry!"

Clearly somewhat fearful of her mother, Hu Xue'er shrunk her head upon hearing that and replied pitifully, "Mommy, don't be angry, Xue'er doesn't dare anymore!"

Chapter 1830: Uncle Fang's Gift

Hu Yichen sighed and showed a look of sorrow as his daughter brought up "Uncle Zhang."

"The Uncle Zhang Xue'er mentioned is a dear friend I've made over the years, truly a kindred spirit. We never kept secrets from each other. He used to visit frequently, and Xue'er was quite fond of him. Sadly, he perished during an adventure, leaving Xue'er heartbroken for quite some time..."

Hu Yichen spoke to Fang Bai and the others.

Fang Bai thought for a moment, then squatted down, casually taking out a jade vial, and gestured to Hu Xue'er, saying, "Uncle Fang has brought plenty of gifts. What do you think of this vial? Do you like it?"

"This is an elixir vial; we have many at home!"

Hu Xue'er glanced at the jade vial indifferently.

Hu Xue'er, still young without knowing the value, but Hu Yichen and his wife understood that since Fang Bai, a top-tier alchemist capable of crafting royal-grade superior spirit pills, the items he presented would not be of poor quality.

Fang Bai smiled warmly, "Then do you know what's inside Uncle Fang's vial?"

Hu Xue'er shook her head.

Fang Bai said, "This is called a Marrow Cleansing Pill. Once you take it, you'll grow up to be much stronger than your parents!"

Hu Xue'er's eyes lit up, her face full of excitement, "Really?"

She knew her parents were cultivators who could soar through the skies, and she always admired them, dreaming of becoming as powerful as they were; the thought that Fang Bai could make her even stronger thrilled her.

"Really! Uncle Fang never lies! Here, catch!"

Fang Bai flicked with his fingers, and the jade vial slowly floated towards Hu Xue'er, hovering in front of her.

Hu Xue'er, afraid her mother would scold her, didn't dare to take it and glanced up at her mother.

“There are ten royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pills here, let Xue’er take one annually to improve her physique.”

Fang Bai stood up and spoke to Hu Yichen and his wife.

When Fang Bai first saw Hu Xue’er, he immediately realized her aptitude was quite mediocre. Normally, being able to advance to the Thunder Tribulation Realm in the future would be considered fortunate.

“Xue’er, quickly... bow down and give thanks to Uncle Fang!”

Upon hearing the words “royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pill,” Hu Yichen and his wife’s excitement was uncontrollable, Feng Ziyu’s eyes even reddened, gently nudging their daughter to kneel and bow to Fang Bai.

Hu Yichen and his wife were both formidable cultivators at the fourth stage of the Thunder Tribulation, long aware of their daughter’s average aptitude. Perhaps in the future, her cultivation might not even reach the Thunder Tribulation Realm.

To enhance their daughter’s physique and ensure her cultivation reaches higher realms, Hu Yichen disguised himself and took risks entering the Alchemy Immortal’s place to refine spirit pills, aiming to earn enough cultivation resources, then ask Shi En, the Pill Master at the City Lord Mansion, to help refine royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pills for his daughter’s Marrow Cleansing.

However, as a top-tier alchemist, Shi En was not only extremely busy, but getting him to refine pills required a considerable fee, which Hu Yichen had yet to accumulate.

Fang Bai’s arrival brought Hu Yichen more hope; he intended to ask Fang Bai to help refine royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pills but never dared to ask.

Now Fang Bai effortlessly gifted a vial containing ten royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pills, an unimaginable blessing for Hu Yichen’s family.

They knew that with these ten royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pills improving their daughter's physique, there's hope she might surpass them in ability in the future.

The gift Fang Bai bestowed upon Hu Xue'er was unquestionably a great one, leaving Hu Yichen and his wife reluctant to refuse, which prompted Feng Ziyu to have their daughter kneel and bow to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai's gift of a vial of royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pills not only excited Hu Yichen and his wife but even astonished the two elders from the City Lord Mansion.

Though they too were pill masters capable of crafting royal-grade superior spirit pills, their alchemy skills were inferior to Great Elder Shi En's.

Moreover, such pills like the royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pills were notoriously difficult to create, and they only had a chance to successfully craft one or two on a lucky occasion.

For someone like Fang Bai to offer an entire vial containing royal-grade superior Marrow Cleansing Pills was undoubtedly a grand gesture; inheriting them would be inconceivable for them.

Hu Xue'er, somewhat bewildered, was about to kneel to Fang Bai, but Fang Bai gently helped her up, preventing her.

"This is Uncle Fang's gift for you. If you like it, keep it! Oh, and later Uncle Fang will teach you a cultivation method so you can become even more powerful. How does that sound?"

Seeing Hu Xue'er accept the spirit pills, Fang Bai said with a smile.

Growing a liking for this uncle who could make her stronger than her parents, Hu Xue'er nodded and said, "Sure!"

Hu Yichen and his wife, as well as the two elders from the City Lord Mansion, admired Fang Bai for his alchemy skills, yet Fang Bai's cultivation level was merely at the third stage of the Thunder Tribulation, which was inferior to theirs.

Thus, they didn't put much thought into Fang Bai teaching Hu Xue'er a cultivation method, but knowing Fang Bai's kind intentions, Hu Yichen and his wife still had Hu Xue'er express her gratitude again.

Afterward, Feng Ziyu returned to the bamboo house to pack things, while Hu Yichen and his daughter stayed with Fang Bai and the two elders from the City Lord Mansion outside.

"Xue'er, let's go over there, and Uncle Fang will teach you a cultivation method, alright?"

After playing with Xue'er for a while, Fang Bai said.

"Alright!"

Having become familiar with Fang Bai, Hu Xue'er developed a closer fondness for this sunny uncle and immediately agreed.

The two, holding hands, walked to the nearby bamboo grove, sat down on the grass, and Fang Bai used the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique to impart the Ice Condensation Technique, a basic water system cultivation method from the Immortal Realm, to Hu Xue'er.

Growing up by Bluewater Cold Pond, Hu Xue'er was influenced by her surroundings, developing a physique inclined towards the water attribute, and she practiced the water system techniques passed down by her parents. Therefore, Fang Bai chose to teach her the Ice Condensation Technique.

By circulating the Ice Condensation Technique, one could instantly condense absorbed Water Element Qi into ice and launch it at opponents. Although it was a basic technique from the Immortal Realm, it was indeed an Immortal Rank technique, and its power surpassed any water system techniques found in the Three Thousand Great Worlds.

"Xue'er must promise Uncle Fang not to disclose this Ice Condensation Technique to anyone other than your parents, nor should you display it in front of strangers; is that okay?"

Knowing that if the wonders of the Ice Condensation Technique were discovered by a malicious cultivator, it might bring harm to Hu Xue'er, Fang Bai solemnly warned Hu Xue'er after teaching the technique.

Hu Xue'er earnestly replied, "I understand, Uncle Fang!"

When Feng Ziyu finished packing and exited the bamboo house, Fang Bai took Hu Xue'er's small hand, and they gathered with Hu Yichen and the others before flying away from the valley together.