

Full-Level 571

Chapter 571 - 571: An Apology 3

Upon hearing this, Ye Wanwan's heart skipped a beat, and even her breath slowed for a moment. She cautiously asked, "Father, who are they?"

Ye Hongxuan didn't immediately respond to Ye Wanwan's question. Instead, he led her towards Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan. "Come with me to greet them."

Seeing Ye Hongxuan's stern expression, Ye Wanwan's demeanor turned serious. She didn't utter a word, just followed closely beside her father.

Ye Hongxuan, with Ye Wanwan in tow, approached Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan. He nodded and greeted them, "Master Huangfu, I didn't expect to meet you here. It's truly an honor!"

Upon hearing her father's words, Ye Wanwan suddenly raised her head, her face filled with shock. When she looked at Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan, her eyes betrayed disbelief.

She knew her father wouldn't joke about such matters. Therefore, the young man in the mask was indeed the head of the Huangfu family. Was she really competing for a private room with the head of the Huangfu family today?

No wonder her father mentioned earlier that the other party had already shown mercy! If they truly intended to retaliate, she might have jeopardized her life.

Contemplating this, she couldn't help but feel a lingering fear.

Simultaneously, she silently thanked her stars that it was Ye Min'er who took action today, not her. Otherwise, even if she were genuinely harmed, her father wouldn't have been able to seek justice for her. After all, the other party was the head of the Huangfu family, and she was the one who initiated the conflict – no matter how one looked at it, she was in the wrong.

Suddenly hearing someone greet him, Huangfu Ruiling slowly raised his head, looking at Ye Hongxuan in front of him. However, he didn't stand up; instead, he calmly said, "The Ye family head?"

"I didn't expect Master Huangfu to still remember me!" Ye Hongxuan smiled and said, "Today, my daughter had an unpleasant encounter with you. I've brought her here to apologize. Please forgive us."

People around naturally noticed the commotion. So, when they heard Ye Hongxuan address Huangfu Ruiling as Master Huangfu, everyone was astonished.

Moments ago, everyone was speculating about the other party's role in the Huangfu family. Various guesses were made, but none had speculated that he was the head of the Huangfu family. After all, he looked too young. While his cultivation was high enough to maintain a youthful appearance, individuals who reached a certain level typically carried a hint of worldly experience. This masked man, however, did not. He exuded a cold temperament and an air of superiority.

Who would have thought that he was the head of the Huangfu family? At such a young age, he had already assumed leadership of a major family. If they hadn't witnessed it firsthand, they wouldn't have believed it.

Had they not coincidentally met him once before, they wouldn't have believed that such a young man was the new head of the Huangfu family – the most mysterious one in history.

After hearing Ye Hongxuan's words, Huangfu Ruiling lifted his gaze calmly and said, "Today's matter is in the past. However, I hope Master Ye will guide your children well in the future."

Huangfu Ruilings words didn't sit well with Ye Hongxuan. However, judging from his daughter's guilty expression moments ago, he could tell the true story was far from what his daughter claimed. Therefore, even in the face of taunting remarks, he couldn't muster a rebuttal.

"Thank you for your leniency today, Master Huangfu," Ye Hongxuan said formally. "However, an apology is still warranted when you're in the wrong." With that, he gestured to his daughter to extend her apology.

"Master Huangfu, I sincerely apologize for today. I shouldn't have attempted to take your private room based on my status." Given the circumstances, Ye Wanwan didn't dare to be arrogant anymore. She could only apologize, "I assure you, such an incident will not occur again."

She apologized willingly, solely due to the other party's status.

"Hehe, I'm afraid Miss Ye's apology is also influenced by his status as the head of the Huangfu family!" Ye Lengan found it amusing.. "I think, the next time you encounter someone less powerful, you'll undoubtedly continue to use your status to bully them!"

Chapter 572 - 572: An Apology 4

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that, although Ye Wanwan's apology seemed willingly made, it was still influenced by the circumstances.

"You..." Upon hearing Ye Lengan's unrelenting words, Ye Wanwan was infuriated. "Who are you? What gives you the right to judge my actions?"

While she was willing to apologize to the head of the Huangfu family due to the Huangfu family's prestige, this woman, merely attached to Master Huangfu, had no authority to pass judgment on her actions.

Ye Hongxuan's expression also soured. His daughter had sincerely apologized, yet this woman continued to hold on. Furthermore, the head of the Huangfu family had not spoken yet, so who was this woman to mock his daughter in such a manner?

"Master Huangfu, Wanwan's apology today is indeed sincere." Ye Hongxuan didn't spare a glance at Ye Lengan, keeping his gaze on Huangfu Ruiling.

“Therefore, I hope Master Huangfu can restrain your companion. I will discipline my daughter; there’s no need for others to comment.”

He didn’t hold Ye Lengan in high regard. In his view, he and Huangfu Ling were equals as family heads of significant clans. If Wanwan hadn’t erred, he wouldn’t have initiated the apology. However, that didn’t mean the Ye family was easy to bully.

“This is not my companion.” Huangfu Ruiling raised his head and looked at Ye Hongxuan, a cold light in his eyes. “This is my fiancée, Ye An’an. She can completely represent me.”

As soon as this was revealed, it felt like a bomb had exploded in the venue. Everyone was stunned, caught off guard once again.

They had just accepted the fact that the mysterious patriarch of the Huangfu family was a young man. Now, they suddenly learned that Master Huangfu already had a fiancée. Previously, they had received no news. For a moment, it was difficult to accept this sudden revelation.

“Your surname is also Ye?” Ye Hongxuan’s attention shifted from Huangfu Lings fiancée to the fact that her surname was also Ye.

Indeed, the surname Ye was exceedingly rare in the Hidden World. There was only one prominent family with the Ye surname – the Ye family. Now that the other party claimed the surname Ye, he felt a peculiar sensation.

Moreover, despite the face being covered, upon seeing the exposed features, he experienced a sense of familiarity.

“Why? Are you the only ones who can bear the Ye surname?” Ye Lengan found it amusing. “This surname isn’t exclusive to you guys. Do you really care if my surname is Ye or not?”

It seemed that in the Hidden World, everyone found her surname quite peculiar. Did it mean that other than the Ye family, no one else had the surname Ye in the Hidden World?

“That’s not what I meant.” Ye Hongxuan shook his head, trying to shake off the strange feeling. “I just didn’t expect Miss Ye to be the fiancée of Master Huangfu.”

Ye Lengan shrugged, saying nonchalantly, “We’re not married yet. What’s so strange about us having an engagement? Since Master Ye has time, you should take care of your daughter! She’s too arrogant and despotic outside. If she offends a powerful figure, no one can save her.”

Hearing Ye Leng’an’s words, the strange feeling disappeared. Ye Hongxuan’s expression darkened. “Don’t worry, Miss Ye. I will discipline my daughter well. However, Miss Ye, I’m older than you, so I can only say something that an elder should say for the time being. Although you and Master Huangfu are engaged, you’re not the matriarch of the Huangfu family until you’re married. Everything has changed. It’s better not to rely on your status too early and say things you shouldn’t.”

He wasn't pleased that Ye Lengan had made such comments about his precious daughter. Moreover, in his view, although Ye Wanwan had the temperament of a young lady, she had a good disposition. Describing her as arrogant and despotic was out of place.

To Ye Hongxuan's words, Ye Lengan wasn't angered. Instead, she smiled, looking at Huangfu Ruiling beside her. She cleared her throat and said, "Ling, see, even Master Ye says so. Do you think my status as your fiancée is in danger? Do you have any disloyalty towards me?"

Huangfu Ruiling found it amusing at Ye Lengan's completely different demeanor. However, he also cooperated and said, "An'an, you don't have to believe Master Ye's words. Just listen to him. The matters of our Huangfu family are not something Master Ye can interfere with. Also, as long as you're willing, we can get married at any time."

These words were like slaps to Ye Hongxuan's face, darkening his expression even more. In the end, he only bid farewell and hastily left with Ye Wanwan.

With a dark face, Ye Hongxuan brought Ye Wanwan back to their seats. From his expression, it was evident that he was still angry.

"Father, is that person really the patriarch of the Huangfu family?"

After taking a seat, Ye Wanwan finally couldn't help but ask, "He looks so young. Is he really the head of such a big family?"

She couldn't be blamed for having such suspicions. This was because those who could become the family heads were generally highly respected. That person looked so young. Would the elders of the Huangfu family be convinced?

"He is indeed the patriarch of the Huangfu family, Huangfu Ling." Ye Hongxuan nodded and said, "If I hadn't met him by chance before, I wouldn't have believed that such a young person would be the head of a large family clan. Moreover, Huangfu Lings methods are extraordinary. The entire

Huangfu family is under his control, and all the elders in the family obey him.

It can be said that he has the highest degree of control over the Huangfu family in history."

This was something that even he could not do. Although he was the Ye family's patriarch, the few elders of the Ye family did not respect him as much as they appeared on the surface. They often made things difficult for him in the dark. He knew very well that there were many people in the family who coveted his position as the family head. Even his younger brother was secretly watching him, hoping that he would make a mistake and drag him down from the position of the family head..

Chapter 573 - 573: Shennong Cauldron 1

"Father, what kind of person is he?" Ye Wanwan couldn't help but ask. "He's so young. Is his cultivation very high?"

“Don’t be misled by his age,” Ye Hongxuan cautioned, a hint of fear crossing his eyes. “I can’t discern his true cultivation. There are only two possibilities. Either his cultivation surpasses mine, or he has no cultivation at all. Which one do you think it is?”

“Is his cultivation higher than yours?” Ye Wanwan was astonished. “But, Father, you’re already in the late stage of the Golden Core Realm. If he surpasses you, does it mean his cultivation is higher, or is it grandfather’s cultivation?”

Her grandfather, the previous head of the Ye family, had reached the middle stage of the Nascent Soul Realm. Just one step away from the late stage, this level of cultivation was considered quite high in the Hidden World, with only a few individuals achieving the Nascent Soul Realm.

“I’m not certain.” Ye Hongxuan shook his head. He then cautioned, “However, Wanwan, Huangfu Ling is not someone to underestimate. Becoming the patriarch of the Huangfu family at such a young age indicates he’s no ordinary person. Moreover, when he assumed leadership, he conducted a ruthless purge in the Huangfu family, stabilizing it. Crossing paths with such a ruthless individual won’t end well.”

Ye Wanwan nodded repeatedly. “Father, I understand. I’ll be cautious in the future.”

Reflecting on today’s events, she still felt a lingering unease. If Huangfu Ling had attacked her due to her provocation, she might not be sitting unharmed now. However, the woman named Ye An’an, Huangfu Lings fiancée, seemed formidable, injuring Ye Min’er today.

But the names of these two individuals...

“What’s bothering you?” Ye Hongxuan couldn’t help but ask when he noticed Ye Wanwan’s furrowed brows, suggesting something was perplexing her. “If there’s something on your mind, just speak up. Maybe I can help clear things up for you.”

“It’s nothing. I just find it a bit strange.” Ye Wanwan didn’t hold back, expressing her doubt. “Father, when Master Huangfu introduced his fiancée earlier, did he say her name is Ye Anan?”

“Yes, he did,” Ye Hongxuan confirmed. “Why do you ask? Do you know her?”

That seemed unlikely! The Ye family didn’t have anyone named Ye An’an. Moreover, if they were acquainted, why would there be a conflict today?

“Father, did I ever mention that the woman Huangfu Ruiling likes is named Ye Lengan?” Ye Wanwan’s mood soured as she recalled this. “Huangfu Lings name sounds similar. Is it just a coincidence?”

“It’s probably just a coincidence,” Ye Hongxuan replied promptly. “Don’t overthink it. And, don’t think about Huangfu Ruiling anymore. You can like anyone, just not him.”

Since they were on the topic, he had to caution his daughter again. Huangfu Ruiling wasn't a suitable match for her. The Hidden World was filled with eligible bachelors; there was no need to fixate on someone like Huangfu Ruiling who didn't reciprocate her feelings.

"Father, it's all because of Ye Lengan. Otherwise, Huangfu Ruiling wouldn't treat me this way," Ye Wanwan complained. "But don't worry, I've given up on Huangfu Ruiling. However, I still don't want to let them off easily."

Compared to Huangfu Ruiling, she harbored more resentment toward Ye Lengan. In her view, if Ye Lengan hadn't interfered, Huangfu Ruiling wouldn't have treated her this way.

Moreover, the crucial point was that from the moment she first saw Ye Lengan, she disliked her. For some reason, the initial familiarity was devoid of any joy, replaced by a sense of impending crisis, as if Ye Lengan would take away many things from her.

Reality seemed to confirm this suspicion – it was Ye Lengan's presence that led to Huangfu Ruiling rejecting her. Perhaps, she and Ye Lengan were destined adversaries!

Chapter 574 - 574: Shennong Cauldron 2

"You don't have to concern yourself with this matter," Ye Hongxuan advised. "I will handle it. As long as you refrain from thinking about Huangfu Ruiling."

"I understand." Ye Wanwan nodded, then lifted her head and declared proudly, "I am the young lady of the Ye family. Since Huangfu Ruiling doesn't know how to appreciate it, I will definitely not continue to like him."

She was determined to find a true prodigy and show Huangfu Ruiling what he had missed. Seeing someone as remarkable as her pass by would undoubtedly be his loss.

Seeing that Ye Wanwan seemed to have genuinely let go, Ye Hongxuan finally felt reassured.

The auction commenced swiftly.

It was Ye Lengan's first time attending an auction in the Hidden World, so she was quite intrigued.

As each auction item was presented, the atmosphere in the venue gradually heightened. Spiritual weapons, medicinal pills, spirit pets, and even some special gems were successively brought to the auction stage. Some fetched high prices, while others went unsold.

Ye Lengan observed the auction items on the stage with enthusiasm, watching the bidding frenzy around her. However, she refrained from participating, never raising her sign.

"Don't you see anything you like?" Huangfu Ruiling asked, looking at Ye Lengan. "I thought you would enjoy this kind of auction!"

"It's quite interesting!" Ye Lengan responded with a smile. "However, these things don't interest me, so I didn't participate. But don't worry, I won't be saving your money. When I see something I like, I'll bid for it, no matter the cost."

As she didn't possess any Spirit Coins, Huangfu Ruiling would foot the bill in the end. However, she did have spirit stones. Still, she preferred not to use them for exchange, considering their greater value compared to Spirit Coins. Under normal circumstances, she avoided using spirit stones.

Upon hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Huangfu Ruiling couldn't help but wear an indulgent smile. "If you find something you like, just call out the price. I can afford your little hobby."

"Hehe, don't worry. I won't be sparing your wallet," Ye Lengan said with a smile.

Initially, the auction items were merely to warm up the crowd. As it progressed, the value of the items increased, and so did the bidding prices.

Time passed, and various items were auctioned, but none caught Ye Leng'an's interest.

Finally, towards the end, an alchemy furnace appeared on the auction stage

Although called an alchemy furnace, it was petite, just a bit larger than an adult man's palm. The material used was indiscernible, and despite the passage of countless years, the engraved patterns on the furnace remained clear. However, its small size did not diminish its significance. The moment it appeared, it exuded an ancient aura.

Yet not everyone was intrigued by the alchemy furnace. After all, its true value would be revealed in the hands of an alchemist. For others, its usefulness would be limited even if acquired.

Below the stage, Ye Hongxuan had been sitting upright since the appearance of the alchemy furnace. He looked intensely focused, never taking his eyes off the furnace on the stage. If not for the auction setting, he might have already gone up to examine the furnace.

His face expressed a determined attitude. Clearly, obtaining this alchemy furnace was non-negotiable,

"Father, is this alchemy furnace very precious?" Ye Wanwan observed her father's seriousness and asked with curiosity. "Could it be more valuable than the furnaces in our family?"

She had never seen her father so serious, and his expression when looking at the alchemy furnace was distinctly different.

"If I'm not mistaken, this should be the Shennong Cauldron." Ye Hongxuan's tone was excited, with a hint of tremor. "I didn't expect to encounter it here. Acquiring this furnace will undoubtedly elevate our family to new heights.."

Chapter 575 - 575: Shennong Cauldron 3

When he laid eyes on the alchemy furnace, disbelief washed over him. The

Shennong Cauldron had unexpectedly made an appearance in this location.

In ancient times, Shennong sampled various herbs for the benefit of the common people and laid the groundwork for medicine in later generations. Shennong, in days of yore, crafted the ancient cauldron of a hundred medicines, known as the Shennong Cauldron. It was said to have gathered the essence of countless spiritual herbs over millennia, capable of refining a world-defying divine

medicine, unattainable even by the gods of the Heavenly Realm. Supposedly, it harbored other mystical powers.

Of course, all this remained in the realm of legend. Yet, it couldn't be denied that an alchemist with the Shennong Cauldron would be greatly empowered.

Thus, acquiring the Shennong Cauldron today was imperative.

"Is this truly the Shennong Cauldron?" Ye Wanwan widened her eyes incredulously.

"But, no matter how I look at it, it doesn't seem like it!"

"I'm not entirely certain." Ye Hongxuan's gaze remained fixed on the pill furnace on the stage. "However, it does match the descriptions in our family's ancient records. Regardless, we must secure it today."

"Father, rest assured." In contrast to Ye Hongxuan's vigilant stance, Ye Wanwan seemed much more at ease. "Even if this is the Shennong Cauldron, no one will contest us for it. After all, only alchemists can make use of this furnace. Others likely won't be interested, and those who are won't match our

Ye family's formidable strength."

This statement was undeniably true.

Not everyone had the qualification to partake in this auction. Even if smaller clans and wandering alchemists coveted the Shennong Cauldron, they wouldn't dare vie with the Ye family. Hence, securing the Shennong Cauldron today was practically assured.

Ye Hongxuan nodded, but his expression remained unwaveringly serious from start to finish.

On the other side, Ye Lengan, upon seeing the alchemy furnace, immediately sat up straight, directing her full attention to the auction item on stage. It was evident she had set her sights on this particular item.

"Do you fancy this alchemy furnace?" Though phrased as a question, it carried an affirmative tone.

"Indeed," Ye Lengan responded without hesitation. "I've been searching for this for a long time. Indeed, it came effortlessly! Today, I must acquire this."

"Shennong Cauldron, is it?" Huangfu Ruiling nodded, unsurprised. However,

"This Shennong Cauldron doesn't appear as formidable as the legends say!"

Though exuding a profound ancient aura, its potency seemed entirely different from the mythical tales.

"You know too?" Ye Lengan raised her eyebrows in surprise. "I didn't expect you to be so knowledgeable!"

Even before the auctioneer began introducing the items, Huangfu Ruiling had already discerned the nature of the artifact. She was genuinely curious about

what Huangfu Ruiling might not comprehend.

"I've perused some books," Huangfu Ruiling remarked casually. "The Huangfu family boasts a rich collection of books. In the Hidden World, no family's library can rival the Huangfu family's."

"Really?" Ye Leng'an's eyes gleamed. "May I go take a look?"

"Of course," Huangfu Ruiling affirmed, looking at Ye Lengan. "Don't forget, you are my fiancée and the future matriarch of the Huangfu family. Everything in the Huangfu family belongs to you."

Upon hearing Huangfu Ruiling's words, Ye Lengan rolled her eyes in exasperation. "Do you have the nerve to say that? When did I become your fiancée? I don't recall you proposing to me."

Huangfu Ruiling smiled and evaded Ye Leng'an's question. Instead, he turned his attention to the auction stage. "Do you truly want this Shennong Cauldron? It doesn't seem authentic!"

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling bring up the Shennong Cauldron again, Ye Leng'an's focus shifted. She smiled mysteriously and said, "I'm very certain that the alchemy furnace on it is the Shennong Cauldron."

Huangfu Ruiling looked at Ye Lengan without uttering a word, but the skepticism in his eyes was evident.

"This is indeed the Shennong Cauldron, but only a part of it." Ye Lengan grinned radiantly. "That's why it doesn't seem as powerful as the rumors suggest."

After hearing Ye Leng'an's response, Huangfu Ruiling immediately understood. "The rest is in your hands.."

Chapter 576 - 576: Shennong Cauldron 4

"That's right." Ye Lengan admitted without hesitation. "I also possess the Shennong Cauldron, but in an incomplete state. While it can perform alchemy, it falls short of its full potential. However, once I obtain the Shennong Cauldron on stage, my own cauldron will become whole."

The cauldron in her possession was discovered in a secret land during her cultivation days. Unfortunately, it was incomplete, lacking a crucial piece. Despite extensive searching, that missing part remained elusive, leading her to eventually abandon the quest.

Nevertheless, even in its incomplete state, the cauldron wielded far more power in alchemy than other furnaces. When she returned to this world, the fragmented Shennong Cauldron came along.

Unexpectedly, she encountered a missing fragment of the cauldron in this world, sparking thoughts about the connection between the three lives she'd traversed!

Seeing Ye Leng'an's silence, Huangfu Ruiling frowned. "Aryan, what's wrong?"

“It’s nothing. Just surprised to find a shard of the Shennong Cauldron in this auction.” Ye Lengan shook her head, dismissing unnecessary thoughts. “But now that I’ve seen it, I must secure it today.”

“We’ll certainly obtain it,” Huangfu Ruiling affirmed.

The auctioneer began presenting the item.

“Dear guests, you’ve all seen the alchemy furnace on the stage, right?” the auctioneer began. “This furnace was entrusted to us for auction by a mysterious client. Our appraisers believe it might indeed be the legendary Shennong Cauldron, although they can’t be 100% sure due to its legendary status. Hence, it’s up to your judgment. Regardless of whether it’s the

Shennong Cauldron or not, this furnace is of supreme quality, an invaluable asset to any alchemist present. Don’t miss it. Alright, let the bidding for the Shennong Cauldron begin, starting at ten million Spirit Coins, with increments of one million Spirit Coins.”

Several alchemists promptly engaged in bidding.

Despite knowing that the Ye family’s patriarch was present, there was a strong chance the Shennong Cauldron might fall into their hands. Yet, many still tried their luck, unable to resist its allure.

As bids rose rapidly, Ye Hongxuan joined in. “203 million Spirit Coins.”

Upon Ye Hongxuan’s bid, several alchemists displayed disappointment. They quickly accepted the situation, expecting the Ye family’s participation.

With Ye Hongxuan’s bidding, many ceased, unwilling to challenge the Ye family and aware of their inferior strength. Better to concede and save face.

However, a few persisted, passionate about acquiring the Shennong Cauldron. Even with Ye Hongxuan’s bid, they refused to yield easily.

Ye Hongxuan disregarded those continuing to bid. The might of the Ye family was unmatched.

Soon, the price surged to 300 million Spirit Coins, and the number of bidders dwindled. Yet, some persisted, but with smaller increments.

Eventually, only Ye Hongxuan and another alchemist remained in the fray.

The other alchemist, a rogue cultivator, wore a grim expression. His bids dragged, indicating he’d soon withdraw.

When Ye Hongxuan called out 400 million, the other alchemist finally relented. seeing the vast gap in strength and realizing it wasn’t worth his savings.

Observing no further bids, Ye Hongxuan relaxed, feeling a surge of excitement, as if the Shennong Cauldron was already his.

“410 million.”

At that moment, a clear voice rang out.

All eyes turned to Ye Lengan who unexpectedly joined the bid. Earlier, she showed no interest. Why abstain from bidding?

Ye Hongxuan didn't anticipate Ye Lengan's sudden involvement. Frowning, he glanced her way, unsure if she acted on impulse or genuinely desired the cauldron.

"Why is she joining now?" Ye Wanwan grumbled. "Can she even refine pills?

Wanting the Shennong Cauldron. Father, do you think she's deliberately opposing us?"

Ye Hongxuan didn't respond. Instead, he raised the bid again. "415 million Spirit Coins."

After bidding, he glanced at Ye Lengan, curious if she'd continue.

Ye Lengan noticed the glance but didn't lift her eyes. "430 million."

Seeing Ye Lengan persist, Ye Hongxuan's expression darkened, raising the bid again..

Chapter 577 - 577: The Fight 1

In the entire venue, only Ye Hongxuan and Ye Lengan remained locked in a bidding war. The two engaged in a back-and-forth, each time one called out a

price, the other promptly followed suit.

Due to their incessant bidding, in a matter of moments, the price of the Shennong Cauldron had skyrocketed to an astronomical one billion.

Moreover, judging by the trajectory of these two, it seemed they were inclined to continue the bidding.

The auctioneer on stage had transitioned from initial excitement to a state of numbness. He even felt a tinge of trepidation, as the two individuals bidding below the stage were the fiancée of the Huangfu family's head and the Ye family's head. Neither seemed easy to offend.

He harbored concerns that if they couldn't secure the winning bid, the repercussions might fall upon the others. Conversely, if the winning bid proved dissatisfactory due to its exorbitant nature, it could lead to complications.

Meanwhile, onlookers in the venue wore expressions of keen interest, observing the exchange between Ye Hongxuan and Ye Lengan. Their sole focus now was on who would ultimately lay claim to the Shennong Cauldron.

While the Shennong Cauldron undeniably held great allure, the exorbitant price seemed disproportionate. The alchemists who previously failed to secure it now found solace in the fact that the soaring price had diminished their sense of loss.

Ye Hongxuan's countenance had soured considerably. He had initially presumed that few present could challenge him. His upper limit for bidding was a modest 500 million Spirit Coins. However, the price had now doubled. Moreover, judging by Ye An'an's demeanor, there appeared to be no intention of backing down. If this persisted, predicting the final astronomical price seemed an impossible feat.

Yet, having reached this juncture, the thought of relinquishing now was disheartening.

“What is she playing at?” Ye Wanwan grumbled irritably. “She’s not even an alchemist. Why is she competing with us for the Shennong Cauldron? Is she doing it on purpose?”

Upon hearing Ye Wanwan’s remarks, Ye Hongxuan’s already somber expression darkened further.

The auction continued, with Ye Hongxuan and Ye Lengan persisting in their tug-of-war over the Shennong Cauldron. The price had now climbed to 1.1 billion, yet neither showed any inclination to yield.

Finally, Ye Hongxuan raised his hand toward the stage and proposed, “Excuse me, can we pause the auction for a moment? I’d like to have a word with Miss

Ye.t’

This request for a mid-auction hiatus was unprecedented.

The auctioneer, unable to decide independently, sought approval from higher-ups before reluctantly agreeing. Given the protracted stalemate, the escalating price of the auction item would indeed boost their commission. However, considering the stature of both parties involved, neither side wished to offend the other. Besides, the Shennong Cauldron had already reached an unexpectedly high bid of 1.1 billion.

In essence, whether either side relented first held no consequence for the auction house. Ideally, a resolution between the two would be reached, allowing the auction to proceed smoothly. After all, there were other items awaiting auction below, and the prolonged confrontation risked impacting the bidding for those items.

With the auctioneer’s response secured, Ye Hongxuan turned his gaze toward Ye Lengan and requested, “Master Huangfu, Miss Ye, may I have a private word?”

Huangfu Ruiling didn’t respond immediately. Instead, he looked to Ye Lengan, deferring the decision to her.

Ye Lengan nodded, signaling her agreement.

She understood perfectly well why Ye Hongxuan sought her out now. It was merely an attempt to persuade her to relinquish the Shennong Cauldron. However, she was determined not to let him have his way. Regardless, she had to secure the Shennong Cauldron.

Moreover, even if Ye Hongxuan obtained it, the Shennong Cauldron’s utility was limited. It was nothing more than a fragment, and even in alchemical applications, it wouldn’t harness a tenth of the Shennong Cauldron’s potential. Admittedly superior to an ordinary furnace, its advantages were marginal at best..

Chapter 578 - 578: The Fight 2

Soon, all of them rose from their seats and made their way outside.

Ye Wanwan couldn’t possibly stay alone in the venue, so after a brief consideration, she followed suit.

Observing the departing figures of the group, the others in the venue were filled with curiosity. They desired to know the nature of the negotiations between Ye Hongxuan and Ye Lengan. Ultimately, who would choose to relinquish the Shennong Cauldron?

Unable to follow them outside for a firsthand view, they could only remain within the venue, waiting.

Meanwhile, several individuals began to scrutinize the Shennong Cauldron on the stage, seemingly eager to unravel the charm that prompted such fierce competition between Ye Hongxuan and Ye Lengan.

Outside, the atmosphere between Ye Hongxuan and Ye Lengan was notably strained, even verging on awkward.

Ye Hongxuan had initially summoned her to persuade her to forego the Shennong Cauldron. However, upon witnessing the other's indifferent demeanor, he found himself momentarily at a loss for words.

Ye Lengan, however, chose not to initiate the conversation, patiently awaiting Ye Hongxuan's lead.

Standing beside Ye Lengan like a guardian, Huangfu Ruiling remained quietly composed.

In contrast, Ye Wanwan grew impatient. Hastily reaching out, she tugged at her father's clothing. Seeing that he still remained silent, she couldn't help but speak, "Miss Ye, we genuinely need this Shennong Cauldron. Could you consider withdrawing from this auction?"

"Oh." Ye Lengan nodded. Then, under the hopeful gaze of Ye Wanwan, she calmly stated, "I understand. However, I also require this Shennong Cauldron, so I have no intention of withdrawing from the auction."

"You..." Ye Wanwan frowned, her tone turning somewhat unpleasant. "This Shennong Cauldron is a pill furnace, mainly used for alchemy. It's only beneficial to alchemists. There's no reason for you to insist on acquiring it!"

"But if you're persuading me to withdraw from the bidding, does that make sense?" Ye Lengan remained unruffled. She shrugged and continued, "This is an auction, and the highest bidder naturally claims the item. If you also desire the Shennong Cauldron, simply continue raising the bid!"

"Miss Ye, we sincerely want to have a conversation with you." Ye Hongxuan took a deep breath and spoke, "Our Ye family has been practicing alchemy for generations, so the Shennong Cauldron is truly crucial to us. Should you choose to withdraw from the bidding, we can offer compensation."

"I don't require any compensation." Ye Lengan smiled and shook her head. "You need the Shennong Cauldron, and I need it too. I believe an agreement between us is unlikely. Let's return to the auction venue and rely on our own abilities."

“Miss Ye, why are you so insistent on the Shennong Cauldron?” Ye Hongxuan furrowed his brows and continued, “This Shennong Cauldron isn’t an ordinary item; it’s specifically designed for alchemists. After paying such a hefty price, what difference will it make if you obtain it? Why force a situation where both sides end up suffering?”

“Then how do you know I’m not an alchemist?” Ye Lengan smiled. “Since you’ve mentioned it, the Shennong Cauldron is crucial for alchemists. Now, empathize with me – I too am an alchemist and genuinely need the Shennong Cauldron! So, why are you afraid to consider a compromise?”

Upon hearing this revelation, Ye Hongxuan and Ye Wanwan were both taken aback. They hadn’t anticipated that the fiancée of Master Huangfu was also an alchemist.

Now, the situation had indeed become complicated. Clearly, no alchemist encountering the Shennong Cauldron with the chance to claim it would willingly back down.

Moreover, if this continued, there was no guarantee they could secure the

Shennong Cauldron. Behind Ye An t an stood Huangfu Ling, the patriarch of the Huangfu family, whose wealth far surpassed that of the Ye family.

Although the pills produced by the Ye family were highly sought after, the costs associated with alchemy were substantial. Hence, the Ye family’s resources were undoubtedly inferior to those of the Huangfu family.

Ye Hongxuan was well aware that, even as the Ye family’s patriarch, he couldn’t sacrifice the entirety of the Ye family’s assets just to acquire the

Shennong Cauldron..

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Therefore, it was truly uncertain who would ultimately possess the Shennong Cauldron.

“Miss Ye, considering you’re an alchemist, you should be aware of the strength of our Ye family!” After careful consideration, Ye Hongxuan spoke, “If you’re willing to step back, I’ll take charge and allow you to join the Ye family for learning. Our alchemical techniques are certain to enhance your skills.”

This wasn’t an exaggeration. It could be asserted that the most skilled alchemists in the entire Hidden World were concentrated in the Ye family. However, the Ye family seldom took in external apprentices unless the person displayed extraordinary talent.

While many alchemists in the Hidden World aspired to learn from the Ye family, not everyone had that opportunity.

“Master Ye, I appreciate your esteem for me.” Ye Lengan shook her head, “However, I don’t need such an opportunity. Please offer it to someone else!”

All I desire is the Shennong Cauldron.”

Observing Ye Leng'an's unyielding demeanor, Ye Hongxuan found himself at a loss for words.

“So, what do you need to do to make you withdraw your bid!” Ye Wanwan, standing nearby, grew impatient and exclaimed, “As long as you concede, we can compensate you. Moreover, being an alchemist, you should know that forging a good relationship with our Ye family is undoubtedly beneficial for you.”

In her urgency, Ye Wanwan's tone carried a hint of forcefulness.

Finally, Huangfu Ruiling spoke, directing his words toward Ye Hongxuan.

“Master Ye, in auctions, it's each person for themselves. If you want it, continue bidding. I believe, in this matter, there's no chance for an agreement between us.’

Ye Hongxuan's expression fluctuated, his mind in turmoil.

Ultimately, the conversation between the two parties yielded no results.

Soon, they returned to the venue. Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan maintained unchanged expressions, almost devoid of any extra emotion. However, Ye Hongxuan and Ye Wanwan's faces weren't pleasant. Especially Ye Wanwan, her countenance was so dark.

After their return, bidding resumed promptly.

Ye Lengan continued to bid promptly, immediately following Ye Hongxuan's bid.

On the contrary, Ye Hongxuan seemed indecisive. Even after Ye Lengan's bid, he would deliberate before raising the price again. Moreover, the increments in his bids became noticeably smaller.

Witnessing this, speculation arose among the onlookers. It seemed likely that this auction item would end up in the hands of the fiancée of the head of the Huangfu family.

However, they hadn't anticipated that Master Huangfu would be willing to pay such a substantial price for his fiancée. Clearly, he held his fiancée in high regard!

Ye Wanwan, who had been observing from the sidelines, grew increasingly anxious. Yet, there was nothing she could do but watch.

Just when everyone thought Ye Hongxuan would concede, he stood up again and said, “Hello, I believe continuing the bidding in this manner is futile. May I inquire if you can contact the owner of this auction item and check if they are open to exchanging it for something else?”

Hearing Ye Hongxuan's words, the auctioneer on stage was momentarily stunned. “Master Ye, you mean...”

“In addition to the 1.2 billion Spirit Coins, I'm willing to add a Rejuvenation Pill.” Ye Hongxuan declared, “You can ask the seller if they're willing to accept such a deal.’

1.2 billion was the current bid.

“Rejuvenation Pill?” The auctioneer on stage was taken aback. He sucked in a breath of cold air and remarked, “I need to seek guidance on this.”

This was a first in his many years as an auctioneer. However, it was likely that both the higher-ups and the seller would agree.

After all, the Rejuvenation Pill wasn't an ordinary medicinal pill. It ranked just below the Nine-Cycle Soul-Returning Pill, and its rarity was second only to the latter. While lacking the miraculous effects of the Nine-Cycle

Soul-Returning Pill, the Rejuvenation Pill facilitated swift recovery for severe injuries..

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However, refining the Rejuvenation Pill was no easy task. Even if some alchemists managed to produce it, they often kept it for personal use, rarely offering it for sale. The ingredients and spiritual plants required for the Rejuvenation Pill were highly valuable. Consequently, the Rejuvenation Pills circulating in the market were scarce, and their worth was self-evident.

Nonetheless, the Ye family, being a lineage of alchemists, possessing the ability to provide Rejuvenation Pills was deemed reasonable.

Ye Wanwan shot a triumphant glance in the direction of Ye Lengan.

"Hmph, did they truly believe that relying on the Huangfu family as a backer would secure them the Shennong Cauldron? Our Ye family also boasts a profound background, and not everyone can produce a Rejuvenation Pill. The ultimate victor is still uncertain!" sneered Ye Wanwan.

Others present began to envy and resent the mysterious seller behind the Shennong Cauldron. While it was just an alchemy furnace, it had fetched the highest bid in the entire auction. To secure it, the Ye family's patriarch had even offered a Rejuvenation Pill.

The Rejuvenation Pill! A life-saving elixir! They coveted it too!

Soon, the auctioneer returned, nodding respectfully to Ye Hongxuan. "Master

Ye, the other party has agreed to your terms. If you can produce the

Rejuvenation Pill and 1.2 billion Spirit Coins, the Shennong Cauldron is yours."

In fact, not only did the seller agree, but the response was almost immediate. No surprise, given the Rejuvenation Pill's desirability – a lifesaver coveted by most in the Hidden World. The joy on Ye Hongxuan and Ye Wanwan's faces was unmistakable.

Ye Wanwan provocatively eyed Ye Lengan again.

Before the auctioneer could speak further, Ye Lengan intervened. "Wait a moment." She raised her hand, halting the auctioneer. "So, did the seller agree to offer the Shennong Cauldron to anyone providing 1.2 billion Spirit Coins and a Rejuvenation Pill, or did the seller only agree to accept the offer of the Ye family?"

Hearing Ye Lengan's question, the auctioneer's eyebrows twitched, sensing a hidden meaning. "Miss Ye, do you mean..."

Ye Hongxuan's initial ease vanished, replaced by wariness and unease as he looked at Ye Lengan. Simultaneously, a tinge of displeasure lingered in his gaze.

Yet, a trace of hope lingered in his heart: the other party might not possess the Rejuvenation Pill. Not all alchemists could craft it.

The Rejuvenation Pill, a high-grade elixir, required advanced alchemy skills, typically acquired over centuries of practice. Most high-level alchemists were close to a millennium in age. Ye Hongxuan perceived that Ye An'an hadn't used any youth-maintaining elixirs. Her true age seemed young, perhaps close to Wanwan's. Hence, even knowing she was an alchemist, he didn't take her seriously.

However, her current actions hinted at her possession of the Rejuvenation Pill.

Ignoring the reactions around her, Ye Lengan continued, "I can also afford 1.2 billion Spirit Coins and a Rejuvenation Pill! So, whom do you intend to give the pill to?"

All eyes focused on Ye Lengan. Simultaneously, a sense of frustration rippled through the crowd. The Rejuvenation Pill – how could they casually offer it? It wasn't as simple as it sounded! People were indeed different. They also craved the Rejuvenation Pill, lamenting their lack of a Shennong Cauldron to attract alchemists.

"Miss Ye, this is quite despicable!" Ye An'an couldn't hold back, adding, "We proposed this first. Now, you want to compete with us. Isn't that unethical?"

"If you no longer want your tongue, I wouldn't mind helping you get rid of it," chimed in Huangfu Ruiling coldly. Simultaneously, his icy gaze fixed upon Ye Wanwan.

Instantly, Ye Wanwan felt like she had entered an icy realm, her entire being consumed by a bone-chilling cold, devoid of warmth. It seemed her limbs were on the verge of freezing, rendering her immobile. This time, she felt as vulnerable as she did during the earlier incident in the restaurant.

Now, she fully grasped that the two individuals before her were no ordinary people – they were the head of the Huangfu family and his fiancée. People she couldn't afford to offend.

"Master Huangfu, my daughter didn't mean any harm," Ye Hongxuan swiftly stepped forward, blocking Huangfu Ruiling's line of sight, and apologized. "She's young and inexperienced in speech. I implore your magnanimity, please don't hold it against her this time."

Huangfu Ruiling's gaze remained on Ye Hongxuan, devoid of warmth, inducing a sense of fear. At this moment, Ye Hongxuan keenly felt the power Huangfu Ruiling wielded – a power that seemed to determine life and death.

Previously, he knew that the Huangfu family's patriarch was formidable. Now, he gained a clearer understanding of the extent of Huangfu Ruiling's strength.

Just as Ye Hongxuan thought he couldn't endure any longer, Huangfu Ruiling finally withdrew his gaze.

Ye Hongxuan sighed in relief, feeling his legs turn weak.

“Master Ye, Miss Ye.” Ye Lengan looked at them with a smile. “I believe you may have overlooked a fact. This is an auction; it’s not about who comes first but who bids the highest. If you can afford it, so can I. Let’s compete fairly, shall we?”

Having spoken, Ye Lengan turned around. Before Ye Hongxuan could respond, she glanced at the auctioneer again. “I’m willing to add another Rejuvenation Pill.. I believe the seller behind the Shennong Cauldron should find my offer more satisfying!”