

Martial Arts 271

Chapter 271: Am I Not Dreaming?

Ling Shiyao finished speaking, his face wearing a forced smile as he looked into the other person's eyes.

He felt this was the best way to deal with the current situation,

otherwise, Du Hao would surely be displeased.

Who knew that after hearing this, Du Hao's eyes flashed with a hint of mockery,

"Oh? You think you can?"

Ling Shiyao's face darkened instantly,

"I forgot to mention, this man is a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, how about I agree to your previous terms and give you one week to bring him back?"

Du Hao asked.

"Tr-True Essence Realm..."

Ling Shiyao's face twisted into an unsightly expression on hearing this.

He had bragged too big.

He was only in the Late Stage of Meridian Refining, though just one step away from True Essence Realm,

yet so many Late-stage Meridian Refining Martial Artists were stuck at this step.

But he gritted his teeth and hardened his heart, saying:

"Although I am not a True Essence Realm Martial Artist, if he has offended you, even if I have to sacrifice my life, I will make him pay!"

"Haha."

Du Hao laughed disdainfully twice, feeling smug despite himself.

"Alright, his strength isn't as simple as you think. If you encounter him, you won't even get a chance to touch him, you would simply be throwing away your life."

"Is he really that strong?"

Ling Shiyao wiped the sweat from his forehead.

"I'll ask you again, do you have any impression of this man?"

Ling Shiyao looked seriously again and shook his head, "Sir, in our Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, including the president, there are only a few True Essence Realm Martial Artists. Even if I haven't met them personally, I've seen their photos, and none of them are this person. Moreover, among the True Essence Realm Martial Artists in Jiulong City, there is no one like him."

"Nonsense."

Du Hao said irritably.

He knows the True Essence Realm Martial Artists in the city, he would know if this person was among them.

"Sir, could he be from another sub-district's Martial Arts Association, or under another Awakener's command?"

Ling Shiyao asked.

"Hmm."

Du Hao nodded, "That is quite possible. Didn't you mention before that you wanted to bring this person to me?"

Ling Shiyao paled and stammered.

"Look at you. You don't need to bring him to me, just find out who he is and where he is. I'll give you one day, the latest by tomorrow night, give me the answer."

"T-Tomorrow night?"

Ling Shiyao was shocked.

Isn't this too tight?

True Essence Realm Martial Artists are few in number but strong in power. Investigating their information is not an easy task.

"Sir, could you give a bit more time, three days, no, even two days?"

He pleaded.

"What, even this small task you can't accomplish?"

Du Hao sneered, his eyes like knives, falling on him.

"One day, I only give you one day. If you can't find out by then, prepare to pack up and leave!
Understood? Then get lost!"

"Yes, yes."

Ling Shiyao didn't dare say more and slunk out.

Halfway through, he remembered something, ran back to take a photo of the portrait with his cellphone, then shuffled away.

"Useless!"

Du Hao was furious.

Thinking about it, putting all his hope on this guy was unreliable, he needed to find more people.

As for why the tight deadline,

because the day after tomorrow is when the Celestial God Fruit matures,

though the person hadn't explicitly mentioned the location of the Celestial God Tree, based on their words, it's likely somewhere behind the mountains of Anshan City,

likely not too deep,

because at such a distance, let alone Commander-level Fierce Beasts, even Beast Kings might appear,

their strength barely manages to handle a Commander-level Fierce Beast, so it can't be too far,

by then, bringing along two B-level Awakeners, won't take long to find the Celestial God Tree,

the Celestial God Fruit, which can enhance Spiritual Power, is a timely aid for him,

while dealing with this overconfident True Essence Realm Martial Artist.

Thinking of this, Du Hao's mouth curled into a smile.

From this perspective, the death of Yan Ming's men is rather a good thing,

over a dozen Celestial God Fruits, he would take most of them,

even though consuming more of the fruit weakens its effect, it doesn't matter,

one fruit is worth several thousand points!

...

At the Chen Family Stronghold training ground, everyone was sweating heavily.

Although life in the stronghold has improved considerably, without worry about food and drink, the outside world remains perilous,

if they don't seize the time to enhance their skills, danger might arrive someday, and with insufficient strength, they won't even be able to flee.

Meng Yu was among them,

after a long day, she was utterly exhausted,

every time she wanted to quit, a voice in her heart reminded her that her sister is still in great trouble,

if she didn't work hard, she may never get the chance to see her again in this life.

Hence, she kept persevering.

"Take a break."

A voice called out, Zhang Ren approached,

his tone serious but with concern: "Training needs to follow gradual progress, blindly seeking speed could lead to bad results, ineffective effort just wastes time and physical strength."

Meng Yu blushed, stopped her movements, she knew Zhang Ren was tactfully saying her movements were off.

She softly asked, "Uncle Zhang, could you correct my moves once more?"

Zhang Ren shook his head, "Standing in posture stance isn't about staying as long as possible. If you really want to learn something new, I'll teach you some basic fist techniques first."

"Thank you, Uncle Zhang!"

Meng Yu's eyes brightened, expressing her gratitude.

Zhang Ren sighed inwardly,

he had observed Meng Yu's efforts these few days, she was always one of the earliest and latest to leave.

"Buzz buzz, buzz buzz."

At that moment, her pocket phone vibrated.

Meng Yu paused.

This phone was given by Chen Fan, containing only his number,

meaning the caller could only be Chen Fan.

Zhang Ren squinted his eyes, said: "Take a rest for an hour, then come to see me."

He turned and left.

Meng Yu responded, and cautiously looking around, then ran to a quieter location to answer the call.

"Chen Fan, sorry, I just..."

She began to explain, but was stunned by a familiar voice on the other end,

"Xiao Yu, it's me."

Meng Xue's voice.

"Sister!"

Meng Yu reacted instantly, covering her mouth, tears flowing uncontrollably, "Sister, is that you? Are you really talking to me? Am I not dreaming?"

"Silly girl."

Meng Xue smiled, "It's broad daylight, what dream? Come back quickly, I'm waiting in your room."

"In my room?"

Meng Yu was stunned.

How is this possible?

Wasn't her sister being held in Anshan City?

How could she be in her room?

No, that's not right,

this call is from Chen Fan,

which means her sister is with Chen Fan,

so, she's truly in her room?

"Sister, wait for me, I'm coming, I'm on my way! Don't hang up..."

Meng Yu ran towards her room with all her might,

"What's happening?"

Wang Ping and others were confused by the scene,

"Mind your own business,"

Zhang Ren appeared like a ghost behind them,

"Have you mastered your spear technique? Fist technique entry level? What about step technique? Haven't mastered anything yet, still distracted."

They quickly lowered their heads,

even though they had been hunting and killing Fierce Beasts,

Seeing her house in sight, Meng Yu's heart was in her throat,

Sister, really inside?

She slowed down instinctively, afraid of reaching the door and finding emptiness inside, only to be disappointed.

But at that moment, a figure with white hair appeared at the door, beckoning.

"Sister!"

Meng Yu burst into tears, rushing towards her sister's arms like a lost bird finding its parents.

"Sister, it's really you, right? I'm not dreaming, right?"

She hugged her tightly, sobbing.

"Silly girl, of course you're not dreaming,"

Meng Xue's tears flowed uncontrollably.

She softly stroked Meng Yu's hair, her eyes showing sorrow,

because she didn't have much time left, at most one month before she dies.

After finally reuniting, shortly, she would leave her sister alone again.

As an elder sister, she felt terribly inadequate.

Chen Fan watched this scene, feeling a pinch in his nose.

"Alright, save the rest for later, thank our benefactor first."

Meng Xue gently said.

Meng Yu startled, looked at Chen Fan, filled with gratitude,

obviously,

her sister was rescued by Chen Fan,

though she didn't know how he did it,

it wasn't an easy feat,

those people wouldn't let her sister go easily.

"Chen..."

Chen Fan waved his hand, smiling, "Remember what I promised you? I just fulfilled my promise, no need for thanks."

"But..."

Meng Yu opened her mouth.

"You sisters haven't seen each other in so long, surely you have much to talk about, I won't interrupt."

Chen Fan said, heading out.

"Wait a moment."

Meng Xue's voice called out.

"Chen Fan, I have something important to tell you."

"Something important."

Chen Fan stopped, surprised.

Chapter 272: The Fourth Beast Emperor Level Fierce Beast

This sentence, whether spoken by Meng Yu or Meng Xue, carries immense weight.

Especially when spoken by Meng Xue.

"Alright."

He nodded.

"Chen Fan, sis, take a seat. I'll get you some water."

Meng Yu, happy like a little girl, pulled Meng Xue to sit on a bench, then brought out two clean bowls and placed them in front of the two, filling them with water.

"Aren't you going to pour yourself a bowl too?"

Chen Fan couldn't help but laugh.

"No need."

Meng Yu waved her hands repeatedly, her eyes squinted into slits from the smile: "I'm not thirsty. Chen Fan, sis, drink up quickly."

"I'm not thirsty for now either."

Meng Xue looked at Meng Yu with a loving gaze, then shifted her eyes to Chen Fan and sincerely said, "Chen Fan, thank you. If it weren't for you, our sisters would never have reunited even in death."

Moreover, if you hadn't taken in little Yu back then, she might not have survived until now with her abilities."

"It was just a small favor."

Chen Fan waved his hand, "Didn't you say there's something very important you need to tell me?"

Meng Xue nodded: "You've fought with that person, haven't you?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan recalled Du Hao's appearance, frowned slightly, and said, "Is his superpower really clones?"

"Yes, his name is Du Hao. You've only killed his clone; if you can't find his true self, you can't kill him," Meng Xue replied.

"Then killing his clone, does it really have no impact on him?"

Chen Fan asked again.

"It does have an impact, a significant one."

Meng Xue said, "The death of a clone not only causes his power to regress but also makes his cultivation more difficult in the future.

The more clones he has, the harder it is to improve, eventually making his power stagnate at a certain stage."

"I see, so I wasn't wrong."

Chen Fan slightly nodded.

He thought to himself, if it really had no impact, wouldn't the guy be invincible?

Meng Xue saw this and showed a hint of helplessness: "But he's not lying to you. His status in Jiulong City is very high, commanding several B-level Awakened."

This time, you killed his clone, he won't take it lying down. He will definitely seek revenge. Moreover, this time, you saved me by killing several C-level Awakened in the city..."

Meng Yu, hearing this, covered her mouth tightly.

She suspected that the process of Chen Fan saving her sister wouldn't be easy.

So, Chen Fan had directly barged in and killed those people to rescue her sister?

Meng Xue's voice continued, "Predictably, soon this information will be reported. Then the Association will send hunters to track you down, so from now on, you'd better not use that identity again."

"I understand."

Chen Fan responded, even without Meng Xue's reminder, he would have been cautious about this.

"The hunters you mentioned earlier are?"

"A department in the Awakened Association that recruits extremely powerful Awakened to hunt targets on the wanted list and eliminate cults and anti-human forces. Occasionally, they deal with Fierce Beasts, but their targets are mostly humans. Your identity will soon be on the wanted list as well," Meng Xue said apologetically.

"I see."

Chen Fan realized.

It seems only the top Awakened can enter this department.

"And there's one more thing."

Meng Xue paused for a moment.

"This matter is much more severe than what I've just mentioned, so I hope you are mentally prepared."

Chen Fan was taken aback, feeling a sense of foreboding, "What is it?"

"A year ago, I foresaw the future and saw the outbreak of the Beast Tide."

Meng Xue's eyes showed sadness, "This Beast Tide surpasses any previous ones. The scene from ten years ago will be replayed, and this time, it's even more terrifying."

As her voice fell, the room plunged into a deathly silence.

Meng Yu's smiling face completely froze.

Her eyes showed panic as she asked again in disbelief: "Sis, did you just say that the scene from ten years ago will replay?"

"Yes."

Meng Xue nodded gently, "I saw the Beast Tide flooding our Yan Country like a torrent, engulfing countless cities. Flying types of Fierce Beasts darkened the sky, and in the ocean, there were countless Fierce Beasts crawling out. Moreover..."

Her eyes showed fear.

"Moreover what?"

Chen Fan asked hurriedly.

"I don't know, because at that time I felt an extreme danger. If I continued foreseeing, I would die, so I stopped. But I have a premonition that the appearance of this Beast Tide means a fourth Beast Emperor-level Fierce Beast might have emerged."

"The fourth..."

Chen Fan shivered.

According to Uncle Zhang, the Human Race has only three S-Class Awakened, which form a delicate balance with the three Beast Emperor-level Fierce Beasts.

Both parties are striving fiercely to break this balance.

And now, it seems the Fierce Beasts have won?

"Perhaps, I might be overthinking,"

Meng Xue said. "But the outbreak of the Beast Tide is certain to happen. At that time, not just Anshan City, even cities like Jiulong City will fall. Only large cities and three mega-cities are our Yan Country's last hope. Chen Fan, I hope you can prepare early."

"How can this be?"

Meng Yu's eyes reddened.

Apart from those large and mega cities, all other places will fall. That means the Chen Family Fortress where she is now will also be inevitably flooded by Fierce Beasts.

What about the people in the fortress?

Like her, they had barely settled down, barely found hope in life, and now, once again, they will face chaos, even losing their lives.

Chen Fan also fell silent.

Meng Xue's words caught him off guard.

After a long pause, he asked, "Do you know the exact time?"

"It's just about to start. The fall of Anshan City is a prelude."

Meng Xue sighed.

"I saw several Commander-level Fierce Beasts leading the Beast Tide attacking Anshan City, with countless casualties."

"So you mean Anshan City will only face the attack of Commander-level Fierce Beasts next?"

Chen Fan keenly sensed something.

Meng Xue paused, seeming to understand Chen Fan's intent, "You want to stay and resist this Beast Tide?"

"I have this thought."

Chen Fan nodded.

If a Beast Emperor-level or Beast King-level Fierce Beast led the Beast Tide, he could only flee, as a green mountain wouldn't fear not having firewood.

The people in the fortress and Anshan City, even if he wanted to save them, couldn't be assisted with his current abilities.

But if it's only Commander-level Fierce Beasts, he might manage to resist this Beast Tide with some effort.

Meng Xue was momentarily stunned.

She hoped to tell Chen Fan these things so he could prepare early and find a way to send his important people to large or mega cities, ensuring their survival even during the Beast Tide.

Unless the Human Race loses this battle, they would have nowhere to escape to.

In the end, he wants to stay?

"Chen Fan, don't be impulsive. The Beast Tide isn't simple. Just thousands of middle and high-level Fierce Beasts charging alone aren't easy to fend off,

let alone with several Commander-level Fierce Beasts. They, like us, have intelligence and can formulate strategies."

"But, sis," Meng Yu couldn't help saying, "Haven't we resisted past Beast Tides before?"

"It's different."

Meng Xue shook her head, "None of those past tides had Commander-level Fierce Beasts participating directly. The most dangerous time, Anshan City almost fell due to a single Commander-level Fierce Beast directing from afar."

"Only one!"

Meng Yu's eyes widened.

Just one Commander-level Fierce Beast caused such significant pressure on Anshan City.

If another came, the danger level of the Beast Tide would exponentially increase!

Meng Xue looked at Chen Fan, her tone earnest: "Chen Fan, I know you can't bear to abandon everyone in the fortress, but it's inevitable. And to be blunt, this Beast Tide,

the large and mega cities might be more dangerous as they'll likely face the strongest Fierce Beasts. Even so, they are still much safer than small and medium-sized cities."

"Meng Xue, I understand your kindness."

Chen Fan took a deep breath.

"But I always believe that one should see things through to the end. Yan Ming and those guys indeed deserved to die, not just for ordinary people, but even Martial Artists were seen as ants by them.

But undeniably, they indirectly saved many lives. I killed them, which directly weakened Anshan City's defenses. If the Beast Tide breaks out, even without Commander-level Fierce Beasts, Anshan City won't hold. So, I must stay and protect this city."

Meng Xue was completely stunned.

Meng Yu's eyes sparkled, knowing this was the Chen Fan she knew.

"But, I promise you, if it reaches the point of life and death, I'll leave the ordinary people behind and run without hesitation. However, I won't give up without trying my best,

After all, you're able to foresee, aren't you? If you predict that even I can't turn the tide, you can tell me in advance, right?"

The room fell silent, with the three looking at each other.

Meng Xue felt a complex mix of emotions.

She had to admit, Chen Fan was different from Yan Ming and the others.

When it came to this, the latter only thought of fleeing, not considering the lives of tens of thousands in Anshan City.

After a long pause, she bitterly smiled, "Chen Fan, things aren't as optimistic as you think. I'd love to help predict the future, but my body can no longer support such large-scale foreseeing."

Chapter 273: Perhaps, I Can Do It Too

"Is that so."

Chen Fan's face showed a hint of solemnity.

With his mastery of three archery techniques, he was confident that he could shoot and kill a commander-level Fierce Beast from several kilometers away with one arrow.

If he could elevate the Golden Bell Shield to the 12th Floor, or bring the Vajra Indestructible Divine Skill to the Perfection Realm, no number of Fierce Beasts would intimidate him.

But if a Beast King-level Fierce Beast were to appear in the Beast Tide, it would be troublesome.

Though the possibility wasn't high.

After all, even commander-level Fierce Beasts had command capabilities, let alone a Beast King-level above them.

If he were such a level of Fierce Beast, he wouldn't waste his energy on a small city. Those mid-to-large cities would be their targets.

However, one must still be vigilant.

And Meng Xue's current condition was indeed worrisome.

Earlier, her breath was even weaker than an ordinary person's, like a flickering candle in the wind, at risk of blowing out any moment.

"Sister."

Tears welled up in Meng Yu's eyes again, and a thought emerged in her mind.

Could it be that her sister would leave her again soon?

And this time, it might be forever?

Meng Xue stroked her face with a smile, filled with reluctance in her heart.

"Isn't there any way?"

Chen Fan asked.

"A way?"

"Yes, a way to restore you."

Chen Fan said, "Your current state is the result of severely overextending your life force. So, does the Awakened Association have anything that can replenish life force?"

Meng Xue froze, her eyes filled with disbelief.

Because Chen Fan's expression was very serious, like he wasn't merely suggesting it.

The next moment, she shook her head with a bitter smile.

The Association did have such things, and taking them could make an ordinary person look twenty years younger all at once.

Just thinking about it made it clear that such things were extremely precious. Even A-level Awakeners would bleed heavily to buy just a drop.

That substance was the Essence of Life.

Usually, those at the top bought it to extend the lives of their loved ones who were nearing their lifespan's end.

And Chen Fan wasn't intimately connected with her and her sister; on the contrary, he was their benefactor. How could she be so greedy to ask for that?

So, no matter how Chen Fan asked next, she only smiled without speaking.

Meng Yu saw this and didn't know what to say.

On one hand, she hoped Chen Fan could save her sister, but on the other hand, she knew that even if such a thing existed, it was extremely rare, and asking for it could endanger Chen Fan's life.

Chen Fan could only sigh and say, "Besides this method, is there no other way? For instance, could you prolong your life by awakening again?"

As his words fell, Meng Xue's smile froze, and a strange light flashed in her eyes.

"Sister, this method works, doesn't it?"

Excitedly, Meng Yu said.

Chen Fan squinted slightly and said, "Meng Xue, for Meng Yu's sake, shouldn't you find a way to stay alive? As for worrying about owing me, you don't have to because saving your life would greatly help my future actions."

"Yes, sister, your superpower is much stronger than mine. If you can live, you can save many people. Sister, just tell us, there must be a way, right?"

Meng Yu gently shook her.

Meng Xue took a deep look at Chen Fan and nodded: "Your method could work, but the cost is high, and you will also be in danger."

"I am already used to danger."

Chen Fan said without hesitation.

After a long silence, Meng Xue finally spoke, "My condition is too bad. To awaken for the fourth time, I need to take six Celestial God Fruits consecutively."

After saying this, she felt uneasy.

That was no small number.

But if she could get them, she would successfully awaken for the fourth time,

then not only would her life span be extended by twenty years, but her precognition ability would also significantly improve.

"Six Celestial God Fruits."

Chen Fan's pupils shrank slightly.

One fruit cost fifty thousand points, so six would be three hundred thousand!

Even for him, getting that many points wouldn't be easy,

but at least there was a way, wasn't there?

"Are you sure six Celestial God Fruits would be enough?"

Meng Xue was startled again.

"If six are enough, I'll find a way to collect them."

Chen Fan said.

"Chen Fan, thank you, thank you."

Meng Yu's eyes filled with gratitude upon hearing this.

She didn't know what these Celestial God Fruits were, but from her sister's expression, she could tell they were precious.

Yet Chen Fan did not hesitate at all and agreed immediately.

"It's nothing. As I said before, your sister being alive is also a great help to me."

Chen Fan said straightforwardly. He didn't deny that saving Meng Xue also had to do with valuing her superpower,

but he wasn't Yan Ming, and wouldn't do unscrupulous things,

Of course, if he obtained the Celestial God Fruits and Meng Xue disappeared without a trace, even if she fled to the ends of the earth, he would hunt her down and personally reclaim what he gave her.

"Thank you, Chen Fan."

At this moment, Meng Xue was also moved to tears.

After hesitating for a while, she said, "Actually, if you want to get six Celestial God Fruits quickly, I know a faster way."

"Oh?"

Chen Fan's eyes lit up immediately, and he asked quickly, "What way?"

"I know the location of a Celestial God Tree."

Meng Xue explained, "There are twelve Celestial God Fruits on the tree, and they will mature in about two days."

"Twelve."

Chen Fan couldn't help but take a deep breath.

At fifty thousand points each, that would be six hundred thousand.

These fruits could significantly enhance one's Spiritual Power. Although his Spiritual Power was already high, who would mind having more power?

"It won't be easy to pick all of them, will it?"

Chen Fan asked.

"Yes, exactly," Meng Xue nodded. "Because the Beast Tide is about to break out, when the fruit ripens, it might attract commander-level Fierce Beasts. Also, do you remember the person with the clone superpower?"

"Are you saying he might come too?"

"Very likely."

Meng Xue said, "Yan Ming likely called him, intending to use the Celestial God Fruits to curry favor with him. So it's very possible he already knows the location of the Celestial God Tree. Though I'm in poor condition now, I can try to foresee the future tomorrow. Most likely, you'll encounter them. Having suffered losses before, they will definitely bring stronger help this time, you..."

"I understand."

Chen Fan responded.

If they brought stronger help, he also wouldn't sit idle during this time.

Two days would be enough for him to elevate his realm to the True Essence Realm.

With the various Heart Methods, who knows how powerful his True Qi would become by then.

Seeing this, Meng Xue secretly made up her mind even more firmly.

Tomorrow, even if she had to risk what little life she had left, she would clearly see the events to come.

If Chen Fan were to face a huge crisis, then this plan would be abandoned.

The atmosphere was quiet for a minute or two.

Chen Fan broke the silence, "Is that all you have to say?"

"Yes, right, there's one more thing I forgot. Little Yu, do you have paper and pen here?"

"Yes, I do."

Meng Yu turned to the cabinet and fetched paper and a pen.

"This is the list of Space Items that Yan Ming and his group possess, and the unlocking methods. You can look into them; there might be something useful for you."

Meng Xue said while writing quickly on the paper.

"Thanks."

Chen Fan said hurriedly.

There's a chance that they might have used up the good items in their Space Items,

but the Space Items themselves were valuable,

and there's always the possibility of finding something else inside that's quite valuable.

"You're welcome. This is the only way I can help you now."

Meng Xue said with a bitter smile, placing the written note before Chen Fan.

"Then, I'll leave you two to your reunion. If anything comes up, you can call me anytime."

Chen Fan took the note and rose to his feet.

The two hurriedly escorted him to the door, watching his figure disappear from sight.

"Sister, I missed you so much."

Meng Yu turned around, choking up.

"Silly girl, I'm back now, aren't I?"

Meng Xue sighed gently. She had seen all of Meng Yu's hard work during this period,

knowing she was trying to become stronger to rescue her.

"Let's talk inside."

"Okay, sister, I have so much to tell you."

Meng Yu chattered like a little bird, talking non-stop.

Meng Xue listened with a smile, but her thoughts had already drifted away.

...

Chen Fan didn't linger in the village. After all, he had just returned in the morning, and hearing from Meng Yu that the events of ten years ago would repeat filled him with a heavy heart.

"This time, how many more people will die."

He stood outside Anshan City, looking at the two camps ahead, lost in thought.

In the face of the Beast Tide, even a seemingly impregnable Anshan City could fall in a matter of days,

let alone these small villages.

He shook his head, casting aside these negative thoughts,

realizing it was better to seize every moment to improve his power,

At least, he should focus on repelling the Beast Tide about to hit Anshan City first,

As for what comes after, whether it brings temporary peace or stronger Fierce Beast attacks, only time would tell.

If possible, he didn't want to live as someone's dependent, always on edge like a stray dog,

Since those Awakeners could develop their cities into havens in the apocalypse,

why couldn't he?

Thinking of this, he felt a surge of energy and walked towards the gate of Anshan City with his head held high.

Chapter 274: Discovered?

The vast Anshan City was of deathly stillness.

On the streets, not even a shadow of a person or a ghost could be seen. The shops along the road had their doors tightly closed, with occasional whispers heard.

"It seems quiet outside, should we go check it out?"

"Are you crazy? What if something bad happens? What can we do with our small bodies?"

"True, but what happened anyway? Why is there such a big commotion at the City Lord's Mansion?"

"How would I know? We shouldn't worry about things that don't concern us. Even if the sky falls, there are taller ones to hold it up."

"But what if the tall ones can't hold it up?"

"Then we all perish together."

Chen Fan reached the door of the Awakened Association and knocked. Only then did someone cautiously come to open it.

"Brother Chen, did you just come back from outside the city?"

asked the person who opened the door.

"Yes, why?" Chen Fan replied with a smile.

"Didn't encounter any danger, did you? There was such a huge commotion on the mountaintop just now, it was terrifying."

The woman patted her chest, looking extremely shaken.

Just as Chen Fan was about to say something, his phone rang. It was Sun Wei calling, probably after seeing him through the hall's camera.

"Hello, Chairman."

"Brother Chen, you're back? Are you alright?"

Sun Wei asked.

"I'm fine, Chairman. Did you need something?"

"Yes, come to the conference room on the third floor. There's something important to discuss. Everyone's here."

"Alright."

Chen Fan hung up the phone without surprise. This was just the beginning. When news of Yan Ming and the others' deaths spread, that would be the real shock for Anshan City.

Upon entering the conference room, Xu Jie, Tu Yue, and the others were already waiting.

"Brother Chen, did you just come back?"

"Didn't encounter any danger, did you? The commotion on the mountaintop earlier was terrifying."

"Yes, it felt like an earthquake!"

They all spoke one after another.

"Yes, I noticed it too while outside. I worried about running into trouble, so I didn't come in immediately."

Chen Fan found an empty seat and asked Sun Wei, "Chairman, what exactly happened?"

With these words, everyone turned their gaze to him.

Sun Wei shook his head solemnly, "I'm not sure exactly what happened. The earthquake-like feeling was likely Ma Sheng's doing. The other Awakeners couldn't cause such a commotion."

"Right, his superpower is gravity. He loves crushing people with it. Before, I've seen him crush several High-level Fierce Beasts into meat patties from the city wall."

"So he was fighting someone? But even then, there was no need for such a huge commotion."

"Yeah, those who don't know would think it was a beast invasion."

Chen Fan listened, appearing puzzled.

In reality, no one paid much attention to him,

After all, he hadn't been here long and didn't know about those C-level Awakeners, which was quite normal.

Some even patiently explained the situation to him.

"Chairman, it's been almost ten minutes with no activity from the mountaintop. Should we go check it out?"

Xu Jie licked his lips, feeling like something was clawing at his heart.

"I think we better not."

Tu Yue frowned, "We never got along with the City Lord's Mansion. We can't even approach halfway up the mountain normally. If this commotion was just them playing around, we'd humiliate ourselves."

"I agree with Tu Yue. Chairman, we should watch and see," Gao Shan said.

"Yes, I think we should stay cautious too."

Sun Wei nodded, "Maybe we're overthinking. Nothing might have happened after all."

The mountaintop has the strongest guard force in Anshan City, not to mention several C-level Awakeners living there.

If someone wanted trouble with Yan Ming, they wouldn't choose such a place,

"Even though we don't know what happened, we must be careful for the next few days. If something really happened to Yan Ming, we can't handle those people."

Sun Wei spoke sternly, sweeping his gaze over everyone present.

"Understood!"

"We will be careful, Chairman."

Chen Fan echoed, laughing inwardly.

They would never guess that the "culprit" was sitting right among them.

"Good, be careful. This emergency meeting is over. Others can leave now. Brother Chen, stay a moment," Sun Wei said.

Xu Jie and the others glanced at Chen Fan and then left.

Chen Fan's heart sank. Had he celebrated too soon?

Had the Chairman noticed something?

But that shouldn't be possible; he hadn't left any evidence.

The meeting room now only had Chen Fan and Sun Wei.

Sun Wei looked around, then asked in a lowered voice:

"Brother Chen, the incident with the trading company, it wasn't you, right?"

Chen Fan was taken aback, then also lowered his voice, "Chairman, do you think I did it?"

"Cough, cough, I just wanted to ask."

Sun Wei coughed a few times, "Good to know it wasn't you."

As per the scene, a Meridian Refining Martial Artist was involved,

Among them, only Chen Fan had that capability.

"I wish I did it," Chen Fan snorted, "That lot always against us. Last time, they even brought people over. If you hadn't arrived on time, they might have started a fight."

"It's all in the past now."

Sun Wei gave an awkward smile.

If his guess was right, Chen Fan was already a Meridian Refining Martial Artist then. That would explain how he killed High-level Fierce Beasts so quickly.

His timely arrival wouldn't have made a big difference.

"It's best it wasn't you, Brother Chen. The City Lord's Mansion side won't let this slide."

Sun Wei sighed, "This action was a slap to Yan Ming's face. Soon, people from the City Lord's Mansion will come asking about it. But don't worry. It doesn't involve us. Even if Yan Ming comes personally, they can't do anything."

"Understood, Chairman."

Chen Fan smiled.

The City Lord's Mansion wouldn't send anyone over. But the Hunters Meng Xue mentioned might come to investigate.

He'd deny it entirely.

"Oh, Brother Chen, your request to add another Pill Furnace in the Elixir Room has been fulfilled. You can see it when you return."

"Chairman, you're so efficient. I thought it would take a day or two."

Chen Fan smiled, feeling pleased inside.

Another Pill Furnace would double the refining efficiency of True Qi Pills. He was racing against time.

"Ha ha, adding a Pill Furnace isn't a big deal," Sun Wei waved, "Compared to the Top-grade Qi Blood Pills you made, it's nothing."

"You're too kind, Chairman. It's just a small favor,"

Chen Fan glanced at the wall clock, "If there's nothing else, I'll head to the Elixir Room."

"Go on."

Sun Wei waved with a smile as Chen Fan left.

His smile faded quickly, his expression growing serious.

His intuition said the mountaintop event wasn't simple, maybe something really happened.

Despite his conflict with Yan Ming's group, they were why Anshan City stood today. If something happened to them, how would they defend against another Beast Tide?

Before returning to the Elixir Room, Chen Fan collected ingredients for refining True Qi Pills.

He got a total of eighty sets.

Returning with the ingredients, he frowned.

If another Beast Tide happened, restocking ingredients would be impossible.

Growing them wasn't an overnight solution. Unless there was an Awakener who could speed up plant growth.

Which seemed unrealistic.

"I need to buy more, as much as I can."

Determined, Chen Fan thought.

Not just Meridian Refining but True Essence Realm also needed True Qi Pills. Contribution points were his worry.

He had materials from several Elite-level Fierce Beasts, originally for sale to the Awakened Association. But maybe selling to the Martial Arts Association for ingredients was better.

Two of them were ordinary-level Elite-level Fierce Beasts, if complete, worth over ten million. But with only key materials, the price was lower.

Including the Fire Scaly Pig, they might fetch two to three million.

With each True Qi Pill material set costing two hundred thousand, he could buy about two hundred sets.

"Two hundred sets make two thousand True Qi Pills. Despite being Celestial Grade and Top Grade, it's too few."

Chen Fan frowned.

This would be enough to break through to the True Essence Realm,

But advancing beyond?

Unlikely.

And a True Essence Realm Martial Artist was just like a B-level Awakened, maybe less. Not enough to handle Beast King or Beast Emperor Levels.

"I miscalculated."

Regretting giving the Pill Formula to the Association, Chen Fan sighed.

With the thought of receiving constant Contribution Points, it seemed profitable. But time for the Human Race was running out.

This method was unfeasible now,

And selling refined True Qi Pills was impossible.

To quickly get a large amount of True Qi Pill ingredients, the only way was to sell the Pill Formula!

"This time, I need a different approach."

Determined spark shone in Chen Fan's eyes.

Chapter 275: You're Driving Me Crazy!

"What's happening? What's happening?"

Martial Arts Association, Jiangnan City, underground base.

A round-faced elderly man was grabbing the arm of another square-faced elderly man, walking in public.

"Old Tang, if you have something to say, just say it. Why are you pulling and dragging like this?"

"Old Tang? Let go quickly, didn't you hear me, Old Tang?"

"Tang Yuantai! Are you deaf? Let go! Did you hear me!"

The latter had turned from elegant to angry, his face red with rage.

However, the former acted as if he hadn't heard, until they entered the Alchemy Room and the door closed, silencing the noise.

Everyone looked at each other, not knowing who couldn't hold back and burst out laughing, followed by a joyous atmosphere filling the hall.

"Ha ha ha, Elder Tang is still the same, isn't he?"

"Indeed, Elder Luo's face turned as red as a monkey's butt. He must be so angry he wants to kill Elder Tang."

"Yeah, who knows why Elder Tang is in such a hurry to find Elder Luo."

"It must be something important, right? I've never seen the two of them like this before."

In the Alchemy Room.

Luo Jin sat angrily on a chair, glaring at the other and said, "Tang Yuantai, did you take the wrong medicine today? Did you not hear me talking to you just now? Pulling and dragging in front of so many people, don't I have any face? And you still have the nerve to laugh?"

"Old mate, don't be angry."

Elder Tang smiled, "This time I brought you here to give you a surprise."

"Surprise? I think it's more like a shock."

Luo Jin rolled his eyes and said angrily.

"Shock, hehe."

Elder Tang laughed, "Old mate, I'm really afraid I'll scare you later. Alright, no more talking, just watch my performance now."

After speaking, he turned around and placed the already prepared herbs into the Pill Furnace.

"?"

Seeing this, Luo Jin's eyebrows furrowed.

What does this mean? This old guy urgently brought me here just to perform the refining of Qi Blood Pills in front of me?

No, how much has he drunk to come to me for this?

Though it's not showing off, they are equally matched, right?

Thinking about this, he slightly curled his mouth and thought, since he's already here, he might as well wait.

If the pills this guy refines are fewer than his own, he'll be sure to ridicule him later!

Soon, a smile appeared on his face.

Because he saw that Tang Yuantai made a mistake, one that even the apprentices in the association rarely make.

"This guy is still as careless as before."

But as time passed, the smile on his face gradually disappeared, turning into a serious expression.

Finally, seeing Tang Yuantai make another mistake, Luo Jin couldn't bear it anymore.

"Old Tang, are you not in a good state for alchemy today?"

"Not in a good state?"

Tang Yuantai turned around and looked at him oddly, "I'm fine, I'm very much in the state."

"Very much in the state?"

Luo Jin had a look as if he didn't believe it, "If you are very much in the state, would you make so many mistakes earlier?"

"Mistakes?"

Tang Yuantai was stunned.

"Yes, mistakes!"

Luo Jin blew his beard and glared, "From the start of your alchemy until now, I've found you made no less than five mistakes, not counting those I didn't find! I admit I was wrong, when you said I might get scared, I didn't believe it. Now I believe, you indeed startled me."

He became angrier as he spoke, almost wanting to go up and give him a flick on the head.

"Mistakes? Oh, you mean those places?"

Tang Yuantai realized and laughed, "Those aren't mistakes, forget it, explain it to you won't make sense, you'll know when the elixir is ready."

"Explain it won't make sense?"

Luo Jin was so angry he almost laughed, he nodded and said, "Alright alright, I'll wait a little longer to see your elixir come out."

"Don't worry, it will definitely not disappoint you."

Tang Yuantai mysteriously smiled.

Since he got that Top-grade Qi Blood Pill formula yesterday, he immediately started refining,

He proved it was indeed powerful,

He only looked at it a few times and followed the steps for refining,

Among the refined Qi Blood Pills, the quantity of Top-grade Qi Blood Pills directly occupied half!

What does this mean?

For years and years, no matter how much time and effort they spent, they couldn't increase the yield of Top-grade Qi Blood Pills,

But after getting this formula, the yield of Top-grade Qi Blood Pills almost doubled itself!

One has to marvel at how fate toys with people sometimes.

Of course, this alone wouldn't satisfy him, he was also holding back a breath.

In terms of talent, he indeed couldn't compare to that young fellow, but could he not catch up even with the correct formula? It would be too humiliating to say.

So, he not only wanted to refine ten Top-grade Qi Blood Pills but also intended to refine a Heaven-grade Qi Blood Pill!

From yesterday till now, he worked tirelessly and finally refined a batch full of Top-grade Qi Blood Pills.

An excited him, immediately thought of Luo Jin, planning to show off in front of his old friend first before telling Chang Fei the good news.

Soon, ten minutes passed and the Pill Furnace emitted a crisp sound.

Luo Jin's expression changed hearing this sound.

Wasn't this sound too crisp?

Just then, Tang Yuantai turned around, smilingly said:

"Old mate, the elixir is ready, do you want to come and see?"

Luo Jin was already angry seeing him like this, walked over immediately, "I would come even if you didn't say so, to see what you've refined."

"Really? Then you'd better be mentally prepared, don't get scared and collapse, I'll have to call someone for you then."

"Don't worry, no matter how bad you refine, I can accept."

Tang Yuantai chuckled and opened the Pill Furnace, an overwhelmingly rich incense flooded in.

"Top-grade Qi Blood Pill!"

Luo Jin exclaimed and then whispered, "No, this rich incense, could it be?"

His eyes fell on the batch of elixirs before him.

One, two, three, four, five...

Counting till here, his eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

The most he had ever refined was four Top-grade Qi Blood Pills, and that too only a few times over the years.

But how did Tang Yuantai manage to refine five pills in one batch?

No, wait, there seems to be more!

He incredulously looked deeper,

Seven, eight, nine, nine Top-grade Qi Blood Pills!

And the remaining one was a Top Grade Qi Blood Pill, the quality only next to Top-grade.

He was stunned, petrified, unable to move.

"Only nine?"

Tang Yuantai muttered, frowning. What went wrong in the process?

He thought he could refine a Heaven-grade Qi Blood Pill this time and massively show off in front of Luo Jin.

This awoke Luo Jin, who looked up at him and said, "Only nine? Tang Yuantai, do you know what you are saying? These are nine Top-grade Qi Blood Pills! It's not nine Top Grade Qi Blood Pills!"

"I know."

Feigning indifference, Tang Yuantai nonchalantly said, "Before, I always refined ten Qi Blood Pills, this time went badly, only nine, sigh."

Luo Jin felt an urge to strangle this bragging idiot, but the facts couldn't be denied.

Recalling earlier when he said he would surprise him, Luo Jin, who didn't believe it, grew red with embarrassment.

Clearly, those so-called 'mistakes' were improvements!

If he could learn them...

Thinking this, he suddenly jerked and realized,

"No, Tang Yuantai, I know you well, honestly tell me, where did you get this new alchemy method? Did Brother Zhang teach you? No, if Brother Zhang knew this, it wouldn't be till now."

"Where did it come from? Old Luo, don't falsely accuse me. I spent three days and nights meditating to improve the pill formula!"

Tang Yuantai cried emotionally.

"Really?"

Luo Jin seemed suspicious.

"Of course, think about it, in our base, who else can refine so many Top-grade Qi Blood Pills in one batch? In your memory, besides me, is there anyone else?"

Tang Yuantai confidently answered.

"You have a point."

Luo Jin was dazed, "Could this pill formula really be your research?"

"Of course!"

Tang Yuantai shouted, "This indeed is my research. I barely ate anything for several days, lost several pounds for this formula."

"Really?"

Luo Jin scrutinized him, muttering, "That's really hard to see."

Just when Tang Yuantai was about to speak, the door to the Alchemy Room opened unexpectedly.

He instantly got angry.

What's the meaning of this? Is his door just a decoration? Don't they know that alchemists aren't to be disturbed while refining?

It was like this last time, and this time too.

He looked up and was stunned.

The person was still Chang Fei, just like last time.

"Elder Tang!"

Chang Fei excitedly rushed inside, "The Brother Chen who gave us the Top-grade Qi Blood Pill formula last time has improved it again? Guess what it is now? Elder Tang, are your eyes okay? They seem a bit off, want me to check?"

"Oh, you! You're killing me!"

Tang Yuantai turned away furiously.

This Chang Fei, really doesn't know how to read faces!

"Brother Chen who gave us the Top-grade Qi Blood Pill formula? Improved it again?"

Realizing something, Luo Jin looked profoundly at Tang Yuantai, "Old Tang, didn't you say you improved this formula? Hmm? Why am I hearing something else now? You don't want to explain it to me?"

Chapter 276: This Time, It's a True Qi Pill

"This, this..."

Elder Tang stammered.

He actually just wanted to show off a bit in front of the other party, enjoy the moment, and let the other party seek his guidance.

It wasn't easy for the other party to believe it, but who would have thought Chang Fei, this guy, would come at this inconvenient time.

Well, great, now everyone had seen his bottom.

"What exactly is it? Old Tang, weren't you quite chatty just now? How come you turned mute as soon as Chang Fei entered?"

Luo Jin's lips curled up, "Alright, you won't tell me, I'll ask Chang Fei then."

"Chang Fei, what exactly were you talking about just now?"

"Well..."

Chang Fei scratched his head, no wonder Elder Tang had been winking at him beforehand.

But he was simply too excited to think too much at that moment.

"Hmm?"

Luo Jin said discontentedly, "What, is this a secret that can't be told to me?"

"Elder Luo, you're overthinking it, I didn't mean that, it's, it's..." Chang Fei smiled bitterly, glancing at Elder Tang out of the corner of his eye.

"Alright, alright."

Elder Tang sat down angrily on a nearby chair, "This pill formula was given to headquarters by a young fellow, I've been researching it for the past two days, and finally managed to obtain some results. I wanted to show off in front of you, but this kid exposed me. You kid, really."

He looked like he was disappointed beyond measure.

"Elder Tang, I didn't know either."

Chang Fei felt wronged.

Before coming, he specially called twice, but no one picked up.

Brother Chen was still waiting, how could he let the latter wait forever?

Besides, that's an improved True Qi Pill formula! With every second delayed, he felt like he was committing a crime.

"A young fellow gave it to headquarters?"

Elder Luo heard this and couldn't help but open his mouth wide, "You mean the pill formula was improved by a young fellow?"

"Yes."

Elder Tang glanced at Elder Luo who was in shock, "I know you don't believe it, but it's the truth. When you watched me perform alchemy earlier, didn't you think I did a lot of things wrong?"

"Well..."

Elder Luo's face blushed as he glanced at the pill furnace not far away.

"When I watched the young fellow refine Qi Blood Pills before, I had the same thoughts, but then..."

"What happened then?"

Elder Luo couldn't help but ask.

"Then, of the ten Qi Blood Pills refined, nine were top-grade Qi Blood Pills, the remaining one was a heaven-grade Qi Blood Pill."

"What! Heaven-grade!"

Elder Luo's mouth dropped open, his eyes were fixed as if frozen.

He thought one of the Qi Blood Pills was top-grade.

After all, the batch of Qi Blood Pills Elder Tang had just refined had that quality.

But it turned out to be heaven-grade! So far, the entire Martial Arts Association hasn't produced a heaven-grade Qi Blood Pill!

"Don't you believe it?"

Elder Tang gestured at Chang Fei next to him, "You can ask him, he was on site at that time."

Elder Luo turned his eyes slowly like a puppet.

"Yes, Elder Luo," Chang Fei nodded seriously, "Brother Chen indeed refined heaven-grade Qi Blood Pills, both Elder Tang and I saw it with our own eyes, we won't be mistaken."

"Heaven-grade..."

Elder Luo murmured softly.

Then he thought of something and looked at Elder Tang eagerly, "Old Tang, that's too selfish of you. Such a good thing, you didn't tell me, you practiced secretly here by yourself?"

"Cough, cough."

Elder Tang's face turned red, looking towards the corner wall guiltily, "I was just paving the way for you first."

"Nonsense!"

Elder Luo burst out a curse, "I think you simply wanted to master it first and then show off in front of me. Hmph, having known you for so many years, others might not know your thoughts, but how could I not?"

"Chang Fei, you also have the improved formula, right? Send it to my email when you get back. No,"

He grabbed Chang Fei's hand, urging, "Send it to me right now."

"Alright, alright," Chang Fei agreed quickly, patting Elder Luo's hand, "Elder Luo, it's not urgent..."

"What do you mean it's not urgent?"

Before he finished, Elder Luo's beard fluffed up as he glared, "Such an important matter and you say it's not urgent, then what is?"

"No, Elder Luo, hear me out first."

Chang Fei laughed bitterly.

"Right!"

Elder Tang suddenly stood up from his chair, "Chang Fei, I recall you mentioned earlier that the young man has more formulas for us? Did I hear wrongly?"

"What? More formulas?" Elder Luo became even more anxious, "What formula this time? Is it heaven-grade Qi Blood Pill?"

"Heaven-grade Qi Blood Pill?"

Elder Tang's breathing also grew rapid.

Heaven-grade Qi Blood Pill!

For alchemy, being able to refine such high-quality pills is undoubtedly an immense glory!

The martial artists in the association would greatly benefit from it.

Plus, they could proudly flaunt it before alchemists from other Martial Arts Association divisions.

"It's not that."

Chang Fei shook his head, smiling, "But it's equally impressive."

"What is it exactly? Hurry up and say!"

Both of them said in unison.

"True Qi Pill, it's the improved True Qi Pill formula." Chang Fei hurriedly replied.

"What, True Qi Pill!"

"True Qi Pill formula!"

Both elders looked at each other and their eyes showed shock.

Elder Tang was the first to react, quickly asking, "What is the effect of the improved formula?"

"Brother Chen said, with the improved formula, the probability of producing top-grade True Qi Pill can reach eighty to ninety percent."

After saying this, Chang Fei took a deep breath.

As expected, the large alchemy room fell into dead silence again.

The two elders' minds buzzed.

With the association's True Qi Pill formula, being able to produce three True Qi Pills in one batch is considered lucky, usually it's around two pills, and if unlucky, just one pill.

Yet, this improved formula can increase the probability of producing top-grade True Qi Pill to eighty to ninety percent?

That's simply three or four times more!

Is this really possible?

"Chang Fei, did he call you?" Elder Tang reacted, asking.

"Yes."

Chang Fei nodded, "Brother Chen contacted me initially. I thought he had changed his mind and wanted to come to headquarters. Surprisingly, his first sentence was to ask if I wanted the improved True Qi Pill formula and that he could sell it cheaper."

"This kid, really obsessed with money!"

Elder Tang sighed, then added, "Quick, quick, connect the communication, I want to see if what he says is true this time."

"Yes, hurry." Elder Luo also urged repeatedly.

Chang Fei was eagerly looking forward to it, pulling out his phone, and calling Chen Fan.

In less than three minutes, they were engaged in a video call.

Unlike last time, Chen Fan was alone on his end.

Whereas, at headquarters there was now one more person.

"So young!"

Seeing Chen Fan, Elder Luo exclaimed.

He thought the young man Elder Tang mentioned must be at least in his late twenties or early thirties.

But the person in front of him seemed only in his early twenties. Did the top-grade Qi Blood Pill formula really come from him?

"Brother Chen, let me introduce you, this is Elder Luo, also an alchemist at headquarters. Elder Luo, this is Chen Fan, the young fellow who provided us with the formulas." Chang Fei introduced.

"Elder Luo."

Chen Fan nodded towards the latter.

"Yes, Brother Chen, hello," Elder Luo contained his surprise, asking, "You improved the True Qi Pill formula this time?"

"Yes."

Chen Fan placed the prepared medicinal materials into the alchemy furnace, speaking, "In the past two days, I purchased the association's formulas and refined many times, finding many areas for improvement. Although the process was tough, fortunately the result was good.

With my improved formula, not only does the pill formation probability enhance to eighty to ninety percent, the likelihood of producing top-grade True Qi Pills is about the same."

"!!!!"

The three on the opposite side inhaled sharply at the same time.

The probability of producing top-grade True Qi Pill alone was astonishing,

but even the pill formation probability increased?

This far exceeded their expectations.

Of course, Elder Luo was the most shocked.

He heard Chen Fan say it's been only two or three days since he got the formula, meaning within this short time, Chen Fan not only familiarized himself with the True Qi Pill formula but also found shortcomings and improved it.

This is too incredible!

"Alright, Brother Chen, please demonstrate now." Chang Fei restrained his excitement, saying.

Chen Fan nodded and pressed the button.

The eighty to ninety percent probability of top-grade True Qi Pill was not his refining limit, or rather, it was far from the limit.

The main reason was not to be too ostentatious.

He couldn't possibly produce a formula for top-grade True Qi Pill just a few days after getting the original formula, could he?

Moreover, from a step-by-step perspective, if the headquarters' alchemists obtained a formula that could enhance top-grade True Qi Pill production, they could master it by studying it over time.

If he immediately produced a formula for top-grade True Qi Pill, it would be like giving high school students calculus problems; they would be at a loss.

Of course, he had a bit of a selfish intention.

A formula for top-grade True Qi Pill, saying it's ten times better than a top-grade Qi Blood Pill is not exaggerated, he couldn't bear to sell it to headquarters at a buying price.

But he currently lacked a lot of medicinal materials, so it's better to sell the first-level formula to headquarters outright.

On one hand, it's mutually beneficial, and on the other, he contributes to the growth of the Human Race.

Opposite him, watching Chen Fan proceed orderly with the refinement, Elder Luo's heart was like a bucket of water, he was extremely anxious.

This young fellow, can he really achieve the level he mentioned?

Chapter 277: They Are Called, Demon-Breaking Arrow

Unlike Elder Luo, Elder Tang was highly focused, staring intently at the screen in front of him.

Chang Fei was the same, even though he didn't understand what was happening.

But the shock that Chen Fan brought him last time was still vivid in his memory.

Therefore, he was very willing to believe that Chen Fan could do what he said.

Time slowly passed.

Elder Tang's brows were tightly knit.

It wasn't that he thought Chen Fan was doing something wrong, it was that he found himself gradually unable to understand.

Elder Luo, beside him, felt the same.

He asked himself honestly, his level in refining True Qi Pills was not bad, each furnace could produce four or five finished pills, and if he was lucky, he could even get one or two top-grade True Qi Pills.

But headquarters hoped to improve on the original Qi Blood Pill Formula, so he and Old Tang were transferred here.

But the technique of this young brother in front of him left his mind blank, completely clueless.

"Could it be that his level in refining True Qi Pills has reached a point where even I can't fathom?"

This thought suddenly popped into his mind.

Another ten or twenty minutes passed in the blink of an eye.

On the screen, Chen Fan was still immersed in pill refining.

Chang Fei couldn't help but ask in a low voice, "Elder Tang, does it take this long to refine a furnace of True Qi Pills? It's been almost half an hour, right?"

"What else do you expect?"

Elder Tang shot him a glance, annoyed, "You think refining True Qi Pills is like refining Qi Blood Pills, which can be done in ten minutes? If that were the case, the price of True Qi Pills wouldn't be so outrageously high."

Chang Fei looked embarrassed.

He really didn't know much about this.

"At least forty minutes, minimum."

Elder Luo added.

And that's if everything goes smoothly; if there's a minor accident midway, it could take around fifty minutes.

Right then, a "bang" came from the screen.

"!"

The three of them shuddered and looked at the screen in unison.

"Did I just hear that?"

Elder Luo murmured, disbelief in his eyes.

Did the pill furnace just make a sound?

There are only two reasons this could happen.

Firstly, the pill is successfully refined and comes out of the furnace, which is the most common, and the second is the most dreaded situation for alchemists, an explosion.

If that happens, it means the whole batch of pills is ruined.

And this young Brother Chen in front of them, from starting the process to now, has only taken around 30 minutes? A normal refinements of a furnace of True Qi Pills would take forty minutes.

So, this sound is likely the second situation...

"No, you didn't hear wrong, I heard it too." Elder Tang took a deep breath, his eyes filled with expectation, "This sound is from the successful refining of the pills."

"But?"

Elder Luo sounded like he had heard a tall tale.

"Elder Luo, last time Brother Chen demonstrated refining Qi Blood Pills, he also finished a few minutes early," Chang Fei said softly.

"!"

Elder Luo was greatly shocked.

Various doubts in his heart had yet to be expressed when Chen Fan placed a furnace of steaming pills in front of the camera.

On the big screen, nine pills, the size of a thumbnail, round and golden, lying there, making one gulp just by looking.

"Top-grade True Qi Pills!"

In the next second, the three of them exclaimed in unison.

Their eyes were glued to the screen, unable to move away.

Yes, this batch of finished pills in front of them were all top-grade True Qi Pills!

Nine! Exactly nine!

Exactly as Chen Fan had said before!

Chen Fan stood to the side, feeling lucky.

Even though his technique in refining True Qi Pills had reached a phenomenal level,

he couldn't completely control the quality of the pills refined.

Nine top-grade True Qi Pills, not one more, not one less, just perfect.

Of course, to the three at the headquarters, this was an enormous shock; it would take them at least a minute or two to react.

It was only after three full minutes that Chang Fei swallowed his saliva and said, "Brother Chen, how much for the pill formula, or rather, what's the ratio for the cut?"

A furnace of nine finished pills, and all top-grade True Qi Pills!

Not only him, even the chairman would be greatly tempted.

Elder Tang's lips moved, but he didn't speak.

Because this was True Qi Pills, not Qi Blood Pills.

Still the same as last time, a thirty percent cut?

Too low!

Even if Chen Fan asked for a fifty percent cut, it wouldn't be too high, for even so, there would still be 4.5 top-grade True Qi Pills left. That's nearly double the effect of the association's formula.

And there's one point that can't be ignored, the time!

Time is money, time is life! Especially in this environment.

With Chen Fan's improved pill formula, it takes just ten minutes less to refine a furnace of True Qi Pills,

with the time originally used for three furnaces, you can now refine four!

This way, the gap is significant.

Of course, he still hoped that Chen Fan wouldn't be too harsh and would ask for a slightly lower ratio, like forty percent.

As for Elder Luo, he was still in shock and had not noticed the invisible battle that had begun.

"Chairman, this time, I don't want a cut." Chen Fan smiled slightly.

With those words, Chang Fei and Elder Tang both became tense.

He's not even asking for a cut?

What does he want?

"Brother Chen, whatever you want, just say it. As long as headquarters can produce it, we will definitely give it to you."

Chang Fei forced a smile.

From their last dealings, he deeply understood that this young man in front of them must not be treated as just a young man, or they would suffer a huge loss.

Like when he sharply sensed that one of the two options Chen Fan gave was a trap.

Fortunately, he had been wise enough to choose the seemingly disadvantageous one.

Now it seemed that he made the right choice back then.

Otherwise, would Chen Fan actively reach out to sell them this improved True Qi Pill Formula now? Probably not.

"Buyout."

Chen Fan said directly, "I supply the pill formula, the association provides the contribution points, a fair deal, what do you think?"

"?"

With those words, Chang Fei and Elder Tang looked at each other in confusion.

What are they hearing?

A buyout?

Did they hear it wrong, or did the sun rise from the west?

He didn't want a share but instead wanted to sell it outright?

This made no sense at all?

"Ahem."

Old Tang lightly coughed and said, "Brother Chen, are you serious? You want to sell us the formula outright?"

"What, sell it to us?"

Elder Luo's voice rang out, his eyes glowing with excitement, "Brother Chen, just name your price, we want this pill formula!"

Regarding the previous top-grade Qi Blood Pills or even heaven-grade Qi Blood Pills, he now cared little for them.

All he wanted was to refine top-grade True Qi Pills.

"Price is negotiable."

Chen Fan smiled slightly.

"First, I want a Tier Four Alloy Battle Bow, the higher the draw weight, the better."

The three exchanged glances.

Chang Fei nodded and said, "No problem, and the headquarters will also give you thirty matching armor-piercing arrows. These arrows are extremely sharp and can injure even commander-level fierce beasts."

Tier Four Alloy Weapons typically cost over ten million contribution points.

Bows are more expensive than general weapons like swords or spears; the greater the draw weight, the more expensive the materials.

And, adding the arrows, it might cost several tens of millions, even up to a hundred million.

But ultimately, for merely one or two billion contribution points, to obtain this pill formula, headquarters would be making a huge profit!

Yet, knowing Chen Fan, this was probably just his first demand.

"Regarding the arrows, Chairman, I have another small request."

Chen Fan's voice sounded.

Chang Fei's heart skipped a beat.

He knew it! He knew it was not that simple!

Despite his thoughts, his face maintained a bright smile and a friendly tone, "Brother Chen, speak freely. As long as the headquarters can produce it, we will make it happen."

"Do you have arrows that can ignore protective items?"

Chen Fan frowned, "Chairman, to be honest, I encountered some people from the evil cult during a recent hunt."

"What! You encountered the evil cult people?"

Chang Fei was taken aback, even the other two's faces turned extremely serious.

"What happened then? Are you hurt?"

"Chairman, don't worry, I'm standing right here before you, aren't I?"

Chen Fan smiled, then his smile faded, "When they saw me discovering them, they charged right at me. It looked like they wanted to kill me. Thankfully, I managed to use my advantage of long reach and kited them.

Fortunately, they weren't as fast as me and couldn't hurt me, but it was quite frustrating that my arrows were constantly blocked by a protective shield.

Later, seeing they couldn't do anything to me, they decided to leave. So, Chairman, I'm asking if you have any arrows that can pierce their protective shield. If I encounter them again, I won't let them escape."

After hearing this, the three broke out in a cold sweat.

Though Chen Fan seemed nonchalant, the danger was evident.

Those in the evil cult had lost their humanity, and if an ordinary person fell into their hands, they would suffer more than death.

Chen Fan looked straight into Chang Fei's eyes.

This additional requirement was inspired by the dagger he had.

He couldn't deny that the talismans carried by those awakeners were extremely bothersome, and it would be challenging to kill them from afar unless in melee with a dagger.

So, since there were daggers that could tear through shields, why not arrows that could do the same?

"Brother Chen, such arrows do exist in the headquarters. They are called Demon-Breaking Arrows."

Chapter 278: Gently Flowing Water

"Demon-Breaking Arrow?"

Chen Fan's face showed a look of surprise.

"That's right, Demon-Breaking Arrow."

Chang Fei nodded and said slowly, "The materials for this type of arrow are actually not much different from ordinary Armor-Piercing Arrows.

The defensive items carried by Awakeners are generally made by those with Guardian Element superpowers, and breaking through them requires raw force.

However, if a weapon possesses a demon-breaking attribute, it can easily destroy those defensive items, rendering them ineffective.

We collectively refer to weapons with demon-breaking attributes as Demon-Breaking Weapons, and Demon-Breaking Arrows are just one type among many."

Chen Fan quickly asked, "President, then how are Demon-Breaking Weapons made?"

"They are also made by Awakeners."

A look of caution appeared in Chang Fei's eyes, "There is a type of Awakener that is almost the nemesis of all other Awakeners.

Even powerful A-level Awakeners cannot use their superpowers if targeted by them. These Awakeners are called Demon Breakers.

While most Awakeners can enchant weapons with special abilities such as fire or ice, the weapons enchanted by Demon Breakers become Demon-Breaking Weapons,

They can easily break the protective charms made by Guardian Element Awakeners and put tremendous pressure on Awakeners, preventing them from performing at their best."

"So that's how it is."

Chen Fan suddenly understood.

Demon-Breaking Weapons and Guardian Charms.

It's like using magic to fight magic.

Indeed, Demon Breakers are the nemesis of Awakeners.

However, such being the case, Demon-Breaking Weapons must be hard to come by, right?

Chang Fei's words confirmed his suspicion,

"Such Demon-Breaking Weapons are difficult to buy even within the Awakened Association. If someone publicly possesses one, they would easily be ostracized or even opposed by their peers,

Therefore, usually only Hunters among Awakeners have such weapons, specifically to deal with those who harm the Human Race instead of helping it."

"I see."

Chen Fan nodded repeatedly.

Indeed, if he were an Awakener, he would also fear and despise things that are considered the nemesis of his kind.

The guy who can become invisible, due to his superpower, couldn't even be seen by others, let alone interact with other Awakeners.

In that case, it makes sense for him to possess a Demon-Breaking Weapon. The only question is, how did he come by it?

The next moment, he looked at Chang Fei, filled with anticipation, and said, "President, although Demon-Breaking Weapons are very valuable, you mentioned that they are available at headquarters."

"There are indeed some."

Chang Fei's face showed a pained expression, "But such things are extremely rare and expensive. If you want one, I'll give you one."

"One?"

Chen Fan looked dissatisfied, "President, that's too stingy. One is not enough; at least give me ten."

"Pfft!"

Upon hearing this, Chang Fei almost spat out blood.

He stared at Chen Fan with bull-like eyes as if saying, "Do you know what you're talking about?"

Ten Demon-Breaking Arrows!

You could turn headquarters upside down and not find that many.

"Ahem."

Chen Fan realized that his request might have been a bit too much.

He cleared his throat and said, "President, if ten is too much, then five should be enough.

Think about it, if I'm out hunting and encounter those people again, I can't just shoot one arrow, run over to pick it up, and shoot again, right?

Five would be just right."

"Why don't you come to headquarters directly?" Chang Fei said irritably, "I told you last time that Anshan City is not safe. If you come here, you'll be perfectly safe. Even cultists or Fierce Beasts wouldn't stand a chance."

"No, President, I feel quite comfortable here. I wouldn't get used to headquarters." Chen Fan shook his head.

"Brother Chen," Elder Luo implored, "It's much safer in Jiangnan City compared to Anshan City. Besides, if you come, we can exchange alchemy techniques, can't we?"

"Yes, Brother Chen, you should come here as soon as possible," Elder Tang urged as well.

Chen Fan smiled without saying a word.

Why doesn't he want to go? Don't you all know?

He doesn't want to be like a nanny, demonstrating for Zhang San today and Li Si tomorrow.

What would he get out of that?

"President, if five is too much, how about three? This is my bottom line. If you can't do this, then it's hard for me to believe in your sincerity."

Chen Fan sighed.

"Alright."

Chang Fei gritted his teeth, "Three it is. A Tier Four Alloy Battle Bow, thirty matching Armor-Piercing Arrows, and three Demon-Breaking Arrows. Deal?"

"Deal."

Chen Fan's face lit up with joy.

His intuition told him that the price of a single Demon-Breaking Arrow could be frighteningly high.

And in fact, it was.

If you calculated the cost, each Demon-Breaking Arrow would be worth at least a billion contribution points!

This doesn't even account for the favor owed.

After all, for Demon Breakers, not to mention the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, even some A-level Awakeners are beneath their notice.

Therefore, this favor could be worth as much as three billion, or even thirty billion!

"Besides this condition, do you have any others? If so, state them now,"

Chang Fei added, "No more talking about Demon-Breaking Weapons."

Three Demon-Breaking Arrows had already made him bleed a lot.

Another Demon-Breaking Weapon, like a sword, was out of the question.

"Rest assured, President. Do I not know my limits?"

Chen Fan smiled.

He already had one in his possession.

If he didn't, he wouldn't have let go of this golden opportunity.

Chang Fei grunted, "Speak then, what's your next condition? The sooner we finish, the sooner we can get the pill formula and start refining."

"President, I also want a few Cloud Jade Fruits," Chen Fan laughed.

His current True Qi additive was almost tenfold. Even a small increase in Primordial True Qi would add ten points.

But these are quite expensive in the Awakened Association. Since there's an opportunity, he thought he might be able to get a few from headquarters.

"What, Cloud Jade Fruit?"

Chang Fei exclaimed, his eyes showing a touch of panic, "No, none of those available."

"President." Chen Fan smiled at him.

"One, and no more than that."

Chang Fei thought for a moment, then gritted his teeth.

Such good stuff even made him envious.

"President, one is not an auspicious number. How about we make it two?"

"No, one and no more." Chang Fei rejected immediately.

Seeing this, Chen Fan knew when to stop, "Alright, one it is. President, I have one more condition and this will be the last one."

"You have another condition?"

Chang Fei widened his eyes.

"Let him speak."

"Yes, didn't you hear him say it's the last one?"

Elders Tang and Luo both urged.

They were more anxious about the deal falling through than anyone else.

"Alright, you said this is the last condition. After speaking, I'm not agreeing to a fourth condition."

Chang Fei felt his heart bleeding.

"President, do you think I'm untrustworthy? My last condition, I need a large quantity of True Qi Pill materials." Chen Fan smiled, "At least ten thousand sets."

"Boom!"

It was as if a thunderbolt had struck; the three present were all stunned by Chen Fan's words.

Ten thousand sets of True Qi Pill materials?

Setting aside the question of whether headquarters could come up with that much at once?

Even if they could, at what cost?

Calculating at 200,000 contribution points per set, ten thousand sets mean two billion!

Two billion!

At 1.2 million contribution points per Top-grade True Qi Pill, that's 1600 pills!

With the current efficiency, producing 2 Top-grade True Qi Pills per batch means 800 batches!

Even with Chen's formula, there'd be a learning curve, meaning at least 400 batches.

How many Alchemists in headquarters could meet this standard? A handful.

That means they would be working for Chen for several months!

Considering the demand from other Martial Artists, this could stretch on for a year, even several years...

"One thousand sets!"

He stated directly, "That's the maximum we can manage. Any more, and we're tapped out."

"A thousand sets?"

Chen Fan's eyes widened, as if to say, "How can you say something so cold-hearted with a straight face?"

A thousand sets at two hundred million was far too little!

"President, these are my only two conditions. If you agree, I'll send over the formula right away, and from now, headquarters' Top-grade True Qi Pill production has nothing to do with me."

If the President finds ten thousand sets too much, I can give you time to consider."

"Chang Fei, I think we should agree." Elder Tang sighed, "This kid won't budge without a rabbit. If you don't agree, he won't hand over the formula."

"Yes, Chang Fei, hurry and agree." Elder Luo urged, itching to start using the formula.

"Elder Tang, Elder Luo, a thousand sets is all we can manage!"

"We can gather them slowly."

"Yes, delaying a second could mean a Martial Artist dying at the hands of Fierce Beasts."

Grip tightening, Chang Fei turned his eyes back to Chen Fan, saying, "Fine, Brother Chen, I agree to your third condition, but let's be clear,

Ten thousand sets is more than the association can deliver at once. Even if we could, we need supplies for others too."

"I understand, President, I'm not unreasonable," Chen Fan agreed, "How about detailing in the contract how the ten thousand sets are divided, the delivery schedule, and deadlines?"

"Deal!"

Chang Fei gritted his teeth.

This kid, really treating it like business?

Yet he had to acquiesce, for who knew if the kid wouldn't later produce a formula for the top-grade True Qi Pill?

After some more discussion, they finally hammered out the details.

Elders Tang and Luo wanted to speak more to Chen Fan, but he quickly ended the communication.

The alchemy room returned to calm.

Chen Fan's face broke into a broad smile, "Great, a Tier Four Alloy Battle Bow, three Demon-Breaking Arrows, one Cloud Jade Fruit, and ten thousand sets of True Qi Pill materials.

Absolutely worth the buyout price.

Just wait, until the time is right or if I'm short on money, I'll craft and sell another Top-grade True Qi Pill formula. That's called a steady income."

Chapter 279: Supreme Martial Arts

"This guy is really ruthless!"

The video call ended, and Elder Tang couldn't help but comment.

Do you know what it means to request materials for refining ten thousand True Qi Pills?

Even the headquarters only supplies two to three hundred portions a day. So, with this request, Chen Fan directly wants two months' worth of stock from the headquarters.

"Yeah."

Chang Fei said with a wry smile, "Not just that, he also took three Demon-Breaking Arrows."

"Young Lad Chang, are these Demon-Breaking Arrows really that rare?" Elder Tang couldn't help but ask.

As a non-combatant, his Martial Arts Realm had only reached the Entry Force stage, and that too by forcibly taking a Top-grade Qi Blood Pill, so it made sense he wouldn't know these things.

"Yeah,"

Chang Fei explained, "Two years ago, when our branch office had a good relationship with the Awakened Association, the chairman acquired a large piece of alloy with demon-breaking attributes from them.

After two years of usage, there's hardly any left. Making three Demon-Breaking Arrows is probably the limit. You know, our relationship with the Awakened Association isn't as good as it used to be,

so getting that kind of alloy from them again to make more Demon-Breaking Weapons is probably unrealistic."

The two elders nodded helplessly at his words.

Indeed, in the early years of the Beast Disaster, the Yan Country was united.

But as the situation gradually stabilized over the years, the relationship between the Martial Arts Association and the Awakened Association became more complicated.

The Jiangbei Sub-district Martial Arts Association, which is willing to follow the Awakened Association's lead, naturally received great support.

But if we, the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, were unwilling, the help we received would be minimal.

Seeing their expressions turn serious, Chang Fei smiled and said, "Although we have paid a lot for this, we're the ones who'll benefit."

"Indeed."

Elder Tang snorted.

After all, they had already acquired the pill formula.

After clearing the payment, any number of Top-grade True Qi Pills they produce won't concern Chen Fan.

But he still found it a bit strange. That kid is clearly a money-grubber; how could he make such a choice this time?

It doesn't make sense. After thinking about it for a long time, he couldn't figure it out, so he didn't bother trying further.

"Exactly."

Elder Luo nodded repeatedly and said, "Once that young brother sends over the pill formula, our association's production of Top-grade True Qi Pills will increase several-fold.

By then, you and others in the branch will have enough True Qi Pills to use. The Meridian Refining Martial Artists will also benefit, and in no time, the number of True Essence Realm Martial Artists in the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association will significantly increase!"

He grew more excited as he spoke, his body trembling.

Chang Fei was also thrilled.

There are five Martial Arts Associations in the Yan Country, and the Jiangnan Sub-district is one of them.

Unfortunately, in terms of both Meridian Refining Martial Artists and True Essence Realm Martial Artists, the Jiangnan Sub-district was the worst.

The only thing impressive was the chairman's strength. He might not be the best among the five chairmen, but he was at least in the top two.

Few people knew that the chairman's Five-Thunder Transformation Hand was nearly at the Perfection Realm, and melting Tier Four Alloy Weapons was as easy as playing. The scale armor of Commander-level Fierce Beasts was no match for him.

With enough Top-grade True Qi Pills, he might even break through to the Celestial Human Realm and be able to fight Beast King-level Fierce Beasts!

Thinking of this, he grew more excited.

"Elder Tang, Elder Luo, you continue chatting here. I need to report this to the chairman."

The materials for ten thousand pills were one thing, but the three Demon-Breaking Arrows needed the chairman's approval.

"Alright, go ahead."

Elder Tang nodded.

Seeing Chang Fei made him so pleased that he even looked forward to the next challenge.

As Chang Fei left, Elder Luo sighed and said:

"Truly, the Yangtze waves push forward the waves before them; each generation surpasses the previous one. Elder Tang, honestly, if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't believe such a young guy could have such amazing alchemy talent.

We've been researching it for so many years, increasing the success rate of Top-grade True Qi Pills from ten to twenty percent at most. Yet, he improved it to ninety percent in a few days?"

"Yes."

Elder Tang took a deep breath and said, "A ninety percent pill success rate, with Top-grade True Qi Pills having the same probability. The kid's talent is undeniable. He's just fixated on money."

"Hahaha, so what?"

Elder Luo laughed, "He put in a lot of effort to improve the formula. He shouldn't give it to us for free, should he? If that were the case, who would innovate?

I think it's fine. Clear prices make everyone happy. In fact, I hope there are more like Brother Chen."

Elder Tang was stunned, then nodded firmly.

"Elder Luo, when that kid sends the pill formula, let's not tell anyone first."

He suddenly said softly.

"Huh? Not tell anyone?"

Elder Luo was confused but understood his meaning quickly.

"You don't plan to show off to Old Cai like you did earlier after we've studied it, do you?"

"Hehe, you know me well." Elder Tang gave a thumbs up.

"No way!"

Elder Luo flatly refused.

"You're an old man, acting like a child. Besides, this is a True Qi Pill; it's different from a Qi Blood Pill. Once we get it, we should call everyone to study it. How can you keep it to yourself?"

"Elder Tang, I can agree to anything else, but not this."

"Fine."

Elder Tang looked helpless.

Elder Luo was right, so they should do it his way.

But he planned to urge Chen Fan not to delay the pill formula like last time until the evening.

Meanwhile, in a Cultivation Room five floors underground, a broad-shouldered, tower-like middle-aged man was sparring with a silver-haired youth.

The middle-aged man continuously waved his hands, sending golden palm seals over a meter high, accompanied by faint dragon roars.

A hundred meters away, the silver-haired youth had lightning flashing in his palms, and his aura was impressive.

Seeing the golden palm seals coming, he didn't dodge but charged at them directly.

Just when it looked like he would be hit, he swung his arms and clashed with the palm seals. To his surprise, the golden seals dissipated immediately upon contact.

Thus, one kept retreating and sending out palm seals, while the other kept chasing and clashing head-on.

The silver-haired youth's smile grew, seeming to enjoy the process.

However, the smile soon froze as the lightning in his palms diminished greatly.

"Is your True Essence depleted?"

The middle-aged man stopped, folded his hands behind his back, and nodded slightly, "The Five-Thunder Transformation Hand uses a lot of True Essence. It's impressive you lasted this long. Sit down and regulate your breath."

"Master."

The silver-haired youth looked reluctant.

"Rest."

The middle-aged man shook his head, "The Five-Thunder Transformation Hand is a supreme martial art, consuming far more than the Eighteen Dragon Subduing Palms. Besides, you've made slight progress in it. Entering the hall is just a matter of time. Don't rush; haste makes waste."

"Yes."

The youth reluctantly sat down and began practicing the Supreme Profound Skill to recover his True Essence.

Seeing this, the middle-aged man nodded in satisfaction.

Xiaoyu's talent was top-notch among peers, perhaps even higher than his own. Given time, he would undoubtedly become a strong human race.

Perhaps even comparable to an S-Class Awakened!

The thought ignited a fighting spirit in his eyes.

The magic of martial arts is unfathomable. Its potential is in no way inferior to superpowers.

"Buzz buzz, buzz buzz..."

At that moment, his phone in his pocket buzzed.

Frowning, he realized few people had his number, and those who did wouldn't call unless necessary.

Just as he finished sparring, he had time to check. It was Chang Fei calling.

"Hello? Chang Fei, what's the matter?"

"Chairman, it's good news."

Chang Fei laughed, "I have some fantastic news for you."

"Oh?"

The middle-aged man was none other than the chairman of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, Shi Tao.

He smiled, "News important enough for you to inform me directly must be extraordinary."

"Haha."

Chang Fei laughed, then briefly described what had transpired.

Shi Tao's breathing became labored.

Even Ling Yu, who was meditating, sensed something and opened his eyes.

"So, Chairman, isn't it great news?"

Shi Tao inhaled deeply and suppressed his joy, "If it's really as you said, Chang Fei, then it's fantastic news."

"Chairman, of course, it's true. I even have a video. If you want, I'll send it to you. Oh?"

"What's up?" Shi Tao quickly asked.

"Chairman, you won't believe it, but Chen just sent the pill formula. I'll give it to Elder Tang and the others to study. Before long, our association's Top-grade True Qi Pills will multiply."

"Is that so? Great. I look forward to Elder Tang's good news," Shi Tao smiled.

He had full confidence in what Chang Fei said.

Especially with Elder Tang and Elder Luo present.

"Don't worry, Chairman. Our alchemists are all masters. Soon enough, they'll figure out the key. Chairman, there's something else."

Chang Fei smiled sheepishly.

Chapter 280: Ling Yu's Good Intentions

"Three Demon-Breaking Arrows!"

After listening to Chang Fei's words, Shi Tao let out an exclamation.

"Yes, President," Chang Fei said helplessly, "That kid specifically asked for this. These three were arduously negotiated by me. You don't know how many he asked for initially."

"How many?"

"Ten!"

"Ten!"

Shi Tao's mouth opened wide.

Goodness, that kid really dared to name the price?

"Isn't it exaggerated?"

Chang Fei said crying and laughing, "I said ten was impossible, the headquarters couldn't provide that many. The kid immediately changed it to five being acceptable. Finally, I negotiated it down to three, so President, what do you think?"

"Three then. Since you've already agreed, I can't turn it back now, can I?"

Shi Tao said helplessly.

"Hahaha, President, we were waiting for your word! Honestly, we still profited considerably. Moreover, we're fishing with a long line for a big catch."

"Fishing with a long line for a big catch?" Shi Tao curiously asked, "How do you mean fishing with a long line for a big catch?"

"President, as I mentioned before, Brother Chen first sold us an improved pill formula for top-grade Qi Blood Pills. Today, he sold us an improved formula for top-grade True Qi Pills. Following this pattern,

might he sell us a formula that can refine top-grade True Qi Pills in a month or two?"

Upon hearing this, Shi Tao's breathing became rapid again.

Top-grade True Qi Pill!

Even that guy from the Jiangbei Sub-district rarely gets top-grade True Qi Pills?

If I have this, wouldn't I be able to suppress him tightly?

"Chang Fei, do you think this is really possible?" He asked a bit anxiously.

"Why not try? What if?"

Chang Fei laughed.

"True."

Shi Tao also laughed.

Isn't it just three Demon-Breaking Arrows? His Five-Thunder Transformation Hand has reached perfection, not only could it dissolve divine weapons but also containing the Power of the Five Elements, it can destroy everything in the world.

Most protective talismans made by Awakeners are nullified in front of him.

Moreover, the headquarters already has two or three True Essence Realm Martial Artists with Demon-Breaking Weapons.

These leftover ones can be used to forge three Demon-Breaking Arrows and give it to Brother Chen Fan, just right.

"Alright, President, I won't disturb you then. I'll notify you once Elder Tang and the others succeed."

"Okay, I'll wait for your good news."

Shi Tao hung up the phone, his face beaming with a smile.

"Master, was that a call from Uncle Chang?" Ling Yu couldn't help but ask, "What exactly is it that makes you so happy?"

"Haha, good news, very good news."

Shi Tao laughed twice, said, "Isn't it always that you complain about insufficient top-grade True Qi Pills provided by the association?"

"Master, do you mean?"

"That's correct. The association has produced a genius alchemist who improved the pill formula. The improved formula not only increased the pill success rate for True Qi Pills to 90%, but the probability for top-grade True Qi Pills also reached 90%, three to four times higher than before."

"Really!"

Ling Yu was greatly surprised.

"Hehe, Chang Fei and Elder Tang saw it themselves, how can there be any falsehood?"

Shi Tao laughed, "Chang Fei said that Brother Chen already sent the formula via email. Presumably, Elder Tang and the others have already received it now, with the skills of Elder Tang and the others, it won't be long before

we'll have double the top-grade True Qi Pills."

Upon hearing this, Ling Yu swallowed hard.

Double?

That would at least double his cultivation speed.

If it multiplies several times,

wouldn't his cultivation speed be several times faster?

By then, those guys from Cao Country will surely be amazed and submit to him wholeheartedly, and Ouyang Juan, the proud girl considered its jewel, might also feel attracted to him?

Thinking of this, he couldn't help but lean forward, "Master, you said Elder Tang and the others, witnessed Chen Fan refining an entire batch of top-grade True Qi Pills?"

"Yes, what's wrong?"

"Master, since Chen Fan can refine it, why don't we bring him over here to do the alchemy?"

Ling Yu asked.

If the person comes over, and refines pills for himself, wouldn't his cultivation speed immediately increase?

Better than waiting for Elder Tang and the others to fully understand it?

"This..."

Shi Tao frowned.

Yes, how did he forget about this?

Brother Chen living in Anshan City, Anshan City, what kind of place is that? Small city, nowhere near as safe as here?

Thinking of this, he pulled out his phone and called Chang Fei.

After hearing his words, Chang Fei said with a bitter smile, "President, it's not that I don't want to, Brother Chen is unwilling?"

"Unwilling?" Shi Tao queried, "Why would he be unwilling? Isn't the headquarters safer than Anshan City?"

"Sigh, President, stated that, but the kid is stubborn, no matter what refused. Probably has some unspeakable reasons?" Chang Fei guessed.

"Rest assured President, I've had people watch Anshan City round the clock via satellite. If any real danger breaks out, I'll have someone immediately rushed over and bring him here."

"That's all we can do."

Shi Tao felt helpless, hung up the phone.

"Master, how about it?"

Ling Yu asked impatiently.

Shi Tao shook his head, "Brother Chen isn't convenient. Your Uncle Chang mentioned it several times, but he didn't agree, prefers to stay in Anshan City."

"Inconvenient, what inconvenience?" Ling Yu said unhappily, "Isn't he our association's member? Daring to disobey the President's orders? Master, why not command him to come immediately."

Upon hearing this, Shi Tao frowned, "Xiaoyu, in our association, members are partners, not subordinate superiors, understand?

Moreover, if he is unwilling, we can't force him against his will, can we."

"However,"

Ling Yu said anxiously, "Master, my suggestion also considers us. Think about it, he is currently just a Meridian Refining Martial Artist, while we are in the True Essence Realm. Only when we grow stronger can the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association become stronger, the Human Race become stronger,

him refining pills for himself, what's the point? He just a Meridian Refining Martial Artist, no matter how many top-grade True Qi Pills he consumes, what's the point? Can he break through to True Essence Realm, unknown? Even if possible, waiting time? A year, two, or five?

Instead, if the top-grade True Qi Pills he refines are for us, it would be different. Master, you can quickly break through to the Celestial Realm, and I can quickly reach the Second Realm of True Essence, right?"

"Shut up!"

Shi Tao scolded, "Xiaoyu, how could you have such thoughts?"

"What's wrong thinking this way?"

Ling Yu said unyieldingly.

"Of course it's wrong. Would you want to be someone else's tool? Moreover, brother Chen also pursues martial arts, willing to share his improved formulas with the headquarters is already kind enough, how can you force him to come and make pills? You're too impudent."

Ling Yu heard, bowed his head, ears flushed red.

Shi Tao noticed his severe tone, apologized considering cultivation worked kindly usually.

"Alright,"

He cleared his throat, "Forget what you said. Don't worry, considering the capabilities of those in the association, soon, we have more top-grade True Qi Pills, understood?"

"Understood."

Ling Yu responded but mentally scoffed.

If those elders were so capable, why haven't they improved the success rate for top-grade True Qi Pills until now?

So now got the pill formula, not sure when they'd understand, able to refine, how long?

Better getting Chen here, refining for us while instructing them.

But Shi Tao unappreciative, scolded, truly ignorant.

Since unclaimed, he'll reap it himself.

Just a Meridian Refining Martial Artist, becomes his pill-refining tool, grateful fortune.

Further he reaches Celestial Realm, Chen benefits shine along.

...

"Ah-choo!"

Anshan City, in the alchemy room, Chen Fan sneezed loudly.

"What's going on? Somebody badmouthing or plotting against me?"

Chen Fan muttered.

Scavenging Tang Elder's image.

Wondering if Tang secretly cursing?

"Never mind, alchemy paramount."

Shaking head, gazed at two pill bottles ahead.

Both top-grade True Qi Pills.

He just refined later batch, paired instructional video sent with formula.

Headquarters responded.

Three Demon-Breaking Arrows and Tier Four Alloy Battle Bow arriving tomorrow afternoon.

Regarding one thousand True Qi pill ingredients supply, too overwhelming daily thousand share delivery.

"Tier Four Alloy Bow with Sun-Shooting Arrow potency, how high increased? Even Beast Tide commanding several Commander-level Fierce Beasts, remains unthreatened, plus three Demon-Breaking Arrows."

Chen Fan thought,

Having it, two days for Celestial God Fruit pick if faced by Du Hao's Awakeners confrontation easing substantially.

Of course, enough time before travel.

First, True Essence Realm breakthrough.

"Testing top-grade True Qi Pill effects."

Ready resolved, took bottle, extracted pill swallowed.

Pure True Qi began to surge, vanished.

[Consumed top-grade True Qi Pill, gained 1 million Potential Points!]

Information flashed mentally.

"1 million? Similar to low-grade Divine Gathering Pill?"

Chen Fan muttered.

Single pill, million potential, seemed substantial.

Still, expectation slightly under.