

Medical 1011

Chapter 1011 Spirit Wind Bamboo

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After all... no one in the Cultivation World has ever been so extravagant as to enhance the soil spiritually, all for planting ten stalks of spiritual bamboo...

Even renowned masters of spiritual enhancement wouldn't think of doing such a thing; it's simply too wasteful.

Seeing the fusion of spirit bamboo growing well now, Yan Xiaobao felt very pleased. He turned around, continued jogging in the yard, while studying the plants and vegetation in the jade slip.

The sun set, and the sky grew dark. Given that the Spirit Wind Bamboo stalks have grown over a meter tall and apparently haven't reached their full height, it's hard to say... how tall they will be in three months...

That night, Yan Xiaobao finally dropped the jade sliding plate. After strenuous effort, he finally completely remembered all 10,000 types of plants and vegetation. He even found some areas in the medicinal plants' descriptions revealing their conflicts with other medicinal plants.

"Tomorrow morning, I will look at the second volume on plants and vegetation. I wonder what the testing results at the Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion will be. Can I really pass?"

Yan Xiaobao shook his chin, flicked his sleeve. He was just about to say some bold words, but felt somewhat anxious. Clearing his throat, he picked up the jade sliding plate again and started studying more. He couldn't shed the fear of problems cropping up during the test. At dawn the next morning, Bai Xiaochun woke early. As soon as he stepped out of his cabin, he looked at the Spirit Wind Bamboo, seeing it standing taller than an average person. He nodded with satisfaction before leaving the yard, heading towards the Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion.

Sunlight rose from the horizon, casting beams of light in all directions. The multicolored sunlight dancing through the mist was truly a spectacular sight. Yan Xiaobao hurriedly walked along a path with many

other Outer Sect disciples. He didn't recognize any of them, which made him suddenly miss his elder brothers from the oven.

"I wonder how big brother is doing, and the third fatty..." he sighed inwardly, walking for about an hour as the sun rose higher. Finally, he spotted the Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion in the distance, alongside ten imposing stone steles set up outside.

These stone steles are the iconic feature of the Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion. Green light emanated from them, shooting up a hundred meters or more. It was a stunning sight, like ten giants standing there, completely intimidating.

Words were visible on the surface of the steles, with a ranking system from one hundred to one.

At the top, there were no names, just various images, which were actually the badges of various Outer Sect Pharmacists who had become well-known at the Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion.

Each pharmacist had a unique badge, which they used to mark the satisfactory spiritual medicines they concocted. It was a tradition with a long history, an important honor for all pharmacists.

The last time he came here, Hou Yunfei had briefly explained all this. But now, Yan Xiaobao had returned alone, and he couldn't help but stare at the ten stone steles.

The first thing that caught his attention was the eye-catching badge on the first position of the foremost stele.

It was a magical bottle![1]

According to Hou Yunfei, that magical bottle was... Zhou Xinqi's badge!

This name was not unfamiliar to Yan Xiaobao. When he was still a servant, he remembered sitting under the moonlight once, while Fatty Zhang nibbled on a ginseng root and sighed about Zhou Xinqi.

She came from a Mortal Clan, discovered years prior by a high-ranking sect member who sensed she had extraordinary potential. When she arrived at the sect and underwent the formal testing, her innate talent caused a huge stir within the Spiritual Flow Sect. According to sect rules, it's irrelevant how high one's potential talent is; they cannot automatically become an Inner Sect disciple. Hence, Zhou Xingqi was like all others selected from other peaks of the South Shore. They all trained hard in the Outer Sect. Yet, the cultivation resources they could acquire were actually provided by the Inner Sect.

Everyone knew Zhou Xingqi would soon prove herself and become an Inner Sect disciple.

Most importantly, she was very beautiful, which garnered wide admiration from numerous male disciples.

Due to all these reasons, she was very famous on Xiangyun Peak. In fact, the Inner Sect disciples didn't view her as belonging to the Outer Sect. Even the conservative Inner Sect was concerned about her.

As Yan Xiaobao pondered all these things, he suddenly grew curious about Zhou Xingqi. Then he moved from one stone stele to another, closely observing the ten stone steles. Soon, he was almost speechless.

"Zhou Xingqi is amazing. Her name ranks first on eight positions across these ten steles! As for the other two, I don't see her name at all; presumably, she hasn't competed in those!" Yan Xiaobao's eyes swept over all the steles, wide like plates.

By now, the number of disciples gathered around the Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion had swelled considerably. Yan Xiaobao stepped away from the steles, finding the spot where he could exchange for the second volume of plants and vegetation in the jade slip. As he looked around, he realized there were indeed many people present, almost as if they'd gathered in advance for some reason. Suddenly, he heard people talking excitedly.

Chapter 1012 Spirit Wind Bamboo_2

"Sister Zhou is here!"

"Hahaha! So the rumors are true! Sister Zhou is here today. We didn't waste our time!"

"Sister Zhou has already taken the lead in the Fifth Volume of Plants and Vegetation and the three volumes of spiritual creatures. This time, she will surely challenge the Fourth Volume of Soul Creatures!"

The buzzing conversation ebbed and flowed, and the crowd grew larger. Yan Xiaobao found himself trapped in the middle, but luckily, he was not as fat as he used to be. After a bit of jostling, he managed to make his way to the front. Just like that, he lifted his head and saw a bright light dancing in the sky.

It was the blue flying silk, and standing upon it was a young woman dressed in Outer Sect attire. Her long black hair fluttered behind her; she had narrow phoenix-like eyebrows and eyes as cold as the moon. Her complexion was lovely, and her figure was slender and graceful.

As she flew towards one of the ten steles, the surrounding Outer Sect disciples cheered. She landed effortlessly and headed straight into a small cabin below the stele without even looking around.

It was only at this point that Yan Xiaobao noticed that there were small cabins at each of the ten steles. In fact, people were constantly moving in and out of them, including the cabin the young woman had just entered.

The surrounding disciples were extremely excited. Yan Xiaobao glanced around, found a disciple who looked thinner and weaker than the others, and walked towards him.

Then he shouted loudly, "Finally, I can see Sister Zhou again. This time she will surely take first place on the ninth stele!"

After that, he turned to the scrawny guy to inquire more about what was going on. Considering the young man was in a good mood, he quickly provided a detailed explanation.

"Sister Zhou aims to become the first person ever to claim first place at all ten steles from ancient times to now. She's the only one who might achieve it. All she has to do is take the test of the Fourth and Fifth Volume of Spiritual Beings, and she'll undoubtedly be first in both!"

Yan Xiaobao thought that the most critical thing was obtaining the second batch of plants and vegetation, which meant he had to take the test in the appropriate cabin. If he succeeded, then the volume was his. Therefore, he began to make his way through the crowd towards the first stele. It wasn't easy, and once he arrived there, he found all the cabins already occupied. After waiting for a while, he saw a discouraged disciple emerge from one, but this didn't dissuade him. He immediately entered the cabin.

Once inside, it was as if he had completely detached from the noise of outside; everything here was quiet. The cabin wasn't large, and in the middle of it, in front of a small stele, lay a prayer mat.

Yan Xiaobao sat cross-legged in the prescribed manner, then pulled out the jade containing the first batch of plants and vegetation. He placed it on the stele and then sank into a state of concentration. The stele hummed and began to glow.

"According to what my brother outside said, now is when I decide what badge will designate me as a Pharmacist." After thinking for a moment, he smiled and drew the image of a turtle. He liked turtles, and although his drawing was a bit misshapen and ugly, it looked quite nice to him.

The turtle badge flashed several times. Yan Xiaobao took a deep breath. He settled his Qi and cleared his thoughts, his eyes beginning to brighten. Finally, he slowly reached out his hand and placed it on the stele. At the moment he touched it, a rumbling sound filled his mind, and his vision swam. When clarity returned, he was no longer in the cabin but in a fantastical world.

Before he could acclimate to the surroundings, light flashed in front of him, and countless medicinal plants appeared, filling his vision.

Not a single medicinal plant was whole. Instead, they were divided into ten or more fragments, all scattered about.

Just by looking around, it was impossible to discern how many plants there were in total.

This method of testing at the Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion was feared by countless Outer Sect disciples of Xiangyun Peak. Over the years, many disciples had taken the test only to feel it was completely futile. Therefore, if your name enters the top 100 on the stele, you become the object of envy and recognition among the masses.

It was particularly true for the top position, which led to widespread fame.

A cold and unfeeling voice suddenly rang out: "During the burning of incense, reassemble the Elf Plant. Your test results will be based on the total number you put together. You can start now."

"Is that all?" Yan Xiaobao thought. He could scarcely believe it. He had immersed himself in studying the medicinal plants within the jade and had already identified hundreds of medicinal plant parts he could assemble.

He had been very worried about this test, but now that he saw what it involved, he felt relieved. However, he still didn't completely relax.

"It's not easy. Given how simple the test seems, the final goal must be very high." Feeling tense again, he quickly waved his fingers in the air, pointing towards a dozen medicinal plant fragments. These fragments immediately pieced together, forming two medicinal plants.

Next, he waved both hands in the air, not even pausing as he sent numerous plant fragments flying and coming together. One by one the medicinal plants formed until he soon had 100.

He lifted his head and thought for a while, his spirit rallying. Adjusting everything else, he focused entirely on the medicinal plant fragments, his hands flying quickly. Then he suddenly thought about the terrible possibility of failing the test and, with a more determined resolve, went all out. His eyes were completely bloodshot, his hands moving even faster.

100 plants. 200 plants. 300 plants. 500 plants... 1000 plants!

Sweat poured from his face, white steam rising from the top of his head, his hands flying. He scanned around and immediately found more medicinal plant parts he could assemble. He had constantly devoted himself to this process ever since studying the medicinal plants of the jade; he reached a point where he wished he could grind them into powder for further research.

However, that was impossible, so he could only painstakingly examine them until he felt he completely understood them.

If any disciples outside could see what was happening, they would find it unbelievable. To them, this test was terrifying, making the hair on the back of their necks stand. No one could imagine how thoroughly Yan Xiaobao had studied the jade medicinal plants.

Time flew by. 2,000 plants. 3,000 plants....

Yan Xiaobao's eyes were entirely bloodshot as he forced his hands to follow his thoughts. He even relied on the power of Level 4 Qi Condensation, fearing he couldn't keep up.

Regardless of how fast his speed was, he was uncertain about passing, so all he could do was grit his teeth and continue pressing forward.

4,000 plants. 5,000 plants. 6,000 plants. 7,000 plants....

He wasn't sure how much time had passed, with some plant fragments remaining. Suddenly, light began to flash all around, and his vision blurred. The cabin came back into view, with the jade sliding plate appearing on the surface of the stele. It was the same slide he presented earlier, containing the first batch of plants and vegetation.

"I missed some, but only a few..." he thought anxiously. After picking up the jade, he walked out of the cabin, feeling thoroughly dispirited. Just then, he heard cheers from outside.

He looked up in the direction of the cabin that Zhou Xinqi had entered. As she emerged, her name suddenly appeared in the first place.

"Hahaha! Sister Zhou did it! Didn't I say she'd get another unprecedented first place!?"

"She absolutely deserves the recognition of the spiritual meridians of plants and vegetation. The choices for her future are endless!"

"Sister Zhou, we will wait for you to set another record. When you achieve first place in all ten, the grand Spiritual Stream Bell will notify the entire sect!" All the surrounding Outer Sect disciples cheered. Although some looked displeased, and some harsh words were spoken, they were drowned out by overwhelming applause. Zhou Xinqi's status among the disciples here was like the sun in the sky. In fact, nearly everyone had faith in Fragrant Cloud Peak.

Though she was generally cold, the applause from the surrounding disciples inevitably made her feel somewhat pleased, and she smiled slightly. That smile made the cheers even louder.

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Chapter 1013 Alarm Sounds

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Yan Xiaobao stood in the crowd, very envious of her. He muttered to himself and turned to look at the first stele, his eyes suddenly widening. As he looked down at the jade slip with the first batch of plants and vegetation, after careful examination, he realized that besides the original 10,000 types, another 10,000 had been added. His heart suddenly rejoiced.

Then he turned to look at the first stele, seeing the emblem above the magic bottle was the image of a turtle. Suddenly, he felt amazing.

He initially intended to leave immediately. But now, he excitedly waited to hear the audience start cheering for his achievement. However, he quickly found that everyone was focused solely on Zhou Xinqi, not even noticing what had just happened. In fact, Zhou Xinqi was also preparing to leave.

Yan Xiaobao suddenly began to feel nervous. He blinked his eyes and shouted in his most surprised voice: "Look! Sister Zhou is no longer in first place on the first stele! Someone has replaced her! How strange! Now there is a really cool turtle there. I wonder who drew it?"

His voice pierced through the cheers, and when people heard the shocking nature of what he said, they began to turn to look at the stele. Faces quickly dropped, alarm bells ringing.

This, in turn, caused more people to spin in shock. As more and more people began to stare at the words on the first stele, incredulous expressions could be seen.

"The first one... someone actually surpassed Sister Zhou on the first stele!"

"Impossible! Heaven! Someone surpassed Sister Zhou, and there's that ugly turtle. Who could it be?!"

"In terms of plant and vegetation skills, can someone really challenge Miss Zhou? This is groundbreaking!! Sister Zhou just achieved first place on the ninth stele, but she still only holds eight first places!"

Everyone was in uproar, murmurs filling the air. Not long ago, everyone was cheering for Zhou Xinqi, unprepared for such an occurrence.

Yan Xiaobao stood in the crowd, very pleased with himself, almost laughing. However, he knew that wasn't quite appropriate, so he held back. Instead, like everyone else around him, he shouted out in shock.

Actually, he never had a clue that he might actually take first place.

At that moment, Zhou Xinqi, who had just left, suddenly trembled where she stood. Hearing the shouting surrounding her, her Phoenix-like eyes turned to look at the first stele, where she saw the turtle at the first spot.

At first, she frowned, but then her expression calmed down. In fact, she wasn't even shocked. As far as she was concerned, when she achieved first place in the test of the first batch of plants and vegetation, it was shortly after she was promoted to the Outer Sect. Back then, she didn't put in as much effort in the test as she did, let alone the progress she made since then.

"Not bad," she said coldly. "It seems this sect might have a new rising star." With that, as she shot towards the first stele, her body flickered.

In her view, this was a simple matter. The moment someone surpassed her, she would reclaim her spot.

Her actions immediately excited a group of disciples. As Zhou Xinqi entered the small cabin to test the first batch of plants and vegetation, everyone watched in anticipation.

"Sister Zhou will retrieve the first place that belongs to her! Whoever drew this turtle looks good. Unfortunately, he can only remain in first place as long as the incense burns."

"Well, that's how it should be. In terms of plants and vegetation, he is definitely a choice. He encountered Sister Zhou, which is truly unlucky."

Hearing what everyone was saying, Yan Xiaobao began to feel nervous. He not only ran out of time, but Zhou Xinqi was too well known.

Even he himself began to think he might belong in second place.

"Ah, that's alright," he comforted himself. "If I'm in second place, then I'm in second place. Anyway, men shouldn't compete with women!" He wanted to leave but couldn't bring himself to do it. He couldn't help but wonder if he might lose what he just won.

Soon, enough time for incense to burn passed, and the list hadn't changed. Yan Xiaobao still held first place, with Zhou Xinqi now walking out of the cabin. Her expression was calm, fully confident, having pieced together 4,000 of the 10,000 medicinal plants using 80% of her skills.

From her perspective, she had already surpassed all other talented disciples.

However, as she walked out, she realized silence. In fact, all eyes were on her with strange expressions, even looking shocked.

She stared blankly around, then turned to check the stele. It was at this moment she realized that the magic bottle representing her name was still beneath the ugly turtle.

Everything was quiet, with all the surrounding disciples, even Yan Xiaobao, staring with mouths agape. Yan Xiaobao then looked at Zhou Xinqi, realizing that besides looking good... maybe she wasn't all that special after all.

Zhou Xinqi squinted her eyes, then her expression returned to normal.

"This person truly has some talent in plants and vegetation. Now, I'm a bit curious, wondering who he is." Her body flickered, and she once again entered the small cabin.

Chapter 1014 Alarm Sounds

This time, Yan Xiaobao didn't even think about leaving. He stood among the crowd, eagerly holding his breath. The surrounding Outer Sect Disciples no longer discussed the matter loudly. Instead, they whispered in hushed tones, watching the scene unfold before their eyes.

Moreover, many of them glanced at the turtle emblem, which now seemed entirely mysterious to them. After enough time for incense to burn, Zhou Xinqi appeared once again, increasing this aura of mystery.

The turtle... is still on top!

Yan Xiaobao's eyes widened, and then he shouted loudly, stirring up the other disciples: "Heavens, who is this person!?!?"

Finally, the crowd, which had remained silent until now, burst into conversation.

"Sister Zhou tried twice but couldn't surpass the turtle! How could this happen? How many medicinal plants did this person complete!?"

"Did anyone see the brother who just took the exam?"

Zhou Xinqi stood under the Stele, frowning. Previously, she had used all the skills she possessed to piece together 6,000 plants. She couldn't imagine she would still be stuck in second place.

Her eyes narrowed, and as she turned and walked back to the small cabin, she gave a cold stare, her gaze extremely serious.

After enough time for incense to burn, she appeared once more, her expression solemn. She turned back again, spending the same time before appearing, her face pale. With a determined expression, she entered once more.

Once. Twice. Three times. Four times....

As they watched Zhou Xinqi try again and again, the surrounding cultivators gasped for air. However, the ultimate result was that everyone fell completely silent.

The scene playing out before them was terrifying. They could never have imagined that the person with the turtle emblem could piece together so many medicinal plants, so thoroughly surpassing Zhou Xinqi.

From then on, everyone was completely crushed by the turtle.

Particularly Zhou Xinqi, who appeared once more, her beautiful eyes filled with blood. Everyone in the audience was breathless.

Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but clear his throat. Now, he couldn't blurt out and claim to be the first-place person. However, the desire to do so was like a restless cat itching in his heart. In truth, it was a wonderful feeling.

"Now's not the time," he thought. "I will find an opportunity in the future to showcase a grand scene in front of everyone. I will make sure everyone knows that the person occupying first place on the first Stele is me, Yan Xiaobao!" Looking up, he realized it had turned dark, yawned, and appeared like a solitary hero.

"With a flick of the fingers, I, Yan Xiaobao, reduced Zhou Xinqi to ash..." Subsequently, he turned around, spun around, and walked through the crowd.

As he left, Zhou Xinqi gritted her teeth stubbornly entering the small cabin again to test the first batch of plants and vegetation....

Finally, with the moon hanging high in the sky, Zhou Xinqi stood there, utterly exhausted, staring at the turtle. She could never have predicted such a day would occur.

The crowd left, and the turtle's tale became the talk of Xiangyun Peak.

People would think the matter settled, but the next day, when the sun shone upon the 10,000 Pharmacy, the disciples were astonished to see Zhou Xinqi returning and entering the small cabin for the first Stele again. Yet, she failed repeatedly.

One day, two days, three days... for a full three days, she never gave up. Soon, gossip about the Turtle Disciple was burning across Xiangyun Peak.

No one had not heard of it, even the inner disciples were discussing it.

Seven days later, Zhou Xinqi stood beneath the Stele, listlessly staring at the turtle. In the past seven days, she had tried repeatedly. She returned with nothing, even pushing herself to piece together 7,000 plants. Yet, she still couldn't surpass that mysterious disciple.

"Who are you?!" she whispered. Finally, she took a deep breath, gritted her teeth, and turned away. She would no longer attempt to compete on the first Stele. Nevertheless, the image of that turtle was now deeply engraved into her mind. Comfortable life as an Outer Sect Disciple on Xiangyun Peak was very good for Yan Xiaobao. Although he missed the delicious food he could buy from the oven, everything else was very satisfactory.

Regarding his progress in cultivation and his research into plants and vegetation, he indeed felt as though he was living a fulfilling life. The only drawback was that his courtyard residence was relatively secluded, with no one to chat with, so he was sometimes bored.

"Are all cultivators this lonely?" he sighed as he stood in the courtyard, looking up at the sky. Somehow, he felt he'd aged and grown up.

The autumn wind had passed, snow occasionally began to fall, leading to a significant drop in temperature. Snowflakes drifted through the air, and the spiritual bamboo in Yan Xiaobao's courtyard grew stronger and healthier. They were now taller than Yan Xiaobao himself, and their color was emerald green. They were like spring in the cold of winter.

It had been a month since he achieved first place on the first Stele of plants and vegetation. However, the second batch of plants and vegetation was far more challenging than he expected, resulting in slow research progress. But this did not change the most important thing for him, which was that Zhou Xinqi had never reclaimed the first place on the first Stele. Unfortunately, Yan Xiaobao still felt a lot of

pressure to be able to piece together all the incomplete medicinal plants that he previously couldn't complete.

Chapter 1015 Alarm Sounds (Part 3)

"I now have an astounding reputation. I can't let that Zhou Xinqi surpass me." From that moment, Yan Xiaobao resolved to keep working hard until he achieved his secret goal of proudly announcing to everyone that he is the Pharmacist Tortoise.

Despite his slow progress on the second batch of plants and vegetation, his cultivation of the Immortal Eternal Life Skill was rapidly approaching the level where he could achieve a complete small circulation.

Although the pain only continued to worsen, Yan Xiaobao remained entirely focused on "immortality" and "living forever."

"Three more days. According to the description of the Immortal Eternal Life Skill, I will complete a small cycle in three days." Yan Xiaobao took a deep breath, clenched his teeth, and continued to pace quickly in the courtyard while studying the second volume of plants and vegetation.

Three days passed quickly. On the evening of the third day, it began to snow, covering the Spiritual Flow Sect in a glittering silver.

As a tremor coursed through him, Yan Xiaobao was running when he suddenly stopped in place. The pain he had endured for the past eighty-one days suddenly vanished.

A surge of heat exploded within him, converging on his skin, feeling as if he were being baked in an oven.

Snowflakes melted before they could even reach him, instantly turning into a white mist.

"It worked!" Despite his parched throat, he exclaimed jubilantly. Though he felt as if he were on fire, when he looked down, he saw a black light flowing through his skin, circulating around him and then disappearing.

Then he poked his arm with his right hand, marveling at how resilient it had become. His eyes gleamed, and his limbs quivered slightly. He could immediately tell he was much faster than before. He started to run forward and then appeared several meters away in the blink of an eye, causing an astonishing noise.

His speed now may be twice what it was before. Overjoyed, Yan Xiaobao ran back and forth to test his new speed, feeling very satisfied.

Without further hesitation, he used the mnemonic of the Immortal Eternal Life Skill to continue practicing cultivation. This new method involved closing his mouth and nose and attempting to breathe through his skin. Inhaling and exhaling counted as a minor cycle. He needed to practice eighty-one small cycles a day for eighty-one days to complete a small circulation.

If he could manage that, then along with the painful small circulation he had already completed, he would achieve preliminary success in obtaining the Immortal Skin.

After practicing a few times, Yan Xiaobao got the hang of it and strived to complete a small cycle. Afterwards, his body appeared even more gaunt.

He also felt extremely hungry, with a rumbling sound coming from his stomach. He ignored this, continuing to breathe, causing his body to become thinner. After inhaling and exhaling fifteen times, his body looked like nothing more than a bag of bones.

It seemed as if all the nutrients within him had been sucked away. However, his skin looked more elastic than before.

Yan Xiaobao could no longer bear it. His vision was gradually fading, and his eyes had turned greenish from the indescribable hunger consuming him. He was so ravenous that he felt he could eat an entire elephant.

"This isn't working, I'm starving!" He looked around, drooling, only to realize there was nothing to eat except the lush bamboo he was growing, which suddenly looked appealing in this moment of desperation.

Driven by overwhelming hunger, he rushed toward the winter bamboo of the Spirit and took a bite from one.

A crunching sound could be heard as he tore off a large chunk and started devouring it. After swallowing, his face contorted, and he shuddered from the bitter taste.

"Too bitter... I need to eat some real food...." He suddenly missed the oven more than ever before. He had never been this hungry in his life, so famished that he felt as though he might faint. His eyes became even greener, and he gasped for breath. Finally, he hurriedly left the courtyard.

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Chapter 1016 Six Truths

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He ran along the mountain path at an incredible speed, occasionally encountering other Outer Sect Disciples. To them, it felt like the wind was breezing past their bodies, as they stared in shock at Yan Xiaobao running off into the distance.

He came down the mountain and entered the servant area, heading straight for the Roasting Oven. He didn't want to waste time opening the door, so he flew over the gate.

The staff at the Roasting Oven were cooking. Now that Big Fatty Zhang and Third Fatty Hei had left, Second Fatty Huang had become the leader. He was scooping some rice porridge into a bowl when suddenly a gust of wind blew across his face, the bowl had already vanished, replaced by the wide-open mouth of Yan Xiaobao.

"Huh?" Second Fatty Huang was startled, standing there with his mouth agape for a moment. Before anyone could say anything, Yan Xiaobao grabbed a nearby wok, and then began to howl. Obviously, that wasn't enough because he simply dunked his head into the pot, chugging down the porridge...

One wok, two woks, three woks... Yan Xiaobao quickly gulped down a hundred bowls of thin porridge. He seemed like a bottomless pit, still not feeling full.

"Still hungry! This isn't right! I'm so hungry... I need meat!" He frantically looked around and soon caught sight of his elder brother's mountain of meat.

The fat people at the oven stared at Yan Xiaobao in shock. They'd seen hungry people before, but never anyone so ravenous it was like a ghost dying of starvation.

Then they realized he was staring at them, drooling. Second Fatty Huang quickly backed up, shouting, "Ninth fatty, quick, there's some spiritual food we prepared for Elder Zhou in the kitchen!"

Yan Xiaobao's eyes sparkled, and he immediately rushed to the kitchen.

Outside, Second Fatty Huang and the others exchanged frustrated glances.

"Did you see that? That's the fate of someone who becomes an Outer Sect Disciple. Look how hungry little brother is..."

"You'd have to kill me before I'll agree to become an Outer Sect Disciple!" The others were absolutely determined to stick to their decision, even though they felt bad for Yan Xiaobao.

At this moment, Yan Xiaobao was doing his best to control himself and abide by the six truths of the oven. He would only nibble on the edges rather than devour entire items. After all, if he broke the rules, it could affect his elder brother, which is something he would never do.

After drinking the thin porridge and nibbling on the edges of the spiritual food, Yan Xiaobao's hunger lessened slightly. He could handle it now, so he left the kitchen feeling like crying but unable to shed tears. This Immortal Eternal Life Skill was too terrifying. While he no longer had to endure any pain, the hunger was enough to drive someone insane.

"Second brother..." he said, nervously looking at Second Fatty Huang.

Seeing that Yan Xiaobao was back to looking normal, Second Fatty Huang finally breathed a sigh of relief. He came over and sympathetically patted him on the shoulder.

"Little brother, don't worry. Fortunately, we have some food prepared for Elder Zhou. Look at how hungry you are! Ai. From now on, you come back often to fill up, okay?"

Yan Xiaobao was very touched. However, he gritted his teeth and decided he would do the opposite. After all, one day if he reached the point of being out of control, he might end up clearing out the entire oven...

Second Fatty Huang and the others escorted him out, and Yan Xiaobao kept sighing as he made the long trek back to Xiangyun Peak. Suddenly, the wonderful, carefree feeling he had earlier vanished, replaced by despair. He was genuinely scared now that he might starve to death.

"I wonder if there have been any Spirit Sect disciples who died of hunger in the past. I absolutely don't want to be the first." Frowning miserably, he was trying to figure out how to solve the food and hunger issue when he suddenly heard a rooster crowing in the distance.

The sound made him stop in his tracks, slowly turn his head, and stare in the direction of the crowing.

"Chicken..." Looking around to ensure no one was watching him, he ducked into a nearby bush, disappearing in a flash. Then he started prowling like a weasel.

A moment later, he appeared outside the enclosure surrounding the Spirit Poultry Breeding Farm on Xiangyun Peak. Inside was a group of proud chickens, as large as calves, with tricolor tails. Yan Xiaobao stared at them with glistening eyes, beginning to drool.

"Meat..." he muttered, then started chuckling, a strange sound, combined with his broad smile, was downright frightening. The Spirit Tail Chickens were much larger than ordinary chickens. They had highly resilient feathers and a very fierce temperament. Once fully matured, they were equivalent to the second level of Qi Condensation.

Their flesh was not only edible, but their blood and bones could be added to medicinal concoctions, and when you burned their tails, they could produce a rare tricolor flame. Therefore, all three mountains on the South Shore of the Spirit Stream Sect had large numbers of Spirit Tail Chickens.

However, they didn't actually belong to the sect itself. Instead, they were the private property of Li Qinghou and the Lords of the other two mountain peaks, who assigned certain disciples to raise and take care of them. On Xiangyun Peak, there were three areas dedicated to breeding them.

Yan Xiaobao crouched in the bushes, looking at the Spirit Tail Chickens. When he worked in the oven, he'd never seen the chickens alive, but he'd eaten the meat and knew it was delicious. Besides, Big Fatty Zhang had once mentioned that they liked to eat Spiritual Worms.

Chapter 1017 Six Truths (2)

After observing the chickens for a while, Yan Xiaobao remained motionless. He didn't do anything reckless but returned down the mountain, where he spent some spirit stones to buy some spiritual worms, then he went back to his courtyard residence.

When he got back, he was so hungry that he almost fainted and immediately started looking around for food.

Soon his gaze fell on the spiritual bamboo, and his eyes began to shine. The bamboo stalks were already about 3 meters tall, as thick as a fist. From the spiritual glow they emitted, they seemed far from ordinary.

Yan Xiaobao quickly rushed over and began circling the bamboo stalks, laughing gleefully as he studied them carefully. Based on his research of plants and vegetation, he quickly identified the toughest stem among the various stalks, then cut it at the base and split it in half.

When it came to stealing chickens, Yan Xiaobao had a very unique method. The key lay in the word "steal" itself. Being able to acquire a chicken without anyone noticing was an art form.

He quickly used some bamboo to make a device called a bamboo cicada.

Since childhood, he had learned from his father how to make bamboo cicadas. It's said that they could effectively capture a range of creatures from chickens to phoenixes. Once the bamboo cicada itself was completed, he wove a string from some bamboo strips. After finishing, he tested the strength of the string, attaching it to the bamboo cicada, and then flew into the dark night.

"I want to eat chicken!!" his stomach grumbled, but his eyes gleamed with a green light. His hunger made him move faster than usual, and he soon arrived at the Spirit Tail Chicken Farm.

As he approached, he tiptoed, placed a spirit worm on the bamboo cicada, and then tossed the bamboo cicada onto the fence. Next, he squatted down to the side, holding the string tied to the cicada.

Inside the fence, there were some small wooden houses where certain Outer Sect Disciples lived and practiced cultivation. The farm was very large, with over a hundred spirit tail chickens, most of which lay on the ground. Some walked around, occasionally arrogantly lifting their heads to look around. After a while, one of the spirit tail chickens seemed to notice something. It turned and walked over. It immediately saw the spirit worm sitting there, prompting it to peck with its beak to grab it.

However, as soon as the spirit tail chicken pecked the spirit worm, at the crucial moment, the bent bamboo piece opened, cleverly forcing the chicken's beak open.

The spirit tail chicken wanted to cry out, but its beak was stuck, and it couldn't make any sound. It then tried to close its beak and crush the bamboo, but the bamboo was too elastic, and its efforts were in vain.

No matter how the spirit tail chicken struggled, it couldn't peek as it was quickly dragged towards the fence, repeatedly falling straight into Yan Xiaobao's hands. Yan Xiaobao quickly used the power of Fourth-level Qi Condensation, channeling a substantial amount of power into his hands, which he used to break the chicken's neck. Then he tossed it into his bag. From the way he moved, he seemed quite adept at this sort of task.

The whole event took only about thirty breaths, with most of the time spent waiting. If not for that, it would have been completed even faster.

Yan Xiaobao excitedly ran back to his courtyard residence, the aroma quickly filling the air. By dawn, the entire chicken was now in Yan Xiaobao's stomach.

The only things left were feathers and scattered bones....

After eating the whole spirit tail chicken, most of Yan Xiaobao's hunger had subsided. With his body replenished, he felt very warm and comfortable.

In fact, he seemed to have more spiritual energy inside him. However, the most noticeable change was related to his Immortal Eternal Life Skill. Yan Xiaobao immediately began breathing exercises, lasting about eight cycles.

With each inhale and exhale, pulsating warmth spread through his body, then converged on his skin. This, in turn, made his skin tougher and more elastic, even flickering with a black light. However, if observed closely, it was as fair and clear as before.

"The Immortal Eternal Life Skill begins with pain, then turns to hunger. This type of cultivation is certainly quite arduous, yet the results are very good." With that, he extended his right hand, and his wooden sword appeared. Then, he carefully tapped the blade lightly against the back of his hand.

The Wooden Sword had a dual spirit enhancement, but when it touched his skin, Yan Xiaobao could feel faint resistance. He stopped any further testing, more convinced than ever that he needed to continue cultivating the Immortal Eternal Life Skill.

"According to the description, Immortal Skin has four stages: iron, bronze, silver, and gold. Now I am just starting. However, if I can persist for eighty-one days... I should be able to develop immortal iron skin." Yan Xiaobao looked around at the scattered chicken bones, and in his heart, he now realized the key to successfully cultivating the bone: immortal iron skin.

"Thank heavens, there are many spirit tail chickens on the mountain," he thought with a smile. He was now more interested in spirit tail chickens than ever.

What he didn't know was that, in the past ten thousand years of Spirit Stream Sect's history, very few had ever cultivated the Immortal Eternal Life Skill. Most ended up giving up during the initial eighty-one days of terrifying torture. Though some managed to keep going, the main issue afterward was how much it cost to continue.

Chapter 1018 The Six Truths_3

To cultivate the technique to the stage of Immortal Golden Skin involves terrifying expenses. Even the whole sect would struggle to bear such a burden. After all, these resources could be used for other less

wasteful techniques. Although those other techniques may not be as marvelous, a sect must consider which techniques are the most cost-effective.

This is why the Immortal Eternal Life Skill ultimately settled into dust in the Holy Scripture Hall.

After some time of training, Yan Xiaobao collected chicken bones and buried them together with feathers in the nearby Spirit Soil.

Then he left his courtyard residence and found a place where Outer Sect disciples tended to gather. There he eavesdropped for a while to see if anyone was talking about the stolen chickens. From his experience of stealing chickens in the village, he knew the ideal method was to strike only once every few days.

After eavesdropping for a bit, he didn't hear anyone mention anything about missing chickens. However, during his eavesdropping, he also learned that the tricolor tail feathers of Spirit Tail Chickens could be used to ignite a tricolor flame.

Upon learning this, Yan Xiaobao immediately returned to his courtyard residence and dug out the tricolor tail feathers from the spirit soil. Then he sat there, thoughtfully studying them.

"No wonder they raise so many Elf-tailed Chickens here." He immediately stored the tricolor feathers in his hand. For others, these feathers were just used to ignite the tricolor flame. However, for him, they were the fuel for conducting triple spirit enhancement.

But he didn't try this immediately. His plan was to first acquire some Spiritual Medicine and then perform spiritual enhancement to make the medicine stronger.

After resting for a few days, one night Yan Xiaobao got hungry again. He put down the second volume of plants and walked into the night. When he returned, he was holding two Spirit Tail Chickens.

Thus time passed. Soon, a month went by, during which news of the missing Elf-tailed Chickens began to spread on Xiangyun Peak.

Even Li Qinghou heard about it. After all, in just a month, dozens of chickens went missing from the three Spirit Tail Chicken farms. However, Li Qinghou didn't pay much attention to it, as he had important matters to deal with, which eventually took him away from the mountain.

The most frustrated were the seven or eight Outer Sect disciples responsible for raising the Elf-tailed Chickens. It wasn't because they personally cared much about the chickens, but because these chickens were not ordinary chickens. Even though the Peak Lord said nothing, they felt this was a significant loss. After all, whoever was stealing the chickens was doing so right under their noses.

But they were powerless. No matter what they did to protect the chickens, the chickens kept disappearing. The most puzzling part was that the chickens disappeared without a trace. Not even a sound could be heard, as if they had vanished into thin air.

By now, Yan Xiaobao's body had completely returned to normal; in fact, he had even gained some weight. However, the Immortal Eternal Life Skill was draining from him, and he supplemented it with chicken meat. His face had a healthy glow, living comfortably once again.

He was in a good mood and his belly was full. Therefore, his research on the second batch of plants and vegetation progressed faster. Finally, the day came when he finished studying them. Based on what happened last time, he examined all details, including leaves, stems, roots, veins, and even the tiny hairs on the plant surfaces. He was now more confident than ever and assured that even if the plants were divided into dozens of parts, he could still identify them.

His chest proudly heaving, he strode out of his courtyard residence.

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Chapter 1019 Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion

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"This time, I want to make sure everyone knows I passed Zhou Xinqi's main turtle!" Filled with anticipation, he made his way straight to the Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion. The Pavilion is one of the liveliest places on Xiangyun Peak. In fact, disciples of the Outer Sect come and go every day. One reason is because of the ten steles, another is because of the Pavilion itself, located in the midst of all the steles. It's where you can exchange medicinal plants and pill formulas for advantages.

Every now and then, there are also some tests to promote skilled pharmacists, or occasions where pills concocted by various disciples are bought back by the sect. For a variety of reasons, the area is almost always a boiling cauldron of sound.

Because of this place's vibrancy, it ultimately became somewhere to discuss the latest news. Although it initially started as an exchange of plant and vegetation information, eventually all sect-related topics found their way into conversation. Big things, small matters, and even random gossip were passed among the disciples.

When Yan Xiaobao arrived, the place was packed. Some people came and went, but about thirty to fifty percent of the disciples were standing around talking. Other disciples lined up to challenge the steles and secure a spot on the lists.

Yan Xiaobao squeezed through the crowd for a while before he finally got close to the second stele. Just as he was about to approach the stele itself, he happened to overhear three disciples from the Outer Sect talking about him.

"Have you heard? Some very strange things have been happening in the sect recently. Someone specifically stole Li Feng's Spirit Tail Chickens! It's said that over a hundred have gone missing."

"What do you mean by a hundred? I heard that soon Li Feng himself wouldn't have any chickens left at all. The disciples in charge of the Spirit Tail Chicken farm have put him on the most wanted list. They even said that when they catch him, they'll chop him up and feed him to the chickens!"

"Absolutely bizarre. Why have all these geniuses suddenly appeared on Xiangyun Peak? First the mysterious turtle, now this powerful chicken thief!"

Yan Xiaobao instinctively shrugged guiltily. After all, he had only stolen a few chickens, right? Who would have known it would cause such an uproar? From the looks of it, practically everyone knew.

And when he realized the Spirit Tail Chickens actually belonged to Li Qinghou, he became even more afraid.

"Oh dear, I didn't steal that many," he thought. He almost felt he was being falsely accused. Just as he was trying to think of a way to change the public's perception of the powerful chicken thief issue, he heard a commotion coming from behind him.

"Hey, young lady, how's Twitter? Were you late reincarnating?!"

"So what if I push? You're nothing special. If you're afraid of the crowd, what are you even doing here? You should feel lucky for a girl like me!"

"You...."

For some reason, Yan Xiaobao's voice sounded familiar. He turned around and saw a fair and exquisite young woman standing there, her chest puffed up, her hands on her hips, as she arrogantly stared at a burly man.

"Hou Xiaomei?" Yan Xiaobao said, blinking.

The young woman was indeed Hou Xiaomei, and when she heard his voice, she turned to see him, her arrogance quickly turning into delight.

"Big Bro Xiaochun, it's you!" she exclaimed, turning in his direction. Before she reached him, Yan Xiaobao felt her warm, pure aura brush across his face.

"Hey, chaste little sister," he replied, gazing at the lively and enchanting Hou Xiaomei.[1. This interaction involves some wordplay that's impossible to translate directly. Hou Xiaomei's name literally means "little sister," so calling her "little sister sister" is silly. Instead, he does use her name, though it sounds a bit cheeky and/or flirty]

In response to Yan Xiaobao's words, Hou Xiaomei's face reddened slightly.

"Oh, stop it, Big Bro Xiaochun!" she said sweetly. "You're such a tease, just call me Hou Xiaomei!"

Just like that, the formerly young and pretty woman suddenly became beautiful and charming. Quite a few eyes from the Outer Sect disciples began to glimmer. As for the burly man she had just quarreled with, he suddenly got goosebumps, realizing she was a moody, temperamental girl.

"Big Bro Xiaochun," she prattled on, "my brother left the mountain and hasn't returned, and this is my first time coming here. Where can I get the second batch of plants and vegetation?" This really was her first time here. Previously, her brother helped her handle everything, but now she was alone and clueless. Fortunately, she ran into Yan Xiaobao.

Yan Xiaobao smiled as he explained the process to her, detailing nuances. Hou Xiaomei occasionally nodded. By the time he finished explaining, she not only thought he was a good person but also felt she was quite skilled herself.

Once finished, Yan Xiaobao looked at Hou Xiaomei to ensure she had no further questions. Then he pointed to the first stele, which tested the first batch of plants and vegetation, calmly saying, "See that stele? All those who leave a mark at the top of the list favor being chosen within the sect. Any of these people will sway the entire Cultivation World in the future.

"I won't list all the names, just the second name on the list. See that magical badge? It represents a female elector on Xiangyun Peak, Zhou Xinqi!"

Chapter 1020 Ten Thousand Medicines Pavilion (Part 2)

"Zhou Xinqi!" Hou Xiaomei exclaimed loudly, her eyes sparkling as she looked at the magical bottle emblem. "So, that magical bottle represents the apprentice at the mountain top, the one with the spiritual plant meridians, Sister Zhou, who is destined to join the Inner Sect!" From the way Hou Xiaomei spoke about Zhou Xinqi, it was obvious she held her in high regard. Hearing Yan Xiaobao's explanation of the magic bottle symbol seemed to excite her even more.

Yan Xiaobao continued calmly explaining for a while, until he noticed Hou Xiaomei seemed completely focused on the magic bottle, paying no mind to the turtle that clearly surpassed it. He felt a bit annoyed; after all, wasn't his explanation supposed to have her notice the turtle?

"Well, Zhou Xinqi is indeed amazing, that's why she was able to achieve second place on the first Stele of Plants and Vegetation!" He made sure to emphasize "second place."

Hou Xiaomei paused for a moment, then furrowed her brows.

"Second place? Who does that turtle above Elder Zhou represent? It looks quite ugly."

Hearing this, Yan Xiaobao felt elated. In his view, he certainly needed to educate Hou Xiaomei a bit more. He acted with great dignity, speaking in a very serious tone.

"Well, you are mistaken, Xiao Mei. Do you know that cool-looking turtle actually represents the most mysterious, most admired, and most transcendent disciple in the entire Sect?"

"This person has many legends. Whenever he appears, he causes a huge stir within the Sect and becomes the focal point of all attention. Countless disciples follow his every move, admire him, and even cheer loudly for him."

"Really?" Hou Xiaomei was a simple and pure girl, and she stared in shocked disbelief at what Yan Xiaobao said.

"You should know, two months ago, when he shattered Zhou Xinqi's hope of securing first place on all nine Steles, this disciple caused quite a sensation!

"You should know, during his debut, he achieved first place on the first Stele. He did it as easily as flipping his hand.

"You should know Zhou Xinqi witnessed it happening. For the next seven days, she neither slept nor rested. She repeatedly challenged the Stele, but even after giving her all, she remained in second place and was forced to admit defeat.

"You should know I, Yan Xiaobao... cough," Yan Xiaobao became very excited, and ultimately, he wanted to present himself as the powerful Turtle Lord, but at the last moment he held back. The ideal time to reveal his identity was in front of a large crowd, and doing it in front of a young girl was too much of a waste.

"Is that all true?" Hou Xiaomei asked, her eyes sparkling like bright stars in a moonless night. She was now gazing at that Little Turtle, her face flushed with admiration.

"Of course it's true," Yan Xiaobao replied, sighing inwardly. In his view, he had just done a very good deed, helping to steer a child back onto the right path. He felt a sense of accomplishment, and as he walked toward the second Stele, he flicked his sleeve, ignoring Hou Xiaomei's admiration.

He elbowed his way through the crowd and waited for a while until he was second in line. He had to wait for one of the small cabins to be vacated, then strode swiftly through the door and disappeared.

The cabin looked the same as his last one inside. After drawing a turtle, his vision blurred and a rumbling sound rang in his ears. When he saw clearly again, he was back in that familiar clearing. This time, no cold voice spoke; instead, fragmented plants immediately appeared before him.

Since Yan Xiaobao was prepared for this, his eyes sparkled and his hands worked rapidly. In the blink of an eye, one spiritual plant after another was pieced together.

Time flew by. When time was up, he could say he had completely surpassed the record he initially set when he first took the test, which required a whole incense stick to burn.

Unfortunately, time ran out. Yan Xiaobao's vision blurred, and when he could see clearly again, he was back in the cabin. Though a little fleeting, he was still confident about the results. He quickly grabbed the third batch of plants and vegetation, turned, and walked out the cabin door, brimming with anticipation.

Outside, he could see countless Outer Sect disciples, many of them gazing up at the lists. Yan Xiaobao felt very heroic at the moment.

"This time I'm going to shake the entire Sect! I'll make sure everyone knows Yan Xiaobao is the renowned Turtle Lord!" He could imagine what thousands of disciples worshipping him would look like, and he already saw Hou Xiaomei's shocked face.

As he thought of this, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but laugh. Then he raised his hand loudly, preparing to shout at the tops of his lungs that he was the mighty Turtle Lord, when...

Suddenly, a voice from the Outer Sect cried out about a fire, and they lined up.

"Do you think the Little Turtle who stole Sister Zhou's spotlight would dare show up?"

"I doubt it. Sister Zhou's fans are crazy. I heard they've been searching the entire South Shore for the Little Turtle. They even rumored that once they find him, they'll make him live..."

"I heard that too. There are even some Inner Sect disciples joining the search."

When he heard what people were saying, Yan Xiaobao's hand hung in the air. Suddenly, his heart started to tremble. When he heard that Inner Sect disciples were also looking for him, sweat began to form on his forehead, and he quickly scratched his head, then lowered his hand as if nothing had happened.

Frustrated, he squeezed through the crowd, his face adorned with a worried, lost look.

"This is ridiculous. They're pushing things too far. All I did was take first place, right? Now Inner Sect disciples are involved? Is it worth it?" This time, his expression was genuine, without a hint of pretense.

Almost as soon as he pushed into the crowd, someone noticed the list on the second Stele had changed, immediately causing a huge uproar. "Look at the second Stele! That Little Turtle... it's appeared again!!"

"It's in first place again! Who is this Little Turtle? Whoever they are, they've secured two consecutive first places!"

"Now Sister Zhou doesn't have eight first places, she only has seven!"

The noise among the Outer Sect disciples was uproarious, countless shouts rang out. However, among the crowd, there was a voice, a girl, excitedly shouting.

"Go, Little Turtle, go!" The young woman was Hou Xiaomei. Thanks to Yan Xiaobao's earlier provocation, she was now a loyal fan of this Little Turtle. Now that she suddenly saw the Little Turtle in two first places, her sense of admiration increased rapidly. In fact, the Little Turtle now surpassed Zhou Xinqi in her heart.

The uproarious noise rolled in waves until everyone was shouting. After all, the Little Turtle was truly famous, and its actions once again proved that whoever it represented was qualified to challenge Zhou Xinqi.

In fact, some even began to anticipate the scene where the Little Turtle would surpass Zhou Xinqi in all ten Steles.

Yan Xiaobao was at that moment within the crowd, still a bit disheartened, yet secretly pleased with himself. He only felt a bit regretful that no one knew who he really was.

"Hmph. One day, I'll reveal I'm the Turtle in front of a bigger crowd!" He vowed to himself.

Despite his vow, he wasn't ready to give up. He next began joining all the shouting. Occasionally, sharp cries would ring out, causing further disturbance among the crowd.

"Oh my God! Who could it be!? I love this person!"

"The idol of the masses! Lord Turtle is invincible!"

Due to Yan Xiaobao's sharp cries, the discussion among the Outer Sect disciples became even more heated. However, it was at that moment that a cold snort was heard, and a person jumped from the crowd onto the roof of one of the cabins.

It was a young man, his face icy, wearing a cold expression. As he spoke, "I better not find out who the damned Little Turtle is. If I do, he'll regret stealing the spotlight from Miss Zhou!"

"Same here! This Little Turtle might be hiding among the crowd now. I'll find him!" The second voice belonged to another young man who also flew to the top of a cabin roof, coldly surveying the crowd. Clearly, he only focused on Yan Xiaobao, not because he thought he was the Little Turtle, but because Yan Xiaobao's earlier shouting was very conspicuous and irritated this young man.

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