

King Hall 641

Chapter 641: The Bet!

Hongye Villa.

The once blood-stained hall had been cleaned thoroughly by the trusted aides called by Yao Liangbi.

Yet there was still a faint smell of blood lingering in the air.

"Alright, once you have complete control over the Medicine Alliance, contact me then. I'm leaving."

Mu Jinyu glanced at the text message from Wen Rou, replied that he would be back soon, looked up at Yao Liangbi, and spoke in a detached tone.

"Yes, master." Yao Liangbi hurriedly responded.

As he spoke, he hesitated, then asked, "Master, if you wish to learn alchemy, do you need our Medicine Alliance to provide convenience? We set up our headquarters at Hongye Villa because there is a geothermal fire here which can be used for alchemy."

"Oh?" Mu Jinyu upon hearing this, briefly turned to glance at Yao Liangbi then shook his head, "No need."

Mu Jinyu knew some basic knowledge about alchemy.

The best flames for alchemy are those that a cultivator has cultivated themselves—the Golden Elixir Flame; secondly, the flames formed from techniques, such as Taoist True Fire; and the least desirable is the Earth's Fire.

Ordinary people, like those from the Medicine Alliance or Dan Pavilion, naturally cannot cultivate the Golden Elixir Fire for alchemy, and not having ever stepped into the Divine Realm, how could they use techniques or Taoist True Fire for alchemy?

Thus, over the years, their attempts at alchemy using Earth's Fire—an external force—were hard to control, making the failure rate extremely high.

But Mu Jinyu, as a Divine Realm Warrior, had long been capable of using techniques to summon innate Taoist True Fire. Why would he need any Earth's Fire for alchemy?

"Alright, I understand now, master, safe travels."

Yao Liangbi, seeing Mu Jinyu's refusal, also understood that he must have mastered fire-related techniques; otherwise, he definitely would not have refused the Earth's Fire. He wanted to show his loyalty, but it was misguided.

Mu Jinyu didn't say anything else and stepped away, leaving Hongye Villa.

"Whew..."

Watching Mu Jinyu board the private car and leave Hongye Villa, disappearing from view, Yao Liangbi suddenly let out a long sigh of relief.

Only then did he belatedly realize that his undershirt had long been soaked with cold sweat.

"I guess I gambled right this time; from now on, the Medicine Alliance will be under the total control of my Yao Family, but the risk is too great. I can't do this again in the future, or the Yao Family might collapse in an instant..."

Yao Liangbi whispered fearfully to himself.

...

Half an hour later.

Mu Jinyu returned to the Secluded Valley in Yinlong Mountain.

Walking through the bamboo forest, he reached the clearing in front of the bamboo house where Wen Rou and several other women were gathered around the Shennong Cauldron he had bought, observing it.

"What are you looking at?"

Mu Jinyu walked over, smiling.

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Gu Xiyan and the others snapped out of their daze and looked up at him.

Gu Xiyan asked curiously, "Jinyu, are you going to perform alchemy?"

"Yes," Mu Jinyu nodded, "eating spiritual medicine raw is not only hard to assimilate, but also provides less spiritual power, nowhere near as convenient as elixirs."

"That's great..."

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Gu Xiyan and the others cheered joyfully.

During the half-month they had lived in Yinlong Mountain, they had listened to Mu Jinyu complain nearly every day that it would be so much easier if he knew alchemy. That way, it wouldn't be so troublesome.

Moreover, every time they assimilated spiritual medicine, a lot of the medicine's power was wasted.

So, they also were very much looking forward to Mu Jinyu learning the art of alchemy, so they wouldn't have to waste it any longer under Mu Jinyu's constant nagging.

"Hmph, why are you all happy? It's as though he already knows how to perform alchemy," Jian Ruyan said from the side, holding her treasured sword and dampening their spirits.

She grew up in Kunlun Ruins and although dedicated to sword training, she had not dabbled in Alchemy, Artifact Refining, Talisman, Formation or any other divergent paths. However, she certainly did not regard Alchemy as mythical, as those from outside did.

"How could I possibly not know?" Mu Jinyu looked at Jian Ruyan discontentedly.

"Do you think you can learn it right here and now? Master alchemy within a few days?" Jian Ruyan glanced at Mu Jinyu with a sneer.

She knew the difficulties of alchemy. Without talent, one could spend a lifetime and never learn, every attempt to concoct a pill would explode the furnace!

Those with decent talent needed about a decade to barely get started.

As for those top-grade talents, they could enter the threshold in just one or two years, try their hand at alchemy, and if lucky, despite a few explosions, they might produce a batch of elixirs.

Although Mu Jinyu had great talent, and even if he was an alchemy prodigy, she didn't believe he could master alchemy in such a short time and use the various spiritual medicines from the medicine field to concoct elixirs suited for everyone.

It would take at least several years.

That's why she threw cold water on Gu Xiyun and the others, urging them not to believe Mu Jinyu's nonsense to avoid getting their hopes up.

Mu Jinyu looked at Jian Ruyan, finding the girl deserved a lesson. Wasn't it just tricking her into washing his dirty clothes? Did she need to hold this grudge for half a month?

Feeling uncomfortable from Jian Ruyan's rebuke, Mu Jinyu said calmly:

"If it were about other talents, perhaps I really couldn't learn right away, but when it comes to the art of medicine, not to boast, I really could learn it in a single day."

Jian Ruyan, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, stayed silent but gave him a beautiful eye-roll.

The message was clear, keep bragging, as if you could master it in one day.

Mu Jinyu, getting heated, said, "Don't believe me? Why don't we make a bet then, to see if I can't learn alchemy in one day?"

Jian Ruyan initially didn't want to bother with Mu Jinyu anymore, but his mention of a bet piqued her interest. She asked, "Bet on what?"

Mu Jinyu thought for a moment, initially wanting to say, if he won, she'd have to obediently listen to him from then on.

But as the words were on the tip of his tongue, he felt that wasn't quite right, especially with Gu Xiyan and the others nearby. They might think he had intentions towards Jian Ruyan, and that would lead to a difficult night.

Thinking thus, his gaze shifted as he said, "If I win, I'll wash all my clothes by myself from now on. How about that?"

"You?!"

Jian Ruyan, hearing Mu Jinyu bring up washing clothes again, instantly flared up, barely holding back the urge to hit him!

Mu Jinyu promptly said, "Aren't you confident? Don't dare to bet?"

Jian Ruyan suppressed her anger and said, "Fine, I'll take your bet, but what if you lose?"

Mu Jinyu calmly said, "You tell me what to do if I lose. As long as it's not too excessive, I'll agree."

Jian Ruyan, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, also began to ponder what he should do if he lost. Initially, she liked the idea of keeping Mu Jinyu away from Gu Xiyan and the others for a month to torture him!

But thinking that stating such a bet might lead Mu Jinyu to tease her about being jealous, she decided against it.

Have him kneel and apologize to her?

That seemed too excessive, especially since Mu Jinyu was not only her brother's close friend but also her superior.

Jian Ruyan thought it over but couldn't come up with any good punishment that would allow her to vent her frustration from being tricked by Mu Jinyu into washing his dirty clothes that day.

She hesitated and said, "I haven't thought of anything, but it won't be too excessive. Anyway, it'll be of the same magnitude as having you wash your dirty clothes."

Mu Jinyu offhandedly said, "So that's like...me washing your clothes for a month?"

"In your dreams!" Jian Ruyan glared sharply at Mu Jinyu, yet a hint of pink crept up her cheeks.

Her clothes, how could she possibly let Mu Jinyu wash them? That was hardly a punishment.

Gu Xiyan and the other women, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, also looked at him with disapproval!

Mu Jinyu gave a wry smile and quickly said, "Alright, I agree. I won't lose anyway."

Chapter 642: Start Alchemy!

Jian Ruyan furrowed her brows slightly when she heard Mu Jinyu's words, thinking about them, it seemed there were some loopholes, so she reminded him:

"Our bet is that you must learn alchemy within a day, and you also need to successfully produce a batch of elixir! It's not about understanding various alchemy theories!"

"Right." Mu Jinyu thought Jian Ruyan was quite vigilant. However, he hadn't thought about exploiting any loopholes and nodded, "Of course, it's only considered a success if I can produce the elixir."

Then he asked, "Do you have any other objections? Just say them all at once."

Jian Ruyan shook her head, "No more."

Mu Jinyu said, "Well... so the bet is this, I will learn alchemy within a day, and if I successfully produce a batch of elixir, you lose and will wash my clothes for a month. If I can't produce a batch of elixir, I'll lose to you under a condition that does not exceed washing clothes for a month?"

"Right." Jian Ruyan nodded.

Thinking to herself, she really didn't believe Mu Jinyu could achieve such a feat, to produce elixir in just one short day.

As for Mu Jinyu knowing alchemy before this?

She never entertained that thought.

She knew Mu Jinyu was very eager to enhance his strength, unsure of what enemy he faced. If he really knew alchemy, he definitely wouldn't spend half a month without using spiritual medicine to make elixirs and let everyone chew on raw spiritual medicines!

Could it be that he bore the discomfort for half a month, allowing everyone to chew on spiritual medicines, just to make her wash his clothes for half a month?!

Jian Ruyan felt Mu Jinyu wasn't possibly that perverse.

Mu Jinyu, unaware of Jian Ruyan's thoughts and seeing her nodding in agreement, then said to Wen Rou, "Xiaorou, hand me the alchemy scriptures."

"Right." Upon hearing this, Wen Rou quickly handed over the bamboo slip Mu Jinyu left with her when he went to the Medicine Alliance.

Mu Jinyu took the bamboo slip and squatted down, beginning to flip through the alchemy recorded on it.

He read with great interest.

Unknowingly, three to four hours had passed.

The sky had completely darkened, and it was already past eleven at night.

Mu Jinyu was still repeatedly scrutinizing the bamboo slip, sometimes frowning, sometimes realizing something.

Meanwhile, Su Zijin and others were sitting nearby, looking at the moon in the sky, occasionally glancing at Mu Jinyu, and occasionally at Jian Ruyan.

Eventually, Su Zijin sat next to Jian Ruyan and whispered, "Hey, Xiao Yan, the term of your bet is within one day, which should be until eight o'clock tomorrow, right?"

Jian Ruyan glanced at Su Zijin, knowing what she was worried about, worrying that her definition of one day meant today, and that once midnight passed, it would mean Mu Jinyu had lost if he hadn't succeeded by then.

And now it was almost midnight; how could Mu Jinyu possibly succeed in making an elixir by then?

However, she disdained doing such a thing, having already determined that even if Mu Jinyu had a month, he couldn't learn alchemy and produce a batch of elixir, let alone a day.

"Don't worry, godmother, I won't play word games," Jian Ruyan whispered.

Xiang Mantang had accepted Su Zijin as godmother, so she naturally did the same along with her brother.

"Oh, then I'm relieved. Besides, Jinyu is joking with you. If he loses, don't hold it against him. And if you... if you lose, mom won't make you wash his clothes, I'll wash them myself..." Su Zijin whispered.

She was also worried that Mu Jinyu had a higher chance of losing, so she preempted any awkward demands from Jian Ruyan should his elixir fail to materialize by tomorrow.

After all, she also sees Jian Ruyan as her daughter and didn't want them to have a bad argument over such a trivial matter.

Jian Ruyan sighed softly in her heart and insisted, "Godmother, don't worry, I won't make him do anything bad, and if I lose, I will accept my loss willingly and godmother you shouldn't interfere..."

"Alright, alright... it's just godmother meddling too much, Xiao Yan, don't mind godmother's nagging, I just think it's rare for everyone to be together, let's not spoil the mood over something trivial..."

Su Zijin said somewhat embarrassedly.

Jian Ruyan was about to say something.

"Whew..." Mu Jinyu, sitting on one side, suddenly let out a sigh and put away the bamboo slip he was holding.

Mu Jinyu's eyes sparkled with brilliance, and then he closed them.

Just as Gu Xiyan and the others were about to ask Mu Jinyu what was wrong, seeing him close his eyes, they hurriedly silenced themselves, not daring to disturb him.

After about fifteen minutes.

Mu Jinyu, with his eyes tightly shut, had finally fully absorbed the alchemy text, understanding how to perform alchemy, and then he opened his eyes.

"Very good." Mu Jinyu couldn't help but exclaim in admiration.

Seeing Mu Jinyu speaking on his own, Gu Xiyan and her friends, who had been suppressing their curiosity, finally couldn't help but ask:

"Jinyu, how are you doing now? Have you learned alchemy?"

Mu Jinyu turned to look at them and, seeing Wen Rou specifically shining a flashlight for him, felt a warmth in his heart and said, "Yes, I have learned it. Let's stop here for tonight, it's getting late. Everyone should go rest. I'll start refining pills tomorrow morning."

"Ah?"

The group, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, couldn't help but be stunned.

It felt very surprising.

Mu Jinyu had spent nearly four hours learning alchemy, and with only twenty hours left, he wasn't hurrying to try his hand at alchemy but instead chose to rest first.

Did he not want to win at all?

Gu Xiyan hurriedly said, "Jinyu, won't you try to refine a few batches overnight?"

She knew that as a Martial Artist of the Divine Realm, Mu Jinyu wouldn't feel tired even if he went a week without rest, and she was currently at the Half-Step Divine Realm herself, so staying up for a day or two was no problem.

Thus, knowing how competitive Mu Jinyu was, she wanted to urge him not to waste time.

Mu Jinyu smiled slightly and, after glancing at Jian Ruyan, said, "It's fine, I've fully mastered alchemy. I'll start in the morning, there's no need to rush tonight."

Seeing that Mu Jinyu was not heeding her advice, Gu Xiyan couldn't say much more.

She could only call her sisters to go back to their rooms and rest.

Jian Ruyan was the last to leave, looking at Mu Jinyu, who was packing up his things, and spoke in a chilling tone, "Huh, putting on airs. Don't look for excuses when you lose tomorrow."

"Don't worry, just be ready to wash my clothes for a month,"

Mu Jinyu paused in his packing, looked up at Jian Ruyan with a confident smile, and spoke.

Jian Ruyan shook her head slightly, not wanting to say anything more and went back to her room to cultivate.

Mu Jinyu finished packing, then took the various accessories and clothes he had purchased at the auction and went into the rooms of Yu Linglong, Lin Qiaoxia, and others to deliver the gifts.

Then he rested.

The night passed without words.

The next day.

The sun rose in the east.

Mu Jinyu felt the sunlight spread across the earth and the purple energy coming from the east. He carefully got out of bed, covered Lin Qiaoxia and the others with blankets, and then went out.

After closing the door, Mu Jinyu squinted at the sun, then sat down cross-legged in front of the bamboo house to begin cultivating.

"Hu..."

An hour later, Mu Jinyu slowly exhaled a breath of turbid air, feeling his strength had slightly improved.

"Ready to start alchemy?"

Jian Ruyan, standing in front of another bamboo hut, looked disdainfully at Mu Jinyu and said.

Chapter 643: Magic Treasure!

"Hm."

Mu Jinyu turned her head and glanced at Jian Ruyan, responding softly.

She had experienced his disdainful looks many times over the past half month and had grown accustomed to it.

He had nothing to be embarrassed about; after all, what did it matter to her if he cultivated with his wife?

"Uh..."

Mu Jinyu got up, lazily stretched his back, and then slowly walked toward the Shennong Cauldron placed by the side of the lake.

After circling the Shennong Cauldron a few times, Mu Jinyu casually placed his hand on it and poured both his True Yuan and Divine Sense into it, beginning the refining process.

"Dang dang! Clang clang!!"

Soon enough, the Shennong Cauldron began to emit a series of faint vibrating sounds.

Although the sound was soft, with the current strength of Gu Xiyan and the others, they could still hear it.

However, with Great Magical Power, Mu Jinyu sealed off the surroundings; the sound couldn't get out, so it wouldn't disturb their peaceful sleep.

Jian Ruyan was holding her sword scabbard, her arms crossed over her chest, watching Mu Jinyu refine the cauldron with an indifferent expression, feeling inexplicably nervous inside.

'One day's time, it's impossible for him to master alchemy!' Jian Ruyan grumbled internally.

"Clang!"

Just then, the Shennong Cauldron suddenly emitted a sharp noise like a sword unsheathing, causing the surrounding bamboo leaves to rustle and fall.

Mu Jinyu withdrew his hand.

After that, the initially huge Shennong Cauldron quickly shrank, turning into the size of an incense burner.

"This..."

Jian Ruyan watched the changes of the Shennong Cauldron, her pupils contracting slightly, exclaimed in surprise, "This alchemy furnace is... a magical treasure?!"

Holding the exquisitely delicate Shennong Cauldron, Mu Jinyu also had a look of surprise on his face as he said, "Yeah, I didn't expect it to be a magic treasure either. I only spent twenty-two Third-level Spirit Medicines to acquire it, such a great deal."

The flying swords, alchemy furnaces, and other magical instruments used by cultivators all have levels. The lowliest level is that of a mere instrument. Slightly more advanced are those which harbor a hint of spiritual nature, which can be called treasures, or magic treasures.

The Gold Inlaid Jade Magical Instrument that Mu Jinyu had previously refined was just a standard Protective talisman. He had only engraved some formations on it—Spirit Gathering Array, Defensive Formation, Evil-warding Formation, etc.—which could keep a person safe, but were virtually useless against powerful cultivators.

Magic treasures, on the other hand, could be engraved with even more formations, come with inherent magical techniques, grow large or shrink, fly through the sky or burrow underground, command the wind and summon the rain, turn rivers upside down—truly magical items with Great Magical Power!

Mu Jinyu had originally thought the Shennong Cauldron was just a more ordinary magical instrument, but to his surprise, it wasn't just an alchemy furnace—it was also a magic treasure with inherent magical techniques!

If he had known yesterday that the Shennong Cauldron was a magical treasure, he definitely wouldn't have let the auction house arrange for its transportation back to Yinlong Mountain—that was too risky. Instead, he would have shrunk it immediately and carried it home in his pocket.

Fortunately, nothing bad happened, and nobody attempted to kill anyone for the treasure halfway through.

Otherwise, if Mu Jinyu had not completed the refinement of the Shennong Cauldron and hadn't attached his Divine Sense to it, it would have been a huge hassle to get it back if someone had stolen it on the way.

"Shi shi!!"

Following Mu Jinyu's relief, he pinched a spell and began to familiarize himself with the power of the Shennong Cauldron!

Instantly, accompanied by a series of sharp whooshing noises, the Shennong Cauldron that Mu Jinyu held in the palm of his hand swelled again, becoming as big as a rice cooker, and then started spinning in the air.

Then a series of formidable Wind Blades burst out from the Shennong Cauldron, shooting towards the dense bamboo forest ahead!

"Crack crack crack!"

In just a few moments, hundreds of bamboos were chopped down, leaving the bamboo forest in complete disarray!

"Hoo hoo..."

"Pfft pfft pfft!!"

"Bang bang!"

"Boom!!"

Mu Jinyu subsequently activated other formations within the Shennong Cauldron, either summoning howling gales, spurting a sea of raging fire, or expanding to a size of ten feet and smashing down with the weight of a hundred tons...

In this last attempt, Mu Jinyu got somewhat carried away and didn't control his strength properly, creating a disturbance that was frighteningly loud, like a landslide or an earth cave-in, which startled Gu Xiyan and the others out of their wits.

"What's going on?"

"Was there an earthquake?"

"..."

Gu Xiyan and the others only had time to hurriedly throw on some clothes and rush out, their complexions deathly pale and eyes filled with panic as they looked toward Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu pinched out a spell with his hands, and the Shennong Cauldron, which had sunk into a deep pit, shrank to the size of an incense burner and flew back into his hand.

He turned to look at Gu Xiyan and the others, his face bearing an apologetic smile, and said, "Sorry, that was me testing out the pill furnace. Go back and get some rest..."

Upon hearing this, the ladies all sighed in relief and simultaneously gave Mu Jinyu a cold look.

They had all been woken up, so what sleep was there to go back to!

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu could only repeatedly apologize, yet he couldn't suppress the excitement in his heart.

The Shennong Cauldron, after his testing, was at least a medium-grade magical treasure and a very good alchemy furnace indeed.

With it to help him, his success rate in alchemy would surely rise by several percent.

Gu Xiyan and the others went back inside to change clothes and freshen up quickly, then all crowded around again, eagerly watching Mu Jinyu, waiting for him to start the alchemy process.

"What level of magic treasure is this?"

Jian Ruyan pursed her lips, suppressing the complex feelings of frustration in her heart, and asked Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu replied, "It's probably a medium-grade magical treasure."

As he spoke, he looked up at Jian Ruyan and teased, "Little Yanzi, are you scared now? How about this, if you apologize now and say you shouldn't have doubted me yesterday, I'll only make you wash clothes for half a month if I win later..."

"In your dreams!" Jian Ruyan's pretty face tightened as she refused to concede her mistake.

She still held her ground. Even if Mu Jinyu used a magical treasure level alchemy furnace that could slightly increase the success rate of alchemy, it was still impossible for someone with no experience in alchemy to succeed in just one day!

"Fine, then prepare yourself to wash my clothes for a month," Mu Jinyu said with a smug expression, nodding lightly at Jian Ruyan.

He found Jian Ruyan quite tsundere; he had offered her a way out, and yet she was refusing to take it. So be it, even if she was Ah-Xiang's sister, she would still have to wash his foot water today!

Afterward, Mu Jinyu wasted no more time, enlarging the Shennong Cauldron to the normal size of a pill furnace. He went to the medicine field to gather the ingredients required to concoct the "Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill" and then came back, adding them one by one into the pill furnace!

"Boom!!"

Having closed the furnace lid, Mu Jinyu pressed his palms against the pill furnace, activating the alchemy manual. In an instant, fierce flames enveloped the Shennong Cauldron, then gradually penetrated inside the furnace!

Mu Jinyu closed his eyes, cast aside all distractions, and focused wholeheartedly on the alchemy process!

Alchemy was no simple matter. During the concoction of the elixir, one must pay constant attention to the changes inside, proceed with caution, and then lead it to condense into a pill. One careless step could lead to failure and result in the furnace exploding!

Watching Mu Jinyu focus so intently on alchemy, Gu Xiyan and the others all hoped he would succeed in his endeavor.

Jian Ruyan's thoughts were quite conflicted: she hoped Mu Jinyu would succeed and witness a miracle, yet at the same time, she hoped he would fail, or else she would be the one to suffer.

Indeed, she would have to wash a month's worth of Mu Jinyu's dirty clothes!

Chapter 644:

Time slowly passed.

Immured in the act of alchemy, Mu Jinyu had lost track of the time elapsed.

The group of women, also tense about the alchemy process, had not paid any attention to the passage of time either.

Suddenly!

"Boom!!"

The previously silent Shennong Cauldron suddenly burst into a bright red glow, and the entire cauldron started to shake violently.

"Clang, clang, clang!!"

Witnessing this, Gu Xiyao and the other women grew anxious, fearing that the alchemy had failed and the cauldron was about to explode. They couldn't help but want to pull Mu Jinyu away.

"Don't panic, it won't explode."

Jian Ruyan noticed their actions, her brows slightly furrowed and her lips parted lightly as she spoke out to stop them.

"Huh?"

Gu Xiyao and Su Zijin, upon hearing Jian Ruyan's words, immediately halted their actions to pull Mu Jinyu away and turned their heads to look at Jian Ruyan with a startled, questioning gaze.

Jian Ruyan did not bother to explain but instead stared intently at the Shennong Cauldron with her eyes emitting a cold, strange light, waiting for the opening of the cauldron.

Although they did not receive an explanation from Jian Ruyan, Su Zijin, and the others understood that in such a situation, Jian Ruyan would not be joking around. They stopped what they were doing, not daring to make any hasty moves.

Mu Jinyu, who sat cross-legged behind the cauldron, controlling the situation inside the pill furnace, was now pale-faced. Sweat covered his forehead and dripped down his cheeks, falling onto his trouser leg. He was oblivious to the conversation between Jian Ruyan and the others, and couldn't spare a moment to wipe away his sweat, because the situation inside the cauldron had reached a critical moment.

The myriad medicinal liquids, refined by the True fire, were condensing into a mass. Under his divine sense's control, they kept compressing, shifting towards a solid state.

The pills were about to form.

This process was pivotal; a failure now would mean all their efforts had been in vain!

"Clang!!"

The Shennong Cauldron emitted another sonorous sound, followed by the radiant glow of its body, looking as if placed within a furnace, which then receded like a tide, turning the cauldron back into its cold bronze color.

"What happened?"

Gu Xiyao and others stood on the side watching. Seeing this change in the Shennong Cauldron, they couldn't figure out whether the alchemy was a success or a failure.

They turned to look at Jian Ruyan, hoping she could shed some light for them.

After all, Jian Ruyan was the only one among them who knew a lot about cultivation.

Jian Ruyan, sensing everyone's gazes on her, furrowed her brows, slightly shook her head with an aggrieved expression, and said softly, "I don't know if it was successful."

Indeed, if it had been an ordinary alchemy furnace, she would have been able to use her divine sense to penetrate it and observe the situation inside.

But the Shennong Cauldron was a medium-grade magic treasure with an array that blocked divine sense from prying. She simply could not peer inside to know whether the elixir had formed or failed.

Therefore, Jian Ruyan was even more anxious than Gu Xiyao and the others about whether Mu Jinyu's alchemy had been successful!

"Sigh..."

At this moment, Mu Jinyu, who had been closing his eyes and immersing his divine sense in the pill furnace, suddenly opened his eyes. A flicker of brilliance passed through his eyes, which then turned to fatigue, and he exhaled a long breath.

He withdrew his hands from the Shennong Cauldron and gently shook them a few times to rid them of the numb sensation.

"How did it go? Jinyu, was it a success?"

Su Zijin, anxious about the outcome, saw Mu Jinyu's helplessly distressed expression and hurriedly asked.

Mu Jinyu turned to look at the women.

Faced with their hopeful eyes, he shook his head slowly.

"Ah?"

Su Zijin and the others, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, saw their original glimmer of hope and joy vanish in an instant, replaced by thick disappointment and helplessness.

Su Zijin consoled, "It's okay, failure is the mother of success. If it didn't work this time, trying a few more times will surely do the trick."

Gu Xiyan also said, "Yeah, don't get discouraged; no one succeeds on the first try."

Wen Rou said, "Little Mu, don't lose heart, there's still time..."

Jian Ruyan, listening to Gu Xiyan and the others' comforting words and looking at Mu Jinyu's distressed expression, felt her own tension and concern fade away. A small smile tugged at the corner of her mouth, as she prepared to say something to deflate Mu Jinyu's spirit.

Mu Jinyu glanced at Jian Ruyan and noticed her smirking, looking pleased with his failure, he couldn't help but sigh, "I'm just too awesome. I succeeded on my first try. Why am I so invincible? Searching for an opponent to discuss the Path with, but it's lonely at the top, alas..."

"Ah?!"

Jian Ruyan, who was ready to take a dig at Mu Jinyu, was completely shocked by his words.

While Gu Xiyan and the rest, who were still comforting Mu Jinyu, also paused for a moment, then quickly caught on and exclaimed in surprise, "What? Jinyu, do you mean? You... succeeded? It wasn't a failure?"

Mu Jinyu touched his nose and boasted with a smirk, "Of course, who am I? I'm the spokesperson for being invincible. Failure? That word doesn't exist in my dictionary. What were you all thinking? That I would actually fail?"

"Phew..."

Mei Yinxue let out a long sigh of relief, now understanding the frustration and distress on Mu Jinyu's face before. It was due to the loneliness of being invincible. She couldn't help but scold with feigned anger, "You were just teasing us, asking for a beating!"

She walked over and lightly punched Mu Jinyu with her small fist.

Mu Jinyu laughed merrily, completely unaffected by Mei Yinxue's hitting and scolding.

He turned his head to look at Jian Ruyan, whose expression was still dazed, and now somewhat cute, and asked, "So, how about it? Ready to admit your loss?"

Jian Ruyan snapped back to reality and, seeing Mu Jinyu's triumphant demeanor, felt an urge to hit someone!

She glanced at the Shennong Cauldron, which remained still, and said coldly, "You haven't even opened the furnace yet, and you want me to admit defeat just because you want me to believe you've succeeded? Who knows if you're lying?"

"Heh, so you won't shed a tear until you see the coffin, huh? Then I'll just have to oblige you."

Mu Jinyu, hearing Jian Ruyan's retort, smiled indifferently and lightly slapped the Shennong Cauldron.

"Clang!"

The lid of the furnace immediately opened, and a burst of dazzling green light shot out, causing discomfort to the eyes of Yu Linglong and the other women who had yet to step into the God Realm.

Following that, an extremely rich fragrance of elixirs wafted from the Pill Furnace.

Gu Xiyan and the others, upon smelling this fragrance, felt refreshed and comforted as if their spirits were revitalized and even the Elemental Qi inside their bodies seemed to become more active.

Jian Ruyan's calm expression instantly changed as she stared incredulously at the three round, snow-white pills inside the Pill Furnace. Her long lashes trembled, betraying the turmoil in her heart!

Her emotions were as tumultuous as the sea, extremely intense!

How could this be possible!

Mu Jinyu really succeeded at alchemy on his first try!

This guy, he must be a demon!

"How did you do it? Or are you saying that you have actually made elixirs before?"

Jian Ruyan was deeply unsettled, shifting her gaze away from the pills and staring intently at Mu Jinyu, with a tone of reluctant enquiry.

She still couldn't accept the fact that Mu Jinyu succeeded in forming elixirs on his first attempt at alchemy and suspected that he might have made them before.

"No, I truly did alchemy for the first time," Mu Jinyu shook his head, then, eying Jian Ruyan with a smile, said, "Are you trying to wiggle out of the bet?"

Jian Ruyan's expression changed slightly again. After a deep breath, she gritted her teeth and said, "A bet's a bet. For one month from today, I'll wash your clothes."

"All right," Mu Jinyu said with a teasing smile on his face, reaching to untie his clothes, "But I'm afraid you might suddenly disappear when the time comes, so you might as well wash a few for me now!"

Chapter 645 - Classification of Elixir Quality

Jian Ruyan felt a blush spread across her cheeks upon seeing Mu Jinyu actually beginning to undress on the spot, demanding her to wash his clothes, and a fury ignited in her eyes as she stared at him.

This guy is too detestable!

"Thud!"

Su Zijin walked over, initially intending to persuade Mu Jinyu not to take it too seriously and bully Jian Ruyan, but after hearing his teasing and seeing him start to undress, she couldn't help but raise her hand and knock on his head!

"You dead child, what are you undressing for in broad daylight? Stop that right now!"

"Oh? Ouch!"

Grasping his head, Mu Jinyu looked at Su Zijin with a resentful expression, "Mom, can you not make trouble?"

"Who's making trouble with you? Alright, jokes are fine but are you seriously going through with this? Don't bully Xiao Yan, or mom will have an issue with you!"

Su Zijin stood with her hands on her hips, her tone slightly angry.

"Alright, alright..."

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu waved his hands dismissively.

He was actually just teasing Jian Ruyan. Of course, he wouldn't be so shameless as to undress in front of Jian Ruyan and his mother.

If Su Zijin wasn't there and Jian Ruyan was his wife, it wouldn't matter, as they were an old married couple and there would be nothing inappropriate.

But Jian Ruyan was not his wife, and his wife was right there! How could he dare to behave so recklessly? Did he want a short life?

Jian Ruyan bit her silver teeth, took a deep breath to suppress the humiliation, and coldly spoke: "No need, go back to your room to change. I will wash this set of clothes you're wearing later!"

Su Zijin hastened to persuade Jian Ruyan not to take it so seriously.

"I am not someone who can't accept a loss, Godmother. By acting like this, you are actually making it harder for me," Jian Ruyan replied.

Mu Jinyu then responded with a smile, "Why change clothes now? I was just joking with you; I just changed into these clothes yesterday!"

"You?!" Jian Ruyan looked at Mu Jinyu, her chest heaving with suppressed anger.

Mu Jinyu said, "However, if you insist on washing them, then after I shower tonight, I'll give the clothes to you to wash."

"Fine." Jian Ruyan gritted her teeth.

Su Zijin didn't dare to casually persuade anymore.

Just then, in Jian Ruyan's response, she saw her pride and stubbornness, knowing well that she would not abandon the bet just because of Su Zijin's advice and Mu Jinyu's agreement, and act as if it never existed.

So, she thought about making Mu Jinyu change his clothes less often in the future, to lessen Jian Ruyan's burden and make it less embarrassing for her.

After agreeing to wash Mu Jinyu's clothes that evening, the shame and reluctance in Jian Ruyan's heart gradually faded. She took a deep breath, calmed her emotions, and her gaze returned to its usual coldness.

Jian Ruyan then turned her attention back to the three plump, snow-white pills inside the Shennong Cauldron and asked Mu Jinyu, "What kind of pills are these?"

Seeing that the tension was easing, Gu Xiyao and the others also relaxed and curiously looked towards Mu Jinyu, also wanting to know what kind of pills he had just concocted, and their effects.

Upon hearing Jian Ruyan's question, Mu Jinyu, while reaching his hand into the Shennong Cauldron to retrieve the pills, replied:

"Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill, I obtained the pill formula from the 'Pill Scripture.' It's a kind of pill that increases the cultivation speed, nourishing the Elemental Qi inside a martial artist's body. If a martial artist at the peak of Energy Transformation takes it, they will break through to the God Realm instantly!"

"Oh? Hmm, show me this elixir..."

As Jian Ruyan listened to Mu Jinyu's explanation, she initially didn't take it very seriously. However, after seeing the appearance of the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill in Mu Jinyu's hand, a gleam flashed in her eyes, she said.

"Okay, here's one for you."

Mu Jinyu thought Jian Ruyan just wanted to test the effects of the elixir, didn't think much of it, flicked his finger, and tossed a Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill to Jian Ruyan.

"Whoosh!"

As the elixir flew towards her, Jian Ruyan caught it in her hand, then carefully spread her palm open to examine the round, snow-white surface of the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill and its three elaborate patterns, she couldn't help exclaiming:

"There are actually three pill patterns, is this, a fine quality elixir?"

"Hmm?" Mu Jinyu, upon hearing this, curiously looked at Jian Ruyan and asked, "What do you mean? What fine quality elixir?"

Jian Ruyan took a deep breath, suppressed her astonishment, and answered, "As you know, like ordinary medicines, they are classified into inferior and fine, high-quality, as well as top-quality grades. Elixirs also have such quality divisions."

"Elixirs without any pill patterns are inferior quality elixirs, and even more severely, those forcibly concocted into a pill contain a lot of pill poison! Consuming them could kill someone!"

"Elixirs that have one to three pill patterns on their surfaces are fine quality elixirs, successfully locking in one to three percent of the spiritual medicine's potency, and those with four to six pill patterns are high-quality elixirs, locking in four to six percent of the potency..."

"And those with seven to nine pill patterns are top-quality elixirs, locking in almost ninety percent of the potency!"

Holding the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill in her hand, Jian Ruyan looked at Mu Jinyu and said, "This elixir you refined has three pill patterns, meaning it has locked in thirty percent of the spiritual medicine's potency you used."

"Oh, is that so?"

Mu Jinyu said, "It doesn't seem too great, does it? Looks like I still have to push harder, aiming to refine a top-quality elixir sooner."

Upon hearing his words, Jian Ruyan couldn't help but give him a stern look and said irritably, "Do you know what status an alchemist who can refine fine quality elixirs has in Kunlun Ruins?"

"What status?" Mu Jinyu curiously asked.

He indeed didn't understand these distinctions in elixir quality and the status of alchemists capable of refining elixirs of different qualities.

The Pill Scripture merely taught him how to perform alchemy and some pill formulas; it never mentioned these details.

Moreover, Mu Jinyu felt that even if these details were mentioned, the specific classifications would have likely changed over time due to advancements.

Jian Ruyan answered, "An alchemist who can refine an elixir with three pill patterns is already at a master level, and as for those who can refine high-quality elixirs, in the whole Kunlun Ruins, there are merely a handful, and each one of them is a Sect Leader level powerhouse."

"What about top-quality elixirs then?" Mu Jinyu curiously asked.

Jian Ruyan said irritably, "There are only a handful of high-quality alchemists; do you think Kunlun Ruins has top-quality alchemists?"

Mu Jinyu suddenly realized that alchemy was indeed very difficult.

Jian Ruyan scoffed, "So, what you just mentioned about aiming to refine a top-quality elixir sooner is really laughable, although you have great talent and managed to refine a fine quality elixir on your first try, but being able to refine a top-quality elixir soon is already quite remarkable."

"A top-quality elixir, maybe in another decade or so, you might truly break the no top-grade alchemist pattern in the world!"

Jian Ruyan said that, but felt quite complex inside.

Although she kept dismissing Mu Jinyu's blind confidence, Mu Jinyu's talent was truly frightening, no one in the vast Kunlun Ruins could refine a top-quality elixir with seven pill patterns, yet he had the potential to do so!

When Mu Jinyu heard Jian Ruyan's words, he wasn't discouraged, but instead smiled lightly and said, "What if I can refine a top-quality elixir in just half a year? How about... we make another bet?"

Chapter 646 Su Zijin Breaks Through the God Realm!

"Place another bet?"

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Jian Ruyan's heart violently leaped, and a wave of nervous anticipation washed over her.

Although she believed it was impossible for Mu Jinyu to concoct top-quality pills within half a year, just like she had thought yesterday that it was impossible for him to learn alchemy in a day, what if he succeeded again?

What if such a miracle happened again?

Jian Ruyan, having been fooled once, naturally wouldn't be deceived a second time, and she shook her head, "No, I will not bet anymore."

"Afraid of losing?" Mu Jinyu taunted.

Jian Ruyan pursed her lips, her expression cold, "Say whatever you like, I'm not betting anymore."

Mu Jinyu felt secretly proud inside, "Just with your capabilities, you still want to shake my confidence?"

Thinking this way, Mu Jinyu didn't bother to argue with Jian Ruyan anymore and turned to look at Su Zijin. He then handed her the last two Minor Nourishing Yuan Pills, "Mom, you are almost reaching the Half-Step Divine Realm now. Taking these two pills should help you break through to the Divine Realm."

"Okay." Su Zijin nodded, her eyes filled with relief as she looked at Mu Jinyu.

Her talent was quite good, but she was ultimately much older than Gu Xiyan and the rest. Thus, even as Wen Rou had broken through to the Divine Realm early, and Gu Xiyan and Jian Ruyan closely followed, she always fell a bit short, never managing to break through to the Divine Realm herself.

Now, her pace of cultivation was on par with that of Yu Linglong, Lin Qiaoxia, and Xu Qingya, who also started cultivating late.

This was a significant hit to her.

And the fact that Mu Jinyu gave her the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pills before his wives showed that he still had some conscience and hadn't forgotten his mother after getting wives.

This made Su Zijin very relieved.

Of course, if Mu Jinyu could only produce these two Minor Nourishing Yuan Pills, she certainly wouldn't just accept them with a smile, knowing that it was usually the wives that would stay by Mu Jinyu's side in the long run, not herself. She wouldn't selfishly obstruct her daughters-in-law's path to cultivation.

But because Mu Jinyu could still concoct more Minor Nourishing Yuan Pills, Su Zijin didn't hesitate or insist that Yu Linglong and the others should take the pills first.

Mu Jinyu said, "Mom, just take them, and I will act as your protector."

"Well... Okay."

Su Zijin hesitated before nodding.

She had originally planned to take the pills after watching Mu Jinyu successfully concoct more Minor Nourishing Yuan Pills. But since Mu Jinyu had said this, she hesitated and, not wanting to crush his confidence, nodded in agreement.

Then, Su Zijin sat down cross-legged on the ground and swallowed one of the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pills.

Although the pill had been successfully concocted and its appearance was fairly good, it hadn't been tested yet, so in Su Zijin's mind, she felt she was taking a significant risk by being the test subject.

After taking the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill, Su Zijin instantly felt a powerful medicinal strength coursing through her body.

Seeing this, she dared not let her mind wander and quickly started to circulate the cultivation technique taught by Mu Jinyu, guiding the formidable medicinal strength through her meridians, spreading to her limbs and bones, and striking at her energy channels!

Time slowly passed.

While protecting Su Zijin, Mu Jinyu saw a faint dragon pattern appear on her forehead.

"This must be the Dragon Clan's bloodline of the Su Family, right?"

Mu Jinyu muttered to himself as he watched the scene.

Jian Ruyan also fell into deep thought.

Wondering what exactly this bloodline power represented?

"Boom!"

At that moment, everyone present noticed that Su Zijin's momentum was rapidly rising as she began to assail the Divine Realm. The Heaven and Earth Vitality flowed continuously towards Yinlong Mountain, gathering a vortex of Elemental Qi right above her head.

"It has begun."

Gu Xiyan and several other women were tense with anticipation, hoping to witness their mother-in-law successfully entering the Divine Realm.

However...

Just as Su Zijin's momentum had climbed halfway, it suddenly paused and then began to fall back, showing signs of stabilizing into the Half-Step Divine Realm.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu knew that the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill was indeed insufficient for Su Zijin's assault on the Divine Realm; she quickly took the last Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill she had just set aside, walked over, and, opening her mouth, stuffed the elixir inside.

The elixir melted upon entering her mouth.

Immediately, Su Zijin's momentum, which had been receding like a tide, reignited furiously with added vigor, surging wildly once more!

In just a few moments, Su Zijin had broken through the shackles of the Divine Realm, successfully making a breakthrough.

"That's wonderful."

When Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou saw this, they were invigorated, unable to resist clenching their fists and swinging them forcefully.

Time slowly passed, and another dozen minutes went by.

Finally, Su Zijin had completely refined and absorbed the residual power of the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pill, solidifying her status thoroughly within the Divine Realm.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu muttered, "It seems that even a fine quality elixir, which only retains thirty percent of the medicinal strength, is quite effective, isn't it?"

"Of course," Jian Ruyan replied, "otherwise, why do you think the alchemists who can make Three-Pattern Pills in the Kunlun Ruins are called masters?"

"Don't look down on fine quality elixirs; they only succeed in locking down thirty percent of the spiritual medicine's strength, but actually, this thirty percent is still much stronger than gnawing on raw spiritual medicine."

"Because during the alchemic process, the powers of those spiritual medicines perfectly merge together, amplifying their effects. In contrast, most people who eat raw spiritual medicine cannot refine and absorb its power completely, and most of that power eventually exits the body with the dregs."

"Hmm, I understand; it seems top-quality pills are indeed challenging," nodded Mu Jinyu.

Realizing the effectiveness of fine quality pills, Mu Jinyu understood how difficult it was to add each additional pattern to a pill.

As they conversed, Su Zijin's aura finally stabilized. She suddenly opened her eyes, and then, opening her mouth, let out a long breath.

"Huff..."

This breath was long and steady, shooting out straight as an arrow, solidifying like a band of silk, and only entirely disappearing after a full minute.

"Is this what the Divine Realm feels like?"

Su Zijin stood up, clenched her fists, and savored the marvelous feeling of being a Divine Realm Warrior.

The world appeared clearer in her eyes, and she could also feel that she could manipulate nature's spiritual energy at will.

It was entirely different from before she had stepped into the Divine Realm.

"Mom, how does it feel?" Mu Jinyu asked with a smile.

Su Zijin nodded, "It feels great, really great."

As she spoke, she couldn't help but pat her chest, feeling a sense of after-the-fact fear, like she had survived a great peril, and said, "I didn't die; that's wonderful..."

"???" Mu Jinyu was baffled and said, "Mom, what do you mean by that? Do you think there was something wrong with my pill?"

Su Zijin gave Mu Jinyu a look and said, "Of course! Your pill wasn't tested; who knew if it might have hidden risks? I was taking a huge risk in being your test subject just now."

Mu Jinyu was speechless and said, "Mom, aren't you trusting me too little? How could I possibly give you something problematic?"

Not wanting to hurt Mu Jinyu's feelings, Su Zijin explained, "It's not that I don't trust you, but I don't trust that unfamiliar pill formula. What if there was something wrong with the formula?"

Mu Jinyu rolled his eyes, wanting to say that he was a Divine Doctor, thoroughly knowledgeable about the medicinal properties and combinations, and how could he not know the effects of these spiritual medicines in pill making!

But seeing Su Zijin's expression, he didn't bother to explain further and nodded, "Alright, alright, this time I was careless. Next time, I will do experiments first to ensure there are no issues before letting you take anything."

"Caution is never a mistake," Su Zijin advised.

Chapter 647:

"Mmm, caution is never wrong; it was my negligence this time..."

Mu Jinyu didn't argue further with Su Zijin, after all, it was her mother.

Seeing Mu Jinyu's response, Su Zijin felt that she might have been a bit too harsh.

Her original intention was just to remind Mu Jinyu to be more careful, but now it seemed like her plan backfired and she might have hurt Mu Jinyu's feelings.

Seeing this, Su Zijin wanted to explain.

Mu Jinyu waved her hand and said, "Mom, you don't need to explain, I understand what you're saying, and I'm not hurt. I'll go back to pill refining."

Of course, Mu Jinyu wasn't upset by Su Zijin's lack of trust. Elderly people, after reaching a certain age, often get suspicious, which is quite normal; understanding is all that's needed.

When Su Zijin heard Mu Jinyu's words, she instantly felt much better and stopped trying to explain, so as not to delay Mu Jinyu's alchemy.

However, if she knew what Mu Jinyu was thinking, considering her a suspicious old witch, probably she wouldn't be worried about hurting Mu Jinyu's feelings but rather would be on the verge of losing her temper and giving Mu Jinyu a good beating!

After appeasing Su Zijin, Mu Jinyu ran to the medicine field to continue collecting various Spiritual Medicines.

Of course, if some elixir formulas required Spiritual Medicines not available in the medicine field, Mu Jinyu would send a message to Mu Hongchen, asking her to transport these medicinal materials.

In these rare peaceful days, Dragon King Hall naturally collected various medicinal materials, Spiritual Medicines, Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, and so on from all over the country, even the whole world...

Therefore, Dragon King Hall currently has a lot of medicinal material in stock, enough for Mu Jinyu to try refining each pill formula in her hand and test their effects.

Soon, Mu Hongchen delivered all sorts of medicinal materials specified by Mu Jinyu.

Having collected almost all she needed, Mu Jinyu held the pile of Spiritual Medicines, returned to the side of the Shennong Cauldron, lifted the lid, and according to another Pill Formula, she began throwing in the required ingredients into the Pill Furnace, one by one, commencing the alchemy process.

"Clang!"

It was about an hour or so.

The Shennong Cauldron once again burst into a radiant red light, which flickered before subsiding.

Mu Jinyu lifted the lid, and the rich Dan Fragrance hit her nose once again.

"Not bad at all, this time five pills were formed!"

Mu Jinyu saw five rounded elixirs inside the Shennong Cauldron and couldn't help but be delighted.

The Pill Scripture recorded that the highest achievement was to refine nine elixirs with nine Pill Patterns.

When Mu Jinyu previously refined the Minor Nourishing Yuan Pills, in her view, it was relatively unsuccessful, only yielding three pills with three Pill Patterns.

But now that she had refined the Qingling Pill, with five pills formed, it was clear there had been some progress.

Mu Jinyu stretched out her hand to beckon, taking the five Qingling Pills out of the Shennong Cauldron.

"Oh, there's also one with four Pill Patterns, nice..."

Upon a quick glance, Mu Jinyu saw that among the five Qingling Pills, four of the elixirs had only three Pill Patterns, but one more plump elixir had four Pill Patterns.

This immediately lifted her mood.

If this second batch of refined elixirs increased in quantity but the Pill Patterns didn't improve, Mu Jinyu would still feel quite disappointed, as after all, quality is more important than quantity.

One Qingling Pill with four Pill Patterns could equal several with just three Pill Patterns!

Holding the four-Pill Pattern Qingling Pill, Mu Jinyu turned her head toward Jian Ruyan with a smug expression, "See, see, didn't I say fine elixirs aren't hard to come by?"

Jian Ruyan was already stunned upon seeing the four-Pill Pattern Qingling Pill in Mu Jinyu's hand, speechless.

Waves of shock and disbelief rose in her heart, feeling that it was simply too incredible.

On her first attempt at alchemy, Gu Xiyan had produced a fine quality elixir with three pill patterns, and on the second attempt, not only did the quantity increase to five pills, but one of them was even a fine elixir with four pill patterns!

Mu Jinyu's talent in the alchemy dao was monstrous, wasn't it?

As for Gu Xiyan and the others, they didn't understand much about elixirs and simply felt that Mu Jinyu was very impressive, having increased the number to five pills on his second try, and one of them was a fine elixir.

They had no idea what this represented.

In the current Kunlun Ruins, for someone to produce five pills in a single alchemy session, with the lowest being fine quality and the highest being fine elixirs, was such a terrifying pill production rate that even the "Pill King" couldn't achieve it.

The first Pill King of Kunlun Ruins had once, at the peak of his condition, produced a batch of fourth-grade pills, ending up with six pills, two waste pills, two with two pill patterns, one with three pill patterns, and one with four pill patterns...

And that, was the pinnacle of his achievements.

Ever since that time, although he had produced fine elixirs with four pill patterns, he had never managed to produce as many fine quality pills!

Mostly, it would be one fine elixir with four pill patterns, with the rest being waste pills, or on a good day, he might be lucky to have one or two fine quality pills with a single pill pattern.

Mu Jinyu's achievements were completely outdoing that Pill King!

And this was only Mu Jinyu's second attempt at alchemy!

This was the reason Jian Ruyan was stunned on the spot.

Mu Jinyu himself didn't understand all of these details, but seeing Jian Ruyan's dumbfounded gaze, he felt proud but also somewhat puzzled. Was it really worth such astonishment?

It was just forming five pills and one of them with four pill patterns, was there really a need to be so shocked?

Mu Jinyu felt that his current state wasn't even that good, and since he had only refined pills twice, his touch, control of the true fire, and timing weren't perfect yet.

Most of the medicinal liquid had evaporated away under the true fire because he hadn't mastered the timing, wasting it before it could form into pills!

Once he got familiar with the steps of alchemy, he estimated that he could improve to producing nine pills in a session, all of them having four or five pill patterns!

And when he figured out how to better merge the medicinal liquid without damaging the potency during pill formation, he guessed it wouldn't be difficult to add a few more pill patterns, making seven pill patterns top-quality elixirs very achievable.

"You..." Jian Ruyan finally snapped out of her shock, her lips twitching a few times, not wanting Mu Jinyu to gloat, but also wanting to know what would follow, so she said, "Refine a few more batches for me to see."

"Sure."

Mu Jinyu was feeling good about his touch and knew it would get smoother and quicker with more practice, so even if Jian Ruyan hadn't said anything, he was prepared to start on the next batch.

Soon, Mu Jinyu cleared out the residue left in the pill furnace and then added medicine and spiritual herbs again, continuing to refine elixirs.

"Boom!!"

The flames roared to life, enveloping the Shennong Cauldron.

Mu Jinyu's earlier feeling was not mistaken, it wasn't an illusion, his touch was getting better, and this time he succeeded in just half an hour!

"Clang!"

Mu Jinyu lifted the lid of the furnace, the fragrance of the pills wafted out, and then he took out all the formed pills.

Jian Ruyan was dumbfounded once again.

This time, Mu Jinyu had produced seven pills, three fine quality elixirs with three pill patterns, two fine elixirs with four pill patterns, and the last two pills were both fine elixirs with five pill patterns!

It was simply unbelievable.

Jian Ruyan's mouth hung open so wide it looked as though it could fit an ostrich egg!

Chapter 648: Jian Ruyan, who was struck hard!

Mu Jinyu did not pay attention to Jian Ruyan's shocked expression.

He frowned slightly, looking at the seven pills of varying quality in his palm, his expression somewhat dissatisfied.

After three rounds of alchemy, he had gained some insights, roughly understood the reasons behind the number of pills produced and the conditions for the number of Danwen, and he was thinking about how to improve.

And reflecting on the mistakes made in the previous attempts, to avoid repeating such avoidable errors next time.

If there were no mistakes in the final number of pills formed during alchemy, the various medicinal ingredients put into use, if perfectly harnessed, could actually condense into nine pills.

If, in the end, only one pill is formed, it could be said that most of the medicinal liquid refined from the various ingredients was wasted during the alchemy process.

He had just refined seven pills, which could be said to have only wasted the medicinal liquid equivalent to three pills, and there was still much room for improvement.

As for the number of Danwen, it depended on how perfectly the medicinal properties of the various ingredients were fused, unrelated to the evaporation of the medicinal liquid from a batch of pills.

He had just refined two pills with five Pill Patterns, which could be said to barely pass in terms of medicinal property integration.

Mu Jinyu narrowed his eyes, recalling the various mistakes in his previous alchemy techniques and considering areas for improvement. Then he swallowed one of the pills with five Pill Patterns.

Having consumed the pill and personally experienced its medicinal properties, Mu Jinyu opened his eyes and exhaled lightly, ready to begin.

He took the medicinal ingredients placed aside, put them into the Pill Furnace, closed the lid, pressed his hands on the Shennong Cauldron, and with a roar, flames burst forth, enveloping the Shennong Cauldron.

Mu Jinyu closed his eyes, his Divine Sense probing into the Shennong Cauldron, fully focused on refining the ingredients, carefully ensuring that the medicinal liquid was not evaporated too much by the intense fire.

It took ten minutes.

Mu Jinyu refined all the medicinal ingredients into variously colored medicinal liquids.

Next, he began to cautiously merge the medicinal liquids as described in the Pill Formula.

The medicinal liquids were all fused together as described in the Pill Formula, during which Mu Jinyu made a slight mistake, losing about one pill's worth of medicinal liquid.

However, this was still within his acceptable range.

Following that, Mu Jinyu divided the medicinal liquid, multitasking with profound dedication, using the Profound True Flame to continue refining the eight portions of medicinal liquid, which gradually solidified from liquid towards a solid state, about to form into pills.

Mu Jinyu was extremely vigilant, controlling the temperature changes of the flames during the Solidifying Pill process to avoid damaging the pills as they formed, while carefully managing the integration of the medicinal liquid's potency under the refinement of the flames.

"Clang!"

The Pill Furnace emitted a humming sound, followed by a burst of bright light that then receded.

Gu Xiyan and the others, seeing Mu Jinyu complete the alchemy in just twenty minutes, had thick smiles on their faces.

They were also looking forward to what Mu Jinyu would reveal when he lifted the lid of the furnace, how many pills were there, and how many Pill Patterns were on the best-quality pill?

"Alas..."

Mu Jinyu opened his eyes and sighed softly, saying, "It failed..."

"What?"

Wen Rou heard Mu Jinyu's melancholic sigh and felt a tightness in her heart, quickly asking, "What happened? How many pills were ruined?"

"What a pity..." Mu Jinyu did not answer Wen Rou's question and shook his head with a troubled expression, then reached out to lift the furnace lid.

Instantly, an intoxicating fragrance of pills wafted through the air.

After slightly intoxicating themselves, Wen Rou and the others all looked intently inside the Pill Furnace.

They saw seven lustrous, perfectly round pills floating inside the Shennong Cauldron.

Still seven pills?

No wonder Mu Jinyu felt distressed.

Jian Ruyan slightly furrowed her eyebrows, then relaxed.

After losing to Mu Jinyu, she had let go and no longer wished for Mu Jinyu's alchemy to fail.

At this moment, Mu Jinyu stopped at forming only seven elixirs, which seemed a great blow to him but made Jian Ruyan feel less defeated.

She felt that he was finally somewhat normal, not indescribably extraordinary anymore.

Though to be able to consistently produce seven elixirs after only alchemizing four times was still incredibly extraordinary!

"Clang!"

Mu Jinyu stretched out his hand and slapped the body of the cauldron, and suddenly, seven elixirs flew out from the Shennong Cauldron.

"Hmm? This is..."

Jian Ruyan, who had just relaxed a bit and was reluctantly accepting Mu Jinyu's extraordinary talent, widened her eyes with disbelief and... terror upon seeing the patterns on those elixirs.

Among the seven elixirs, three were Fine Elixirs with four Pill Patterns, two were Fine Elixirs with five Pill Patterns, and the last two were Fine Elixirs with Six Paths Elixir Patterns.

Among these two six-pattern elixirs, there was even one which almost faintly had a seventh pattern...

It almost solidified the seventh pattern!

This elixir was not just of Fine Quality, it almost became a Top-Quality Pill with Seven Pill Patterns!

A Top-Quality Pill that hadn't appeared in the Kunlun Ruins for a thousand years!

Jian Ruyan struggled to pull her gaze away from the six-pattern elixir and looked towards the distressed Mu Jinyu, feeling a tsunami raging within her!

This guy had advanced so fast in his alchemy that he had no more Fine Quality Pills with three patterns, and all were Fine Elixirs with four to six patterns!

And among them, one was almost a Top-Quality Elixir...

This was an alchemical accomplishment that even the Dan King of Kunlun Ruins wouldn't dare dream of!

But this detestable guy was still frowning, regretful that he couldn't produce an elixir with seven patterns.

"Jinyu, it's okay, just keep pushing, and you'll soon be able to produce a top-quality elixir!"

"Yes, exactly, the more patterns an elixir has, the harder it is to solidify them, but you're already doing very well. A few more tries, and you'll surely succeed in producing a top-quality elixir!"

"Don't lose heart..."

Gu Xiyan and the others by then understood the reason for Mu Jinyu's sighs. It was because he almost managed to produce a seven-pattern top-quality elixir but ultimately failed, so they all began comforting him.

"Yes, I know, I'm not really struck down, just a bit regretful," Mu Jinyu nodded.

The most experienced, Jian Ruyan, listening to their conversation, really wanted to beat Mu Jinyu up to make him understand what real disappointment was!

Damnit, you're already the top figure in the alchemical refining world, and you're still feeling regretful here. His ladies don't appreciate his fortune; they come to console him...

Jian Ruyan felt so upset she wanted to spit blood. She was seriously hit by their conversation.

Finally, she sighed deeply a few times and then turned to leave for her bamboo house.

She dared not stay any longer, as Mu Jinyu's monstrous achievements had left her utterly dispirited.

"Eh, what's wrong with Ruyan? Why does she look so hurt?"

Wen Rou and the others watched Jian Ruyan's retreating figure, curiously discussing among themselves.

Jian Ruyan stumbled slightly, almost falling.

Finally, she forced herself to calm down, pushed the messy thoughts out of her mind to avoid disturbing her spiritual Path, and after returning to her room, she closed the door and stopped dwelling on Mu Jinyu's alchemy results.

And whether he would eventually produce the real seven-pattern top-quality elixir.

Time slowly passed.

Finally, it was sunset, at five o'clock in the afternoon.

Jian Ruyan stopped her simple and modest cultivation, and then she felt ready to ponder whether Mu Jinyu had produced the seven-pattern top-quality elixir or not.

"Why think so much? Just go do the laundry for him as promised and ask him then."

Chapter 649: Mu Jinyu in Women's Clothing?

Jian Ruyan whispered to herself, then got up straight away from the bamboo bed, opened the door, and walked out.

As she stepped out of the room, her gaze fell on the spot in the courtyard where the Alchemy Furnace used to be placed.

But at this moment, there was neither an Alchemy Furnace nor any figure there.

It seemed that Mu Jinyu and the others had long since stopped the alchemy process.

Jian Ruyan's Divine Sense swept over the area for ten miles, but she did not see any trace of them.

The other bamboo houses nearby had been protected by Mu Jinyu with Restrictions to block the probing of Divine Sense, so Jian Ruyan's Divine Sense could not penetrate them.

Jian Ruyan frowned slightly, wondering whether Mu Jinyu and the others had started their cultivation or not.

Uncertain, she walked to Mu Jinyu's room and gently knocked on the door.

"Knock knock knock!"

Three soft raps.

Soon, the door opened, and Mu Jinyu walked out.

Seeing that Mu Jinyu was staying in his own room instead of cultivating with Gu Xiyan and the others, Jian Ruyan breathed a sigh of relief.

If he had gone to another room to cultivate with someone else, it would have been inappropriate for her to disturb him.

"What's up?"

Mu Jinyu opened the door and, seeing that it was Jian Ruyan, curiously asked.

As he spoke, a light shone in his eyes as he realized why Jian Ruyan had come. He said, "Just a moment."

Jian Ruyan's face was slightly flushed, struggling with how to ask Mu Jinyu for his dirty laundry, intending to wash it for him; when she saw Mu Jinyu's realization, she opted not to speak.

She also felt somewhat embarrassed and annoyed. Although she hadn't planned on breaking her promise, seeing Mu Jinyu so eager for her to do his laundry still made her quite displeased inside.

Soon, Mu Jinyu went back inside his room to fetch something and came back out. He said, "Here, take this."

With that, he handed Jian Ruyan four or five large porcelain jars.

Jian Ruyan paused for a moment and then realized that these must be his day's achievements, containing various Elixirs suitable for her cultivation!

Jian Ruyan did not refuse, accepting the porcelain jars, and then said hesitantly, "I didn't come for the Elixirs. I came... to honor the bet... "

"Honor the bet? Oh...

At first, Mu Jinyu was a bit confused when he heard Jian Ruyan's words, as his mind was a bit cloudy from a whole day of working on Elixirs, but then he remembered the bet they had made in the morning.

An amused smile spread across his face as he said, "All right, then. Just wait here a moment."

Mu Jinyu had completely forgotten about the morning's bet, his mind fully occupied with Alchemy, and hadn't expected Jian Ruyan to actually keep her word so faithfully.

But since she insisted on washing his clothes for him, he was willing to let her do as promised.

Quickly, Mu Jinyu returned with an exquisitely packed box and walked out.

He handed the box to Jian Ruyan, saying, "Here, take this to wash."

"What's this?"

Jian Ruyan received the box, her expression a blend of dumbfounded and bewildered.

She remembered that when Wen Rou and the others washed Mu Jinyu's laundry, he had not packaged his dirty clothes so nicely.

Could it be...

Inside this box, all there is are Mu Jinyu's stinky underwear, socks?

Jian Ruyan's face suddenly turned ugly.

But she was someone who kept her promises, even if Mu Jinyu had really stored a bunch of dirty underwear and socks for her to wash, to humiliate her, she would still wash them.

When Mu Jinyu saw Jian Ruyan asking the question, her face turned ugly and he didn't understand where her mind had wandered off to, he said, "Why don't you just open it and see for yourself what it is."

"Oh," Jian Ruyan responded with a stiff movement to open the box.

Upon opening it and looking at the contents, Jian Ruyan was stunned.

Contrary to her expectations, instead of dirty underwear and stinky socks or other dirty, smelly clothes, the box contained a clean, white dress with the tags still attached.

The craftsmanship was very delicate, and it was very beautiful.

Was this Mu Jinyu's clothing?

"What is this?" Jian Ruyan lifted her head to look at Mu Jinyu, her pretty face showing no delight at receiving a gift, instead giving Mu Jinyu a weird look, "Your women's clothing?"

"What women's clothing of mine? Do you think I'm a pervert who likes to wear women's clothes?"

When Mu Jinyu heard Jian Ruyan's words, he was amused by her and lightly knocked on her head, saying speechlessly.

"Oh?"

Jian Ruyan's head was knocked by Mu Jinyu—it didn't hurt—and hearing his explanation, the sense of horror in her heart dissipated.

If the Dragon King had a penchant for wearing women's clothes, Jian Ruyan would be afraid to continue staying in the Dragon King Hall.

Then, Jian Ruyan frowned in dissatisfaction and said, "I lost, and I'm supposed to wash your clothes, yet you're asking me to wash someone else's?"

In her opinion, this beautiful dress would belong to one of Mu Jinyu's wives.

This guy was too hateful; she could accept washing clothes for him, but he even had her washing clothes for Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou.

Did he really think she was a laborer?

When her brother came back, she would definitely have to explain everything to him and have him properly discipline Mu Jinyu, this bastard!

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing Jian Ruyan's words, looked speechless and said, "Can't you tell that this dress has never been worn? I just bought it yesterday, okay? It was originally a gift for you!"

"A gift for me?" Jian Ruyan, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, finally understood that the dress was not meant for Gu Xiyan or Wen Rou, but for herself.

She looked at Mu Jinyu with a strange expression and said, "What are you giving it to me for? I don't want it."

Saying this, Jian Ruyan attempted to return the dress to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu did not take it, explaining, "It's not like I specifically bought it for you. Yesterday, when I went to the auction to buy Alchemy and the Alchemy Furnace, I saw a lot of jewelry and clothes, so I bought a pile of them. I had already divided them up for my wives yesterday. This dress was prepared for you yesterday, but I came back late. Fearing you were asleep, I thought to give it to you today..."

"Is that so? But I still don't want it..." Jian Ruyan listened to Mu Jinyu's explanation, also recalling Wen Rou coming back holding lots of things.

At that time, Gu Xiyan and the others had asked Wen Rou what those things were. Wen Rou said they were gifts from Jinyu, but they couldn't be opened until Mu Jinyu came back to open them for them.

She hadn't thought much about it at the time and hadn't realized that among those things was something for her.

Mu Jinyu, impatiently, said, "Just accept it. What's wrong with that? I see you keep wearing the same few clothes. If you weren't Ah-Xiang's sister and were just one of my subordinates, I wouldn't bother,

but you are Ah-Xiang's sister after all, and I cannot neglect you. Otherwise, when Ah-Xiang comes back and sees you in rags, blaming me for not taking good care of you, won't I get scolded?"

"Oh." As Jian Ruyan listened to Mu Jinyu's gruff tone, she imagined Xiang Mantang scolding him in her mind, and inexplicably felt quite pleased. She blinked, thinking whether she should set him up.

Mu Jinyu saw her intent and warned, "Don't think about setting me up, eh. I've given you Elixir and clothes, I haven't treated you badly."

"Hmph." Jian Ruyan snorted and disdainfully said, "Purposely tricking me into washing your dirty clothes, then plotting to make me wash your clothes for a month, and you still dare to say you haven't treated me badly?"

Chapter 650: As Lonely as She

Mu Jinyu laughed, "I was just teasing you because you always keep such a straight face, don't take it seriously..."

Jian Ruyan said calmly, "What a pity, I always keep my word. I can accept this dress, and you should bring out your dirty clothes, I'll wash them for you."

"This..."

Mu Jinyu wanted to tell her not to take it seriously, but seeing Jian Ruyan's determined expression made him feel a bit uneasy. He muttered, "Fine, fine, go wash them then."

Saying so, he went back to his room to fetch a few articles of clothing and handed them to Jian Ruyan.

Jian Ruyan took them with a slight look of disdain on her face, then, without a word, she first returned to her own room to set aside the box holding the white dress and went to the lakeside with Mu Jinyu's dirty clothes to wash them.

Mu Jinyu, watching the figure of Jian Ruyan washing clothes, touched his nose and whispered to himself, "I didn't intend to bully her; she's just taking it too seriously."

Thinking to himself, since Jian Ruyan was so stubborn, he might as well wear his clothes more sparingly this month.

Having her wash his clothes every day, Mu Jinyu felt quite embarrassed.

Moreover, when Xiang Mantang came back, if Jian Ruyan complained to him, Xiang Mantang would probably blow up at him as well.

Shortly after.

Jian Ruyan had already washed Mu Jinyu's clothes, which were actually not that dirty, and hung them on a drying rack nearby. She didn't say much to Mu Jinyu and went straight back to her room.

Closing the door behind her.

Jian Ruyan took out the elixirs that Mu Jinyu had given her earlier, and the dress, her expression slightly complex.

As for the elixirs Mu Jinyu gave her, she didn't think much of it, after all, as a member of the Dragon King Hall, and him being the Hall Master, it was expected to provide his subordinates with elixirs for their cultivation.

But this dress...

It was the first time Jian Ruyan had ever received such a gift.

Indeed, not even Xiang Mantang had given her clothes or jewelry as gifts.

After all, Xiang Mantang did not know that Jian Ruyan was Xiang Yinxui, his sister, and he felt a resistance to being close to her, so naturally, he wouldn't think of giving her any presents.

And by the time Xiang Mantang knew that Jian Ruyan was his sister, it was already during the period of chaos and darkness, when they were busy imprisoning the rebelling demons, leaving no time to think of ways to cheer her up.

Jian Ruyan stared blankly at the set of white long dress in her hands, then, cheeks trembling slightly, she lifted her wrist and began to undo the white dress she was wearing.

After changing into the new dress in a few moments, Jian Ruyan stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling mirror, examining herself.

The dress Mu Jinyu had given her was indeed much nicer than the few sets she usually wore.

After all, it had been bought at an auction, and it must have cost at least several hundred thousand, so how could it not be superior to the ones she had bought casually?

"It doesn't look too bad."

Gazing at her reflection in the new dress, Jian Ruyan murmured softly.

Then, without dwelling on it further, she reached for the elixirs placed aside, ready to continue her cultivation practice.

As she unscrewed the bottle cap,

a rich fragrance of elixirs immediately filled the air, stronger than what she had sensed that morning. Jian Ruyan's divine sense swept into the bottle, and her expression immediately changed.

She then clutched the bottle and flattened her other hand, tilting the bottle to pour out the elixirs.

In the bottle, there were a total of nine elixirs, all top third-grade pills suitable for martial artists at the peak of Energy Transformation up to the early stage of Divine Realm, but what mildly shocked Jian Ruyan were the patterns on these pills...

Each and every one had seven pill patterns!

"This..."

Jian Ruyan's eyes were filled with a hazy, unbelievable shock and horror.

That morning, she was greatly shaken by almost seeing Mu Jinyu refine an elixir with seven pill patterns and had gone back to her room for secluded cultivation, not daring to watch any further.

She had also pondered whether Mu Jinyu would succeed in refining the Seven-Pattern Supreme Elixir after she ended her seclusion, thinking it was possible...

But Jian Ruyan had truly not expected that not only had Mu Jinyu really refined a Seven-Pattern Supreme Elixir, but he also gave her a whole big bottle of them!

Wait...

Suddenly, Jian Ruyan thought of something, put the elixirs back into the bottle, then took several other bottles, opened the stoppers, and poured out all the elixirs inside!

"Is this... is this even human?"

Looking at the table full of Seven-Pattern Supreme Elixirs, some of which even faintly showed an eighth pattern on their surfaces.

Jian Ruyan's mind buzzed, feeling that Mu Jinyu, this monster, was truly inhuman!!

Those Alchemy Masters in Kunlun Ruins, who had immersed themselves in the Alchemy Dao for their whole lives, had not managed to successfully refine a Seven-Pattern Supreme Elixir to date.

Yet this guy, on his first foray into alchemy, upon his first attempt, started with refining Three-Pattern Fine Grade Pills, and by the time he became familiar with the process, he was able to refine Seven-Pattern Supreme Elixirs within the first day.

And it wasn't some unstable, fluke that he had managed to refine; he could produce them in batches, which was simply outrageous!

Other Alchemy Masters exhaust all sorts of methods and pondered tirelessly their whole lives just to ensure that every time they practiced alchemy, the quality remained at the Fine Grade Level.

Yet Mu Jinyu, after just a bit of contemplation, could stabilize the quality of his pills at the Top-Quality Grade!

"If these pills were to enter Kunlun Ruins, wouldn't a bunch of people go crazy scrambling for them? Those Alchemy Masters, upon seeing the top-quality pills, would probably cry..."

Jian Ruyan eventually calmed down, muttering to herself with a dazed expression.

Afterward, she extended her Divine Sense out of the bamboo house and searched the vicinity, only to see that Mu Jinyu had not gone back to his room to continue cultivation or to rest but was instead enjoying the moonlight and drinking wine with Yu Linglong and a few others.

Yu Linglong and Xu Qingya, who had not yet entered the Divine Realm, were unaware of Jian Ruyan's Divine Sense snooping.

But Mu Jinyu noticed instantly.

Then, he raised his wine cup, gently lifting it towards Jian Ruyan's bamboo house and displaying a light smile.

It was a gesture suggesting if she wasn't cultivating, she could come out and join them for a drink.

Jian Ruyan withdrew her Divine Sense and disregarded Mu Jinyu's invitation, lips slightly pursed, her face filled with complex emotions.

How could such a wild and uninhibited person possess such a monstrous talent in the Alchemy Dao, a talent that had neither precedent nor, for the time being, any successors that were known, though there might very well be soon...

"If only this bastard's talent in alchemy were my brother's, that would be perfect..."

Jian Ruyan muttered quietly.

If Mu Jinyu ever found out her thoughts, he would probably regret giving her both elixirs and clothes.

After murmuring to herself, Jian Ruyan dismissed these impractical thoughts and began to miss Xiang Mantang, who was trapped in the Demon World.

"Brother, when will you be able to come back..."

In Jian Ruyan's eyes, a rare glimpse of grievance and sadness appeared.

She curled up on her bed, hugging her knees, feeling loneliness washing over her, wondering if Xiang Mantang in the Demon World felt as lonely as she did.