

Genius 391

Chapter 391: The Unparalleled Warrior on the Sickbed_1

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"What's wrong?"

Luo Youheng expressed doubt at his daughter's reaction, looking quite surprised, yet there was a flicker of unusual light in his eyes.

"It's nothing..."

Luo Xi had a bitter smile on her face as she shook her head helplessly. Then, squeezing out a smile, she quickly approached Cai Qing. The two girls, finding it easier to talk, immediately held hands and walked aside to chat.

Of course, she couldn't help but throw a fierce glare at Qin Fang.

If that glare could turn into a flying dagger, Qin Fang would have already been fatally struck by her.

Similarly, Luo Xi's true nature made Qin Fang feel ashamed, but he couldn't escape Luo Youheng's observant eyes, causing the glint in his eyes to shine even brighter.

Qin Fang was Cai Pingyuan's closed-door disciple, and Luo Youheng was a disciple of Old Master Wu. Master Cai and Old Master Wu were of the same generation, so they were considered peers as well. Therefore, Luo Youheng addressing Qin Fang in that manner wasn't an issue.

However, this consequently put Luo Xi in an awkward position.

Being the daughter of Luo Youheng, it effectively elevated Qin Fang a generation above her, which naturally wouldn't sit well with her!

Yet, the arrival of Cai Qing did take Luo Xi by surprise. The two had known each other as children, but after nearly twenty years apart, they certainly wouldn't recognize each other.

They had met the night before, but since Luo Xi wasn't responsible for Cai Qing's statement, and she hadn't even looked at it, she hadn't recognized her yet.

Now, the two girls who hadn't seen each other for so many years were together, chatting and laughing happily, while Qin Fang was left on the side.

"These young ladies always enjoy gathering together. Don't try to join in their fun, come on, please inside!"

Luo Xi's father, Luo Youheng, seemed particularly courteous as he invited Qin Fang into the Wu Family's residence, introducing him to some fellow disciples along the way.

The relationship between the Wu Family and the Cai Family was quite good, even the younger generation of disciples were close. Although Qin Fang was young, the fact that Cai Pingyuan took him along showed the level of importance he was granted, so no one looked down on him.

As Qin Fang was enjoying the attention of many masters, he also felt a great deal of pressure.

There was no helping it; nearly all of Luo Youheng's fellow disciples were Level 5 masters, and those of Level 4 didn't even qualify to come to this house.

As for those above Level 6, there were only three in total: Old Master Wu's two sons, Wu Ming and Wu Hai, and a Senior Brother Chen who had gone abroad.

The one who had greeted Cai Pingyuan at the door was Wu Ming, the head of the Wu Family.

"Brother Luo, I heard from Master and Brother Wu just now that it seems Old Master Wu..."

After getting a bit more familiar with Luo Youheng, Qin Fang brought up the question that had been on his mind for a long time. In fact, he had been pondering it for quite a while.

On the journey here, Cai Pingyuan hadn't carried anything except for that brocade box, as if it contained something very important, incomparable even to the prized liquor stored in the car's trunk.

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In Old Master Wu's room,

On an ancient rosewood bed that had been there for many years, a withered old man with hardly any flesh on his bones lay quietly, his body emanating only faint wisps of life.

His injuries were very severe, his life hanging by a thread, and he could fail at any time.

Cai Pingyuan stood in front of the bed, looking at his grievously injured old friend, his eyes reddened, saddened by his friend's tragic situation.

Their relationship was forged through life and death experiences; as young men, they had been on the battlefield together, taking knives and bullets for each other.

Yet, decades later, Cai Pingyuan, the weaker in strength, remained robust, while the more powerful Wu Mingyuan had become what he was now.

"What did Elder Ma say?"

After a long silence, Cai Pingyuan gently wiped away his tears and looked at Wu Ming, inquiring.

"The situation is not optimistic... Elder Ma said that if my father were willing to go to the hospital for treatment, there might still be a glimmer of hope, that his life could be extended by a few years, but..."

Wu Ming's eyes were also red, and as he spoke, tears involuntarily streamed down his face, for he respected his father more than anyone else in his lifetime.

Unexpectedly, the once powerful and dominant figure had reached such a state in his old age.

Most importantly, Grand Elder Wu was a very traditional old man, only believing in what their ancestors had passed down, and was not fond of the Western ways.

He preferred living a simple, humble life in the mountains and seldom came down. As for Western medicine, he paid it no mind; only Elder Ma, a master of Chinese medicine, had ever come to treat him.

However, Grand Elder Wu's injuries were severe, and with Elder Ma's abilities, he could not heal him. The critical issue was that Grand Elder Wu's martial strength was too profound; even though Elder Ma was a Medical Grandmaster, he was barely a master in the Martial Way and could not regulate the chaotic and agitated Inner Breath within Grand Elder Wu's body.

"Have you found out who the assailant is?"

Cai Pingyuan nodded lightly, knowing Grand Elder Wu's temperament intimately, wishing he could help but unable to turn the tide. He immediately followed up with this question.

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Grand Elder Wu lay on the ground, not because of old age or ill health, but because he had been severely injured by someone.

This was a mystery that baffled all the Wu Family Members.

Grand Elder Wu was one of the top-level experts in the Martial World, and only a few could match him in martial arts. Most were nearly equal to him, and maybe one could barely determine a winner, but none should have been able to leave Grand Elder Wu in such a state.

"This..."

Wu Ming's face suddenly appeared hesitant upon hearing this, as if he were debating whether to speak or remain silent.

"What is it?"

Uncle Master Cai was slightly taken aback, frowning in confusion.

The Wu Family had nothing to hide from him regarding this matter, unless there was some real doubt.
"Speak your mind, don't be evasive..."

"Yes, Uncle Master Cai! There is one person who is a suspect, but..."

Wu Ming's face remained odd, but he still bowed his head and started to speak.

"Who?"

Uncle Master Cai was feeling a bit impatient inside and didn't wait for Wu Ming to finish his sentence, pressing for an answer directly.

"Chen Qingsong!"

Wu Ming gave a bitter smile, revealing a name, the prime suspect they had found so far.

"Chen Qingsong? Wasn't he already long dead?"

Uncle Master Cai was taken aback, responding with surprise.

Uncle Master Cai was not unfamiliar with the name—in fact, quite the opposite.

Qin Fang had just learned that Grand Elder Wu had three Level 6 disciples, two of whom were Wu's sons, and the other surnamed Chen. However, Luo Youheng hadn't told Qin Fang that this Senior Brother Chen's full name was Chen Qingsong.

Chen Qingsong was the most exceptionally talented disciple of Grand Elder Wu. Not even Wu Ming or Wu Hai, the two biological sons of Grand Elder Wu, were in the same league as him. To put it unkindly, these two, now Level 6 Experts themselves, were hardly worthy to even carry Chen Qingsong's shoes.

More than thirty years ago, Chen Qingsong, an orphan, was taken under Grand Elder Wu's wing and set as a direct disciple. His talent and aptitude were top-notch. In just over a decade, his Cultivation had already reached the realm of Martial Arts Master, and at that time, Chen Qingsong was not even thirty years old.

Such talent amazed even Grand Elder Wu, who went as far as giving his daughter's hand in marriage to him—because Chen Qingsong might have been the first in Wu Family Boxing history to break through the Master's Limit and enter an even higher realm.

But, to everyone's astonishment, Chen Qingsong was crooked at heart. With the formidable martial arts he had learned, he committed heinous crimes. Within just one year, more than twenty cases of rape and murder of young girls occurred in Jiujiang and its nearby areas, including two cases of family annihilation, causing an uproar at the time.

By a stroke of chance, a disciple of Wu Family Boxing found out that the murderer was none other than their highly respected Senior Brother Chen Qingsong. He reported this to Grand Elder Wu, who practically coughed up blood from rage and nearly died.

Soon after, Grand Elder Wu personally led a group that included several Grandmaster Level experts to corner Chen Qingsong and eventually killed him at a mountain summit in Lushan. His body fell off a cliff, leaving no remains...

Those privy to the truth of this matter were few: either venerable elders famous for many years or trusted disciples of Grand Elder Wu. To protect Grand Elder Wu's reputation, they claimed that Chen Qingsong had gone abroad to establish his own school.

That incident seemed to have been put to rest, but Grand Elder Wu fell seriously ill afterward, taking three to four years to recover. Since then, he chose to live reclusively on the mountain, seldom venturing out, and never attending gatherings like the great Martial Arts Conferences.

"We also think it's impossible, but the attack my father received was our Wu Family's secret technique 'Tiger's Rush'..."

Wu Ming spoke with a face full of bitterness.

Tiger's Rush was the most lethal move of the Wu Family Tiger-shaped Fist, as well as its most quintessential technique. It required substantial Cultivation and deep Inner Breath to support it, making it learnable only by those who had reached Level 6 Grandmaster Level.

That meant only three people in the whole Wu Family even had the chance to learn it: Grand Elder Wu, Wu Ming, and Wu Hai.

Leaving Grand Elder Wu aside, as he would not use such a technique on himself,

Wu Ming and Wu Hai were Grand Elder Wu's biological sons. Wu Ming was the de facto leader of the Wu Family. After the incident with Chen Qingsong, Grand Elder Wu stepped back, and it could be said that the Wu Family's current prosperity was due to Grand Elder Wu's prestige, combined with Wu

Ming's personal operation. There was no conflict of interest between father and son, and Wu Ming would certainly not harm his own father.

As for Wu Hai, that was even less likely. Though not immensely talented, he was a martial-fighting fanatic who achieved everything he had through arduous Cultivation. Having just recently entered Level 6, he had only begun learning Tiger's Rush. With his aptitude, it would take at least a year before he could master it proficiently, so he too could be ruled out.

Beyond them, the Wu Family could only think of one other suspect.

Uncle Master Cai's face was filled with surprise. He had been one of those who cornered Chen Qingsong and held considerable wariness toward Chen Qingsong's capabilities.

Twenty years had passed, and he had become much more profound in his own abilities, yet he had no hope of breaking through that crucial gateway to reach Grandmaster Level.

The question was Chen Qingsong—if he had survived back then, twenty years would have been enough for him to advance from Grandmaster Level to Grandmaster Level or even to a higher plane...

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Then, if he were to come back for revenge, it's very possible that Old Master Wu really wouldn't be his match, which is why he got injured!

"Uncle Master Cai, I know you have a question in your heart! We weren't too certain ourselves, not until last night... It was then that we barely came to a conclusion!"

As he spoke, Wu Ming took out a photo from his person and handed it to Cai Pingyuan.

"Hmm?"

Cai Pingyuan glanced at the photo and his face immediately changed color, his eyes filled with shock.

"It's definitely Tiger's Rush!"

Looking at the photo, Cai Pingyuan came to an immediate conclusion. He was very knowledgeable about Tiger Fist, having sparred with Old Master Wu countless times, and there was no way he could mistake this unique move.

"Wait... this car..."

However, the surprise on Cai Pingyuan's face quickly turned into confusion as he gazed at the car in the photo, his shock deepening.

"Wu Ming, send someone to call my disciple, Qin Fang, over..."

He didn't say much else but directly said this to Wu Ming.

Wu Ming looked somewhat puzzled, but still followed Cai Pingyuan's instructions, and in no time at all, Qin Fang was summoned.

"Master, you wanted to see me?"

He greeted Wu Ming politely with a fist cupped in palm and then asked somewhat puzzledly in a soft voice, not wishing to disturb Old Master Wu, who was lying in bed.

He had already learned about Old Master Wu's condition from Luo Youheng, and felt quite distressed about it, not expecting that Master Cai Pingyuan would so soon call for him.

"Take a look at this photo..."

Cai Pingyuan nodded and immediately handed the photo he was holding to Qin Fang.

"Isn't this from last night..."

Qin Fang was slightly stunned. He was naturally familiar with the content of the photo; at least in the short term, he would have a deep impression of it, as it unmistakably showed the two victims from last night, whose deaths were too ghastly for him to forget even if he wanted to.

"I'm sorry, Master. I shouldn't have kept this from you, but..."

Although Qin Fang didn't quite understand the reason for his master's actions, he knew he couldn't keep hiding the truth and immediately confessed everything about the previous night, including the fact that he and Cai Qing had been taken back to the police station.

About why he had driven there, he merely said that he couldn't sleep and had driven out for a spin to find some entertainment, and just happened to need a restroom break. Since it was possible to park off the road there, he stopped by and never expected such an incident to occur upon his return.

"You didn't see the murderer?"

Cai Pingyuan furrowed his brows and immediately asked.

"No! I don't even know when the police arrived. By the time I got back, the place was already cordoned off by the police. It seemed like Sister Qing was the first to discover it! However... it would be best not to let Sister Qing see this photo again. She was truly terrified yesterday... I guess she couldn't have slept all night!"

Qin Fang wore a bitter smile, feeling truly wronged. It really had nothing to do with him; one could say he was also a victim. To this moment, he still felt uncomfortable even looking at the front of his Audi.

He felt nauseous again just looking at the photo.

He was like this, let alone Cai Qing. It took her a great deal of effort to stabilize her emotions, and if she were to see this photo again, she might completely collapse.

"Wu Ming, what do you think?"

Cai Pingyuan nodded; family matters were known only to the family. Cai Qing was strong on the outside but tender on the inside, and facing such a terrifying scene would definitely have scared her. Regarding why Cai Qing had followed Qin Fang late at night, there was no need to ask what the reason was.

"Currently, we can only speculate that Chen Qingsong didn't die and that it was him or his pupil who acted..."

Wu Ming shook his head; he didn't know that this matter also involved Cai Pingyuan.

However, Cai Pingyuan's suspicion could certainly be ruled out, and the same went for Qin Fang, who was only taken in by Cai Pingyuan as his disciple a few months ago and had never left Ninghai, so how could he possibly come to Jiujiang to harm his own father?

As for last night's case investigation, it was actually already in his hands; he just hadn't realized that the car owner was Qin Fang, who had visited them today.

Cai Pingyuan nodded, with the information known so far, they could only go so far. He didn't say much more, but turned to Qin Fang beside him and said.

"Qin Fang, take a look at Old Master Wu, see if there's any way to cure him..."

Qin Fang was slightly taken aback, and Wu Ming felt the same, not quite understanding what Master Cai meant with this statement.

Even Elder Ma, a saint in the medical field, was at his wits' end, so how could Qin Fang, a mere twenty-year-old youth, possibly cure his father? Despite his deep hope for such a reality to materialize.

"Master... ah, I'll give it a try!"

Qin Fang opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but in the end, he hesitated and nodded.

Wu Ming did the same, not speaking up, but he vaguely knew that Master Cai's action must have some deeper meaning, or perhaps this young man named Qin Fang could indeed bring them a miracle.

Taking a deep breath, Qin Fang approached Old Master Wu's bedside, looking at the nearly skin-and-bones old man, it was hard to associate him with the once invincible Grandmaster of the Martial Way.

Nevertheless, Qin Fang still extended his hand to check the pulse.

"Five Poisons Powder!"

But the pulse-check startled Qin Fang even more.

"What? Five Poisons Powder!"

Cai Pingyuan and Wu Ming both exclaimed upon hearing these three words, their faces showing great alarm.

"Qin Fang, are you sure?"

Cai Pingyuan quickly regained composure and asked seriously.

"It should be, but I still need to check more carefully..."

Qin Fang was also greatly startled, having blurted it out spontaneously because the name had suddenly appeared in his mind, with no prior indication of it at all. It was clearly a prompt from the System and couldn't be wrong!

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This prompt came too abruptly and in a way Qin Fang had never encountered before, transmitting directly into the depths of Qin Fang's mind.

Had it not been so, Qin Fang wouldn't have looked so surprised.

"Could it be that thing?"

Qin Fang felt slightly stirred and immediately thought of a possibility.

As if in response to Qin Fang's thoughts, he immediately felt a wave of warmth from his arm—surely it was the little creature hidden on Qin Fang's arm.

"Was it really you causing this trouble?"

Qin Fang was even more astonished; this creature, not knowing if it was a serpent or a dragon, was freshly hatched by Qin Fang the night before and possessed extremely formidable strength. It had devoured the deadly poison lurking within Qin Fang's body outright. Now, just as Qin Fang was checking, he discovered that Old Master Wu on the bed had not merely been injured—he had been struck by a life-threatening poison known as the Five Poisons Powder.

The little creature couldn't communicate with Qin Fang the way humans do, but it seemed to have a kind of telepathy with him and could understand Qin Fang's questions before responding with some answers.

Five Poisons Powder, a lethal poison known to be from the Yun-Gui Miao Borders, was made from a mix of five venomous creatures, toxic flowers, and poisonous plants. Colorless and tasteless, yet exceedingly virulent.

Though not instantaneous death upon contact, it was certainly a death sentence without any remedy, extremely malicious.

However, with the advancement of the times, the level of medical arts has also continuously improved. Nowadays, as long as the poisoning isn't immediately fatal, there is a great hope of finding an antidote.

Yet, treating the Five Poisons Powder was particularly difficult because the poisoned would die very quickly.

The reason Old Master Wu had not perished was probably due to his profound martial strength, using his powerful Inner Breath to suppress the poison, or perhaps the dose he received was small, which allowed him to survive.

Even so, the assailant had not intended to stop there; they also dealt a heavy blow to Old Master Wu, worsening his already dire condition.

According to Qin Fang's current assessment, if things continued like this, Old Master Wu would have at most three days to live, because Qin Fang could clearly sense his vitality rapidly declining.

This was an ineffable sensation, indefinable, yet it made Qin Fang feel as if his Life Points were plummeting into the danger zone.

An acupuncture set was placed at the bedside, from which Qin Fang took out three Silver Needles and inserted them into three crucial points, sealing the left half of Old Master Wu's body. One arm instantly changed color. Then, after the whole arm had turned a bizarre shade of blue-black, Qin Fang used a Silver Needle to puncture the tips of the five fingers on that hand.

Wu Ming moved his lips, wanting to say something, but Cai Pingyuan held him back.

While Wu Ming's attention was concentrated on his father, Old Master Wu, Cai Pingyuan also had to pay attention to Qin Fang's condition. Although the process seemed simple, Qin Fang's complexion was exceedingly grave, and beads of sweat were visible on his forehead and the tip of his nose, indicating it was not as easy as it appeared.

The fingertips were punctured...

Drops of black blood slowly fell from the fingertips to the ground.

Perhaps because this residence was built on a mountain, the ground was not made of ordinary blue stone or brick but entirely of wood, and these droplets of black blood created faint bubbles as they fell.

Cai Pingyuan's expression changed slightly; he cleared away the blood with something, then saw the wood underneath turned scorched black.

"It's indeed a deadly poison!"

For people of the Martial World, this was not common but a universally known matter. Seeing the charred wood was enough to confirm the truth of Qin Fang's words.

As to whether it was Five Poisons Powder, that was yet to be determined!

However, they were inclined to believe most of what Qin Fang had said.

At that moment, Qin Fang staggered, hastily removed the three needles that sealed the acupoints, and then slumped into a nearby chair, gasping for breath.

Looking at him, he appeared as if he had been fished out of water, soaked through.

Cai Pingyuan and Wu Ming did not dare disturb Qin Fang, as he looked extremely weak. They were concerned that any interruption might be detrimental to him.

Fortunately, after resting briefly, Qin Fang regained strength and returned to Old Master Wu's side. After checking the pulse, he let out a long sigh of relief.

"How is he?"

Seeing Qin Fang's hand leave Old Master Wu's wrist, Cai Pingyuan and Wu Ming immediately approached him, their expressions grave but also showing a hint of eagerness.

Yet Qin Fang could only shake his head helplessly, "The toxicity of Five Poisons Powder is extremely fierce. Old Master Wu didn't ingest much, but the severity of his injuries compounded with the poison have led to the current situation... If I am not mistaken, at most... Old Master Wu has three days to live."

What Qin Fang said was indeed the truth—Old Master Wu's condition had reached a critical juncture, and any small mistake could lead to his demise.

Three days to live did not mean he could necessarily survive three days; he might not even make it through today...

Upon hearing this, Wu Ming's face immediately turned extremely pale, with a look filled with sorrow. He wanted to refute Qin Fang, to accuse him of spewing nonsense, yet he knew in his heart that Qin Fang's words were mostly true.

Chapter 395: Five Poisons Powder_2

"Do you have any way?"

Compared to Wu Ming's nearly despairing mood, Cai Pingyuan was slightly better off, but despite also feeling anxious and sad, he couldn't help but ask.

"If it's possible to neutralize the intense poison of the Five Poisons Powder in Old Master Wu's body, I might have a forty percent chance. If not... I don't even have a ten percent chance!"

Qin Fang gave a wry smile. Although he was skilled in acupuncture techniques, that didn't mean he could actually bring back the dead.

"Detoxification..."

Upon hearing this, Wu Ming and Cai Pingyuan both shook their heads in resignation.

The Five Poisons Powder was infamously notorious in the Martial World and had long been banned. Ordinary people couldn't obtain it, let alone understand how to concoct it, let alone know the method to detoxify it.

It was possible to send Old Master Wu to the hospital for stomach pumping... but his body was in no condition to withstand treatment. Even moving slightly would cause him excruciating pain—after all, he had been struck in the chest and abdomen by a formidable move like Tiger's Rush.

"If there really is no way, then we can only prepare for the funeral... At most, I could revive him for a few minutes to let him give his last rites!"

That was all Qin Fang could do. With his miraculous Revival Needles, curing the poison was highly unlikely. If it was just about bringing some lucidity to Old Master Wu for a few minutes, that would not be a problem at all.

However, the cost of such a brief resurgence was enormous—it would merely stimulate the last of Old Master Wu's life energy. Basically, after those few minutes, his life would completely come to an end.

Qin Fang also seriously explained this situation to Wu Ming. The Wu Family members had to be mentally prepared, as acting rashly was extremely ill-advised.

To those aware, Qin Fang was helping; to those unaware, they might think Old Master Wu had been harmed by Qin Fang!

"I'll consult with everyone..."

Wu Ming nodded. Although he held the reins of the Wu Family, such a major decision required everyone's agreement.

Until the last moment, it was better not to resort to this method. Perhaps a miracle would occur at the end—a normal human sentiment. Qin Fang could completely understand that.

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Wu Ming quickly convened a meeting with the Wu Family members, and Cai Pingyuan also followed along. Although he had no say in the matter, as an elder, he could add his weight to the discussion and minimize the risk of quarrels leading to chaos.

Qin Fang, on the other hand, relaxed a bit. He walked outside to stroll around, taking the opportunity to admire the beautiful scenery of Lushan, which had its own unique charm.

Especially the tranquil forests, the ancient estates, the mountain ranges towering in the distance, and nature's masterful carving—it was no wonder the landscape far outshone that of Liuyun Mountain, and no surprise that it was so famous.

"You can also treat illnesses? I've never seen that before..."

Cai Qing looked at Qin Fang with a strange expression, feeling that this version of Qin Fang didn't seem like the one she knew. His performance over the past few days was like that of a completely different person.

"I've learned a bit, just the basics..."

Qin Fang was quite modest, yet if Elder Ma or Master Cai heard this, they'd probably be unable to resist clocking him.

The Acupuncture Techniques such as the Revival Needles were skills many renowned doctors couldn't learn, even for medical virtuosos like Elder Ma, who coveted them much, let alone the ordinary practitioners who were much less skilled.

Take Old Master Wu's condition, for example. Many doctors had examined him and could identify the injuries inflicted on him. Yet none could detect the poison, not even Elder Ma, known as a saint of Chinese medicine.

He was respected as a saint of Chinese medicine, committed to the righteous path, not well-versed in matters of poison, let alone something as rarely seen and banned as the Five Poisons Powder from Miao Jiang.

The skill that Qin Fang had just demonstrated had completely impressed Wu Ming, and although he still harbored some doubts, it didn't lessen his respect for Qin Fang as a famous physician, even though Qin Fang always considered himself a novice in the medical arts, which was indeed the case.

Looking at Qin Fang's modest demeanor, Cai Qing's first reaction was—this guy is showing off!

But she immediately felt that this idea was wrong. In her heart, Qin Fang was supposed to be a good-for-nothing with no real skills; only such a reason could continue to fuel Cai Qing's determination to bring Qin Fang down.

"Do you have a way to cure the poison?"

However, after hesitating for a moment, Cai Qing still couldn't help but ask.

Master Cai and Old Master Wu had been friends for many years, their affection for each other was like that of real brothers. Although they rarely gathered for chats or tea, they always cared deeply about each other's health.

Just like this time, Old Master Wu was seriously ill, and Cai Qing hadn't been informed beforehand. She had only vaguely noticed some days ago that Master Cai's temper had become somewhat abnormal, and his mood seemed especially desolate.

At first, Cai Qing thought it was just because the old man was getting on in years and felt too lonely without his children around. It was only now that she understood what was really going on.

She had specifically asked Luo Xi about the time when Old Master Wu had been critically injured, and indeed, it coincided with the change in Master Cai's mood.

"There's no... "

Qin Fang shook his head; he truly had no solution at all.

Acupuncture was indeed miraculous, but it couldn't cure poison. At most, it could expel some of the toxins like he did just now, but Old Master Wu's body couldn't hold on much longer. He simply didn't have the time, not to mention the energy.

Just expelling that small amount of poison nearly caused Qin Fang to collapse from exhaustion due to the excessive physical and mental strain.

"Hmph, just as I thought..."

Cai Qing's face immediately displayed a look of utter disdain, though her eyes betrayed a deep disappointment.

"Er..."

Qin Fang was slightly stunned; he really wasn't used to such rapid emotional changes from Cai Qing.

Previously, everything seemed fine, and she appeared easy to talk to, but in the blink of an eye, it was like she had become a different person, showing no mercy once her face had turned.

"Forget it, why bother arguing with a woman!"

Qin Fang shook his head and muttered under his breath, "But she doesn't seem to be entirely a woman..."

This thought stayed in Qin Fang's mind; he knew better than to say it out loud, or he'd have suffered the consequences.

When he was Level 3, close to Level 4, he had struggled to deal with Level 4 Luo Xi. Against the violent tomboy Cai Qing, it would have been downright masochistic. Even with Qin Fang's thick skin and robust physique, he couldn't withstand such abuse.

Qin Fang's mind didn't linger there though; he was still pondering the little creature lurking on his arm.

With Qin Fang's previous abilities, it would have been near impossible to detect Old Master Wu's poisoning. The Five Poisons Powder was extremely concealed; even Elder Ma could be deceived, let alone a rookie like Qin Fang.

But after the appearance of this little creature, Qin Fang had just touched the pulse and immediately came to a conclusion. The speed was so fast, he hardly had a chance to react.

Upon recalling how the little creature had attached itself to Qin Fang and devoured all the lingering toxins in his arm, Qin Fang considered the possibility that this little thing might have some significant powers.

"It burst out from the Golden Crested Snake, and although it doesn't resemble the Golden Crested Snake, it might still be an extremely poisonous creature with a natural sensitivity to toxins..."

Qin Fang silently mused, "If it could devour the toxins in my body, could it possibly consume the toxins from the Five Poisons Powder in Old Master Wu's body?"

Suddenly, such an idea sprang into Qin Fang's mind. Although it seemed ludicrous, given the current circumstances, Old Master Wu was practically at death's door, and it might be worth a try.

However, Qin Fang had no confidence in his heart; it was a mere speculation of his own without any evidence to back it up.

Chapter 396 Detoxification (Part 1)_1

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"Qin Fang! Qin Fang..."

Just as the thought crossed Qin Fang's mind, an urgent voice reached his ears, interrupting his train of thought, and made him involuntarily frown.

Being interrupted like this while deep in thought would put anyone in a bad mood because such a small interruption could mean missing an important opportunity, which was truly regrettable.

"What do you want?"

Looking at Luo Xi approaching, Qin Fang asked with great displeasure, his tone quite unfriendly, which also reflected his current mood.

If it had been any normal time, Luo Xi would have responded with a kick to anyone who spoke to her like that, but this time, her reaction was somewhat strange, she just frowned and didn't react too violently.

But her facial expression betrayed her feelings at the moment—anxious! Sad! Desperate!

"Qin Fang, you know about the poison in my grandfather's system, so you must have a way to detoxify it, right?"

By then, Luo Xi was also desperate, her usually strong character had completely collapsed, and her pretty face was tear-streaked, making her seem like a fragile girl, not the cold, violent policewoman from the night before.

Just now, the Wu Family held a family meeting at the main house, where almost everyone qualified to make decisions was present, even Wu Chi Wu Hai, who seldom took part in family affairs, had come.

Wu Ming reported this new situation to everyone present and also clearly stated that apart from his injuries, Old Master Wu had another most fatal affliction—the poison of Five Poisons Powder.

The moment everyone heard the term Five Poisons Powder, their faces changed drastically.

Those standing there were all members of the Martial World, and they were all very fearful of the infamous poison of the Five Poisons Powder, but it never crossed their minds that such a deadly poison would fall upon their teacher, father, grandfather...

Luo Xi was also present, and as soon as she heard Five Poisons Powder, she collapsed utterly.

Without a doubt, she was a very strong girl, and the biggest influence on her character as she grew up wasn't her father Luo Youheng, but her grandfather, Old Master Wu.

Like Cai Qing, she was also brought up by Old Master Wu, and her talent wasn't bad either; Old Master Wu was a person of extreme integrity and strength, which was evident from the fact that he managed to hold on till now despite the severe poisoning and injuries. Influenced by such a man, Luo Xi's character was also very strong.

Even her aggressive and domineering behavior was very similar to that of Old Master Wu.

Qin Fang should know that Luo Xi had suffered a loss at his hands last night, even being groped inappropriately, yet she only sought revenge through violence, rather than reacting with shyness or tears like other women...

"No!"

Luo Xi was looking at Qin Fang with a face full of hope, wishing that Qin Fang would nod, but unfortunately, his answer was still a denial; he truly had no way to detoxify.

He did have an idea just now, but it was only a thought of his own, and he planned to study the pet that had just hatched, hoping to get some clues from it that might indeed work.

Unfortunately, before he could take action, his train of thought was interrupted by Luo Xi's shout.

"You..."

Luo Xi's face turned from shocked to angry.

She had sincerely asked Qin Fang for help, but his attitude made her feel as if there was resentment in Qin Fang's heart.

She wasn't a brainless woman, and immediately thinking about what happened last night, she figured Qin Fang must hold a grudge against her for it, and that's why he was behaving this way.

"Qin Fang, about last night, I was wrong. I sincerely apologize to you! I'm sorry..."

Luo Xi was capable of being humble. Although she felt some anger inside, the safety of her grandfather, Old Master Wu, was more important, so she immediately apologized to Qin Fang.

"Uh... this..."

Qin Fang was even more surprised; after last night's incident, Luo Xi's hatred for him was extremely intense. Seeing her again today, the animosity was almost sky-high. But unexpectedly, in no time at all, Luo Xi seemed like a completely different person.

She was not only enduring Qin Fang's attitude but also apologizing so meekly and pleadingly!

Qin Fang fully understood that it wasn't because of his personal charm, but because Luo Xi was very concerned about Old Master Wu's safety. Old Master Wu had been poisoned by Five Poisons Powder, which Qin Fang had discovered, and he had even drawn out some poison, suggesting he might have a way to treat it.

She knew she couldn't force him; that wasn't the Wu Family way, and she certainly couldn't coerce him, as it could lead to a detrimental outcome for everyone involved, especially the Wu Family.

This was why Luo Xi humbled herself and earnestly asked for Qin Fang's help, even if it meant forgetting last night's events.

"Wait a minute... First, let me ask you something!"

If it hadn't been for the mention of last night, Qin Fang may really have forgotten about it, but now that it was brought up, it all came back to him.

Chapter 397 Detoxification (Part 1)_2

"You ask, you ask..."

Luo Xi's eyes suddenly lit up, believing Qin Fang was about to make some kind of demand.

"What exactly happened with the case last night? Are there any leads on the killer?"

However, the matter Qin Fang wanted to inquire about significantly differed from what Luo Xi had imagined, quite substantially so.

Luo Xi hesitated a moment. The case had a terrible impact, and the municipal bureau had already assigned extra personnel to investigate. Even the city leaders had expressed concern. Right now, the police were under tremendous pressure.

Originally, she shouldn't have discussed the case with Qin Fang, but she vaguely knew that Qin Fang seemed to have some connections. Moreover, since Qin Fang was Cai Pingyuan's apprentice, and now that she needed his help, she nodded and began to talk.

There wasn't much information on this case. The police had already thoroughly inspected the section of road where the incident occurred and were in the process of confirming the identities of the deceased. The forensic autopsy report had also come out.

The male victim was a second-generation official, not from Ninghai, but the child of a provincial leader. The cause of death was his head being blown apart by a Tiger's Rush gunshot.

The female victim was a local university student from Ninghai, studying to be a tour guide. It was said that the two met in Lushan and, after going out together a couple of times, naturally began a relationship. Her cause of death was suffocation due to a crushed throat.

As for the position in which the two were found deceased, it was where they were at the time of death. However, the location was not near Qin Fang's Audi but about five hundred meters away on a small trail in the hills.

"What about the suspects?"

Qin Fang immediately asked. This was a matter affecting his own reputation; naturally, he was concerned.

But there was another reason he didn't speak of.

"We haven't identified any specific targets yet..."

Speaking to this point, Luo Xi glanced at Qin Fang intentionally or unintentionally, but eventually, she didn't voice her suspicions, even though she still harbored them.

"I've already disclosed a lot of important information. Can you really help my grandfather detoxify? If not, I... I..."

Luo Xi was furious. Qin Fang had been beating around the bush for quite some time, always asking about last night's case. While she was also interested in the case, when compared to her grandfather's condition, it was clear which was more important.

"If you can't do it, I'll find someone else! I... I'll go to Yungui, to the Miao Village. I'll definitely find an elixir that can detoxify..."

Luo Xi was so angry that her speech became incoherent—it was the confusion of deep concern.

While it's true that the Five Poisons Powder had originated from Miao Jiang, in reality, the Miao Villages had changed a lot over the years, and the recipe for such a powder had been lost long ago, not to mention the antidote.

"Wait, Detoxification Pill..."

Hearing Luo Xi mention that, Qin Fang suddenly remembered something and quickly opened the Skill Panel.

Under Pharmacopeia, he quickly found the option for recipes, and there, lying quietly, was one called the Detoxification Pill.

This Detoxification Pill recipe had been a drop from the Golden Crested Snake. Although it was said with certainty to neutralize the Golden Crested Snake's venom, its emergence suggested it must have powerful effects.

Although the Five Poisons Powder was notoriously powerful, compared to the intensely toxic venom of the Golden Crested Snake, it might fall short—a fact Qin Fang knew well.

Both were deadly poisons, but where the Five Poisons Powder only turned wood into a blackened state, the Golden Crested Snake's appearance had truly been like desolated, blackened earth, the darkness seeping into the very stone.

By comparison, the Five Poisons Powder was clearly much weaker.

Moreover, the dosage of Five Poisons Powder in Old Master Wu's body wasn't very high; perhaps the Detoxification Pill really could work wonders.

"Actually, the Five Poisons Powder isn't incurable..."

Qin Fang fell silent for a moment before he finally spoke in a low voice, "It's just that the required materials are far too rare..."

It wasn't that Qin Fang was trying to be pretentious; even he couldn't help but feel a headache when he learned of these ingredients. This wasn't like in a game, but reality, where could he possibly find these materials.

He did have some on hand, but to facilitate this trip, he had deliberately left those things in Ninghai, in the safe of the Sawmill Cabin.

And that safe, aside from Qin Fang himself, even Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue couldn't open it, let alone access the items inside.

Not to mention that the items were bound to Qin Fang, no one but him could take them, and whether they could even be seen was another matter.

Moreover, with time being so tight now, it would be too late even if the materials could be found.

"As long as you can name the items, we will definitely be able to find them. Just tell us, hurry and tell us..."

Qin Fang had his own difficulties, but that didn't dampen Luo Xi's excitement.

She had almost given up hope, but out of nowhere, there was a dramatic turn, and Qin Fang suddenly said there might be a way.

As for the materials, the Wu Family had been dominant in the Jiujiang area for decades, and their financial resources were quite substantial. As long as they were willing to spend the money, there would be nothing they couldn't buy.

"Wait... I can detoxify your grandfather, but you must promise me one thing..."

Qin Fang considered for a while, and instead of revealing the recipe, he looked at Luo Xi and immediately made a request.

This wasn't Ninghai, and as a stranger in an unfamiliar land, it would be difficult for him to get involved in this case. It would be helpful if Luo Xi could lend a hand, then there might still be a glimmer of hope.

As for the matter of the materials, Qin Fang thought it over; if the Wu Family really couldn't find the materials, at most he could return to Ninghai overnight and bring the items back. So relatively, he wasn't worried about this as much.

"You... as long as you can detoxify my grandfather, I will agree to anything!"

What surprised Qin Fang was the look on Luo Xi's face, which became rather unsightly. However, she eventually gritted her teeth and agreed without any hesitation. Yet from her beautiful eyes, one could still discern a deep sense of sarcasm and disdain.

"Er... what are you thinking? Forget it, I can't be bothered to explain..."

Qin Fang noticed her gaze and was momentarily stunned, then quickly understood what Luo Xi was thinking. It seemed she had mistaken him for a lecher.

But this matter was really not easy to explain. Even if he said he wasn't one, Luo Xi would still have to believe him.

And judging from the current situation, it was clear that Luo Xi wouldn't believe you.

"I'll write you a prescription. Hurry up and find someone to look for these items. We must confirm by 5 p.m. whether we can gather them all. Let me know early if it's not possible..."

Qin Fang immediately found paper and pen, and wrote down the Detoxification Pill formula along with some necessary tools, handing it all over to Luo Xi.

The reason for setting a time was mainly because he feared that the night would bring more trouble. Old Master Wu's health was in quite a poor state, and the estimated three days was just a rough estimate. By Qin Fang's more conservative count, there might only be two days left.

If they couldn't find all the materials by 5 p.m., then Qin Fang would have no choice but to rush back to Ninghai overnight to retrieve the items and then hurry back. This would only delay one day, and the remaining day would still be enough for Qin Fang to concoct the Detoxification Pill.

As to whether the Detoxification Pill could neutralize the potent Five Poisons Powder in Old Master Wu's body, that was now up to fate. It was beyond Qin Fang's capabilities.

The instructions for the Detoxification Pill were very clear: the efficacy of the pill was closely linked to the level of the Pharmacopeia Skill. Currently, Qin Fang's Pharmacopeia Skill was at Beginner Level 0%, essentially starting from scratch, so it was uncertain whether the Detoxification Pill he could concoct would be able to neutralize the potent Five Poisons Powder, even if the dose were not very large.

Chapter 398 Detoxification (Part 2)_1

...

Inside the Wu Family mansion.

The hall was full of people, with Cai Pingyuan seated at the main seat. This place was originally Grand Elder Wu's seat; however, considering Cai Pingyuan's seniority and qualifications, no one had any objections to him sitting there.

Seated at the chief seats on either side were two Level 6 experts of the second generation of the Wu Family, the imposing Wu Ming and the somewhat unkempt Wu Hai. Still, their expressions now were extremely grave.

Further down sat Grand Elder Wu's nephews and disciples who were entitled to have a seat.

As for grandchildren such as Luo Xi, grand-nephews, and the like, they could only stand in the back. They could listen, but unless they were given permission by their elders, they absolutely could not speak out of turn in such a setting, or else they would be punished by family law.

Grand Elder Wu wasn't young anymore and, moreover, had lived through times of war. His brothers had all passed, and he was the only elder left in the Wu Family, so there was no need to argue over speaking rights.

Not to mention, now was the time to discuss Grand Elder Wu's illness. If anyone still harboured thoughts of grappling for power and profit at such a time, that would simply be courting death.

As a top-tier family, the Wu Family's sole mark of distinction was having a Grandmaster-level expert. Once a Grandmaster-level expert passed away, it might not take long before the Wu Family would decline, and past enemies would come seeking vengeance.

The martial world had never been as harmonious as it appeared on the surface; the power struggles within were extremely dangerous. Only with a strong enough fist and a solid standing could one maintain influence in the martial world.

Otherwise... just like those small gangs in the underworld, they could be overturned at any time, becoming mere passersby in the martial world, perhaps one day hunted down by their enemies and meeting an untimely death.

"Let's all share our thoughts..."

Although Cai Pingyuan was seated at the head of the table, he did not speak up or seem appropriate to do so. He was merely a witness— the real person in charge was actually the boss of the Wu Family, Wu Ming.

"Big brother, Qin Fang is young, can we trust what he says? I'm sorry, Uncle Master Cai, I know Qin Fang is your disciple, but this matter is of great importance, I hope you can understand..."

In the Wu Family, the only one who could speak to Wu Ming as an equal was Second Brother Wu Hai. His only concern was martial practice, and he paid no mind to other benefits; he was even a lifelong bachelor. Hence, there were no conflicts of interest with Wu Ming, and the two brothers always had a good relationship.

At this time, he had to stand up and voice his concerns, but his biggest doubt remained whether Qin Fang's words could be trusted.

"This..."

Wu Ming was taken aback as well; he had witnessed Qin Fang performing acupuncture and should have developed a considerable degree of trust in him, but this was only his personal view and could not prove anything to his fellow brothers.

"Wu Hai, although Qin Fang is young, his medical arts are quite remarkable, especially his acupuncture techniques that are nothing short of miraculous. I won't hide it from you, I originally planned to send Qin Fang directly to Jincheng, but Elder Ma specifically called me, asking me to bring Qin Fang over to have a look..."

Cai Pingyuan then stepped forward to state the facts. As he said himself, bringing Qin Fang wasn't just about visiting an old friend to boast about his achievements, but Elder Ma indeed personally reached out to him.

"Elder Ma has said so..."

Upon hearing Cai Pingyuan's words, many were surprised, and in their hearts, they began to believe silently.

Qin Fang might be an obscure figure, but being endorsed by both Master Cai and Elder Ma meant he must possess true skills.

With that said, the objections from the Wu Family members noticeably decreased, and one after another, they lowered their heads to decide whether to let the Grand Elder wake for a few minutes to finalize his affairs or continue to delay until there was no other choice.

But, judging from Grand Elder Wu's current condition, it seemed, just as Qin Fang had said, there were only two or three days left.

"Let's all speak up, Grand Elder may not have much time left—we can't delay any longer! I'll express my view first; I think we should ask Qin Fang for help, to allow the Grand Elder to regain consciousness so he can give us his final instructions... and most importantly, we need to find out who the assailant is!"

Seeing that no one else spoke up, Wu Ming understood everyone's apprehensions; they didn't want to take on such a heavy responsibility lightly, but in his heart, Wu Ming was resolute.

"The assailant..."

Almost upon hearing these words, a flash of severity passed through everyone's eyes. All those present were confidants, nephews, or disciples of the Grand Elder and held deep affection for him. Grand Elder Wu had fallen victim to a malicious attack, and not only were they unable to save him in time, they couldn't even find the culprit, which filled them with guilt.

The only person privy to the details was the Grand Elder himself, but he now lay unconscious, at risk of passing at any moment. If they failed to identify the culprit even after the Grand Elder's death, these nephews and disciples might indeed not have the face to meet their master again.

"I agree with big brother's suggestion!"

Second Brother Wu Hai immediately raised his hand, indicating his support. Although he was obsessed with martial arts, his respect for his father ran deepest. It was the example of such a powerful father that had enabled him, a son of merely average talent, to achieve his current success.

Chapter 399 - Detoxification (Part 2)_2

"I agree too!"

"I agree..."

"I agree..."

Thus, everyone present expressed their agreement, their most unified thought being to find the murderer and seek vengeance!

"Uncle, uncle... There's hope! There's hope! Grandfather can be saved..."

Just at this moment, Luo Xi, gasping for breath, rushed in from outside, shouting as she entered, holding in her hand the prescription Qin Fang had given her, her face alight with excitement.

"Qianxi, stop this nonsense!"

Seeing his daughter's expression, although Luo Youheng knew she was concerned about the old man's illness, at a time when everyone was discussing important matters, Luo Xi's abrupt entrance was completely out of line. Not wanting his daughter to be punished for her actions, he immediately scolded her loudly...

"Dad, don't speak just yet..."

Usually, Luo Xi was very fearful of her father, but this time, she did not shrink away. Instead, she defiantly countered and lifted the prescription in her hand.

"This is the detoxification prescription I got from Qin Fang. He said that if we can gather the ingredients before five o'clock this afternoon, he can concoct the medicine to detoxify..."

Luo Xi's change in demeanor took Wu Ming, Wu Hai, Luo Youheng, and the Wu family members by surprise, their eyes focusing on the piece of paper in her hand.

Even Cai Pingyuan was no exception. Qin Fang had been implying that he had no solution, but now suddenly produced this prescription. Cai Pingyuan was slightly bewildered, unsure of its authenticity.

However, based on his understanding of Qin Fang, this prescription was likely genuine, albeit withheld for some reason.

"Pass it here for me to see..."

Cai Pingyuan immediately spoke up, and Wu Ming and Wu Hai, taken aback, quickly gestured to Luo Xi.

Luo Xi did not hesitate and promptly handed over the prescription to Cai Pingyuan.

Upon receiving the prescription, Cai Pingyuan scrutinized the ingredients list seriously, his eyebrows drawing together in concern, then he passed it on to Wu Ming.

Wu Ming also examined the prescription closely, furrowing his brows as well, but he seemed slightly more optimistic than Cai Pingyuan, and then passed the prescription down...

"Uncle Master Cai, what do you think?"

Wu Ming did not jump to conclusions but instead sought Cai Pingyuan's opinion.

"It's hard for me to say. Many of the ingredients listed are quite difficult to find. However, I don't think Qin Fang is joking around with these items; he isn't that kind of person... You all decide!"

Cai Pingyuan didn't say much; he vaguely understood Qin Fang's intention, yet the ultimate decision still had to be made by the Wu family members. Ultimately, he was an outsider, but his words implied his support for Qin Fang.

After speaking, Cai Pingyuan stood up immediately, needing to consult with Qin Fang for a clearer understanding.

"Qin Fang, how confident are you?"

Cai Pingyuan's expression was gravely serious. The matter had reached a point where it wasn't just about Qin Fang; it also concerned the entire Wu family and even the relationship between the Wu and Cai families.

"If the materials can be gathered within the time I specified, I have more than a sixty percent chance of success. If the detoxification elixir can be successfully concocted, I'm eighty percent confident... The remaining twenty percent will be left to fate!"

Qin Fang's words were still very certain.

If the Detoxification Pill could be prepared, then there was indeed a great likelihood of success. The remaining twenty percent depended on whether the medicinal effect was strong enough to remove the Five Poisons Powder from Old Master Wu's body.

This was not something Qin Fang could control. The effectiveness of the medicine was related to the level of the pharmacopeia, and even if Qin Fang wanted to, there was simply not enough time and energy to improve his Proficiency.

"Eighty percent..."

Upon hearing such a number, Cai Pingyuan was still quite shocked.

Normally, even in hospitals where surgeries are performed with only a fifty percent chance of success, people would still take a gamble. Now, with Qin Fang holding at least a sixty percent chance, even up to eighty percent, it could be said to be quite high.

At this point, Cai Pingyuan was indeed tempted, but this was the Wu Family's domain, and ultimately, the decision was up to the Wu Family members. If they thought an eighty percent chance was still too low, then no matter how tempted he was, it would be of no use.

"Eighty percent!"

Not only had Master Cai heard Qin Fang's answer, but Wu Ming, who had just entered the door, also happened to hear this conversation between the master and the disciple. Especially upon hearing Qin Fang's confidence in an eighty percent chance, his face showed an indescribable surprise and astonishment, but at the same time, there was also a burst of intense joy.

"Xiao Qin, are you serious? You really have an eighty percent chance?"

However, Wu Ming was genuinely worried that he might have misheard, and immediately stepped forward excitedly, clapping Qin Fang's shoulders, he asked eagerly. His sparkling eyes revealed deep excitement and joy.

"If there's no problem with the medicinal materials, then there's not much of an issue on my part..."

Qin Fang nodded. He could speak plainly about this. The real challenge was whether the Wu Family could gather all the materials for him before five o'clock in the afternoon, so that he could begin refining the Detoxification Pill.

If the materials were insufficient, Qin Fang would have no choice but to rush back to Ninghai to get them, which would be very time-consuming. He also couldn't guarantee he would be back before Old Master Wu passed away completely, or perhaps by the time he returned, Old Master Wu would have already drawn his last breath, and even with the Detoxification Pill in hand, it would be too late to do anything.

"I've already sent people to start preparing the materials. Although some are quite rare, there shouldn't be any major issues. I believe we will have them all soon..."

Wu Ming had already obtained the prescription from Luo Xi, and at that time, he had some doubts in his mind. Many of the Wu Family members were questioning Qin Fang's capabilities. But now, with Old Master Wu's life hanging by a thread, on the verge of death at any moment, this was a scenario none of the Wu Family members wanted to see.

Although these materials were precious and difficult to find, upon reviewing them, Wu Ming didn't display any sense of helplessness because these items could be found. If the Wu Family mobilized all its Strength, he estimated it wouldn't take long before a large batch of materials would be transported up the mountain.

"Then there's no problem!"

Qin Fang nodded, "Brother Wu, please also prepare a quiet room for me. The preparation of the detoxification agents requires a very quiet environment to complete, and the higher the success rate..."

"That's absolutely not a problem. I've already prepared it for you. Just go directly to the study in the backyard; no one will disturb you there..."

Wu Ming nodded and quickly agreed. As for whether it was properly arranged, that wasn't important. As long as everything was ready for Qin Fang when needed, that was all that mattered.

As Wu Ming had said, the Wu Family wielded an immense influence near Lushan, and their power permeated every aspect of the region.

The prescription that Qin Fang put forward contained many items of an esoteric nature, such as Viper saliva, venom, eyes, Snake Gallbladder, toad's tongue, beehive, bear bile...

All in all, they were extremely odd and bizarre and seemed sheer nonsense to others. The most troubling for Qin Fang was a stalk of Old Ganoderma or a ginseng or polygonum multiflorum of the same age, which were indispensable catalysts. If the age was insufficient, the failure rate of the Pharmacopeia would increase by a lot.

However, when it came down to it, this was the moment for the Wu Family to demonstrate its formidable power. Although Qin Fang initially estimated it would take six hours to collect everything, it took merely four hours for Wu Ming to receive word that all the materials had been gathered and were on their way to the Wu Family's old house.

As for the necessary tools, although it was too late for them to be custom-made, the equipment from a nearby school's laboratory would suffice for the time being.

Chapter 400 Detoxification (Part 3)_1

...

The quiet chamber Wu Ming had prepared for Qin Fang was the study of the Elder of the Wu Family, furnished with many volumes of books, most of which were ancient editions, and their texts were all in Classical Chinese.

These were all passed down through generations of the Wu Family. Some had been damaged, and the remaining ones were greatly cherished. Even though these books were not worth a lot of money, the elders always valued anything passed down from their ancestors.

The reason for choosing this place was mainly because there was a small partition inside the study, essentially an ancient secret chamber. Its mechanism was broken, so the Wu Family members simply fitted a door, which turned it into a rather tranquil space.

All the materials Qin Fang needed had been gradually brought into the quiet chamber, along with all sorts of tools, making the set complete. Qin Fang checked everything to make sure nothing was missing, then he was ready to close the door and start making medicine.

"What are you doing here?"

Seeing Luo Xi following him in, Qin Fang immediately furrowed his brows. He was about to start compounding medicine and did not want any of his actions to be witnessed by others, let alone someone watching closely.

"I... I need to watch you. If you... how would I know if you're not actually making medicine!"

Luo Xi was a little afraid of Qin Fang now, especially the fierce glint that occasionally shone through his gaze, which made her shudder slightly.

However, she had never been the kind of woman to accept defeat. She straightened her chest, not particularly impressive, and asserted her position quite righteously.

"Well, suit yourself..."

Qin Fang waved his hand dismissively and turned to leave.

"You... Where are you going?"

Luo Xi was taken aback, just when she thought Qin Fang seemed surprisingly cooperative, only to realize he wasn't going to compound medicine, but heading out the door. Anxious, she grabbed Qin Fang and blurted out.

"Aren't you supposed to watch me here? Then watch... I'll come back when you stop watching!"

Qin Fang shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly, "Although Old Master Wu is a senior I greatly respect, if his own relatives do not care about his life or death, why should I, an outsider, bother to meddle?"

"You... I'll go! Is that good enough?"

Despite numerous confrontations with Qin Fang, Luo Xi had invariably ended in total defeat, and this time was no exception, clearly outmatched by Qin Fang.

Even if she hated Qin Fang to death, at this critical juncture, she absolutely couldn't let her personal anger lead to her grandfather lying on the bed, taking his last breath unattended.

In the end, she had no better choice but to concede unwillingly.

The door closed, and Qin Fang even bolted it from the inside, ensuring no one could enter. He could now focus on making medicine with peace of mind.

All the materials were placed in special containers, as Qin Fang had specifically requested, which was relayed by Wu Ming. The freshness of certain ingredients could greatly influence the outcome of the medicine, so Qin Fang dared not be careless.

Although Qin Fang had not made any promises to the Wu Family members, if he failed to create the Detoxification Pill, who knows how the Wu Family Members would treat him, and even his master, Cai Pingyuan, might be affected.

Qin Fang's Props Box could maintain the freshness of items, keeping them as if newly acquired regardless of the time passed, but this did not mean that other herbalists could do the same. He had to be extremely cautious.

Fortunately, the results were acceptable. There might be some small impacts, though probably not significant.

Qin Fang certainly did not expect that the items he requested, though uncommon, could still be found. For example, materials from the Viper were available at specialized breeding facilities in Jiujiang, where King Cobras were raised by the hundreds or thousands. As long as one was willing to pay, any desired amount could be obtained.

The Snake Gallbladders and eyes were harvested fresh from the just-killed serpents, and needless to mention the venom. This was their money-making project, ready at hand. The only trouble was gathering the Viper's saliva, but with a large workforce, collecting from several hundred serpents all at once, they managed to gather one hundred milliliters.

The rest employed more or less the same approach: throwing enough money at the problem, along with the numerous subordinates of the Wu Family, they completed the task in just a few hours.

If Qin Fang himself had to handle this, even in Ninghai, it would have taken several days to gather the amount now at hand.

"Is this... the Hundred-Year-Old Ginseng that belonged to my master?"

What surprised Qin Fang the most, however, was that a Hundred-Year-Old Ginseng, which looked very similar to the one that belonged to Cai Pingyuan, was used as a medicinal primer.

Wrong, not similar, it was precisely the same!

This Old Mountain Ginseng had been kept in a box by Cai Pingyuan, and that box was always in his hands. Qin Fang had learned about the contents of the box while chatting briefly with Cai Pingyuan as he waited for the Wu Family Members to collect the materials.

"Ah, indeed, such a deep friendship after so many years..."

Qin Fang felt deeply moved. This Old Mountain Ginseng was almost three hundred years old, its shape almost human, undeniably a treasure of inestimable value.