

Stronger 191

Chapter 191: Obtaining the Celestial Demon Bone Can Make One a Prince, News of the Zhao Family's Treasured Artifact

At the Black Tiger Branch, after Zhao Renxiong, Feng Menghu, and Guo Yunkui had left, Liy Ruoqing summoned Steward Qian Liu. He explained the matter of randomly capturing two to three hundred Loose Cultivators and commoners, then departed the branch, taking a few subordinates with him from the Great Marsh Prefecture.

「Two hours later, he arrived at Black Cloud City, the headquarters of the Black Tiger Gang.」

Glancing at the towering city walls of Black Cloud City ahead, Liy Ruoqing quickly entered. Before long, he stood before a rippling arched gate. The next moment, he stepped through the ripples, and the scenery before his eyes instantly transformed—a vast Secret Realm spanning hundreds of thousands of acres appeared.

High mountains and dense forests filled this Secret Realm. On the forest floor, amidst the dense woods, lay piles of white bones from wild beasts, still stained with blood. Numerous Black Tiger Demons, each about a zhang high, roamed the jungle, chasing scattered beasts. Peculiarly, these Black Tiger Demons, despite exuding strong Demon Qi, completely ignored Liy Ruoqing as they approached, showing no intention of attacking him.

Liy Ruoqing moved like a phantom among countless Demons, his eyes betraying a hint of dread as he observed the increasingly powerful Tier Two, Tier Three, and Tier Four Black Tiger Demons. He then transformed into a shadow and, in an instant, stood on the mountainside of the highest peak at the center of the Secret Realm.

From a wide, enormous cave nestled among the giant rocks on the mountainside, an old voice called out, "Ruoqing, I am discussing matters with your uncle. Please wait outside for a moment!"

Upon hearing this, Liy Ruoqing, the Master of the Black Tiger Great Marsh Hall, stood solemnly outside the cave.

「After about the time it takes to drink a cup of tea,」

the old voice from within the cave finally said, "Come in!"

Liy Ruoqing stepped inside. After walking for some time through the magnificent, crystal palace-like cave, he arrived before a hall carved from beautiful jade. He looked up at Liy Hongtian, the Black Tiger Gang Leader, who wore Black Tiger Armor, his silver hair tied back, his stern face commanding respect. "Leader, what brings Uncle here this time?"

The 'Uncle' Liy Ruoqing mentioned was, naturally, Prefect Liy of the Great Marsh Prefecture, who governed millions of people.

Liy Hongtian said, "Over the years, nourished by the Celestial Demon Bone within the Secret Realm, I've finally reversed the decline of my Qi Blood and recently advanced to the Sixth Layer. He naturally came to congratulate me!

"As for what he discussed with me, what else could a Prefect want, other than to use the power of the Celestial Demon Bone from the Secret Realm to deal with the Great Demon occupying the herb-producing land?

"But the power of the Celestial Demon Bone, passed down by our Liy Family ancestors and nurtured to its current state, was not achieved easily. It took over two hundred years and millions of jin of flesh and blood from Tier Three and above Demons. How could he expect to use it so casually?

"I delayed my own Cultivation for decades, painstakingly refining the Black Soul Wondrous Jade, and had him deliver it to the Great Xia Royal Family. This was to obtain more Sunflower Water Elixirs and Wood Pills from the Royal Family—not for him to indulge his desire to play the official and blindly pledge loyalty to the Great Xia Dynasty!

"To this day, he doesn't think about how to strengthen the Liy Family's Black Tiger Gang. Instead, he spends all day pondering how to alleviate the Great Xia Royal Family's worries. Hmph! I think my elder brother has lost his sense of priorities. We just had a quarrel over it!"

Liy Ruoqing frowned. "Uncle is, after all, the one with the highest Cultivation in our Liy Family. The pressure on him in external affairs is naturally immense.

"Besides, during his years as Prefect, he has actually secured many benefits for the Black Tiger Gang. As for wanting to use the Celestial Demon Bone, it might be due to the immense pressure from the arrival of the Celestial Sect Saintess, Xiaoo Ying'Er!"

Liy Hongtian frowned. "The Great Xia Royal Family possesses twelve Celestial Demon Bones. With these, they guard the realm, intimidating and recruiting Tier Seven and Tier Eight powerhouses from all over the land.

"Since the Demon disaster has shaken the foundations of Great Xia, and the Xiaoo Family isn't using their own Celestial Demon Bone... why should our Liy Family exhaust our resources?

"As for the pressure from the Celestial Sect Saintess, how long can she stay in this barren frontier land?

"She must have come because of the Conical Hat Guest's unique Battle Armor. Presumably, once the matters concerning the Conical Hat Guest and the Ba Mountain Secret Realm are concluded, she will leave the Great Marsh Prefecture."

At this point, he looked at Liy Ruoqing. "Speaking of the Conical Hat Guest, the theft of the herbs has had a significant impact, likely causing unrest within the gang.

"But the Demons within the Black Tiger Secret Realm have been nurtured by me for many years; it's impossible to kill them for their flesh to feed the Gang Members. As for the herb shortage, have your uncle arrange it!"

Liy Ruoqing replied, "Before the Celestial Sect Saintess leaves, Uncle probably can't touch the Official Army's herb reserves!"

Liy Hongtian frowned. "Then use the gang's reserves to manage for a month or two.

"Didn't that Conical Hat Guest claim he would publicly deal with Ren Xiong on the eighth day of the ninth month?

"When the time comes, if we capture the Conical Hat Guest and present him to the Celestial Sect Saintess, the herbs he stole will naturally be recovered. It's just... I hope he actually shows up!"

Liy Ruoqing said, "Although the Conical Hat Guest's origins are mysterious, he has a strong will. He should appear on the eighth day of the ninth month. I have already discussed this with the Guo and Feng Families, and we will definitely capture him in one fell swoop! Moreover, since the Saintess is in the Great Marsh Prefecture, she might even have Guo Heilong and Hua Yanluo take action!

"With such an inescapable net, even if the Conical Hat Guest had three heads and six arms, even if he were a late-stage Sixth Layer expert, he would surely be captured!"

Liy Hongtian nodded. "Let's set aside the matter of the Conical Hat Guest for now. In the next few days, prepare to depart. You and your second brother will secretly go to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm.

"I have thirty stalks of Zhengyuan Grass here. It's enough for you two brothers to last for over a month in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm. During that time, you should have a chance to find some Heavy Water Spiritual Objects. These can be used to request the Royal Alchemist to refine Elixirs, building up a good reserve of Elixirs for the future generations of the Liy Family."

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Liy Ruoqing nodded, then his eyes flickered. "If we both go together, it shouldn't be too difficult to find some Heavy Water Spiritual Objects in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm. However, the Celestial Demon Bone in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm has been around for over a hundred years now, and our Liy Family has the method to refine the Celestial Demon Bone..."

Liy Hongtian frowned. "The Celestial Demon Bone in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm is located at the center. How dangerous do you think that place is? The poisonous fog accumulated there for countless years is extremely toxic; even Eighth Layer Martial Cultivators can't withstand it. A slight mistake could lead to death! Over the past hundred years, those two Celestial Demon Bones have repeatedly thwarted the Great Xia Royal Family, the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, and the Southern Border Yuwang Mansion. This has caused the loss of several top-tier Eighth Layer powerhouses. If it weren't for the fall of those Eighth Layer powerhouses guarding the Southern Border, the demon calamities in the Six Prefectures of Nanjiang wouldn't have been so rampant! Neither the Great Xia Royal Family, the Profound Phoenix Celestial Sect, nor the Southern Border Yuwang Mansion could obtain that Celestial Demon Bone. The Celestial Demon Bone in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm isn't something our Liy Family can covet. Once inside the Secret Realm, focus on finding Heavy Water Spiritual Objects and don't think about those illusory things!"

Liy Ruoqing heard this and could only nod silently.

Liy Hongtian then reclined on the tiger-skin chair and sighed, "Our Liy Family's Celestial Demon Bone... The Liy Family members who have guarded the Demon Bone for generations have never left the Secret Realm. Nor have they ever allowed others to enter. Otherwise, even this Tier One Celestial Demon Bone would have been taken by the Great Xia Dynasty long ago!

"Such treasures as the Celestial Demon Bone are regarded as supreme by even the top Sects in the Central Divine Dynasty, those claiming to have Immortals. How could they be so easily obtained and guarded!

"The Ba Mountain Secret Realm is vast, equivalent to dozens of Black Tiger Secret Realms. The Celestial Demon Bone there should be at least Tier Two, or possibly even Tier Three... I wonder which Martial Cultivator with great fortune will obtain that treasure!

"If someone could obtain that Celestial Demon Bone, even if they were only at the Fifth or Sixth Layer, they could potentially establish a top-tier power in the Great Xia Dynasty. They might even be granted a fiefdom, becoming a Great Xia Prince with a status far exceeding your uncle's!

"King Yu of the Southern Border Yuwang Mansion, for instance, has become a dominant figure in the Southern Border over the past century because he possesses a Tier Two Celestial Demon Bone, and he has gradually grown into one of the world's few Late Eighth Layer powerhouses!

"With such temptation, it's likely that several top-tier powerhouses will fall again, trying to seize the Celestial Demon Bone when the Ba Mountain Secret Realm opens this time!"

「Great Marsh Prefecture City.」

「Wutong Village, Lin Residence.」

After a period of cultivation, Lin Xuankong entered the back hall and saw some food boxes on the table. He walked over to the table, opened one of the boxes, and was about to take out a pastry,

"Sister Ni Chang brought these when she came over. They're all my favorites! You sneaky fellow, trying to eat them without telling me?" a Young Lady's voice came from behind.

Lin Xuankong withdrew his hand with some embarrassment, then turned his head helplessly to look at Lii Xiaolan. Although his Martial Arts Realm had already surpassed the Young Lady's, and their mastery of the Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique was at the exact same level, he still couldn't detect her stealthy approach. The concealing abilities of the Shadow Concealment Primordial Technique were indeed formidable!

"Has the Huang Family's eldest daughter come over? What's the matter!" Lin Xuankong asked curiously, looking at the Young Lady.

Lii Xiaolan's expression paused, then a blush suddenly appeared on her face.

Today, Sister Ni Chang came over. She said she was to marry the second son of the Zhao Family on September 12th. Inexperienced in such matters, and with her mother having passed away early, Sister Ni Chang had come to consult me on matters between husband and wife!

Good heavens, what do I, Lii Xiaolan, know about such things!

Back then, when Sister Ni Chang was curiously asking all sorts of questions, I had no idea how to answer and just spouted a bunch of nonsense. I wonder if Sister Ni Chang will be led astray by my advice!

"Why are you blushing for no reason?" Lin Xuankong grew even more curious.

Seeing he sensed something amiss, Lii Xiaolan's eyes widened immediately. "Am I? Maybe it's because of the hot weather!"

She vigorously fanned her cheek with her small, fair hand, her pretty face feigning an expression of being very hot.

Heh! The sweat on her forehead seems to have just appeared. Is it because of the heat, or does she have a guilty conscience?

Lin Xuankong felt the Young Lady's behavior was very suspicious. However, seeing her deliberately avoiding the subject, he didn't press further.

Thus, he took off several Ghost Frog Pouches from his waist.

"I'm planning to go to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, so I'll leave these Qi Replenishing Soup ingredients at home. I can't carry ingredients for hundreds of thousands of portions of Qi Replenishing Soup with me. Besides, these Ghost Frog Pouches need to be emptied too, in case I make significant gains in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm!"

Lii Xiaolan already knew about his Immortal Tier Poison Resistance, so she wasn't overly worried about him going to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm. After all, her husband could completely ignore even the deadliest poisons there. Hearing his plan, Lii Xiaolan frowned. "Then I'll enlist some folks and dig a large secret chamber under the courtyard to store those ingredients?"

Speaking of this, Lii Xiaolan couldn't help but think about the recent uproar that had shaken the entire Great Marsh Prefecture these past two days. Her husband had single-handedly seized half a year's worth of 'provisions' from the Feng Family, the Guo Family, and the Black Tiger Gang, and had even killed all their elites.

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The entire situation in Great Marsh Prefecture has changed because of him. The Huang Family and the Yin Talisman Sect, who were previously oppressed by the Black Tiger Gang, have shown signs of rising again... In the Great Marsh Prefecture, he is probably the only one with such immense courage! Of course, apart from the top major powers, he is likely the only one capable of creating such a large hole in the sky that once loomed over the Great Marsh Prefecture!

Lii Xiaolan sighed inwardly.

Lin Xuankong shook his head, "The Ba Mountain Secret Realm will open in two days. There's no time to dig a pit now! Besides, twenty-eight carts of medicinal herbs would require an enormous hole under the

courtyard to hide them. Such a massive project couldn't be concealed from others and might even arouse suspicion!"

Lii Xiaolan frowned and said, "There's indeed not enough time. But we can't just leave those herbs in the backyard storage room. If the servants see them and word gets out, it'll cause trouble! What a headache! Who would have thought having too many resources would also be worrisome! It's a pity you don't have a Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch!"

Lin Xuankong asked curiously, "What is a Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch?"

Lii Xiaolan glanced outside and lowered her voice, "That... that Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch might not even exist! Sister Ni Chang mentioned it to me. She said Second Young Master Zhao once told her that even though the Zhao Family's power is inferior to the Huang, Guo, and Feng Families, their lineage is ancient. They supposedly possess treasures these three families could never have. According to him, the Zhao family's ancestor passed down two refined Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouches. These treasures have storage space dozens of times larger than ordinary Ghost Frog Pouches!

"A Ghost Frog Pouch with dozens of times more space... Such a mystical storage treasure is rare in the world! It's not something any family or sect in Great Marsh Prefecture possesses. Even the Great Xia Royal Family might not have one! I don't know if Second Young Master Zhao was boasting to Sister Ni Chang about it because they're getting married. But if such a treasure truly exists and you could get one, there'd be no need to worry about storing resources!"

Lin Xuankong was taken aback. "Second Young Master Zhao? Which Zhao Family's second young master?"

Lii Xiaolan replied, "Remember when the Yin Talisman Sect's third warehouse was robbed? You told me about a particularly arrogant Steward at the Yin Talisman Sect, Zhao Yufei, whose chin is always pointing to the sky. It's *her* Zhao Family!"

Lin Xuankong fell silent upon hearing this.

Lii Xiaolan sighed, "How can someone be so arrogant? Even Sister Ni Chang, the eldest daughter of the Huang Family, isn't as arrogant as the Zhao Yufei you mentioned. I pity the man who will marry her. He'll be staring up her nostrils every day, how depressing! Right, husband?"

Lin Xuankong was speechless.

"Why do you look so awkward?" Lii Xiaolan suddenly asked curiously.

Feeling apprehensive, Lin Xuankong shifted topics, "People can change. Maybe Zhao Yufei will be less arrogant after she gets married! Let's not talk about her anymore and discuss the matter of offspring we talked about the other day!"

"Oh, it's so hot! I'm going to refine some elixirs!"

Lii Xiaolan turned into a blur of motion and dashed into the nearby Alchemy Room.

Hot? What does that have to do with alchemy? Doesn't alchemy make it even hotter? How long do you think you can hide? Once I return from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, I'll definitely claim you!

Just as Lin Xuankong thought of this, Lii Xiaolan rushed out again and put a Jade Box in his hand.

"This is a hundred Mid-grade Divine Protection Pills I refined recently, the best of the dozens of batches in flavor and taste! Take these to eat for now! Husband, remember to focus on Cultivation, focus on Cultivation! Stop thinking about... offspring!"

With that said, Lii Xiaolan again turned into a blur of motion and rushed into the Alchemy Room, slamming the door shut and locking it from the inside!

"Refining elixirs is crucial; I can't be disturbed. You go focus on your Cultivation and don't disturb me!" Lii Xiaolan's faint voice came from inside.

Lin Xuankong looked at the Jade Box in his hand and recalled what Lii Xiaolan had just said, smiling wryly and shaking his head.

These hundred Mid-grade Divine Protection Pills are the best in taste and flavor out of dozens of batches? Why do I feel like my Young Lady isn't refining elixirs for their medicinal properties, but rather to make snacks! Can these hundred Divine Protection Elixirs actually be effective?

Lin Xuankong smiled and shook his head.

But when he recalled Lii Xiaolan's mention of the Zhao Family's Ghost Frog Pouch, his eyebrow arched, and he walked out of the back hall, a curious glint in his eyes.

A Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch... Does the Zhao Family truly possess such a treasure? Storage space dozens of times larger than an ordinary Ghost Frog Pouch? Even the Great Xia Royal Family might not possess such a treasure!

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Lin Xuankong walked out of the rear hall, feeling somewhat emotional. The Second Young Master of the Zhao Family must be Yufei's second younger brother, which makes him my future brother-in-law! I wonder if my future brother-in-law is just boasting. Does the Zhao Family really possess such a profound Treasure? And why does this brother-in-law seem so unreliable? If the Zhao Family truly had such a Treasure, would he casually tell outsiders? Even an engaged fiancée wouldn't speak of it so easily. This future brother-in-law is either a real big mouth or just a braggart. After Yufei marries me, I'll have to be careful with this Second Young Master Zhao. A loudmouth like him is truly terrifying!

「...」

「Over two hours later,」

「In an inn at the entrance of Qingshui Street,」

Lin Xuankong looked at Zhao Yufei as she walked into the guest room.

Zhao Yufei first closed all the doors and windows of the room and then took out a quite peculiar Ghost Frog Pouch from her bosom. A smile then touched her cold, beautiful eyes.

"My father hid this Ghost Frog Pouch in the secret vault, hidden very securely. It took me a long time to find it! I just tried it, and its space is indeed larger than an ordinary Ghost Frog Pouch! If you hadn't told me, I wouldn't have known our family had such a Treasure... Father is really too biased. There's such a Treasure at home, and he only told my second younger brother. As the eldest daughter, I knew nothing about it! And my second brother actually told the eldest daughter of the Huang Family about this Treasure so casually. He really is a big mouth! When I see him again, I'll give him a good beating to teach him a lesson!"

After speaking, she handed the Golden Ghost Frog Pouch to Lin Xuankong.

Lin Xuankong said, "Don't tell him it was I, your future brother-in-law, who mentioned it. We want to avoid any awkwardness when we meet in the future!"

Zhao Yufei lifted her chin. "Hmph, even if I told him, would he dare bare his fangs at his brother-in-law? I'd knock all his teeth out!"

Lin Xuankong was speechless.

Second Young Master Zhao is such a big mouth, casually telling his fiancée-to-be about the family Treasure! he thought. And you, Eldest Daughter of the Zhao Family, you're not making things easy for your father either, actually stealing a family Treasure to give to your lover! My future father-in-law from the Zhao Family certainly doesn't have it easy; both his son and daughter are causing him such trouble!

After a moment of wild thoughts, he looked at the Ghost Frog Pouch in his hand. The Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch, besides sharing the dark red color of an ordinary Ghost Frog Pouch, was also covered with various golden Runes. These Runes, seemingly forged from some unknown material, emitted a faint golden light and a hint of profound mystery. Just its appearance alone is quite extraordinary! Yufei truly is a wonderful wife! I just wonder about the size of the space inside?

He turned it over and examined it, then circulated his Qi Blood and poured it into the Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch.

Instantly, a vast and boundless space appeared in his perception.

This space was at least thirty to forty times larger than that of an ordinary Ghost Frog Pouch, possibly even more. This single Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch was more than enough to hold those twenty-eight carts of medicinal materials and could probably fit another one or two hundred carts!

Second Uncle Zhao wasn't exaggerating... he really is a super loudmouth!

He took out his other Ghost Frog Pouches and transferred all the supplies into the new one.

After the twenty-eight carts of medicinal materials, hundreds of thousands of catties of Demon Flesh, a large amount of Exorcism Equipment, and demon materials were moved, the Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch was still less than one-fifth full!

Lin Xuankong couldn't help but look delighted. Pinching the surprisingly light Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch, he sighed, "To think there's such a miraculous Treasure in this world! Its space is probably over forty times, nearly fifty times larger than an ordinary Ghost Frog Pouch! Yufei, this is such a precious Treasure! It might not be found in any of the families or sects of the Great Xia Dynasty, perhaps not even within the Great Xia Royal Family. It could be several times more valuable than Exorcism Armor! What will happen if your father discovers you took this Treasure from home to give to me?"

Zhao Yufei frowned for a moment, then said, "He probably won't find out. This Treasure was hidden in a secret part of the family's treasure vault. The box in the hidden passage was covered in dust, so it likely hasn't been touched for a long time!

"And if he does find out... let him worry for a couple of days. Who told him to be so biased! Anyway, there are two such Treasures at home; it's perfect for my second brother and me to have one each! Besides, a son-in-law like you is hard to find in this world. If he knew how amazing you are in the future, he'd be overjoyed!"

Lin Xuankong pondered for a moment, then said with a determined expression, "Yufei, you treat me so well. I will repay you a hundredfold in the future!"

Zhao Yufei's eyes softened as she gently leaned against him.

"I don't need a hundredfold repayment. Just remember to take me with you when you go to that wider world!"

"Oh, I'll search through the family's hidden collection of books soon to see if I can find the method for refining this kind of Ghost Frog Pouch!"

"Also, I've brought the Secret Manual for the Disguise Technique you mentioned last time, along with the necessary materials!"

After speaking, she took out the Secret Manual and disguise materials, placed them aside, and then looked up at him with a hint of reluctance.

"I've been in seclusion for cultivation these past ten-odd days to break through to the fourth level, so I haven't had a chance to discuss the marriage proposal with you."

"Now the Ba Mountain Secret Realm is about to open, and you're going there. I don't know when you'll be back... Are you sure you don't want me to accompany you?"

Lin Xuankong gently shook his head, reached out, and embraced Zhao Yufei.

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"The Ba Mountain Secret Realm is filled with intense poison. I have previously consumed a large amount of Ghost Frog Eggs, thus my resistance to Demon Poison is extremely high. If you go there, you will inevitably be troubled by the Demon Poison! Stay at home and cultivate properly. Wait for me to return from the Ba Mountain Secret Realm!"

"You must come back quickly..." Zhao Yufei said softly.

Seeing Zhao Yufei's face full of tenderness, Lin Xuankong's heart fluttered. Don't go home tonight!

Zhao Yufei lowered her head slightly, fell silent for a moment, and then whispered, "Then you are not allowed to use the Blood-Burning Secret Technique!"

"Alright, then it will be the Frenzied Tiger Technique!"

"???"

「....」

「Fuhu Slope,」

At the edge of the giant pit where Lin Xuankong killed Feng Zhushi, four young girls in yellow robes floated down and spread out a finely woven white carpet at the edge of the pit.

Four bearers at the late Fourth Layer carried a small sedan chair and stopped beside the white carpet. As the curtain of the sedan chair was lifted, the Celestial Sect Saintess, Xiaoo Ying'Er, lightly stepped onto the carpet.

Next to her, Elder Hua saluted and said, "The Conical Hat Guest should have killed Feng Zhushi here!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er examined the scene carefully for a moment. Her eyes gradually filled with doubt. Judging by the power of the attack, it should have been launched by a Martial Cultivator at the Fifth Layer! But if it was a Fifth Layer Martial Cultivator, why not use True Qi for the attack? This Conical Hat Guest is indeed quite peculiar!

Elder Hua said, "It is indeed peculiar, but the Conical Hat Guest must be a Fifth Layer Martial Cultivator. If not, how could he exert such an attack!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er frowned in thought for a moment, then her eyebrows suddenly arched as she recalled Lin Xuankong, who had launched terrifyingly fast attacks with a Third Layer cultivation in the Demon-Suppressing Valley. She looked at Hua Yanluo. "Is Lin Xuankong from the Yin Talisman Sect on the list of suspects you've investigated regarding the Conical Hat Guest?"

Hua Yanluo frowned and said, "Lin Xuankong? Saintess, some days ago you specifically instructed me that if Lin Xuankong comes to the Celestial Sect looking for me, regardless of the matter, I must assist him wholeheartedly! Besides, a Steward from the Yin Talisman Sect, Ma Rusong, did mention this man.

However, Lin Xuankong was not previously well-known and is already over sixty, so he wasn't included on that list!"

Over sixty? Xiaoo Ying'Er slightly furrowed her brows. Elder Hua Yanluo's Spiritual Words Technique has never been wrong...

Hua Yanluo said, "Saintess, there's no need to worry about the Conical Hat Guest.... Since the Conical Hat Guest has agreed to fight Zhao Renxiong on the eighth of September, given his strong character, he is very likely to appear! When he does, I can easily capture him alive, and then we can extract information about the Exorcism Armor from him!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er thought for a moment, furrowing her brows. "The Ba Mountain Secret Realm is about to open, and the Heavy Water Spiritual Objects there are extremely rare. If we obtain them, we can refine many Heavy Water Treasure Pills! I intend to take people to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm. When I return, it will be close to the eighth of September. At that time, I'll go to Hill City with you. I want to see who this mysterious Conical Hat Guest truly is!"

Hua Yanluo bowed and said, "As the Saintess commands!"

Xiaoo Ying'Er nodded slightly, turned, and sat back in the sedan chair.

Moments later, the sedan chair was lifted by the four bearers and moved rapidly through the wilderness, turning into a blur.

Inside the sedan chair, Xiaoo Ying'Er couldn't help but touch the Holy Arrival Jade Token at her waist. Xiaoo Ying'Er had been somewhat traumatized since she secretly used the Holy Arrival Jade Token to spy last time; she hadn't dared to use it on Lin Xuankong again. Now, as thoughts of the suspicions surrounding the Conical Hat Guest and the upcoming trip to the Ba Mountain Secret Realm surfaced, she couldn't help but grasp the Holy Arrival Jade Token once more. Silently, she wondered: Last time it was night, this time it's daytime. It shouldn't be...

The next moment, her eyes focused, and she began to sense carefully.

After several breaths, perceiving the clear yet chaotic images and the clear yet dreadful sounds in her mind, Xiaoo Ying'Er's bright eyes revealed a look of astonishment, and she felt completely distressed!

Her fair palm recoiled from the Holy Arrival Jade Token as if struck by lightning. How... how can this be? How can it be so terrifying!

Xiaoo Ying'Er hurriedly circulated her True Qi, attempting to suppress the chaos in her mind, but unfortunately, the more she tried, the more chaotic it became...

Moments later, Xiaoo Ying'Er's usually calm face gradually showed frustration and embarrassment. She whispered angrily towards the outside of the sedan chair, "Elder Hua, immediately, right now, use the Communication Jade Token to send a message back! Have the Celestial Sect dispatch a Fifth Layer True Qi Steward. He is to go to Tongfu Inn on Qingshui Street in secret and tear it down! That... um... remember not to hurt anyone or reveal your identity. Also, after it's demolished, make sure to leave enough silver for the innkeeper as compensation!"

Beside the sedan chair, the Celestial Sect Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er's four late Fourth-Layer bearers were all stunned. The four maids on either side of the sedan chair were also stunned. Even Elder Hua Yanluo, at the late Sixth Layer, was momentarily taken aback.

The Celestial Sect Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er had always been calm and composed. Very few in the entire Great Xia Dynasty could anger her, aside from a few princes who often opposed her; almost no one else had ever managed it! Not even the scourge of Demons had ever made her show signs of anger, merely slight irritation!

What could the owner of Tongfu Inn have done? Did he offend the Saintess? Why did the Saintess suddenly appear somewhat angry!

Hua Yanluo was especially surprised. What on earth could have happened to make the Saintess so furious, seemingly out of nowhere? She even wants me to send someone to secretly tear down Tongfu Inn? And the key is, it must be done secretly? Given the Saintess's status, even if she wanted to demolish half the Great Marsh Prefecture, likely no one would dare utter a word of protest, much less criticism!

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Hua Yanluo was filled with doubts. But since the Saintess had given the order, she naturally dared not delay. She immediately took out the Communication Jade Token from her bosom, infused it with True Qi, and then inscribed some characters on the token with her True Qi. The next moment, the Communication Jade Token transformed into a mist under the stimulation of True Qi and swiftly drifted forward, disappearing beyond a thousand zhang in the blink of an eye.

From within the palanquin, the Saintess, Xiao Ying'er, watched Hua Yanluo's actions. The shame and anger she had been harboring began to dissipate slightly. She furrowed her delicate eyebrows, thinking to herself, What an exceedingly shameless fellow! Such an exceedingly detestable old man! Truly a brazen and shameless person, to act so recklessly in broad daylight... I, Xiao Ying'er, swear that if I ever use the Holy Arrival Jade Token to spy on this man, who acts recklessly anytime and anywhere, again, may I be struck by lightning! But this time, I can't let him off easily. Not doing proper things in broad daylight... In no more than the time it takes to drink three cups of tea, Celestial Sect disciples will go tear down the inn. I guarantee it'll give you a scare! I, Xiao Ying'er, swear that I'll make sure Lin Xuankong never dares to do such a thing again!

「Several cups of tea's worth of time later,」

Near Qingshui Street, Lin Xuankong and Zhao Yufei turned their heads in surprise. The two had just left the Tongfu Inn and hadn't walked two hundred zhang when they heard a loud rumble behind them. Then, they saw the Tongfu Inn, where they had just stayed, collapse with a thunderous crash!

Looking at the Tongfu Inn, now a pile of ruins, and the innkeeper's dumbfounded expression outside, Zhao Yufei, her body still tender, frowned and said in a low voice, "I told you not to use the Fierce Tiger Roar Bone Technique recklessly! Your Qi Blood must have overflowed and damaged the inn's beams, causing it to collapse!"

Lin Xuankong was taken aback. "Impossible. Could I really have brought down the entire inn?"

Zhao Yufei looked at him with certainty, then glanced at him with a mix of wistfulness and shyness. "Then how could it collapse for no reason? And right after we left? This inn does such poor business, and the owner isn't a Martial Cultivator. It's not like a Martial Cultivator came and smashed it down!"

Lin Xuankong pondered this. It's quite incredible. Am I really that destructive? A surge of bravado rose in his heart. "Why don't we go to another inn?"

Zhao Yufei shot him a look, then raised her hand and weakly patted him. "You exasperating man! You go to an inn by yourself. I need to go home and recuperate!"

「After parting ways with Zhao Yufei,」

Lin Xuankong returned home feeling refreshed, having obtained the Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch and the Disguise Secret Technique. He glanced at the Alchemy Room, where the Young Lady was still refining "delicious" Elixirs, and then returned to his own room to flip through the Disguise Secret Technique.

As he browsed, Lin Xuankong recalled the so-called 'good taste and texture' Mid-grade Divine Protection Elixir the Young Lady had given him. A thought struck him. He took out the Jade Box from his bosom, opened it, and examined its contents closely. Inside the Jade Box, the Mid-grade Divine Protection Elixir was as lustrous as jade, faintly shimmering with a precious light. He could clearly smell a faint, sweet fragrance. It seemed even better in appearance than the Nourishing Spirit Pills he had taken before!

He frowned, picked one up, and tentatively placed it in his mouth. Instantly, the Elixir dissolved into a sweet liquid, slid down his throat, and quickly spread through his meridians. Moments later, Lin Xuankong's eyes lit up. He suddenly felt refreshed, and the world before him became clearer. His senses of smell and touch also grew more acute. Although the increase wasn't huge, his Heart Thought was already powerful, so he naturally perceived the changes.

[Heart Thought: Mortal Tier Sixth Grade 2.3/80]

[Heart Thought: Mortal Tier Sixth Grade 2.6/80]

[Heart Thought: Mortal Tier Sixth Grade 3.1/80]

Due to the limited potency of the Nourishing Spirit Elixir, the long-stagnant strength of his Heart Thought suddenly began to change and rapidly improved. Lin Xuankong's eyes showed surprise. He had originally thought that the Mid-grade Divine Protection Elixir's potency would be similar to that of the Nourishing Spirit Pill, but it turned out to be significantly stronger!

He looked somewhat delightedly towards the distant Alchemy Room, thinking to himself, This Young Lady of mine's 'foodie' talent, when applied to Alchemy, has produced an unexpected, miraculous effect! To think she refined such a wondrous Mid-grade Divine Protection Elixir in such a short time! The Mid-grade Divine Protection Elixir can continue to enhance the grade of my Heart Thought—this is fantastic! The strength of my Heart Thought is crucial for activating the Eight Gates Celestial Eye against enemies; it's one of my most powerful techniques. Now, with the Elixir refined by the Young Lady, it can be rapidly enhanced again! If the strength of my Heart Thought could be raised to the Seventh Grade, probably few experts in Great Marsh Prefecture, this frontier prefecture, could resist my Heart Thought attacks!

Suppressing the joy in his heart, Lin Xuankong silently sensed the enhancement of his Heart Thought for a while, then continued to read the Disguise Secret Technique. This Disguise Technique couldn't be considered a Martial Arts Manual but rather a set of skills. It included techniques for using various disguise materials, manipulating body muscles and bones to shift and change form, and using special circulation methods to alter one's Qi Blood characteristics.

When Lin Xuankong finished reading the Disguise Secret Technique and had memorized about seventy to eighty percent of its techniques, a line of large characters appeared in his mind:

[Disguise: 1/500]

The four characters "Vigorous in Old Age" in his mind glowed faintly with a purple-gold light.

[Disguise: 1/8]

A smile touched Lin Xuankong's lips. Then, following the techniques in the Secret Technique, he secretly began to manipulate his body's muscles, bones, and Qi Blood, transforming them...

Chapter 197: The Peeping of the Seven-Tailed Great Demon, The Exalted Status of the Pill Master

Great Marsh Prefecture's second herb production area, the Sealing Demon Mountain Range.

As the location that provides innumerable herbs to the Martial Cultivators of the Great Marsh Prefecture, its many valleys are filled with countless green herbs exuding medicinal fragrance. Yet now, the Sealing Demon Mountain Range has been occupied by Great Demons, becoming a mountain range teeming with Demons, where innumerable Brown Bear Demon People are busy in the valleys.

These Demon People, demonized by the Demons, are covered in brown curly hair, with broad palms and sharp claws. They have short bear tails behind them. They constantly move back and forth in the valleys, watering the herbs, weeding, and loosening the soil. Their movements are agile and powerful. Even the shortest of the Brown Bear Demon People possess strength comparable to a First Layer Martial Cultivator!

If a human were to be contaminated by a small amount of Demon Qi, at most three to five out of a thousand would survive. These three to five would become the Demon People controlled by such Demons!

There seem to be tens of thousands of Brown Bear Demon People in the Sealing Demon Mountain Range. Calculating carefully, who knows how many humans had to die for these tens of thousands of Demon People to survive!

Among them, some burly Brown Bear Demon People stand at various mountain path checkpoints, directing the other Demon People. These burly Brown Bear Demon People mostly have two short tails!

At the center of the mountain range, on the tallest Sealed Demon Mountain, in a cave at its peak, a small bear with golden fur squatted on a stone chair. It savored various precious hundred-year and thousand-year Spirit Medicines, while a few voluptuous, lightly clad human women cautiously waited on it.

At the cave entrance, a Brown Bear Demon Person, nine feet tall with seven tails and wrapped entirely in dense Demon Qi, stepped in. He strode to the stone table, knelt on one knee, and said in a gruff voice, "Great King, you summoned me!"

The Demon with golden fur was very tiny, like a little Teddy bear. However, when it looked at the powerful Brown Bear Demon Person, it merely waved its paw casually and uttered in a sharp, human-like voice, "The Ba Mountain Secret Realm is about to open. You should set off now!"

The Brown Bear Demon Person's face, covered in brown fur, showed seriousness. "Invincible obeys the order. This time at the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, Invincible will definitely capture the Celestial Sect Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er to present to the Great King. Let that Great Xia Saintess pick flowers and fruits, groom and delouse the Great King, and serve obediently!"

Upon hearing this, the small bear with golden fur jumped a few times on the stone chair, seemingly extremely pleased, then it waved its small paw. The nine-foot-tall Brown Bear Demon Person bowed. A mass of black Demon Qi then enveloped his body, lifting him out of the cave.

The small bear with golden fur moved its paws to its chest and jumped around for a while. Then, it grabbed the wine pot on the table, drank for a bit, and finally lay down on the stone table, snoring loudly as it fell asleep.

The few lightly clad women beside the table, seeing it fall asleep, all silently left the cave. Their faces showed the horror of surviving a disaster as they crouched down trembling on the left side of the cave.

One of the women, trembling, looked towards the right side of the cave. Over there was a valley where bones, covered with bloodstains and fragments of flesh, were stacked layer upon layer. There were innumerable Demon bones, countless beasts' bones too, and who knows how many tens of thousands of broken human skeletons!

A few tiny, seemingly cute and adorable little bears were hopping and chasing around on the bone mountain, chirping noisily. These little bears with golden fur grabbed bones to gnaw on when hungry and slept on the bone mountain when tired!

Their small and cute appearance, with shiny black eyes, was originally quite adorable, but set against those white bones, they seemed exceptionally eerie....

...

In Nanyuan Prefecture City, Prince Yu's Mansion sprawled over thousands of acres. Tall buildings stood one after another, and the courtyards were constructed luxuriously. Wisps of white mist swirled around, making the entire Prince Yu's Mansion look like an earthly paradise!

In the very center stood a seven-story building with glazed glass eaves and upturned corners, the epitome of a celestial jade palace. In the spacious courtyard below this seven-story building, a handsome man in a blue robe was using a crimson longsword to cut up the corpse of a Demon.

This Tier Five Late-stage Demon was massive. Its claws alone were as thick as an adult's height, and its hide was as tough as Profound Iron. However, under the handsome man's True Qi-infused longsword, it sliced through like tofu, offering no resistance.

At this moment, a man in a Purple Gold Robe walked into the courtyard and said, "Young Prince, it's time to set off for the Ba City Secret Realm. Madam has prepared three Spider Demon Pearls, ten Ghost Frog Pouches, and three hundred Zhengyuan Grasses for you! Several Fifth Layer Mid-grade Guards are already waiting outside!"

The handsome young man, known as the Young Prince, looked northward. This time, the Celestial Sect Saintess will also be attending the opening of the Ba Mountain Secret Realm! They all say she is the number one genius among millions in the Great Xia Dynasty! "Prefect Zhang, what do you think? How does she compare to me?"

Upon hearing this, Prefect Zhang in the Purple Gold Robe said, "Celestial Sect Saintess Xiaoo Ying'Er possesses the Profound Phoenix Strange Vein and has also mastered the Blood Bath Divine Skill. Among the millions in the Great Xia Dynasty, she can indeed be called a genius! But what do they know? The Young Prince possesses the Jade Qilin Strange Vein, which can rival even the ancient legendary Candle Dragon Strange Vein. The number one genius in the Great Xia Dynasty is none other than you, Young Prince! Furthermore, you have been diligently cultivating day and night and have already reached the Mid-grade of the Sixth Layer. You are soon to advance to the Late Stage. How can anyone else in the Great Xia Dynasty compare? Even in the Central Divine Dynasty, you, Young Prince, would be counted among the handful of peerless geniuses!"

Chapter 198: The Peeping of the Seven-Tails Great Demon, The Exalted Status of Pill Masters_2

The handsome man shook the longsword in his hand, his eyes showing a touch of arrogance.

"I heard that Xiaoo Ying'Er has advanced to the Sixth Layer Early Stage. If I encounter her in the Ba Mountain Secret Realm this time, I will suppress my cultivation to the Sixth Layer Early Stage and fight her. I want the billions of people in the Great Xia Dynasty to know who the number one genius in this vast land truly is!

As for the Celestial Demon Bone, last time, my uncle did not bring enough people to refine the Celestial Demon Bone and was instead attacked by poisonous fog, causing the fall of an Eighth Layer expert!

This time he has brought along a hundred Fourth Layer, ten Fifth Layer and Sixth Layer experts, and an Eighth Layer expert. With such an array, there is surely a chance to refine the Demon Bone. If we can

obtain that Ba Mountain Celestial Demon Bone, my Yu Family will be able to stand against the Xiaoo Family!

As for the demon disaster in the Southern Border, under the deterrence of the dual Secret Realms... those few Demon Kings would then move and cause trouble in the north!"

...

「West of Great Marsh Prefecture, Ba City, at the city gate」

Lin Xuankong used the Yin Talisman Sect waist token to pass the guard's inspection, following the stream of people into the city.

At this moment, the men and women passing by him mostly held Profound Iron Weapons. Each exuded an imposing aura, and their condensed Qi Blood was practically tangible. Even those with slightly lower Cultivation were already at the Late Stage of the Third Layer!

On both sides of the street, those who had opened shops to do business were also Martial Cultivators, mostly around the Third Layer.

Ordinary people in Ba City at this moment did not dare show their faces, not even to watch the excitement, much less step onto the street!

Lin Xuankong glanced around with a bit of emotion, silently musing to himself:

This Ba City Secret Realm has gathered Martial Cultivators—more than double the number present at the Demon Slaying Conference, and their strength is also more than doubled. At present, on Ba City's street, strong practitioners from Great Marsh Prefecture and even the nearby Nanyuan Prefecture have gathered... If I were to pull out my Ruyi Profound Gold Rod and strike down, nine out of ten of the Martial Cultivators hit would be of the Fourth Layer.

After a moment of contemplation, he proceeded according to the agreement Ye Kai had made, heading towards Ye Family Street. Before long, he stood before a rather tall four-storied stone building, with a plaque at the entrance inscribed with large characters: Ye Family Trading House, Ba City.

At this moment, Martial Cultivators continuously entered and exited the trading house, most of them mid-grade Fourth Layer cultivators.

The Ye Family Martial Cultivators guarding both sides of the trading house were also quite impressive, mostly at the Third Layer, with one at the Fourth Layer Realm!

Lin Xuankong was about to step into the trading house, when suddenly five people walked quickly down the street.

Leading them, Han Feiyan's eyes showed joy, but her square face revealed a hint of caution. She whispered, "Brother Lin, come this way."

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly and followed Han Feiyan and Ye Kai through the streets and alleys, soon entering the Ye Family mansion from the back door.

「After arriving at the main hall」

Han Feiyan said, "A few days ago, people from the Black Tiger Gang came to Ba City. They specifically visited the Ye Family and the Han Family, inquiring about our whereabouts, but my father and the others managed to fend them off."

Lin Xuankong nodded and said, "Don't worry, it won't be long before you no longer need to hide and avoid them!"

Ye Kai smiled broadly and clasped his hands in respect, "Brother Lin, Feiyan and I just finished sending three friends from afar to the Secret Realm entrance when we happened to run into you on our way back!"

Lin Xuankong asked with some confusion, "Sending three friends to the Secret Realm entrance over there?"

Han Feiyan and Ye Kai exchanged a glance.

Ye Kai explained, "Brother Lin, those three are also at odds with the Black Tiger Gang. They often come to Ba City to buy various items, so we've grown close."

Han Feiyan, with a look of discontent, pushed Ye Kai aside.

"Why keep anything from Brother Lin? Actually, those three are the ones the Black Tiger Gang has been hunting: Sect Leader Yan, Sect Leader Yuan, and Guan Zhong.

Like us, they are against the Black Tiger Gang and the Feng and Guo Families. If Brother Lin plans to target the Black Tiger Gang, these people can all be allied!

Unfortunately, even they don't know who the Conical Hat Guest is, the one who caused such a huge ruckus in Great Marsh Prefecture!

Otherwise, that Conical Hat Guest great elder could very well become Brother Lin's friend too!"

Lin Xuankong: ...Am I supposed to befriend myself?

He looked at Ye Kai. "Is the Golden Body Treasure Elixir Manual ready? How much silver taels do you need?"

Ye Kai shook his head repeatedly. "It's only a copy of the Golden Body Treasure Elixir Manual. Why bother with silver taels? It just costs a bit of ink."

Han Feiyan gave him a glare. "Ha! But when you sold the Blood-Burning Secret Technique, it was a different story!"

Ye Kai: ...This Big-faced Yan, always bringing up what's best left unsaid!

He shook his head helplessly, taking out the Secret Manual and a Jade Box from the Ghost Frog Pouch. "Brother Lin, here's the Golden Body Treasure Elixir Manual. Additionally, our family's Tributor Alchemist has refined a batch of Golden Body Treasure Elixirs, from which I especially kept three for you.

These Treasure Elixirs are extremely rare. Even Sect Leader Yan and Sect Leader Yuan were rejected when they tried to order a batch from our family's Alchemist!"

Lin Xuankong received the Secret Manual and the Jade Box, and then handed Ye Kai two thousand catties of Tier Three Demon Flesh before he began to peruse the Secret Manual.

Ye Kai and Han Feiyan, seeing this, immediately ceased speaking and waited quietly to the side.

「After more than half an Hour」

Lin Xuankong finished reading the Golden Body Treasure Elixir Manual and silently absorbed its meaning.

Though the refining of Elixirs varies greatly, the principles of Alchemy Techniques are ultimately the same. He had never refined the Golden Body Treasure Elixir. However, with the vast alchemical proficiency provided by Lii Xiaolan, he now had considerable insight into Alchemy.

After a short period of contemplation, Lin Xuankong looked at Ye Kai. "Does your family have all the herbs and tools needed to refine the Golden Body Treasure Elixir?"

Chapter 199: The Seven-Tailed Great Demon's Snooping, the Elevated Status of the Pill Master_3

Ye Kai nodded. "Of course! The Alchemist our family patronizes is dedicated to refining the Divine Protection Elixir and the Golden Body Treasure Elixir all year round. After all, the Alchemy Technique progresses only through constant exploration!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Xuankong immediately stood up and said, "I would like to borrow the Pill Furnace and those medicinal ingredients and Alchemy Tools!"

Han Feiyan and Ye Kai were both stunned.

Ye Kai said in surprise, "Brother Lin, your Talent in Martial Cultivation is the best I have ever seen, and your strength is extremely formidable! But Alchemy is entirely different from Martial Cultivation; it requires a different kind of Talent and also needs years of refining elixirs to gradually improve one's Alchemy Technique!"

"The Alchemist our family patronizes has excellent Alchemy Talent and has been studying the Alchemy Dao for nearly thirty years. In the recent five to six years, he can guarantee a fifty percent success rate for refining the Divine Protection Elixir. However, even this Alchemist can only succeed in refining the Golden Body Treasure Elixir once in dozens of attempts! You've just read the Secret Manual once, and you intend to refine the Golden Body Treasure Elixir?"

Lin Xuankong smiled and nodded.

Han Feiyan glared at Ye Kai.

"What? Are you afraid of wasting the materials for the Golden Body Treasure Elixir? Brother Lin's Talent and strength are astonishing. Since he wants to refine it, he must be confident!"

Ye Kai heard this and could only frown and nod.

Alchemy cannot be compared to Martial Cultivation, he thought. Our family's Alchemist, surnamed Ge, has ordinary Talent in the Martial Dao—just the Second Layer—yet possesses exceptional Alchemy Talent. His Alchemy Technique is now approaching that of a Middle-tier Alchemist. He has studied the Golden Body Treasure Elixir for over twenty years and still needs dozens of attempts to succeed once! Brother Lin has only read the Secret Manual once and wants to refine it? It would be a miracle if he succeeded!

Despite these thoughts, he dared not offend Lin Xuankong and simply led the group towards the Alchemy Room.

A hint of expectation appeared in Lin Xuankong's eyes.

The Golden Body Treasure Elixir Manual stated that an Unranked Golden Body Treasure Elixir could make a Martial Cultivator's bones as hard as Profound Gold and increase Explosive Power by four times! If it were a Grade-Entering Golden Body Treasure Elixir, it could increase Explosive Power by a full six times. If a High Grade Treasure Elixir were refined, consuming it would fill the Martial Cultivator's body with Buddhist Secret Patterns and light, temporarily granting Buddha's Golden Body for one hundred and twenty breaths. Their skin and bones would become flawless, as if forged from Rune Profound Gold, enhancing Explosive Power by a staggering eight times! It's my first time attempting Alchemy, so it will be difficult to refine a Middle Grade Buddha's Light Treasure Elixir, but I possess Young Lady's Mid-grade Pill Technique. Perhaps I can refine a Grade-Entering Golden Body Treasure Elixir—that means a full six-fold increase in Explosive Power! Six times! That's enough to elevate my Explosive Power by another huge step. Combined with other Secret Techniques, I estimate I could unleash the terrifying Explosive Power of a Fifth Layer Perfection Realm cultivator, even though I'm only at the Fourth Layer Perfection Realm! This way, once I enter the Ba Mountain Secret Realm, if I encounter Late Stage Fifth Layer cultivators and Tier Five Demons, I'll be able to handle them easily in close combat. Even if I meet Early Stage Sixth Layer cultivators or Tier Six Demons, I can rely on my Explosive Power to flee effortlessly! Still, whether I can actually refine a Grade-Entering Treasure Elixir... I'll have to try to find out!

Soon, Lin Xuankong, Ye Kai, Han Feiyan, and the others arrived at the Ye Family's Alchemy Room.

Standing at the spacious entrance of the Alchemy Room, Ye Kai called out softly, "Brother-in-law, Brother-in-law, are you there?"

At this moment, the sound of Elixir Liquid stirring continuously came from within the Alchemy Room, indicating someone was in the middle of refining elixirs.

Seeing this, Lin Xuankong shook his head slightly at Ye Kai and then, along with the others, sat down on the stone benches in the Alchemy Room's courtyard to wait.

Lin Xuankong, possessing Alchemy Techniques himself, naturally knew that when the Alchemy Fire was billowing and the Elixir Liquid was stirring, it was a critical moment in the refining process. Disturbing the Pill Master at such a time could, at best, lead to a batch of Treasure Elixirs being wasted; at worst, the Pill Furnace and Alchemy Tools might be completely destroyed!

However, being well-versed in the Alchemy Dao, Lin Xuankong was very patient. Han Feiyan, next to him, looked uneasy. Always respectful towards Lin Xuankong, she could not tolerate anyone making him wait idly. Her square face grew increasingly anxious, and she glared fiercely at Ye Kai!

Ye Kai could only manage a wry smile.

Inside is the Pill Master our family has retained for decades, while Brother Lin is an incredibly powerful figure, he thought. Even though I'm a leader in the family, I can't afford to offend either of them!

While waiting, Ye Kai quietly introduced this Pill Master to Lin Xuankong.

"This Alchemist Ge Cheng," Ye Kai began, "though only at Second-Layer Cultivation, is highly valued by the Ye Family due to his proficient Alchemy Technique. Even our Patriarch, who is at the Mid-grade Fifth Layer, respects this Pill Master greatly. He even married my second sister to Alchemist Ge Cheng, just to retain the only Pill Master in Ba City! To tell you the truth, even my status as the family's Second-in-Command is far inferior to Alchemist Ge Cheng's, despite his Second-Layer Cultivation!"

Han Xiu, standing by, remarked, "The profit from the elixirs refined by Alchemist Ge, I reckon, accounts for half of the Ye Family's trading business profits! Any family or sect with an Alchemist certainly holds them in high regard! The official Alchemists of the Great Xia Dynasty, those who can refine the Sunflower Water Treasure Elixir or the Wood Treasure Pill, don't they also hold extraordinary status? Even Sixth Layer and Seventh Layer Martial Cultivators must show respect to Second Layer and Third Layer official Alchemists!"

After about the time it takes to drink a cup of tea, the sounds from inside the Alchemy Room gradually quieted.

Then, a middle-aged man dressed in brown clothing, his expression somewhat grim, walked out of the Alchemy Room.

He glared at Ye Kai in the crowd. "Didn't I tell you not to disturb me while I'm refining elixirs?"

Seeing his brother-in-law, Ge Cheng, getting angry, Ye Kai, a prominent figure in the Ye Family, immediately forced a wide smile. "Brother-in-law, please don't be angry. It's all my fault!"

As the Second-in-Command of the Ye Family, he dared to confront even his own father, a Mid-grade Fifth Layer cultivator. Yet, this brother-in-law was the one person he absolutely could not afford to offend.

Ge Cheng frowned. "Fortunately, this batch of Divine Protection Elixir wasn't ruined!"

He then turned to look at Lin Xuankong, Han Feiyan, and the others, his brows furrowing again.

"Don't tell me you're here to order the Golden Body Treasure Elixir again? Ye Kai, haven't I told you? The Golden Body Treasure Elixir is difficult to concoct. Even though my Alchemy Technique has reached the Grade-Entering level, I have no idea when I'll next succeed in refining a batch of Golden Body Treasure Elixir! Everyone," he addressed the group, "if you wish to order the Golden Body Treasure Elixir, just pay the deposit in advance. Waiting here is completely useless!"

Having said that, he gave Lin Xuankong an arrogant look, shook his head slightly, and prepared to return to the Alchemy Room.

Ye Kai, with a conflicted expression, spoke up, "We're not here to order Treasure Elixirs. This Brother Lin of mine intends to personally refine a batch of Golden Body Treasure Elixir!"

Chapter 200: It's actually the Buddha Light Golden Body Elixir! Important News about the Location of the Spiritual Object

Ge City paused upon hearing these words. A look of surprise and delight appeared on his face as he carefully looked at Lin Xuankong.

Could this person also be a fellow alchemist? The Alchemy Technique for the Golden Body Treasure Elixir originated from the northern Rakshasa Kingdom, and in Great Marsh Prefecture, only I can refine it... could this Pill Master be from the Rakshasa Kingdom?

As an alchemist, exchanging refining experiences with another Pill Master who worked on the same elixir would be immensely beneficial. Unfortunately, in the vast Ba City, Ge City was the only alchemist, so he rarely had anyone to exchange ideas with.

Upon hearing Ye Kai mention that the person before him intended to refine the Golden Body Treasure Elixir, Ge City looked at Lin Xuankong with obvious excitement and eagerness. He quickly walked up to Lin Xuankong, his face eager as he said, "Brother, how long have you been practicing alchemy? How many furnaces of Golden Body Treasure Elixir have you refined, and what's your success rate? The secret patterns on this Golden Body Treasure Elixir require an extremely accurate ratio of Golden Body Grass to form. How do you usually control those Buddhist Secret Patterns while refining, Brother Lin?

Also, the properties of the Rejuvenation Grass are too sticky, easily forming lumps inside the elixir and not mixing well with other ingredients. How do you handle this during refinement?"

This Ge City was clearly an alchemy 'fanatic.' He didn't wait for Lin Xuankong's response, bombarding him with many questions at once.

Lin Xuankong, seeing his dedication to alchemy, felt a newfound respect. He himself was a very diligent person and also admired those who were serious and professional in their work. So, he didn't hide anything and said, "Brother Ge, I have studied Alchemy Technique before but have never actually refined an elixir. This time, I'm just trying to refine the Golden Body Treasure Elixir!"

Ge City was stunned upon hearing this. The eagerness on his face gradually faded, and his eyebrows knitted together.

"Never refined an elixir before? And this time you're just trying it out? Then you should start with the most basic Qi Replenishing Pill! Directly attempting to refine the Golden Body Treasure Elixir is simply preposterous! The ingredients for one furnace of Golden Body Treasure Elixir are a thousand times more expensive than those for a Qi Replenishing Pill. Who would use such an elixir for practice? Preposterous, utterly preposterous!"

With that, he flicked his robe sleeves and glared at Ye Kai. "You're the head of this household, and you're becoming more and more unreliable!"

Ye Kai felt a bit embarrassed upon hearing this.

But Han Feiyan couldn't hold back. "Alchemist Ge, Brother Lin just needs to use your Pill Furnace and medicinal materials. There's no need to be so angry!"

Ge City said coldly, "Without innate Alchemy Talent, one cannot sensitively perceive the properties of the medicinal materials and their changes during the refining process. How can one even speak of alchemy? If anyone could refine elixirs, why is it that among the hundreds of thousands of people in Ba City, I still haven't found a single disciple to inherit my Alchemy Technique? Ha! If you think just anyone can refine elixirs, why don't you try refining a furnace yourself?"

Hearing this, Han Feiyan was left speechless.

Of course, she knew that alchemy was difficult... She deeply respected Lin Xuankong, but when it came to alchemy, she actually didn't have much faith in him!

Lin Xuankong, however, was currently intent on giving it a try, to see if he could refine a Lower-grade Golden Body Treasure Pill. After all, this concerned an increase in his strength. Now that he was about to enter the Secret Realm, the more his strength increased, the better!

Frowning in thought for a moment, he said, "I will only attempt to refine three furnaces. If I succeed, then I succeed. If not, I will naturally compensate double the cost of the Golden Body Treasure Elixir ingredients consumed!"

Hearing this, Ge City couldn't help but shake his head repeatedly. "One set of Golden Body Treasure Elixir ingredients is worth a good sixteen or seventeen hundred taels of silver; three furnaces would be five thousand taels! Since you've never refined elixirs before, to waste ingredients like this is truly a terrible waste of precious resources!"

Seeing this, Ye Kai pulled Ge City aside and whispered a few words in his ear.

After listening, Ge City gazed at Lin Xuankong in surprise. His expression flickered for a moment, and he finally sighed, "Since you're willing to try, then go ahead. But let me warn you upfront: for someone attempting alchemy for the first time to refine this kind of elixir, even if you have exceptional Alchemy Talent, it's utterly impossible to succeed with even one furnace out of three attempts! Forget three furnaces; even with thirty, or three hundred, you still wouldn't succeed!"

Lin Xuankong, however, paid him no mind and walked directly toward the Alchemy Room.

Ge City stood in the courtyard and sighed. He has good Martial Dao talent and is strong, but what does that have to do with alchemy? Who in this world would challenge the Golden Body Treasure Elixir on their first attempt at refining an elixir? Truly overestimating his own abilities!

With that, he turned and headed for the study beside the Alchemy Room, not even bothering to watch Lin Xuankong refine.

At this moment, Lin Xuankong entered the Alchemy Room. He carefully identified the various medicinal materials on the shelves, then took some down and began to process them meticulously.

Even though it was his first time processing medicinal materials, Lin Xuankong's Eight Gates Celestial Eye was so miraculous that if he focused his Heart Thought, he could see even the tiniest grass seed appear as large as a millstone. With such powerful vision supporting him, he naturally processed the medicinal materials with absolute precision, achieving perfection in every step!

Time gradually passed. After the time it would take to drink a cup of tea, Lin Xuankong had finished processing all the medicinal materials for three furnaces of Golden Body Treasure Elixir.

Subsequently, he stood by the Pill Furnace, opened its lid, and began adding the first set of prepared medicinal materials, one by one, in the correct order. During this process, he pressed his right hand against a special Rune on the side of the Pill Furnace. As his Qi Blood flowed in, the temperature inside the furnace gradually rose. Lin Xuankong, meanwhile, used his Qi Blood to carefully sense the changes in the various medicinal materials within the Pill Furnace.

This refining method didn't consume a vast amount of Qi Blood; what mattered most was the regulation of the Qi Blood. As the alchemy process progressed, the exact amount of Qi Blood to infuse at each stage, the required increase in the Pill Furnace's temperature, and the precise degree to which the medicinal materials needed to be smelted all demanded extremely precise control.