

## Medical 1171

### Chapter 1171: Spirit Wings

...

Of course, one reason is that the Waterswamp Kingdom needs someone to closely observe and study the abundance of soul creatures, which is almost impossible on the South Shore.

After the deal was completed, the four Peak Lords of the North Shore left with Zheng Yuandong. Li Qinghou remained. His eyes were full of warmth, yet beneath his sudden sharp exterior, something was hidden.

He began to admonish Bai Xiaochun, telling him not to be arrogant just because he secured first place in the chosen battle. Then he gave him some tips regarding his cultivation base before finally providing more detailed information about the bracelet and the Protomagnetic Pearl he had given him.

"The Protomagnetic Pearl and the magnetic spirit wings will be of great help to you. Take some time to familiarize yourself with how to use them. As for the Waterswamp Kingdom, it is far deeper than the magic plant arsenal we have on Xiangyun Peak. By the way, the Dragon Mammoth Sea Formation Scripture was created by the sect's Founder Clan Leader, who led a campaign from the Heavenspan Delta downstream. Make sure to study it well. When I teach you the magic plant arsenal technique, it will make things smoother for you." After giving more advice, he turned to leave.

Deeply moved, Yan Xiaobao clasped his hands tightly and bowed deeply. However, he couldn't resist asking out of curiosity, "Uncle Li, uh... why do they call you a swindler? That's ridiculous!"

Li Qinghou halted mid-step. His face darkened as he glared at Yan Xiaobao, saying, "Stop prying into adult matters! Remember, our pharmacists cherish the way of medicine. We don't just give things away for free!"

With that, Li Qinghou departed.

The more Yan Xiaobao thought about it, the more amazed his eyes became. He was now almost entirely convinced that acquiring pills from Li Qinghou was a torment for most people...

After Li Qinghou left, Yan Xiaobao returned to his Immortal Cave. Knowing that the Dragon Mammoth Sea Formation Scripture was created by the sect's Founder Clan Leader, his heart was full of admiration.

"In the introduction of the scripture, the Founder Clan Leader talks about shackles. I wonder what these shackles are really?" After some thought, he came up with a few ideas but had no way to confirm if they were correct. Shaking his head, he extracted the Protomagnetic Pearl and, following Li Qinghou's instructions, put it in his mouth and swallowed it.

The pearl dissolved into a mist, flowing through his body and settling in his Dantian region. The sensation wasn't uncomfortable; in fact, he even felt a little light. After moving a bit, he realized he could move faster than before. It was almost as if there was some strange connection between him and his surroundings.

Filled with a wondrous sensation, he formed the magnetic spirit wings. They were green, transparent like the wings of a cicada, almost invisible. After a while, Yan Xiaobao breathed some spiritual energy into the wings, which started to dissolve. It took the duration of a stick of incense burning, during which his eyes sparkled. Eventually, the wings dissolved into his palms, then appeared on his back.

Just like blood dissolving in water, they became a part of him and were as easy to control as his own arms. With a bright expression, he activated the wings with a single thought.

He instantly transformed into an afterimage, shooting at high speed toward the wall of the Immortal Cave. Trying to stop, he let out a scream, but, unfamiliar with controlling the wings, he slammed into the wall with a bang.

A resonant thud sounded, shaking the whole Immortal Cave. Fortunately, Yan Xiaobao's body was very tough, so nothing happened besides him being embedded into the stone wall. After a long time, he fell to the ground with a groan.

Clenching his teeth, he struggled to his feet and glanced at the spot where he hit the wall. Not daring to conduct any tests indoors, he stepped outside, gathered his courage, and then flapped his wings again. In the blink of an eye, he was far off in the distance.

After a few days, he became more familiar with controlling the speed of the wings, experiencing a wonderful sensation. He almost felt invincible.

"Hahaha! I'm so fast that even Elder Zhou can't catch me!" He raised his head, laughing with joy, as he flew a few circles in the air before returning to his Immortal Cave. Months passed by. Yan Xiaobao quickly became very familiar with the Xiangyun Peak area assigned to the Inner Sect. Eventually, the novelty of being an Inner Sect disciple started to wear off.

He spent most of his time in his Immortal Cave, either practicing cultivation or concocting medicine in his personal medicinal preparation workshop. By now, he had created quite a few aphrodisiac pills.

He was delighted. His purpose in cultivation was to live forever, and the longer his cultivation base, the greater his longevity would be.

His main interest was concocting spiritual medicine. After all, he still dreamed of creating a pill that could help him live forever. To realize his dream, he constantly collaborated with spiritual medicine. However, the harsh reality of the situation was that, after months had passed, he discovered, much to his bitterness, that he had run out of medicinal plants.

Although the reward for securing first place in the chosen battle was 10,000 spiritual stones, the ingredients for Level 3 spiritual medicine were not sold in the market beyond the sect. He could only rely on people from the Cultivation Tribes to find them for him, at exorbitant prices.

The best way was to accumulate enough merit points to acquire ingredients from the sect.

Chapter 1172: Spirit Wings (2)

"Merit points..." As he sat in his Immortal Cave, he thought, frowning. What he lacked most were merit points. After some hesitation, he left his Immortal Cave and headed to the Mission Stele reserved for Inner Sect disciples.

Back in the Outer Sect, the mission office was always crowded, but the Inner Sect was different. The Inner Sect disciples were very busy and valued their time highly. Only a few people could be seen in the area. Yan Xiaobao strolled over and stood in front of the stele, attempting to pick a mission.

"That one's too dangerous!" he muttered. "That one doesn't offer enough merit! I don't want any long-term tasks..."

Finally, his gaze settled on a mission assigned by a parish elder, which required the use of the Lifestealer cores. For each core provided, 1,000 merit points would be rewarded.

It even provided the most common location to find Lifestealers, situated in the Wildweed Mountain Range, not far from the Spirit Stream Sect. Yan Xiaobao muttered to himself, recalling the description of Lifestealers in the Fourth Volume Soul Creatures. In reality, they were not beasts but magical parasitic life forms.

They would choose a host, a certain type of beast, and then grow a second head. When the second head was fully formed, the beast would wither and die, and the matured Soul Eater would transform into a Ninedays Finch.

During its parasitic stage, it was very useful as an ingredient in various medicines. However, once it matured and exploded from the second head, becoming a Ninedays Finch, it was completely useless. Moreover, Ninedays Finches only lived for nine days before dying and producing a new Lifestealer. Then, the Lifestealer would choose a new host and the process would begin anew.

It was almost like a cycle of reincarnation...

Lifestealers were very rare, and in some ways, they lived forever, reincarnating endlessly.

Yan Xiaobao clearly remembered how deeply impressed he was when he first read about the Lifestealers in the Fourth Volume Soul Creatures.

"The difficult part of this mission is actually finding the Lifestealers. The Wildweed Mountain Range is too vast. Trying to find them one by one would be too tedious. Accumulating merit in this way is a waste of time."

After researching the Wildweed Mountain Range, he confirmed that despite its vastness, most of the animals belonged to a basic infrastructure level.

Ultimately, he decided to accept the mission. However, he didn't set off from the Sect immediately. First, he returned to his Immortal Cave to make some preparations. Finally, he leapt onto the Golden Crow Sword and shot off into the distance.

Wildweed Mountain Range wasn't far from the Spirit Stream Sect. Considering his speed when using the Golden Crow Sword, it would only take a day's travel to reach there. Unfortunately, due to his current cultivation base being too low to fly for long periods, he had to alternate between flying and running. Four days later, he finally reached the Wildweed Mountain Range.

A majestic sight spread out before him, the lush vegetation-covered mountains stretching in all directions like an endless jungle, from which erupted the cries of various birds and beasts.

Instead of immediately seeking out Lifestealers, he explored the mountain range for about half a month until he found a valley that served as a natural passageway between two main parts of the jungle. There, he settled on a high branch, gazing down into the valley below.

"Using ordinary search methods would waste time and rely on blind luck. Even if luck were on my side, I might only find one. If I weren't lucky, I might not find one in a month.

"Now's the time to show how clever I am." He jutted out his chin, blurring as he shot into the distance.

The next day, he stood atop a mountain peak, feeling the direction of the wind. Just as he was about to produce an aphrodisiac pill, a thought struck him, and he shouted at the top of his lungs, "Is anyone around?! Any disciples from the Soul Sect?!" His tone, loud and pleading, almost sounded like a cry for help.

In the distance, a figure could be seen in the jungle, battling with a beast. It was an icy, arrogant young man dressed in the robes of the Soul Sect's Inner Sect. When he heard Yan Xiaobao's cry, a hint of disdain appeared in his eyes.

"Another low-foundation disciple overestimating himself, now in a rush to call for help. Only the strong should enter the Wildweed Mountain Range." Arrogantly, he chose not to attempt to help. While the Sect emphasized teamwork, some people were naturally unsociable, which was unavoidable.

After crying out a few times but receiving no response, Yan Xiaobao felt somewhat relieved. Shortly thereafter, he discarded an aphrodisiac pill. Moments later, when the pill exploded, there was a pop, transforming into a fine powder carried away by the wind.

Soon enough, animals in the surrounding area, whatever they were doing, caught the scent of the powder in the wind and began to tremble. Their eyes became bloodshot, and they started howling at the top of their lungs.

A howl echoed, and two wings suddenly appeared behind Yan Xiaobao, propelling him forward with speed.

The previously arrogant disciple suddenly found the beast he was fighting had started trembling. Its eyes turned red, howling, it lunged at him. The young man was terrified and began to flee.

Unfortunately, no matter what he did, the beast continued to howl and chase him. Its eyes were crimson, as if it had gone mad. In shock, the young man fled for his life until he had no choice but to cry out for help.

By that time, Yan Xiaobao was already too far away...

Six hours later, in another windy area, Yan Xiaobao cried out a few times, waited a moment, saw no one respond, and discarded another aphrodisiac pill.

Soon enough, the howling of beasts rose again.

For the next two days, he constantly walked the perimeter of the valley he'd chosen, casting aphrodisiac pills. He quickly covered a large area where all the animals went crazy, howling at the top of their lungs, roaring furiously.

Seeing he'd reached a nearly uncontrollable state, Yan Xiaobao flew back to his chosen valley. His eyes gleamed, and he wielded the Golden Crow Sword, cutting a path through the trees, then took out a heap of pheromone pills and crushed them. Soon, a scent began to spread.

He was extremely careful not to get any powder on himself, even stepping back and changing into a new set of clothes just to be safe. Then he perched above the valley, overlooking the path he'd created.

"Come on, you cute beasts... hurry up," he said, humming a little tune as he eagerly waited.

Time flew by. The scent of the pheromone pills slowly dispersed, and the beasts affected by the aphrodisiac pills gradually became increasingly frantic. Howling, they began to charge toward the valley at full speed, more and more of them coming like a surging tide causing earthquakes.

Soon, the first wave of beasts was closing in, and Yan Xiaobao stood, fully focused, looking down into the valley. In the blink of an eye, a huge mass of strange beasts could be seen rushing toward the path he had created. Seeing so many creatures, Yan Xiaobao's eyes widened. Then, his eyes sparkled, and his right hand flashed in a spell gesture. The Golden Crow Sword flew instantly toward a fierce tiger.

Shockingly, a second head was growing from the tiger's back. Golden light flashed, and the second head exploded. A core flew out, and Yan Xiaobao skillfully caught it and tossed it into his pouch. Next, the golden light flashed toward another double-headed creature.

The great flood lasted about two hours, during which the valley was nearly completely destroyed. Yan Xiaobao was overjoyed. His sword flashed again and again, and by the time the horde of beasts dispersed, he was delighted to find he had collected 10 Lifestealer cores.

"Yan Xiaobao's cunning strikes again!" Looking extremely pleased, he securely stowed the cores in his pouch, then blurred as he moved to another part of the Wildweed Mountain Range.

Shortly after he left, a young man could be seen emerging in the jungle. His clothes were tattered, and he appeared to be in a very pitiful state. He was trembling, even struggling to walk. A vacant look could be seen in his eyes, very similar to what had appeared in Beihan Lie's eyes not long ago...

As he mumbled, "What happened in the Wildweed Mountain Range...?" Tears streamed down his cheeks. "What happened to this world...? The beasts here don't eat people, they... I... I..."

Days flew by. Yan Xiaobao used aphrodisiac pills to turn the Wildweed Mountain Range into complete chaos. Every place he went became frenzied. Of course, before casting the pills into the air, he would always call out to ensure he was alone.

...

## Chapter 1173 As If Guided by Fate

...

Occasionally, disciples would respond, and when they did, he would carefully explain his plan to let them leave and give them a Lifestealer core as compensation. He also asked them to spread the word among other disciples to avoid him. Most of his disciples who saw him recognized him and would tremble with fear. There were not many Spiritual Flow Sect disciples in the Wild Grass Mountain, only a few dozen. The area didn't have many Foundation Establishment level beasts, but it still had its dangers, even for Inner Sect disciples.

Only those who considered themselves particularly strong would go there.

When Yan Xiaobao shouted his warning, some disciples would respond and heed his advice. They would take his apology gift and leave. However, some arrogant disciples would assume he was calling for help and pretend not to hear him. Some of them even hoped to collect his belongings after his demise.

They would continue with whatever they were doing and disregard the matter. But soon they would realize that these beasts were behaving strangely, impulsively, and crazily.

Shangguan Tianyou was on Wild Grass Mountain, and upon hearing Yan Xiaobao's shout, his eyes flickered, and he ignored him. Like Yan Xiaobao, he was searching for Lifestealers, but at that moment, he was shocked by the sight of a giant bear at the sixth level of Qi Condensation, wrapped around a tree, repeatedly hitting it. Again....

This wasn't the first time he had seen such a thing. Earlier, he had seen a rabbit that crazily ambushed him. When he realized the situation seemed familiar, his scalp suddenly went numb.

"Something is here. What changed in the Wild Grass Mountain Range?!" Then he recalled Yan Xiaobao's aphrodisiac, and his heart was gripped.

So far, Yan Xiaobao had over 30 Lifestealer cores in his possession, continuing his work with the aphrodisiac pills. About half a month later, he was delighted to discover a V-shaped valley deep within the mountain range, a place with strong winds...

The valley would suck in the wind and then expel it to fill much of the Wild Grass Mountain. According to Yan Xiaobao's calculations, it would take only three days for the valley to reach about half of the Wild Grass Mountain. Even standing in the wind, he would last about a breath before losing his footing. He immediately felt a connection with this place, as if it were destiny.

Hair whipping, he looked down at the place where the wind shot out and said, "This is definitely the best place to spread the powder across the whole mountain range! There shouldn't be any fellow disciples here either. I can harvest to my heart's content!" Yan Xiaobao began to get very excited. To ensure nothing bad happened to his disciples, he had already sent out about ten cores. However, he did not regret it. He was confident he could acquire more. He could even imagine the merits pouring in.

Taking a deep breath, he took out all the remaining aphrodisiac pills and crushed them. The rushing wind immediately carried the powder into the rest of the Wild Grass Mountain.

Yan Xiaobao stood atop a nearby peak, proudly overlooking the jungle below, feeling very heroic.

"I, Yan Xiaobao, tirelessly benefit the Wild Grass Mountain. People can only imagine how many animals will be born here in the coming years... What an outstanding achievement."

As howling began to rise from the forest, he sighed with emotion. The howling increased, filling the air continuously. Within one day, twenty percent of the Wild Grass Mountain was covered... The roars reached a shocking level. Three days later... half of the Wild Grass Mountain range went crazy!

At this moment, Yan Xiaobao flew back and forth, frequently scattering pheromone pills to attract nearby beasts. Meanwhile, he collected more and more Lifestealer cores.

He was very satisfied with everything. Not only did he collect many cores, but he also brought happiness to all the creatures in the Wild Grass Mountain range. When he saw many animals jumping on each other, he couldn't help but marvel at how he benefited the environment.

"What a good person I am," he thought. "The beasts on these mountains will surely thank me later." So he continued, constantly throwing pheromone pills.

Of course, some disciples on the mountain ignored his earlier shouts. In the state of the crazy animals, their eyes soon widened. All the animals jumping on each other's sight... left the disciples breathless.

"What is... What happened!?"

"Why... why does this scene look so familiar..." Shocked, the disciples began to flee in fear.

"Yan Xiaobao!!" Shangguan Tianyou went all out to kill the nearby beasts and flew away. When he recalled what happened to Beihan Lie, his heart filled with terror, and he began to tremble.

Unfortunately, for this small group of people, they were deep in the Wild Grass Mountain range, and leaving wasn't easy. Considering that all the beasts in the area had gone completely mad, this was especially true...

Yan Xiaobao dashed all the way, happily tossing pheromone pills. He attracted plenty of beasts and collected many Lifestealer cores. Half a month later, when he left the Wild Grass Mountain range, he had two hundred cores in his hands.

Fully satisfied, he returned to the sect.

A few days after his departure, Shangguan Tianyou and other disciples finally appeared. Their faces were pale, full of bitterness, and their hair was unkempt. They were all in poor condition, with blank looks on their faces. After finally emerging, they would look back and howl in pain.

Chapter 1174: As If It Were Fate (Part 2)

As for what really happened in those mountains... it was a complete mystery to them.

After returning to the sect, Bai Xiaochun directly ran to the mission office. When the disciples there saw him turning in two hundred Lifestealer cores, their eyes nearly popped out of their sockets. After examining the cores in disbelief, they looked back at Yan Xiaobao in shock.

Over the years, Lifestealer core missions appeared occasionally, though usually only one at a time. Generally, it took a disciple a whole year to collect ten of them.

But within a few months, Yan Xiaobao managed to collect an unbelievable amount.

"He absolutely should become the Sect Leader's junior brother, a disciple of prestige, and the first winner of the election battle..." Other Inner Sect disciples looked at Yan Xiaobao enviously. After clearing the inventory, he earned 200,000 merits. Although he tried to display a nonchalant demeanor, he couldn't entirely hide his pride.

This matter shook the entire South Shore. Anyone hearing that someone collected 200,000 merits at once could hardly believe it. But then Bai Xiaochun had already suggested disciples leaving the Wild Grass Mountain to start spreading the word, and soon, all three peaks of the South Shore were buzzing with the news.

"What a monster!"

"Insane! He filled half of the Wild Grass Mountain Range with aphrodisiacs!"

"We can't go there for a long time now..."

Even as discussions heated, Shangguan Tianyou and other carefree disciples began to return to the sect. Shangguan Tianyou realized Yan Xiaobao was the cause of events, so he wasn't surprised by the outcome. However, when other disciples realized the situation, they howled at the top of their lungs. Yet, they knew nothing could be done about Yan Xiaobao. After all... he had repeatedly warned them, they heard, but chose to ignore him. Now, they regretted their actions; merely their reactions might have avoided such a tragic fate.

Yan Xiaobao was very satisfied with the outcome. In the following days, he often appeared at the mission office, choosing tasks related to collecting things from beasts.

He was almost addicted to it. After each mission ended, he would concoct a batch of pills and set off again... each time driving more disciples crazy. Whether these disciples carried out the tasks didn't matter. After all, any place Yan Xiaobao was involved in his missions would have to be avoided for a long time afterward.

They were too dangerous...

Cloudpeak Mountain Range, Frost Forest Mountain Range, Brightsummit Mountain Range, Lasteast Mountain Range...

For a whole year, Yan Xiaobao was a madman completing missions. He swept through all tasks involving beasts, and his harvest was always incredible. Each time, the mission office was completely shaken. Meanwhile, countless Inner Sect disciples were driven mad.

Eventually, he cleared all beast-related tasks on Xiangyun Peak, then moved on to Green Crest Peak, and then to Violet Cauldron Peak. He completed all missions there, soon helping disciples there realize what a true task demon was.

Finally, the South Shore Inner Sect disciples were driven to desperation. The mountains near the sect were not safe to enter, as they were filled with countless aphrodisiac-laden beasts....

With no other choice, hundreds of Inner Sect disciples from the three peaks signed a petition requesting Yan Xiaobao be exempted from missions.

Li Qinghou didn't want to interfere; this was a rare occasion when Yan Xiaobao was eager to serve the sect. The issue became a huge headache for the Sect Leader. He began to find that ever since Yan Xiaobao joined the sect, he often encountered such headaches. Whenever he heard Yan Xiaobao's name mentioned, he would instinctively sigh.

"It would be better when he's not working hard. Once he gets serious... this really is... ai, whatever task he chooses, Yan Xiaobao triggers a disaster!

"Doesn't he want to work on medicine making? Then go make medicine! The sect will provide merits, so things will calm down for a long time..."

When the signatures on the petition rose from hundreds to more than a thousand, the sect leadership gritted their teeth and discussed the matter with Li Qinghou. Finally, they exempted Yan Xiaobao from missions for the next ten years.

He was the only disciple in the sect not carrying out missions, yet still received a significant amount of merits from the sect.

Yan Xiaobao was not too satisfied with the situation. When he received the notification, he was browsing missions at the mission office, having just found the one he wanted. He was stunned.

"What's the matter?" he shouted aloud. "I want to serve the sect! I want to work hard! This is preposterous!" Under the solemn gaze of the mission office disciples, he sighed, then stretched out his jaw lazily, flicking his sleeves.

"With a flick of my finger, I turn the mission office into ashes." Shaking his head, he sighed. Looking very lonely, he walked off into the distance. Yan Xiaobao trekked back to his Immortal Cave, where he sat in melancholy to stew.

In the end, he sighed. "Being too excellent isn't a good thing. I'm a perfect example. The sect leadership is so worried about how outstanding I am that they exempted me from missions for ten years, yet still give me merits every month." He sat there, indulging in the worry of such things, and wondered what he should do since he was so exceptional...

"Ah, well, I guess it doesn't matter. Since I can't go out on missions, I might as well concoct medicine. After all, the reason I initially took on missions was to earn merits." With such thoughts, Yan Xiaobao sacrificed his own interests for the improvement of the sect, and walked toward his medicine refining station.

"I need to master all modulation methods of Third-level Spiritual Medicines!" Along with this, his expression turned melancholic.

Time flew by. Half a year.

Aside from regular cultivation, he spent all his time on medicine making. When lacking ingredients, he exchanged for them with merits. Over time, he became even more obsessive, clearly unwilling to slow down until he mastered everything related to Third-level Spiritual Medicines.

With him not completing missions, the sect slowly returned to normal. Many let out a breath of relief, especially Sect Leader Zheng Yuandong, who could finally feel at ease. By now, he was convinced exempting Yan Xiaobao from missions was the right choice.

He wasn't the only one. Li Qinghou, as well as other Peak Lords and elders on the South Shore, felt relieved as well. Indeed, at a regular South Shore Council meeting, the issue was raised by someone from the Foundation's cultivation team.

"Bai Xiaochun has recently been focusing on concocting medicine. The sect indeed calmed down."

"Medicine concoction is a good thing. Let him continue practicing. In any case, it's the safest option. With this focus, he won't cause trouble for people outside." The whole team smiled; the peaceful half a year had made them all happily sigh.

However, just a few days after their meeting, a massive explosion erupted on Xiangyun Peak. It came from the direction of Yan Xiaobao's Immortal Cave, shaking everything in the area violently. Many Inner Sect disciples were terrified, and Outer Sect disciples trembled with fear.

"What just happened?!?!"

"Heavens! The Spiritual Sect might be under attack?!?!"

As everyone fell into panic, Yan Xiaobao walked out of his medication concoction workspace, coughing, his face covered in ashes, with snot dripping and tears flowing from his face. He quickly rushed to wash up in the hot springs, then furrowed his brows.

"Why did it explode?" he wondered. The pill furnaces provided to Inner Sect disciples were standard issued, identical to the ones in the Medicine Refining Hall. Generally speaking, even if spiritual medicine was wrongly concocted, they wouldn't explode.

However, that's exactly what just happened. It even activated the cave's defense magic formation.

After thinking through the issue in detail, he couldn't come up with an explanation. With a sigh, he went back to training the Dragon Mammoth Sea Formation Scripture for a few days. By now, his cultivation was just a small fraction away from breaking through.

But he wasn't in a rush. After finishing his cultivation, he consumed some spiritual medicine to replenish his life energy and then began studying the Immortal Eternal Life Skill. Radiating from his skin now was a dark silver light, bordered with gold.

That afternoon, Yan Xiaobao continued with the next task. Standing in his Immortal Cave, as he practiced the Waterswamp Kingdom mnemonic, he slowly raised his hands toward the sky. After enough time had passed for half an incense stick to burn, he opened his eyes and let out a loud shout.

...

Chapter 1175: Solving Every Problem

...

A strong burst of energy exploded from within him, causing everything around him to suddenly change. A mist of steam appeared, lasting only a breath before disappearing.

Yan Xiaobao slumped down, wiping the sweat from his forehead. Despite practicing the Waterswamp Kingdom every day since obtaining it, this was all he could achieve.

"I need to keep pushing forward!" he thought. After taking a short break, he finished his daily training routine and once again pondered the problem of the explosive pill furnace. Over the past six months of practice, he had succeeded in using some Third-level Spiritual Medicine, but most of his attempts ended in failure.

Sitting there dejectedly for a while, he finally came up with a theory.

"Maybe once the potency of the medicine increases to a certain level, it becomes unstable, leading to explosions?" Subsequently, he hurried out, exchanged some merits for another pill furnace, and then returned to continue his concoction.

Gradually, word spread that the early explosions were coming from Yan Xiaobao's Immortal Cave. Disciples showed strange expressions on their faces. Although they were unsure of what caused the explosions, at least now they knew Yan Xiaobao was the reason.

Then... a few days later, Yan Xiaobao was at his medicine concoction workstation, completely focused on controlling the spiritual medicine inside the pill furnace. Unfortunately, the Third-level Spiritual Medicine was hard to work with. Most people with enough experience and luck would achieve three successes out of ten attempts and consider that a high success rate. But Yan Xiaobao wanted things to be perfect. He wouldn't rest until he solved every problem, because he desired even the smallest detail to be perfect, meaning he had to test all these details multiple times to finally resolve each issue.

This time, he realized he lost control over the spiritual medicine and his eyes widened. Then the pill furnace started making cracking sounds. Yan Xiaobao gasped as two wings suddenly appeared when he pulled out from the medicine concoction workshop.

The moment he emerged, a massive explosion shook the Immortal Cave.

Before everyone could calm down, Xiangyun Peak was once again in an uproar. Three days later, Yan Xiaobao screamed at his medicine concoction workstation as the third shocking explosion blasted through the air.

Seven days later, he emerged again, panicked, fleeing at the fastest speed because the fourth deafening explosion almost demolished his medicine concoction workstation.

Xiangyun Peak was in complete chaos, with countless disciples' eyes completely bloodshot. After investigation, people learned that Yan Xiaobao was brewing medicine. However, no one could figure out why such massive explosions occurred.

"I asked the Spiritual Medicine Pharmacy, they said he recently purchased eight pill furnaces!"

"That sound must be the explosive pill furnace. What is Yan Xiaobao concocting? Damn it! Isn't he worried about messing up himself!?" Anger was building, yet the explosions... continued. They persisted.

In the following month, seven explosions shook Yan Xiaobao's Immortal Cave, each more intense than the previous one. The final explosion actually caused the whole Xiangyun Peak to tremble, and Yan Xiaobao's entire Immortal Cave was nearly destroyed.

When Yan Xiaobao stumbled outside, trembling in fear, the Outer Sect and Inner Sect disciples of Xiangyun Peak were driven to madness. None of them had been able to safely focus on cultivation in the past month. Constant scares from the explosions made them jump in fear. Now, they were completely distracted, trying to control their anger, their eyes filled with bloodshot veins.

Apparently, even the low-pitched spell formation couldn't block the sound of the explosions. The disciples' anger grew stronger, and even the elder was shocked, almost unable to believe what Yan Xiaobao was doing.

"What is Yan Xiaobao brewing in the pill furnace causing explosions? What... what medicine is he making!?"

Things weren't over. In the following month, the frequency of explosions increased. Sometimes happening a dozen times every other day. Eventually, Xiangyun Peak's disciples could no longer bear it, and they stormed toward Yan Xiaobao's Immortal Cave to vent their anger.

Feeling very wronged, Yan Xiaobao hurriedly tried to explain. When he saw the mob of over a thousand disciples, his face turned pale, and he finally resorted to patting his chest and promising no more explosions. Only then did the crowd begin to calm down.

After seeing everyone leave, Yan Xiaobao returned to his Immortal Cave, frowning the entire time. Looking at his mostly destroyed medicine concoction workstation, he sighed, took out another pill furnace, and then looked at it in a daze.

A few days later, he slapped his thigh, and his eyes started to shine.

"Exactly! It's definitely because I didn't properly preheat the pill furnace!" Excited, he began concocting again... Three days later, at midnight, everyone on Xiangyun Peak heard a massive explosion.

An Inner Sect disciple was so scared he almost fainted. His hair completely disheveled, he shouted, "Yan Xiaobao!! I don't care if you've been chosen, I'm going to beat you black and blue!"

He wasn't the only one. Soon, all the Inner Sect disciples emerged from their Immortal Caves, even the exhausted Zhou Xinqi. Yan Xiaobao hurriedly came out, apologizing profusely and promising it wouldn't happen again. The gathered disciples responded to this. Their attitude couldn't find any fault, so there was no other recourse. If he had even a hint of provocation, they would certainly give him a good thrashing. But at this moment... they could only grit their teeth and accept his promise.

Chapter 1176: Solving Every Problem (2)

Exhausted, Yan Xiaobao returned to his Immortal Cave, wanting to cry but unable to shed tears. He started to realize that pursuing his dreams was a difficult endeavor.

"I'm not the type to give up!" he thought. Clenching his teeth, he created another pill furnace, which he had been experimenting with for half a month. Finally, after analyzing every aspect of the situation, he was sure he had identified the problem.

"Earthflame. It's definitely the Earth Flames!" With bloodshot eyes, he began concocting once more... Five days later at dawn, a massive explosion was heard, shocking Li Qinghou, and even audible at Violet Peak and Green Crest Peak.

The Inner Sect disciples living near Yan Xiaobao's Immortal Cave were idiots, especially Zhou Xinqi. Everyone thought they had gone mad. Elder Zhou's birds let out high-pitched screams, frightened, their feathers falling off. Spirit Tail Chickens trembled and foamed at the mouth, and many Inner Sect disciples struggled to stay conscious...

When the Earth Flames erupted, all the spell formations in Yan Xiaobao's cave were activated, even affecting the great spells of Xiangyun Peak. As Yan Xiaobao climbed out of the rubble, he was blackened, but evidently excited. He was now certain he had finally found the root of the problem.

"It wasn't the Earth Flames, but the techniques of mutual reinforcement and suppression! They led to unforeseen variables. Third-level Spiritual Medicine... must be concocted under mutual supplementation and suppression!"

From elders to Outer Sect disciples, everyone on Xiangyun Peak rushed to Yan Xiaobao's cave, furious, holding rocks, ready to make an impression on him if necessary. Facing such an angry mob, Yan Xiaobao thumped his chest emphatically.

"I promise—" However, before he could finish, the crowd began hurling their rocks. After all, it's forbidden to use magic against a sect member, but throwing stones isn't...

"Promise your ass!" Countless stones were tossed in flaming rage. Seeing the sky blocked by stones filled Yan Xiaobao with fear. He retreated back into his Immortal Cave and quickly activated his spell formations, looking as if he were about to cry. He knew he had aroused public anger, but he truly felt wronged; he hadn't done it on purpose!

"I promise this is the last time!" he blurted out. "I'm absolutely sure!"

After the mob had vented some of its anger, Yan Xiaobao continued offering explanations, and eventually, people dispersed.

Yan Xiaobao sighed thoughtfully, cleared the rubble from his Immortal Cave, and then returned to his medicine concocting workstation. He sat there, contemplating all that had happened. Eventually, he gritted his teeth and cautiously created another pill furnace. Based on his recent analysis, he began concocting medicine once more.

This time, he focused primarily on the techniques of mutual reinforcement and suppression. A few days later, a fragrant aroma filled the air, and Yan Xiaobao's eyes welled up with tears of excitement. He had finally resolved the problem of the explosive pill furnace, bringing him joy. Furthermore, he gained a deeper understanding of the variables that could occur due to mutual reinforcement and suppression.

"I'm about to master Third-level Spiritual Medicine!" With his spirit soaring, he lost himself completely in his medicine concocting over the next few days.

Gradually, the disciples of Xiangyun Peak realized there were no more explosions. They breathed a sigh of relief, and as time passed, the peak slowly returned to normal.

However... Yan Xiaobao had discovered that even though he had solved the explosion issue, his success rate with Third-level Spiritual Medicine remained quite low. Additionally, he ended up concocting numerous mysterious pills.

When these mysterious pills emerged from the pill furnace, he would look at them skeptically. Although he knew they surely contained wondrous secrets, it was hard to say if they were as miraculous as his aphrodisiacs.

"I need to test them to see what they do..." he muttered to himself. Emerging from his Immortal Cave, he headed to the market and bought some random animals. He even spent some merit points to acquire some from the sect.

Back in his Immortal Cave, for the second time in his life, he prepared to conduct some animal testing. He even made a blank jade slab for recording data.

After completing all the preparations, he took a deep breath, pulled out a rabbit, and then selected a black pill from his collection of mysterious pills.

The rabbit sniffed it and then swallowed it. Moments later, it began to tremble. Then its legs twitched, and it rolled over, lying motionless on the ground.

"Dead?" Yan Xiaobao wondered, eyes wide open. After careful observation, when he realized the rabbit was not dead but had fallen unconscious due to the surge of spiritual energy from the potent pill, he breathed a sigh of relief.

A few hours later, it woke up. This time, it almost stood on two legs like a human, staring at Yan Xiaobao.

"Eee?" Yan Xiaobao said. Moments later, the rabbit made the same sound, startling Yan Xiaobao. "You can talk?"

The rabbit said in surprise, "You can talk?"

Instantly excited, Yan Xiaobao began to walk around the rabbit to inspect it. In turn, the rabbit grew excited and started walking around Yan Xiaobao. A strange scene was now playing out in the Immortal Cave.

Finally, Yan Xiaobao burst into laughter.

"Hahaha! This pill is incredible. I, Yan Xiaobao, am obviously super amazing. This rabbit can actually talk!"

The rabbit laughed enthusiastically, repeating the words he had just said. With an odd expression on his face, Yan Xiaobao opened the door to one of the side rooms and threw the rabbit inside.

"Suit yourself. You're obviously not smart. If you do some cultivation, don't forget to come back and thank me in the future. I'll leave you here for now, and I'll release you outside the sect in a few days."

After putting the rabbit into another room, Yan Xiaobao paid no more attention during the tests. The next subject was a monkey, for which he chose a yellow pill. At first, the monkey pretended not to see it, but eventually grew interested and grabbed the pill. After sniffing it, it crushed some of the pill, then stuffed it and the crumbles into its mouth and swallowed it.

Afterward, nothing happened, except for a strange wind rising from nowhere and quickly dissipating. Yan Xiaobao curiously watched the monkey, which just sat there with a vacant look on its face. Unsure if anything had happened, Yan Xiaobao sighed and placed the monkey in the room with the rabbit.

A few days later, he conducted a test on a group of rabbits. After consuming the pill, their eyes turned red, and they began howling, jumping up to gnaw on Yan Xiaobao's legs.

Shocked, he wrote a symbol in his records, then tossed them into a side chamber. There, they began biting each other, although they did not draw blood.

There were also some ducks. After consuming the mysterious pills, they trembled, and suddenly, their wings grew larger, and they started flying around within the Immortal Cave, appearing particularly graceful. Yan Xiaobao watched in shock, and at the same time, his excitement over the mysterious pills grew.

Time passed. Over the next half-month, Yan Xiaobao conducted tests with his mysterious pills, documenting everything. Occasionally, his manic laughter echoed from the Immortal Cave.

A few days later, when he fed some ordinary chickens some pills, they quickly grew until they were the size of elephants. Yan Xiaobao's understanding of the Medical Path deepened ever further. Excitedly shaking, he continued his experiments.

Gradually, the rooms he reserved for animal subjects contained all sorts of strange creatures. There was a group of toads covered entirely in eyes. Whenever the toads croaked, the eyes would blink.

Yan Xiaobao bought a tiger for a few Spirit Stones. After consuming one of his pills, it grew eight more heads, for a total of nine. When they all roared, the sound was most impressive.

There was also a flock of ordinary pigeons that didn't undergo any significant changes, except they continuously lightened themselves in flight...

Time went by, the experiments continued, and the mystical and extraordinary results of the mysterious pills became more apparent. There were a group of monkeys that, after consuming some strange pills, began twitching uncontrollably.

There was a group of cats making thundering burping sounds. Yan Xiaobao was filled with awe and couldn't help but wonder how he had concocted all these mysterious pills. The most exaggerated case was a group of geese. After consuming the pills, their eyes turned pure white. Although they looked a bit unsettling, the result was extremely loyal, even watching over Yan Xiaobao's cave as if they were guarding it.

...

Chapter 1177: The Strange Zoo

...

As it neared the end, he fed some medicine to the hot spring fish. They immediately went crazy, struggling to leap out of the water. There, they grew legs and started wandering around the Immortal Cave.

After examining the fish, he tossed them into another side chamber. By this time, the adjacent room was filling up, and his Immortal Cave had transformed into a peculiar zoo.

One monkey just sat in place, its chin resting in its palm, apparently lost in thought. There was a group of monkeys twitching spasmodically. Red-eyed rabbits were playing with elephant chickens...

The toads blinked, croaking hoarsely. Lastly, there was the rabbit practicing various poses. Occasionally, it would say, "Eee? You can speak? Hahaha! These pills are incredible. I, Yan Xiaobao, am obviously amazing. This rabbit can actually talk!" It could only recite those three passages of the Scripture.

In the air, ducks flew gracefully back and forth. Pigeons swooped down, and wherever they went, droppings fell beneath them... The Nine-headed Tiger was covered by it, roaring constantly. On one side were fish with legs, running back and forth over the burping cat...

At the doorway were the geese, coldly observing everything as if they were on guard against something.

Yan Xiaobao looked around, pondering that he had only tested a small portion of the mysterious pills. Unfortunately, he had no more animals to test them on.

"The Dao of medicine is truly miraculous..." he murmured. With that, he decided he must test all of his mysterious pills. Thus, he left the Immortal Cave to buy more animals for experiments.

However, almost as soon as he left, his second test subject, the thoughtful monkey that did nothing but stare into space, suddenly lifted its head thoughtfully. Then it turned its gaze to the side chamber door, its eyes looking as intelligent as a human's! Suddenly, it sprang into action, ran over... and opened the door!

Next, the main door of the Immortal Cave... was flung wide open!

As the considerate monkey jumped into the open space outside, sunlight shone outside. The other animals stared in astonishment, but after a moment, they all... escaped.

By chance, Zhou Xinqi happened to step out of her Immortal Cave at the same moment. She saw a flock of quacking ducks elegantly flying into the open, and her jaw dropped. She had long mastered all five types of Soul Creatures, but she had never seen anything like these flying ducks before.

"What are those things?" she whispered. Next, she was amazed to see several elephant-sized chickens racing. Perched atop one of them was a rabbit.

"EEE? You can speak? Hahaha! These pills are incredible. I, Yan Xiaobao, am obviously amazing. This rabbit can actually talk!"

Zhou Xinqi stood there blinking in shock, wondering if she was hallucinating. Around that time, Xu Baocai and some other Outer Sect disciples were in the midst of their proficiency tests. Elder Xu stood to the side, a grim expression on his face as he presided over the scene. Suddenly, a flock of pigeons appeared, a loud flapping sound echoing... countless bird droppings rained down. It was like a downpour, covering Xu Baocai, the other candidates, and the spectators. Even Teacher Xu's hair was piled with droppings....

As the flock of pigeons flew into the distance, everyone looked up in astonishment, showered with droppings...

"Those pigeons... I've never seen them before..."

"Damn! What's going on? I can't believe it... I can't believe they're struggling so relentlessly!" The disciples were in uproar, Elder Xu stood dazed for a moment, then his face began to twitch.

Chen Ziang and Zhao Yiduo stood on a mountain path, glaring at each other.

Ever since they became servants, the two had had differences, and their conflicts only grew more intense. Usually, they just glared at each other, but now things were escalating. "Today, we finally settle our score—"

However, before they could even finish those words, a group of fish with legs ran past, kicking up a cloud of dust like them.

Before Chen Zie and Zhao Yiduo could react, a herd of cats approached at lightning speed, thundering past in pursuit of the fish. Chen Zie and Zhao Yiduo gasped in shock, their hostility completely forgotten.

"Did we just see a bunch of fish with legs?" Zhao Yiduo blurted out, wondering if he had seen what he thought he saw.

"Those cats' burps are as loud as thunder..." Chen Ziang said, his eyes wide.

Down the mountain, with a herd of red-eyed rabbits beginning to gnaw at their legs, many Outer Sect disciples panicked. Although the rabbits were relatively easy to catch, their chattering was terrifying.

The most shocking was the rabbit sitting on the back of an elephant-sized chicken.

"EEE? You can speak? Hahaha! These pills are incredible. I, Yan Xiaobao, am obviously amazing. This rabbit can actually talk!"

Everyone on Xiangyun Peak went crazy... Countless people heard the rabbit's words and quickly realized that the entire incident's instigator was Yan Xiaobao!

In the inner parish, a group of toads leaped around. Any inner disciple who saw them gasped in shock. Seeing these toads, with their eyes wide open, was enough to frighten anyone.

Chapter 1178: Strange Zoo (Part 2)

Even a Nine-headed Tiger is rushing around. Xiangyun Peak has plunged into complete chaos.

There's a peculiar monkey...which climbed all the way to the rooftop of Li Qinghou's residence. Sitting there, at the highest point of Xiangyun Peak, it rests its chin in its palm, watching Xu Meixiang walking into the distance, having just chatted with Li Qinghou....

Li Qinghou's face is pale, standing outside his residence, looking up at the monkey. Just as he was about to start shouting, suddenly there was a banging sound, followed by a shower of bird droppings. Li Qinghou's jaw dropped.

It's been some time...since chaos erupted at Xiangyun Peak. Disciples from both the Outer Sect and Inner Sect are in an uproar. In most cases, the animals didn't really affect them. However, no one could figure out how these little pigeons managed to release such a large amount of bird droppings...

Gradually, the rabbit, which was originally only able to recite three passages of scripture, learned to speak more. Gradually, it learned how to cry at the top of its lungs.

"Heavens! What is that?!"

"Did you see that? That rabbit can talk!"

"This must definitely be Yan Xiaobao's handiwork!"

"Keep it down, but yesterday I saw Elder Zhou and his Phoenixes enter a room. Later, I heard some very bizarre sounds...."

"Sister Zhou Xinqi, Sister Du Lingfei, I don't care if Yan Xiaobao tries to stop me, you'll both surely end up with me, Xu Baocai!"

"Brother Hou Yunfei, you're so mischievous! What are you doing...? Uh...what is that? Why are those monkeys twitching?!"

"Meixiang Young Man sisters, I, Li Qinghou, am not eloquent in love. After I enter the Gold Core stage, I will definitely consider you as my Daoist companion!"

"Hahaha! This pill is unbelievable. I, Yan Xiaobao, am clearly awesome. This rabbit can actually speak!"

As the rabbit ran back and forth, its list of sayings gradually expanded. It possessed very sensitive ears that repeated any sound it heard. Many people were affected, leaving them flustered. This sharp-eared rabbit quickly began to broadcast those secretive stories, even naming names.

Some of the tales spread by the rabbit were almost beyond belief. This was especially the case with regards to Li Qinghou... Such things were never openly discussed, and many were completely shocked by many elders.

Xu Baocai was stunned, Hou Yunfei's eyes were wide, and Li Qinghou started to tremble with rage.

Just then, Yan Xiaobao was returning from the market, hauling a lot of small animals, eagerly anticipating his next round of experiments. However, when he stepped onto Xiangyun Peak, bird droppings rained down. He jumped to the side, frowned, and looked up to see a flock of pigeons flying overhead.

"EEE? Why do they look so familiar??" Suddenly, a rustling sound could be heard from nearby shrubs, and a burst of legged fish exploded forth. Yan Xiaobao's jaw dropped at the sight of a group of hiccupping cats flying over the fish. Moments later, when a group of twitching monkeys darted past, his eyes widened, producing a burst of noise from his mouth as they accelerated.

Yan Xiaobao began to tremble, all the hair on his body stood on end.

"This...this...can't be!" He quickly drew the golden Crow Sword and flew into the air. As he shot towards the mountain top at maximum speed, wings sprouted from behind him.

As he flew, he saw animals everywhere. He also received some odd looks from the people he passed. When he reached his Immortal Cave, his heart was pounding. Then he saw the door was open, and apart from the guard goose, the cave was completely empty.

"How did they get out?!" he thought, standing there dumbfounded. It seemed impossible. Suddenly, he looked to one side and saw a rabbit running back and forth, spewing forth a big bunch of sentences ending in "...".

"Hahaha! This pill is unbelievable. I, Yan Xiaobao, am clearly awesome. This rabbit can actually speak!"

Yan Xiaobao's eyes widened. Meanwhile, the rabbit saw him, and its eyes widened too. It immediately turned tail and fled. Knowing disaster was afoot, Yan Xiaobao pounced towards the rabbit.

Unfortunately, the rabbit's speed was explosive, and in the blink of an eye, not even a shadow was seen. Yan Xiaobao's jaw dropped. Just then, he heard Li Qinghou's roaring voice.

"Yan Xiaobao! Clean up this mess immediately! If I see any more animal or bird droppings, you'll go straight into Ten Thousand Snake Valley! Make that damn rabbit shut its mouth!"

It didn't matter if Yan Xiaobao was top of the line in chosen battles, or if his Immortal silver skin made such astonishing progress. At the mention of '10,000 Snake Valley', he trembled. Just thinking about this place filled him with fear. Looking as if he was about to cry, he instinctively glanced at the mountain, and then his eyes widened.

Sitting on the rooftop of Li Qinghou's residence was a monkey, its chin resting on its palm, seemingly deep in contemplation.

On the verge of tears, Yan Xiaobao dashed up the mountain towards the monkey. As he approached, the monkey glanced over, appearing quite emotional, as if pondering the wonders of enjoying freedom. Although Yan Xiaobao was somewhat shocked, he quickly grabbed the monkey and tossed it into his hands.

Afterward, he anxiously ran to scour the rest of Xiangyun Peak. Wherever he went, disciples looked at him with odd expressions. The next beast he captured was a Nine-headed Tiger, followed by the eye frog.

Chapter 1179: The Strange Zoo (Part 3)

Soon, there was a chicken as big as an elephant, then a fish with legs. Shortly after, the belching cat was detained. Ducks were the easiest to understand.

When he rounded up the twitching monkey and threw it into his bag, it was almost over. The most difficult to catch was the defecating pigeon, which required a lot of effort. When he caught the last one, it was deep into the night. After taking stock, he realized the only animal left was the talking rabbit.

Unfortunately, despite repeated searches, Yan Xiaobao couldn't find it. The rabbit was an expert at hiding.

"Ai." He sighed and looked at the bird droppings covering Xiangyun Peak, and started cleaning it up. It took the whole night. When he returned to his Immortal Cave, he was exhausted, and it was dawn.

As the sun rose, the disciples of Xiangyun Peak appeared and found the peak creaking. When they recalled the events of the previous day, they suddenly had a deeper understanding of Yan Xiaobao's pill. Of course, those disciples showered with bird droppings felt angry about it, but they were powerless. After all, they knew Yan Xiaobao didn't do it on purpose.

Even so, the embarrassment he caused happened time and time again. Therefore, the terror of Bai Xiaochun was growing in everyone's mind.

Yan Xiaobao slept until the afternoon. After waking up, he decided he dared not conduct any more strange pill experiments. After leaving the sect, he walked far into the wilderness, where he found a safe place to release all the animals from his hold.

"You are all free now..." he said with a wry smile.

The animals that hadn't taken any medicinal medicine quickly ran away. However, the other animals just stood there looking at Yan Xiaobao. He turned back to look for a while, then pulled out some medicine pills from his hand.

"If you take some of these pills, maybe you can start your cultivation. Alright, okay? You caused me a lot of trouble yesterday." He fed each animal a pill and then waved his hand, turning to leave. It was at this point that the Nine-headed Tiger let out a powerful roar.

Yan Xiaobao looked over his shoulder and saw the Nine-headed Tiger looking at him with a strange glint in its eyes, as if committing his features to memory. Subsequently, it turned towards the distance.

All the other animals had reactions similar to the tiger, including the duck, pigeon, walking fish, belching cat, guarding goose, eye-covered toad, and twitching monkey. After a final look at Yan Xiaobao, they dispersed.

The last to leave was the thoughtful monkey, which looked at Yan Xiaobao with what seemed to be a hint of wisdom. For some reason, Yan Xiaobao felt that the monkey possessed something profound.

After giving Yan Xiaobao a deep look, it turned and walked towards the distance.

Yan Xiaobao left. For some reason, he already felt the monkey was as smart as a human. The deep look in its eyes had been clear.

He cleverly took out the jade slab and found information about the pill he fed to that monkey.

"There's something about this pill... I don't understand!" He pondered as he looked at the departing animals, wishing them well. Their lives had changed because of him, and he truly hoped they would be happy.

Eventually, wings sprouted from Yan Xiaobao's back, and he shot towards the sect. Upon returning to Xiangyun Peak, Yan Xiaobao began to feel a bit emotionally stirred. He held many mysterious pills in his hand, but he dared not test any of them. As he walked along the sect's mountain path, other disciples either gave him strange looks or glared at him in hatred and anger.

...

Chapter 1180: Chasing Dreams

...

"Why is chasing my dreams so difficult?" he thought. "It's not my fault. Uncle Li is the one who made me focus on my research..." Sighing, he walked around until he reached his Immortal Cave, where he sat and stared into space.

Earlier that year, Yan Xiaobao often went to Li Qinghou to ask about issues that arose in the concoction of medicine. Li Qinghou often found himself surprised by these questions. The depth of Yan Xiaobao's exploration in the Medical Path was unusual for an ordinary pharmacist.

Paired with Yan Xiaobao's incredible achievements with the Stele, Li Qinghou couldn't help but be full of expectations. However, everyone has different understandings of the Medical Path, so Li Qinghou didn't answer any of Yan Xiaobao's questions. Instead, he encouraged him to conduct his own tests. Only by doing so could he develop his own Medical Path. If he just followed the crowd, he would never make a

name for himself as a Master of the Medical Path. Additionally, most pill recipes originate from the experimental results of generations.

"No. My dream hasn't changed. Uncle Li was right. The only things truly belonging to you are the ones you acquire yourself. Even if it gets harder, I still won't give up!" Clenching his teeth, he decided that even if he couldn't test his mysterious pills, he could still continue to devote himself to the Path of Medicine.

"I will definitely become a magical Master Alchemist!" Taking a deep breath, he returned to his medicine concoction workstation, where he immersed himself wholly in pill concoction.

Time flew by. In the blink of an eye, several months passed. As far as Third-level Spiritual Medicine was concerned, Yan Xiaobao's confidence and skill level had increased. He solved one problem after another and soon discovered that Third-level Spiritual Medicine wasn't that difficult after all.

However... a bigger problem loomed.

Despite his best efforts, and his much greater proficiency in Third-level Spiritual Medicine, it was very difficult to improve his success rate. Generally, out of ten batches of pills, five would succeed. Out of the other five, one would produce an unidentifiable mysterious pill, and four would be considered toxic.

He began to go a bit mad. Even spirit enhancement had no effect on the toxic pills. Only through spiritual enhancement could low-level pills be elevated to a higher level.

Though he didn't realize it, his focus on medicine concoction had reached an obsessive-compulsive level. Unless he could achieve the perfection he pursued, he would feel uneasy.

"Impurities! How can I get rid of those impurities!?" As he stared at the pile of toxic pills he'd collected, his eyes turned bloodshot. After some thought, he considered going to ask Li Qinghou. But when he remembered how Li Qinghou encouraged him to make his own observations and experiments, he clenched his teeth and threw himself even more madly into problem-solving.

Days passed. Eventually, people started noticing that Yan Xiaobao had become quiet again. No explosions, no animals running amok. Everything was peaceful, though for some, the newfound silence was hard to get used to.

Unfortunately, good things never last forever... A month later, in the middle of the night, Yan Xiaobao sat before his pill furnace, his hair disheveled, frantically performing spell gestures to control the Earth Flames. As he fed more medicinal plants into the furnace, his eyes grew more intense.

"This is it. Almost finished. I'm sure this time I'll solve all the problems. This is what I call creativity! I added Thunder God Vine, Lightning Detox Flower, rose, and Yin Yang thistle, and invented a new technique. It must be able to clear the impurities. It will surely work. This is Yan Xiaobao's one and only... Lightning Detox Grand Magic!" With his excitement, the pill furnace began to tremble, and the fragrance of medicine wafted out. Outside, the moon hung high in the cloudless night sky above Xiangyun Peak.

Suddenly, a layer of clouds formed, and a bolt of lightning struck towards Xiangyun Peak. When it hit Yan Xiaobao's cave, the cave's spell formation quivered, and some lightning even pierced through the spell formation, and a stone from his Immortal Cave fell onto the pill furnace.

Bai Lingchun's wild laughter accompanied the crackling lightning inside the Immortal Cave. After the lightning disappeared, he excitedly rushed towards the pill furnace.

Unfortunately, the only thing left inside was some ashes and swirling smoke.

"Too much Lightning Detox Flower!" he thought, pulling at his disheveled hair, looking like a mad scientist. With that, he procured more medicinal plants and began preparing the ingredients.

Many of Xiangyun Peak's disciples saw the lightning and noticed that it seemed to have landed on Yan Xiaobao's Immortal Cave.

"So... even God is tired of Yan Xiaobao?"

"That must be it. Heaven truly has eyes! Sending lightning to end him..."

People had various thoughts about what was happening, and many rejoiced at Yan Xiaobao's apparent misfortune. Some elders even noticed the lightning and were very surprised.

"Even Li Feng didn't attract lightning when concocting medicine. According to legend, only 7th-level Spiritual Medicine and higher attracts Tribulation Lightning. What is Yan Xiaobao doing?"

Three afternoons later, laughter rang out from Yan Xiaobao's cave. Staring at the pill furnace, his hands flashed in a gesture of double-handed spells. Spiritual power erupted, Earth Flames raged. Bai Xiaochun roared, slapping the surface of the pill furnace with both hands.