

# The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 251: Chapter 251 No Grade Martial Arts Chapter 251: Chapter 251 No Grade Martial Arts  
Mu Liantian spoke casually, but Jing Yan was very surprised inside.

What status did Mu Liantian have?

Now, Mu Liantian could say such words to him, Jing Yan, which clearly meant he completely accepted Jing Yan as one of his own.

Otherwise, Mu Liantian would definitely not say such things to him.

Amid his surprise, Jing Yan also nodded inwardly, It seemed that his decision not to immediately seek the death of Chen Yan really aligned with Mu Liantian's wishes.

“Chief Mu, that Chen Yan is indeed malicious, often killing people indiscriminately.

Before this, who knows how many martial artists have died by her hand simply for unintentionally offending her slightly,” Jing Yan said somewhat angrily.

The anger he showed was also intentional.

“The martial arts world is extremely brutal!

At any time, in any place, martial artists may lose their lives.

Even after you enter the Three Major Academies, you will still face such problems.

However, remember one thing, you must control your own anger.

Of course, don't betray your own heart.

On the path of martial arts, adhering to your heart allows you to go further and achieve higher accomplishments.

Jing Yan, I'm saying this, do you understand?” Mu Liantian looked at Jing Yan with a hint of a smile on his lips.

He knew Jing Yan was an extremely intelligent person with a great perception, and he didn't need to elaborate for Jing Yan to understand.

Sure enough, he saw Jing Yan nod slightly after a brief hesitation.

Jing Yan indeed understood Mu Liantian's meaning.

A successful person absolutely must not be led by their emotions, nor be blinded by anger among other factors.

However, one must also stick to their own heart, otherwise they might become lost.

What is one's heart?

Broadly speaking, the heart is one's worldview.

Jing Yan wanted to kill Chen Yan, which was also a drive of his heart, as he felt people like her deserved to die.

However, sparing Chen Yan's life for the time being was not against his heart.

When the right time came, he could still kill Chen Yan.

The reason for sparing Chen Yan's life was primarily a matter of choice.

Just like when Jing Yan killed Chen Bing, there were no hesitations or second thoughts.

Killing a person like Chen Bing just meant killing them; the Chen Family wouldn't start a war over the death of a powerful servant.

But it would be different if Chen Yan died.

“Jing Yan, I've come here to thank you,” Mu Liantian said with a smile again.

“The lady has taken the Heavenly Eye Pill?” Jing Yan smiled back.

“Yes, she can already circulate her Primordial Energy, the effect is truly incredible,” Mu Liantian nodded with a sigh.

“Oh right, I heard from Yunfei that you purchased a Martial Arts Stele in Lanqu Square Market, you must be lacking martial arts, right?”

I have a Martial Arts Stele here, I'll give it to you,” Mu Liantian said as he took out a dark red Martial Arts Stele.

Jing Yan's eyes slightly brightened.

He hadn't expected to receive any compensation from Mu Liantian when visiting the Manager's Mansion.

However, he currently was indeed lacking powerful attack martial arts.

A gift from Mu Liantian would certainly not be an ordinary martial arts, right?

“Thank you, Chief Mu!” Jing Yan didn’t mince words, and thanked him directly.

Mu Liantian giving him the Martial Arts Stele was certainly not merely a polite gesture, and Mu Liantian did not need to display such courtesy.

Had he affected a disingenuous refusal, it might have displeased Mu Liantian.

As expected, seeing Jing Yan directly accept the Martial Arts Stele, Mu Liantian’s smile grew even brighter.

“I know you favor the sword, and coincidentally, this martial art is a Sword Skill.

However, it’s not graded and is quite a unique martial art.

The level of power this Sword Skill can exert entirely depends on the cultivator.

The stronger the cultivator’s ability, the greater the power of the Sword Skill.

Once you cultivate it, you'll naturally understand.

With your talent, you will surely make this martial art shine," Mu Liantian continued.

Upon hearing this from Mu Liantian, Jing Yan's heart stirred slightly.

Originally, he had thought that the martial art contained within the Martial Arts Stele might be Top-grade Martial Arts or even surpass Top-grade to be a Human-level Martial Art, but unexpectedly, this martial art wasn't fixed to any grade.

If that was the case, then theoretically, this martial art had limitless potential.

Surpassing Human-level Martial Arts to become Earth-level Martial Arts was indeed possible.

On the Heavenly Origin Continent, the classification of martial arts wasn't complicated.

The martial arts Jing Yan had access to previously were all considered ordinary.

Above ordinary martial arts were Human-level Martial Arts, above which were Earth-level Martial Arts, and it was said that beyond Earth-level Martial Arts existed the even more formidable Heavenly-level Martial Arts.

However, Heavenly-level Martial Arts were almost legendary.

Even Earth-level Martial Arts were extremely rare.

In Lanqu County City, quite likely, there weren't many Earth-level Martial Arts to be found.

As for Human-level Martial Arts, those existed within the large families of Lanqu County City.

However, only the most substantial family members could cultivate Human-level Martial Arts.

For the average martial artist, cultivating among the Top-grade ordinary martial arts was already very tempting.

For instance, the strongest martial art within Jing's family, which was a Top-grade ordinary martial art.

Jing Yan's current strongest martial art was the Moon Cutting Sword Technique.

While the power of the New Moon Cutting Sword Technique was much greater than most Top-grade Martial Arts, its essence was still Upper Grade Martial Arts, not even Top-grade Martial Arts.

Yet now, the martial art Mu Liantian gave to Jing Yan was an ungraded one.

Jing Yan had never heard of such an existence before.

But one thing was certain; this martial art was absolutely extraordinary.

Mu Liantian might not have gone into too much detail, but Jing Yan could feel Mu Liantian placed great importance on this Martial Arts Stele.

A martial art valued by Mu Liantian was at least comparable to Human-level Martial Arts, wasn't it?

"Jing Yan, I still have things to attend to, so I won't stay any longer.

If you need anything, you can find me at the Manager's Mansion," Mu Liantian stood up and said to Jing Yan.

Jing Yan escorted Mu Liantian to the door, and only after Mu Liantian left did he return to the room with Jing Ziqi and Jing Luoyu.

"Brother Jing Yan, here are the 100,000 Spirit Stones from Chen Yan," Jing Luoyu took out the Spirit Stone Gold Card and handed it to Jing Yan.

Jing Luoyu, merely a Martial Artist of the Ninth Layer Heaven, was not even at the Innate realm.

In his entire life, he had never seen so many Spirit Stones in cash.

The compensation from Chen Yan was meant for him, but he felt that he could not keep those Spirit Stones.

Seeing Jing Luoyu handing over the Spirit Stone Gold Card, Jing Yan glanced at him and also revealed a smile.

“These Spirit Stones, compensated by Chen Yan, are meant for you.

What do you mean by giving them to me?” Jing Yan teased with a smile.

100,000 Spirit Stones were indeed a lot.

But to Jing Yan, they were hardly significant.

To Jing Luoyu, that sum might be astronomical, but for Jing Yan, it was nothing noteworthy.

He didn't carry a vast quantity of Spirit Stones, but he still had several hundred thousand.

What were 100,000 Spirit Stones?

With 100,000 Spirit Stones, one could buy roughly twenty to thirty Top-grade Spirit Stones.

However, Jing Yan's consumption in cultivation was such that twenty to thirty Top-grade Spirit Stones were just a drop in the ocean.

Jing Yan could easily sell a few elixirs he refined and make 100,000 Spirit Stones with little effort.

But what was inconsequential to Jing Yan meant entirely differently to Jing Luoyu.

With those 100,000 Spirit Stones, Jing Luoyu could surely advance to the Innate realm.

"But..." Jing Luoyu knew what Jing Yan meant.

"No 'buts'.

The Spirit Stones are yours.

Cultivate well and strive to advance to the Innate realm as soon as possible,” Jing Yan waved his hand dismissively.

Jing Yan had no intention of taking the 100,000 Spirit Stones.

Jing Luoyu wanted to say more, but noticing Jing Yan’s firm attitude, he started and stopped several times and ultimately didn’t voice anything further, silently pocketing the Spirit Stone Gold Card again.

“Ziqi, I said I would treat you to good food, but it seems we’ll have to wait until next time,” Jing Yan said to Jing Ziqi, with a hint of regret.

After what happened in the main hall of Juhua Restaurant, it was certain that Jing Yan was in no mood to continue eating there.

Jing Ziqi nodded.

In reality, whether they ate was not of great importance.

“However, I do have something to give you,” Jing Yan suddenly shifted the conversation with a smile.

With a gentle flip of his palm, a milky-white Jade Bottle appeared at the center of his hand.

“I want you to have this.

You’ve just made a breakthrough to the Innate Middle Stage, and it will help stabilize your realm,” Jing Yan offered the milky-white Jade Bottle to Jing Ziqi.

“What is this?” Jing Ziqi asked curiously.

“Take a look and you’ll see.

It’s just an ordinary item, nothing special,” Jing Yan shook his head.

Jing Ziqi slightly furrowed her brows, taking the Jade Bottle from Jing Yan.

She opened it directly, and her gaze instantly sharpened.

Inside the Jade Bottle, there were Elixirs.

“Is this...

the Guiyuan Pill?” Jing Ziqi said in astonishment.

The Guiyuan Pill!

Although Jing Ziqi was a student at Red Lotus Academy and had now stepped into the Innate Middle Stage, such an Elixir as the Guiyuan Pill was still quite out of reach for her.

Though there was a way to obtain the Guiyuan Pill at Red Lotus Academy, for a Martial Artist like Jing Ziqi acquiring even one or two Guiyuan Pills was extremely difficult.

Possibly, it would take accumulating over a year and a half to exchange for a single Guiyuan Pill.

And in the Jade Bottle that Jing Yan gave her, there were clearly not one or two Guiyuan Pills, but a whole six.

“Yes, these are Second-class Guiyuan Pills, purer than the third-class Elixirs, and better for absorption,” Jing Yan smiled and said to Jing Ziqi.

Even a third-class Guiyuan Pill was worth nearly ten thousand Spirit Stones.

The value of a second-class Guiyuan Pill would easily exceed that.

Hearing Jing Yan's words, Jing Ziqi's eyes sharpened again, her expression changed, and her breath became slightly heavier.

This was too precious.

Certainly, Jing Ziqi knew what second-class Guiyuan Pills meant to her and what significance they bore.

Since she had entered the Innate realm, the Guiyuan Pills she had consumed added up to less than six in number.

Moreover, the Guiyuan Pills she had gotten were all third-grade, and she had never acquired a second-class Guiyuan Pill.

And now, Jing Yan was giving her six second-class Guiyuan Pills.

These six second-class Guiyuan Pills could cause a huge leap in her Cultivation in a short amount of time.

## **Chapter 252 - 252 252 Terrifying Speed**

Chapter 252: Chapter 252: Terrifying Speed Chapter 252: Chapter 252: Terrifying Speed Looking at the jade bottle in her hand, Jing Ziqi felt an uncontrollable excitement in her heart.

In Donglin City, she was the daughter of the Jing Family Patriarch, holding a respected status.

However, in Lanqu County City, at Red Lotus Academy, her background was nothing to brag about.

As for resources, at her current realm, the family could provide her very little.

It wasn't that the quantity was low, but rather that, having stepped into the Innate Realm, even if the Jing Family could provide her with tens of thousands of spirit stones for cultivation each year, it was still just a drop in the bucket.

Ten thousand spirit stones, what could that buy?

Merely a third-grade Guiyuan Pill.

The longer Jing Ziqi stayed at Red Lotus Academy, the clearer she understood the preciousness of resources.

Her talent was indeed not bad, but within the three major academies of Lanqu County City, there were plenty who surpassed her in talent.

Red Lotus Academy was unlikely to give her any special treatment.

To obtain more resources, she could only rely on her own efforts and slowly accumulate them.

It was precisely because she knew how precious resources were that Jing Ziqi found it hard to stay calm at this moment.

“Ziqi, don’t refuse these elixirs; they are nothing to me, just take them!” Jing Yan said to Jing Ziqi with a smile.

“Mhm.” Jing Ziqi eventually took the jade bottle and nodded heavily.

In the room, the three of them chatted for a while.

Jing Ziqi took her leave, and Jing Luoyu returned to her own room to continue cultivating.

Only Jing Yan was left alone.

On Jing Yan’s face, a trace of excitement emerged.

Then, he took out the damaged Martial Arts Stele from inside the Sumeru Ring.

It had been more than two days since he had obtained this fragmented Martial Arts Stele, and he had wanted to see if the Sky Wings Martial Art hidden inside was the same as the other parts of Sky Wings that he had imagined.

However, he had not had a good opportunity in these two days.

Now, he finally could take a look.

Jing Yan slightly stimulated his Primordial Energy, which surged out and entered the damaged Martial Arts Stele through his palm that was touching it.

“Boom!”

A profound and weighty Dao Power poured into Jing Yan’s mind like a tide.

Following that, the “Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill” automatically activated.

With the operation of the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill, the part of the Sky Wings Martial Art that Jing Yan had mastered also began to operate.

The Dao Power from the damaged Martial Arts Stele merged seamlessly with the information of the Sky Wings Martial Art that Jing Yan had already mastered.

At this moment, Jing Yan was truly nervous.

He placed great importance on the Sky Wings Martial Art, otherwise, he would not have focused on absorbing the Dao Power from the damaged Martial Arts Stele instead of the one provided by Mu Liantian.

As the information from the Dao Power merged, Jing Yan's eyes grew brighter.

“Luck!

Truly, it's luck!”

“Who would have thought, in the market stall area of Lanqu Square Market, I could actually encounter a Sky Wings Martial Art Stele.” Jing Yan, amidst his excitement, thought to himself in amazement.

The Sky Wings Martial Art Stele obtained from the market stall area in Lanqu Square Market was, as Jing Yan had guessed.

The Dao Power contained within it, once absorbed, perfectly matched the Sky Wings he had previously mastered.

It seems that the Sky Wings Martial Art was indeed split into several parts, each hidden within different Martial Arts Steles.

What Jing Yan got from within his family was only one part of Sky Wings.

What he obtained in the market stall area of Lanqu Square Market was another part.

Jing Yan could vaguely sense that the Sky Wings contained within these two Martial Arts Steles were not the entirety of Sky Wings.

According to Tianshui, Sky Wings Martial Art was obviously extremely formidable.

On the continent a ten thousand years ago, a very powerful family was annihilated because of this martial art.

If this martial art were not precious to a certain degree, that great family would not have been destroyed.

“It seems, even though I have found two parts of the Sky Wings Martial Art Steles, the Sky Wings I have obtained are probably just a small part.

If I could obtain the complete Sky Wings Martial Art, then...” Jing Yan’s eyes flickered, and he took a deep breath.

Immediately, he cleared all distractions from his mind.

Now, thinking too much was useless.

Because, even though he could determine that the Sky Wings he now had were only a part, he had no other clues to find the other parts.

To obtain more, he could only depend on fate.

Just like this time, Jing Yan obtaining a Sky Wings Martial Art Stele in the market area of Lanqu Square Market was his own chance.

Of course, another point was that Jing Yan's current strength was still too weak.

Even if he had clues to find other parts of the Sky Wings Martial Art Steles, with his current strength, he might not be able to obtain them.

Thinking too much was not as practical as enhancing his strength.

Clearing his mind of distractions, Jing Yan took out a top-grade Spirit Stone and began to absorb Primordial Energy.

He was now absorbing Primordial Energy not to raise his realm.

His realm had already reached the limit of the Innate Middle Stage, and unless he broke through the realm shackles, there was no further advancement.

He was absorbing Primordial Energy because the operation of the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill, repairing the Sky Wings Martial Art, required a massive amount of Primordial Energy.

If Jing Yan didn't use top-grade spiritual stones to restore the exhausted Primordial Energy, he might have depleted all the Primordial Energy in his body without even being able to fully repair the newly absorbed Sky Wings Martial Art.

While absorbing Primordial Energy, he was simultaneously repairing the Sky Wings Martial Art.

Time passed like flowing water.

As time elapsed, the Sky Wings Martial Art continued to be repaired completely.

Of course, the term completely here meant Jing Yan had finished repairing the parts he had obtained.

For parts he had yet to find, even with the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill, it was impossible to conjure them out of thin air.

Several days later!

“Whoosh!”

Jing Yan opened his eyes, a glimmer of a smile appearing in his pupils.

“Swish!” With a mere thought, Jing Yan’s body had already disappeared into the distance.

When his figure reappeared, he was already standing in front of his room’s door.

“What terrifying speed!” Although Jing Yan had been prepared and anticipated it, he was still startled by the speed when he truly activated the upgraded Sky Wings.

Because uttering this without exaggeration, Jing Yan’s speed now was comparable to that of a low-level Dao Spirit realm powerhouse.

This was undoubtedly very frightening and unbelievable.

Even Jing Yan felt that even low-level Dao Spirit realm powerhouses using aerial movement might not surpass his own speed when he pushed the Sky Wings to the full.

This meant, even if facing a relatively weak Dao Spirit realm powerhouse wanting to kill him, although he might not be able to contend with them in terms of combat power, he would still have a chance to escape.

The Sky Wings Martial Art was undoubtedly an invaluable technique for escaping.

“Swish!”

“Swish swish!”

Jing Yan no longer dwelled on it, but kept pushing the Sky Wings, flickering repeatedly within the room.

The sudden surge in speed required some time for Jing Yan to adapt to.

The more familiar he became with the Sky Wings Martial Art, the better he could utilize it.

Two hours later, Jing Yan’s figure finally came to a complete stop.

“Good, really good.”

“My speed now is more than double what it was before.”

“Only...

the consumption of Primordial Energy when driving the Sky Wings with full force is truly terrifying!

If it weren't for my robust Primordial Energy, having reached the limit of the Innate Middle Stage, I reckon I wouldn't be able to activate it so freely,” Jing Yan commented, lightly shaking his head.

As he said, if he was still in the Postnatal Realm, even at the limit of his Postnatal Cultivation, activating the current Sky Wings with his Primordial Energy at that time would have been very difficult.

Even now, if without any replenishment, activating the Sky Wings with full force, Jing Yan might only be able to sustain for more than two hours, at most four hours, before the Primordial Energy in his body would be depleted.

However, Jing Yan wasn't too worried, as with the improvement of his realm, the thickness of his Primordial Energy would also greatly increase, naturally enabling him to handle the Sky Wings movement technique more adeptly.

Jing Yan walked back to his bed and sat down cross-legged again.

With a thought, he checked the top-grade spiritual stones inside the Sumeru Ring and frowned slightly.

“The consumption really is terrifying,” Jing Yan exclaimed.

To repair the Sky Wings Martial Art, the consumption of top-grade spiritual stones amounted to as many as thirty.

That means, in these few days alone, solely repairing the martial art, he consumed more than 100,000 ordinary spiritual stones.

This was indeed a bit horrifying.

“Thank goodness!

Luckily, I am a Pill Master, and I can endlessly refine elixirs to earn resources,” Jing Yan took a breath and nodded.

While repairing the first part of Sky Wings, Jing Yan did not consume too many resources.

But repairing this second part of Sky Wings, the consumption exceeded 100,000 ordinary spiritual stones.

If he were to obtain the third or even fourth part of Sky Wings and wanted to repair them, who knew how many spiritual stones it would consume.

Undoubtedly, it would be an astronomical figure.

Nevertheless, this also reflected from another angle how powerful the Sky Wings were.

Jing Yan felt that even refining ordinary Human-level Martial Arts with the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill wouldn't likely consume so many Primordial Energy and spiritual stones.

"Alright, let's check the Martial Arts Stele sent by Chief Mu," Jing Yan shifted his gaze and took out another Martial Arts Stele from the Sumeru Ring.

Most of Jing Yan's resources were stored in the Qiankun Ring space.

However, he also kept a considerable amount, which he frequently needed, such as spiritual stones and Guiyuan Pills, in the Sumeru Ring he wore on his hand.

The two newly acquired Martial Arts Steles were also stored in the Sumeru Ring.

Although Sky Wings were good, they were not an attack martial art.

In dealing with enemies of lower realms and weaker strength, Sky Wings could greatly assist Jing Yan's attacks, accelerating his speed to defeat the enemies.

However, when facing stronger opponents, the auxiliary attack effects of Sky Wings were relatively weak.

Killing enemies, truly relied on one's own Primordial Energy, Attack Martial Arts, and Attack Secret Methods.

## Chapter 253 - 253 253 Insane Leveling Up

Chapter 253: Chapter 253: Insane Leveling Up Chapter 253: Chapter 253: Insane Leveling Up A dark red Martial Arts Stele stood quietly within the room.

Jing Yan stood before the Stele, circulating his Primordial Energy, with his palm gently pressing on the stone.

This Stele, given to Jing Yan by Mu Liantian, was roughly the height of a person, its surface wrapped with a layer of faint red light halo flowing around it.

As Jing Yan's Primordial Energy permeated the Stele, the dark red light halo suddenly intensified.

Instantly, a stream of Dao Power surged out from within the Stele, flowing up Jing Yan's arm and into his body.

An immense quantity of Martial Arts information flooded into Jing Yan like a tidal wave.

A moment later, Jing Yan withdrew his arm, and the red light halo of the Martial Arts Stele completely vanished.

The Dao Power within the Stele was no more; it had effectively become worthless, indistinct from any regular stone.

"Indeed, this is a very peculiar Martial Art," Jing Yan's gaze flickered.

Ordinarily, a Martial Arts Stele containing Dao Power could be absorbed by Martial Artists multiple times.

In most cases, a brand new Martial Arts Stele held Dao Power that could be absorbed three to five times.

However, after Jing Yan absorbed it once, the Dao Power within this particular Stele was entirely gone.

That meant the Martial Arts information inside had been utterly depleted, and no second Martial Artist could absorb and cultivate from it.

This was indeed odd.

Because Jing Yan could sense that no one else had used this Martial Arts Stele before him.

He must have been the first person to cultivate the Martial Art contained within it.

But now that he had absorbed the Dao Power, the Stele had turned into a scrap, suggesting that the Martial Art inside was truly peculiar, different from ordinary ones.

This situation differed from the two pieces of Sky Wings Martial Arts Stele that Jing Yan had encountered before.

Both pieces of Sky Wings Martial Arts Stele that Jing Yan possessed were incomplete, containing fragmented Dao Power.

It was natural for them to become useless after Jing Yan's absorption.

But the Dao Power in the Stele before him was intact, which left only one explanation: the creator of this Martial Arts Stele intended for the Martial Art within to be cultivated by only one person.

Standing in the room, Jing Yan closed his eyes slightly, reviewing the information he had just received.

“Holy Light Sword Technique!” Jing Yan quickly discovered the name of the Martial Art.

Moreover, Jing Yan understood what was so special about it.

The Holy Light Sword Technique indeed had no grade.

Because after roughly sensing the Holy Light Sword Technique, its power was merely at the level of a Lower Grade Martial Art.

What was the level of a typical Lower Grade Martial Art?

Specifically, it was not much different from the Autumn Wind Falling Leaves Sword Technique Jing Yan had cultivated previously.

But Jing Yan soon realized that unlike the Autumn Wind Falling Leaves Sword, the Holy Light Sword Technique’s grade could be further enhanced.

Initially, it was at the level of Lower Grade Martial Arts, but as one’s understanding and comprehension increased, the Holy Light Sword Technique could be raised to the Mid Grade Martial Arts level, akin to the Condensed Moon Three Waves.

Other Martial Arts like the Autumn Wind Falling Leaves Sword were like sealed containers.

In contrast, the Holy Light Sword Technique was like an open vessel.

You can't continue to add anything to a sealed container, but you can keep adding new things to an open vessel.

When Jing Yan studied the Holy Light Sword Technique for the second time, he vaguely perceived the key to elevating it from a Lower Grade Martial Art to a Mid Grade Martial Art.

He believed it wouldn't take long before he could raise it to the level of Mid Grade Martial Arts.

Although currently, Jing Yan couldn't see the key to elevating the Holy Light Sword Technique from Mid Grade Martial Arts to Upper Grade Martial Arts, one thing was certain: the limit of the Holy Light Sword Technique was definitely not just at the level of ordinary Martial Arts.

At the very least, it could be upgraded to the level of Human-level Martial Arts.

"Now, let's begin and first raise the Holy Light Sword Technique to the Mid Grade Martial Arts level!" Jing Yan spent roughly two hours, comprehending the Holy Light Sword Technique very carefully.

Then, he took out his Skyfire Sword and began to practice.

Once, twice, three times...

The room, though not spacious, was filled with sword light.

However, under Jing Yan's control, the Red Sword Light's power was restrained, causing no damage to anything inside the room.

After practicing the Holy Light Sword Technique eight times, Jing Yan's body gently vibrated.

The Holy Light Sword Technique had successfully advanced to the Mid Grade Martial Arts level.

Its power was now nearly on par with the Mid Grade Martial Arts Condensed Moon Three Waves.

Jing Yan didn't stop; he continued to practice.

Practicing Lower Grade Martial Arts did consume Primordial Energy, but such expenditure was almost negligible for Jing Yan.

Even without any supplementation of Primordial Energy, he could practice continuously for several months.

However, when the Holy Light Sword Technique was raised to the Mid Grade Martial Arts level, the consumption of Primordial Energy drastically increased.

After practicing once, Jing Yan could clearly feel the depletion of his internal Primordial Energy.

Still, this level of consumption was bearable for Jing Yan.

He refrained from hastily using Spirit Stones to replenish his Primordial Energy and continued practicing.

After practicing thirteen times, Jing Yan stopped and took out a Top-grade Spirit Stone to recover his Primordial Energy.

With one Top-grade Spirit Stone, his Primordial Energy was fully restored, and he continued with the fourteenth session of practice.

With each iteration, the power of the Holy Light Sword Technique increased continually.

After the twenty-second iteration had ended, the Holy Light Sword Technique's power had reached the level of Upper Grade Martial Arts, on par with the might of the Moon Cutting Sword Technique.

Having attained the Upper Grade Martial Arts level, Jing Yan continued practicing, and the Primordial Energy he consumed was somewhat terrifying.

After trying out one iteration, Jing Yan discovered that a complete iteration used up about one-fifth of his entire body's Primordial Energy.

That is to say, without replenishing his Primordial Energy, he could at most perform the Holy Light Sword Technique five more times in succession before depleting all his energy inside.

Jing Yan, however, didn't care much about this; he was not stingy with his resources.

If his power could leap forward, what did spending some resources matter?

Thus, after every one or two iterations of practicing the Upper Grade Martial Arts Holy Light Sword Technique, Jing Yan would stop to recover the consumed Primordial Energy with a Top-grade Spirit Stone.

Time slipped away quietly without him noticing.

Jing Yan practiced the Holy Light Sword Technique for all 24 hours of the day, without differentiating between day and night.

Several days later, Jing Yan let out a deep breath with a heavy sigh.

"I've hit a bottleneck!" Jing Yan said, slightly frowning and shaking his head.

The current Holy Light Sword Technique was still just Upper Grade Martial Arts, but it was close to the level of Top-grade Martial Arts.

It was this very upgrade to Top-grade Martial Arts that made Jing Yan feel the obstruction.

Previously, he advanced from Lower Grade Martial Arts to Mid Grade Martial Arts, and from Mid Grade Martial Arts to Upper Grade Martial Arts without any hindrance, achieving successful upgrades.

But now, moving from Upper Grade Martial Arts to Top-grade Martial Arts, he encountered a barrier.

After pondering for a moment, Jing Yan started moving again.

He activated the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill, attempting to fuse the New Moon Cutting Sword Technique with the Holy Light Sword Technique.

The New Moon Cutting Sword Technique, a fusion of the Autumn Wind Falling Leaves Sword, Condensed Moon Three Waves, and the Moon Cutting Sword Technique, was a New Martial Art with immense power.

Before the attempt, Jing Yan couldn't be sure that he would successfully fuse the New Moon Cutting Sword Technique with the Holy Light Sword Technique.

However, after the attempt, the Sky Vaulting First Divine Skill did not disappoint Jing Yan.

Under Jing Yan's practice, the New Moon Cutting Sword Technique began to successfully integrate with the Holy Light Sword Technique, albeit at a very slow pace.

Moreover, the Primordial Energy consumed during practice was incredibly alarming.

Even with Jing Yan's profound level of Primordial Energy, he found that he could not complete a single full iteration of practice before depleting all his energy.

Jing Yan could only practice a part of it, then absorb a Top-grade Spirit Stone to recover before continuing his practice.

To complete one full iteration, Jing Yan actually had to interrupt the process twice.

Of course, Jing Yan did not wait until all his Primordial Energy was exhausted before recovering; he would keep about half of his energy each time.

Once over half of his Primordial Energy was consumed, he would stop to recover.

This was also a precaution for Jing Yan.

In case all his Primordial Energy was depleted and he encountered some danger with no energy left to respond, it would be too late for regrets.

At the very least, keeping half the Primordial Energy within the Fog Vortex ensured that should any unforeseen trouble arise, Jing Yan could react immediately.

Several more days passed.

“Boom!”

Finally, the New Moon Cutting Sword Technique fully integrated into the Holy Light Sword Technique, and at that moment, the Holy Light Sword Technique successfully upgraded to Top-grade Martial Arts.

A small smile played on the corners of Jing Yan’s lips.

Although the current Holy Light Sword Technique was just a common Top-grade Martial Arts, in terms of true power, it was likely not any less formidable than ordinary Human-level Martial Arts.

Additionally, the power of the Holy Light Sword Technique could still continue to be elevated.

After becoming Top-grade Martial Arts, the obstacle to increase had temporarily vanished, allowing the continued enhancement of its power.

The next barrier would be upgrading from ordinary Top-grade Martial Arts to Human-level Martial Arts.

However, at this time, Jing Yan had no choice but to stop.

Because practicing and enhancing Martial Arts required the consumption of Primordial Energy, and his Top-grade Spirit Stones were nearly depleted.

It wouldn't do to use Guiyuan Pills to supplement the consumed Primordial Energy.

The Primordial Energy contained in Guiyuan Pills was originally not as abundant as that in Top-grade Spirit Stones, yet the price of Guiyuan Pills was far higher than that of Top-grade Spirit Stones.

Using Guiyuan Pills to recover Primordial Energy would be too wasteful.

So, it was necessary to sell the Guiyuan Pills for Spirit Stones or to trade them directly for Top-grade Spirit Stones.

"I really need to refine more Elixirs," Jing Yan felt somewhat emotional.

His consumption was indeed terrifying.

Now, Jing Yan felt even more convinced that learning Alchemy was the right decision.

If it weren't for his ability to refine Elixirs, Jing Yan wouldn't know how else to obtain such a vast amount of resources for cultivation.

## The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 254: Chapter 254 Chen Family Apologizes at the Door Chapter 254: Chapter 254 Chen Family Apologizes at the Door "Is Jing Yan, young friend, there?" A deep voice came from outside the door.

Jing Yan stowed the Skyfire Sword and turned his gaze towards the door.

The voice was unfamiliar.

And within Jing Yan's heightened senses, he detected three presences outside the door.

"Who is it?" Jing Yan mused slightly.

"Come in!" As the thought passed, Jing Yan's gaze shifted subtly, followed by speaking out.

Then, the door was pushed open from the outside, and three figures walked in.

These three, all of mature age, led by one with a smiling face.

The two behind appeared somewhat stiff, but they seemed to be smiling as well.

These three were immensely strong, was Jing Yan's first impression.

It was very likely that all three were powerhouses of the Dao Spirit Realm.

"Young friend Jing Yan, my name is Leng Ge, the new Supervisor of Juhua Restaurant." Leng Ge smiled as he looked at Jing Yan.

The previous Supervisor of Juhua Restaurant was Wei Youming.

After Jing Yan's altercation with the Chen Family's Chen Yan, Mu Liantian had personally intervened to resolve the matter.

Jing Yan was still unaware of how Mu Liantian had dealt with Wei Youming, but evidently, Wei Youming was no longer the Supervisor of Juhua Restaurant.

The new Supervisor of Juhua Restaurant was now this Martial Artist named Leng Ge standing before him.

Leng Ge was very affable when speaking with Jing Yan.

Although he was a strong Dao Spirit martial artist, he didn't show any pretense towards Jing Yan and appeared very cordial.

Clearly, Leng Ge also knew that Jing Yan's relationship with Mu Liantian was extraordinary.

Otherwise, as a Dao Spirit martial artist, he probably wouldn't have been so affable with Jing Yan.

Perhaps in his heart, he was somewhat grateful to Jing Yan.

Without Jing Yan, Wei Youming would not have left Juhua Restaurant, and without Wei Youming's departure, Leng Ge wouldn't have been able to become the Supervisor.

"So it's Supervisor Leng." Jing Yan cupped his hands in greeting, maintaining neither servility nor overbearing pride.

"Young friend Jing Yan, this is Elder Chen Tan of the Chen Family, and this is Chief Supervisor Chen Yibing of the Chen Family," continued Leng Ge, introducing the two beside him.

"Hmm?" Jing Yan's gaze flickered and landed on Chen Tan and Chen Yibing.

Without much thought, Jing Yan could determine that these two were members of Chen Yan's Chen Family.

Why had the Chen Family come here?

Could it be they sought revenge?

The thought crossed his mind, but Jing Yan dismissed this possibility.

If the Chen Family had any sense, they wouldn't blatantly seek revenge like this.

Even if they wanted vengeance, it would certainly be carried out in secret.

The fact that they were here openly, and in front of the Supervisor of Juhua Restaurant, made it even less likely.

Moreover, both Chen Tan and Chen Yibing had smiles on their faces, albeit not very natural-looking ones.

"Good day to you, young friend Jing Yan!" Chen Tan said with a smile.

“Young friend Jing Yan, that ignorant girl, my daughter Chen Yan,” Chen Yibing nodded at Jing Yan as he spoke.

“So, it’s Elder Chen Tan and Supervisor Chen Yibing, a pleasure to meet you both!

What brings you two here, if I may...” Jing Yan deliberately drew out his words.

“Young friend Jing Yan, we are here on behalf of the Chen Family to express our apologies.

The previous issue between you and Chen Yan of our family has come to the attention of the Chen Family’s higher-ups.

The whole affair was Chen Yan’s fault.

For this, we of the Chen Family are truly sorry,” Chen Tan hastened to say.

An apology?

Jing Yan was stunned for a moment – he had not expected the Chen Family to personally come and apologize.

Looking at their demeanors, they didn't seem very willing.

However, although Jing Yan was surprised, he was not shocked.

The Chen Family's attitude was obviously not due to Chen Yan's mistake, but instead due to Mu Liantian, the Chief Manager of the Prince Manor.

The Chen Family, no doubt, feared offending Mu Liantian, hence the apology to Jing Yan.

As for why the Chen Family felt the need to apologize, Jing Yan didn't care.

In this world, if you had power, even without reason, you could be right.

Without power, your rightful claim was as good as none.

Therefore, Jing Yan simply didn't mind whether the Chen Family's apology was genuine or a result of pressure from Mu Liantian.

It didn't matter.

Jing Yan smiled.

“A trivial matter, hardly worth mentioning.

There was really no need for you both to come personally,” Jing Yan said with an indifferent wave of his hand.

Since they came with an apology, after all, he might as well observe the formalities.

“Innate young friend Jing Yan indeed has an extraordinary magnanimity,” Chen Tan laughed as he spoke, glancing at Chen Yibing by his side.

Feeling Chen Tan’s gaze, Chen Yibing’s face twitched slightly, and he took a small breath before saying, “Innate young friend Jing Yan, the trouble caused by that girl Chen Yan is due to my lack of discipline.

She truly did bring some trouble upon you.

I am very grateful that you are willing to let bygones be bygones.

I have already punished Chen Yan.

She will not be allowed to leave the Chen Family's residence for three years and has also given up on attempting the examination of the Three Major Academies this time."

Jing Yan could tell that this Chen Yan's father, Chen Yibing, was somewhat reluctant to apologize.

However, he probably had no choice due to the pressure from the Chen Family.

At the very least, he had to show this attitude on the surface.

As for the punishment of Chen Yan, Jing Yan ignored it as if he didn't hear it.

The punishment held no actual significance for Jing Yan.

Seeing everything, Jing Yan smiled and said nothing more.

"Innate young friend Jing Yan, this is a modest gift from my Chen Family.

Please accept it," Chen Yibing said, as soon as his words fell, Chen Yan presented a purple box and handed it to Jing Yan.

"Please, Innate young friend Jing Yan, you must accept it," Chen Tan added.

The new supervisor of Juhua Restaurant, Leng Ge, just watched from the side without saying a word.

He was merely an intermediary, who had introduced Chen Tan and the other to Jing Yan.

He would not interfere with the rest, whether or not Jing Yan accepted the Chen Family's gift; he would not utter an extra word.

"Elder Chen Tan, you are too courteous," Jing Yan said, looking at Chen Tan.

"Just a small token, it's nothing much," Chen Tan insisted.

"Alright, then I will accept it respectfully," Jing Yan slowly took the purple box.

What was inside the box, he did not know.

However, if it were something too cheap, the Chen Family would not have presented it.

"Innate young friend Jing Yan, you are indeed forthright," Chen Tan's eyes flickered, "Now, the misunderstanding that previously existed between our Chen Family and Innate young friend Jing Yan can be considered completely resolved.

Our Chen Family is very keen on making the acquaintance of young heroes like Innate young friend Jing Yan.

If in the future you should need any assistance from the Chen Family, please feel free to ask.

As long as it is within our power, the Chen Family will spare no effort.”  
“Hmm?” Jing Yan’s eyebrows twitched.

Weren’t they being a little too polite?

Even if it was because of his connection with Mu Liantian that the Chen Family was making an apology due to pressure, this seemed a bit too much, didn’t it?

Jing Yan was indeed puzzled.

Not only had the Chen Family sent someone to apologize, but they had also sent an elder and a very important supervisor of the family.

Normally, this would seem somewhat unlikely.

Although the Chen Family was not a top-tier family in Lanqu County City, it was nonetheless a very authoritative presence just below the top tier.

Why would such a family lower its stance to such an extent?

If it was just to apologize, to just go through the motions, there was no need to send two such significant figures.

It would have been sufficient to send a supervisor or someone of that level to maintain appearances.

Now, not only had two prominent figures been sent, but they had also brought gifts.

What exactly was the Chen Family's scheme?

Jing Yan pondered inwardly while maintaining a smile that did not betray his thoughts.

"Elder Chen Tan, you are really too kind," Jing Yan said with a smile, "I, Jing Yan, also hope to make friends with families like the Chen Family."

Regardless of what the Chen Family was planning, Jing Yan had to keep playing his role to see what they were truly after.

"Innate young friend Jing Yan, there is a favor I hope you can help us with," Chen Tan changed the subject.

"Here it comes; there's indeed another motive," Jing Yan thought to himself.

From the moment Chen Tan and Chen Yibing had offered their apologies, Jing Yan had been suspicious.

Now, it seemed the Chen Family's apology was not as simple as it appeared.

"Elder Chen Tan exaggerates.

I am just a martial artist of the Innate Realm; how could I possibly help the Chen Family?" Jing Yan said unhurriedly.

"Innate young friend Jing Yan, this is indeed something you can help with," Chen Tan pretended not to notice the reluctance in Jing Yan's words and continued, "My Chen Family recently purchased a plot of land in Lanqu Square Market with the intention of constructing a Business Building for use.

Originally, everything was going smoothly, but now, we have encountered some difficulties.

Chief Mu has stalled this matter, and it's been delayed for many days."

"This piece of land is very important to the Chen Family, and such a prolongation of the process is resulting in great losses for us!"

"We know that Innate young friend Jing Yan is a straightforward person, and you do not like to beat around the bush, so I will speak directly.

We've heard that you have a very close relationship with Chief Mu, so we would like to ask Innate young friend Jing Yan to say a few good words on our behalf to Chief Mu," Chen Tan looked at Jing Yan as he revealed his true purpose for coming.

Upon hearing this, Jing Yan immediately understood.

Lanqu Square Market is the largest trading area within Lanqu County City.

The value of a piece of land in Lanqu Square Market goes without saying; it is certainly astronomical.

The Chen Family, by manipulating their connections, gained the rights to purchase this piece of land, which was initially going well but recently got hampered by Mu Liantian.

The Chen Family must have suspected that Chen Yan offending Jing Yan, and with Jing Yan having an intimate relationship with Mu Liantian, Mu Liantian was deliberately blocking the land deal as a way of standing up for Jing Yan.

The Chen Family had no choice but to apologize and seek Jing Yan's forgiveness.

As long as Jing Yan completely forgave the Chen Family, the transaction for the land in the market could continue.

Otherwise, if the delay persisted, the losses to the Chen Family would indeed be heavy, and should someone else purchase the land in the meantime, the Chen Family's efforts would be completely wasted.

Previously, to secure the rights to purchase the land, the Chen Family must have already paid a hefty price.

Acquiring a plot of land within Lanqu Square Market is no simple feat.

Even a family with the status of the Chen Family would need to negotiate and grease palms on all sides to secure it.

## Chapter 255 - 255 Meeting Jing Qingzhu

Chapter 255: Chapter 255: Meeting Jing Qingzhu Chapter 255: Chapter 255: Meeting Jing Qingzhu  
Jing Yan understood and looked at Chen Tan with a smile.

“Of course, this is just our request, and we hope that young friend Jing Yan can lend a hand.

If young friend Jing Yan does not help, then we will not hold any grudges,” Chen Tan continued.

The implication was that the gift just presented had nothing to do with requesting Jing Yan’s help, ensuring that Jing Yan did not misunderstand.

“Ha ha...” Jing Yan laughed.

“Elder Chen Tan, you want me to speak on Chen Family’s behalf in front of Chief Mu regarding this matter, is that right?” Jing Yan asked straightforwardly after laughing.

“Yes, that’s exactly what we mean,” Chen Tan nodded.

“That’s possible!” Jing Yan said, “However, Elder Chen Tan, I cannot make any guarantees.

I can inquire about this matter to Chief Mu on Chen Family’s behalf, but I cannot be sure that Chief Mu will take my words seriously.

You should understand what I mean, right?”

Of course, Jing Yan would not give the Chen Family any guarantees because he was also uncertain about the actual situation.

It was not necessarily the case that Mu Liantian had stalled the Chen Family’s procedure to purchase property in Lanqu Square Market because of the conflict between Jing Yan and Chen Yan.

Even if it was indeed because Mu Liantian intended to support Jing Yan and warn the Chen Family, Jing Yan could not make any promises to them.

Hearing Jing Yan’s words, Chen Tan’s gaze immediately lit up.

He did not need any assurance from Jing Yan; as long as Jing Yan made a gesture in front of Mu Liantian, the matter could be resolved.

Now, the only problem left was with Mu Liantian, who had halted the process.

If Mu Liantian gave the green light, then naturally, there would be no issues.

“Thank you, young friend Jing Yan, for this favor; our Chen Family will always remember it!

Young friend Jing Yan, our Chen Family Patriarch also asked me to convey a message to you—the Chen Family is always welcoming you to visit,” Chen Tan said with noticeably more cheer.

“I will definitely visit when I have time,” Jing Yan nodded.

“Then we won’t disturb you any longer and will take our leave,” Chen Tan glanced at Chen Yibing again.

“Thank you, young friend Jing Yan,” Chen Yibing gave an appreciative bow to Jing Yan.

“The two of you, I won’t see you out,” Jing Yan said with a smile.

Supervisor Leng escorted Chen Tan and the other person out.

Afterward, Supervisor Leng returned.

“Jing Yan, you won’t blame me for taking initiative and directly bringing these two to meet you?” Leng Ge said affectionately to Jing Yan, behaving as though he had known Jing Yan for a long time.

“How could I?”

Supervisor Leng, please don’t worry,” Jing Yan responded warmly.

Although Jing Yan knew that Leng Ge was courteous to him because of Mu Liantian, he also understood that Leng Ge was a Dao Spirit Realm powerhouse.

Jing Yan, of course, wouldn’t act foolishly proud in front of him.

“That’s good, that’s good!”

You know, I also owe the Chen Family a small favor, so when they came to me asking to mediate, it was difficult for me to refuse.

However, no matter what your attitude is, Jing Yan, I personally will not have any objections,” Leng Ge nodded slightly, clarifying his stance—not to speak well for the Chen Family.

It was up to Jing Yan to make his own decisions, and Leng Ge would not interfere.

Of course, Jing Yan's attitude greatly satisfied him.

Jing Yan did not become arrogant or dismissive due to his close relationship with Chief Mu.

"Right, it's better to have one more friend than one more enemy," Leng Ge said with a smile before adding, "Oh, Jing Yan, there's someone named Jing Qingzhu downstairs who wants to see you.

I happened to meet her when I was bringing up Chen Tan and the other person; she should still be waiting below."

"Jing Qingzhu?" Jing Yan's gaze sharpened slightly.

Jing Qingzhu, he of course knew her—she was the Eighth Elder of the Jing Family, who had always been in Lanqu County City.

During the last Jing Family tournament, Jing Qingzhu was unable to return because she was handling some matters in Lanqu County City.

Jing Qingzhu was also the only female among the elders of the Jing Family.

"Do you know this person, Jing Yan?" Leng Ge asked.

“I do, she’s one of the elders of my Jing Family.

I will go down to meet her now,” Jing Yan nodded.

It had been several years since Jing Yan saw Jing Qingzhu.

He had great respect for her.

Eighth Elder Jing Qingzhu, along with Fourth Elder Jing Tianying, were among the strongest supporters of Jing Yan’s grandfather, Jing Tian, during his lifetime.

Jing Qingzhu had always taken care of Jing Yan as well.

Now that Jing Yan had come to Lanqu County City, he should have gone to visit Jing Qingzhu of his own accord.

As an elder, Jing Qingzhu came to him instead, which made Jing Yan feel a bit ashamed.

Leng Ge excused himself and left Jing Yan’s room.

Jing Yan stayed in his room for a moment, then opened the purple wooden box the Chen Family had given him.

“Whoa!”

“The Chen Family is indeed generous!” His eyes brightened as he saw the contents of the box and he instinctively took a deep breath.

Inside the box was nothing special, just Top-grade Spirit Stones.

“But Jing Yan took a look and there were as many as a hundred Top-grade Spirit Stones inside.

Even for Jing Yan, he couldn’t help but marvel at the Chen Family’s generosity.

A hundred Top-grade Spirit Stones, their value was almost equivalent to three to four hundred thousand ordinary Spirit Stones.

With such a move, the Chen Family had spent hundreds of thousands of Spirit Stones, showing their wealth.

Although Jing Yan had guessed that the Chen Family wouldn’t be stingy, since they still wanted his help to speak well of them in front of Mu Liantian, he really hadn’t anticipated such a grand gesture.

Jing Yan’s lips curved into a smile, then he put the purple box into his Sumeru Ring.

Jing Yan certainly wouldn't refuse the hundred Top-grade Spirit Stones given to him for nothing; it was like fat delivered to his mouth – if he didn't eat it, wouldn't he be a fool?

Juhua Restaurant, first floor.

“Elder Qingzhu!”

As soon as Jing Yan came down, he immediately spotted Jing Qingzhu sitting at a table.

Jing Qingzhu was dressed in a green robe, sitting there quietly.

Though no longer young, her charm was still present, attracting the eyes of many Martial Artists.

Hearing Jing Yan's voice, Jing Qingzhu turned around with a smile upon seeing him.

“Jing Yan, come here,” Jing Qingzhu beckoned him over.

Jing Yan walked over and sat down.

“Jing Yan, I knew you'd been in Lanqu County City for a month, but I've been too busy to come see you until now,” Jing Qingzhu said, looking at him, a hint of love in her eyes.

It was obvious that she treated Jing Yan as her junior, speaking casually but with concern.

“I’m really happy you’ve managed to bounce back.

I think, if the Jingtian Clan Leader were watching from heaven, he would be very relieved,” Jing Qingzhu said softly.

“Elder Qingzhu, I should have come to see you,” said Jing Yan.

Jing Yan also knew that Jing Qingzhu would indeed be very busy in Lanqu County City as she was responsible for overseeing the Jing Family’s office there.

Typically, family clans from smaller cities would set up an office in Lanqu County City.

The main purpose of these offices was to help the family purchase some scarce resources from Lanqu County City, such as Elixirs, precious Medicines, Martial Arts Steles, and other important resources.

Some more powerful families would also foster relations with the forces in Lanqu County City.

A family like the Jing Family, however, didn’t have much capital to curry favor with the major powers in Lanqu County City.

Establishing relationships with those major powers definitely required a substantial amount of resources.

Without gifts to offer, they surely wouldn't look at you twice, nor would they provide any help.

The Zhao Family from Donglin City, for example, had established a close relationship with the Wen Family, a prestigious family in Lanqu County City.

Having a relationship with a major power in Lanqu County City was a tremendous boost for the development of smaller city clans.

Hearing Jing Yan's words, Jing Qingzhu smiled with a slight pursing of her lips.

But Jing Yan frowned because he noticed a hint of worry between Jing Qingzhu's brows.

Although she seemed cheerful, Jing Yan could see that she seemed troubled.

"Elder Qingzhu, are you facing some difficulties?" Jing Yan immediately asked.

"It's nothing serious, don't worry about it," Jing Qingzhu shook her head.

"Elder Qingzhu, if there is trouble, feel free to talk about it.

I'm a Jing Family disciple, after all," Jing Yan said, now even more certain that Jing Qingzhu was indeed in trouble, and that it wasn't a small one at that.

Jing Qingzhu looked at Jing Yan and pondered for a moment.

She had originally not intended to burden Jing Yan with these concerns, but now that he had asked, she figured speaking her mind wouldn't hurt.

In Lanqu County City, it was hard to find someone to share the burden with.

Jing Yan certainly couldn't alleviate her pressure, but getting things off her chest was better than keeping them bottled up inside.

"Jing Yan, for a small clan like ours, trying to do anything in Lanqu County City is extremely challenging!

Ah, it's too difficult," Jing Qingzhu said, shaking her head with a tone full of helplessness.

Jing Yan understood what Jing Qingzhu meant.

Dealing with those major powers indeed was not an easy task.

With her status, even attempting to meet the high-ranking figures seemed to be out of reach.

“Do you know about the Green Jade Auction, Jing Yan?” Jing Qingzhu looked at him.

“The Green Jade Auction?” Jing Yan’s eyes widened, “The one organized by the Alchemist Association?”

I think it happens once a year.”

Jing Yan indeed knew of the Green Jade Auction; he had once entered the Divine Wind Academy to cultivate, and he had heard about some of the most anticipated auctions in Lanqu County City.

He was aware that the Green Jade Auction was hosted by the Alchemist Association and was a major auction event that took place only once a year.

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(Here’s a book recommendation from a friend: “The Super Expert of My Beautiful Superior.” It’s a very good urban-themed book!

Go, have a look and add it to your collection.)”

## The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 256: Chapter 256: Jing Yan Meets the Vice President Chapter 256: Chapter 256: Jing Yan Meets the Vice President Alchemist Association, by comparison, is a relatively loose organization.

The association doesn't have many demands on its members.

Moreover, the number of members in the association isn't that large.

Even in terms of combat power, there is a significant gap between it and the Three Major Academies, the Prince Manor, and the great families of Lanqu County City.

However, the Green Jade Auction, hosted by the Alchemist Association, is certainly one of the top auctions in Lanqu County City.

The resources the Alchemist Association can gather are beyond the reach of those great families.

Therefore, the Green Jade Auction is extremely famous.

Its scale is also quite astonishing.

The influence of the Alchemist Association is not any weaker than that of the Three Major Academies.

However, the Green Jade Auction has some differences from other auctions.

The resources available for bidding at the Green Jade Auction are relatively fewer in variety, and there are not many miscellaneous items.

For martial artists, if they want to purchase resources like elixirs and medicines, the Green Jade Auction is an event that absolutely cannot be missed.

It can be said that within the territory of Lanqu County City, nearly half of the medicinal resources that many family forces can procure come through this channel.

For families like the Jing Family, participating in the Green Jade Auction is seen as a must-attend event.

“Yes, the auction hosted by the Alchemist Association,” Jing Qingzhu nodded.

“The Green Jade Auction is not open to just anyone for bidding.

For this auction, I had started preparing very early and had done a lot of work.

Not long ago, I successfully obtained the qualification to participate in the bidding,” Jing Qingzhu slowly explained.

Jing Yan listened without interrupting.

“But this morning, I received notification that our Jing Family Office in Lanqu County City had its bidding qualification suddenly cancelled,” Jing Qingzhu said, with a deeply furrowed brow and a face full of distress.

To attend this Green Jade Auction, Jing Qingzhu had expended a great deal of effort and everything had been going smoothly; she had successfully obtained a qualification to participate in the bidding.

The Green Jade Auction is scheduled for tomorrow.

Originally, Jing Qingzhu had already prepared the Spirit Stones, waiting for the auction to start tomorrow, aiming to bid as much as possible to obtain the resources needed by the Jing Family.

However, this morning, she was suddenly informed by the Alchemist Association that her qualifications were cancelled and she could not participate in tomorrow’s bidding.

Jing Qingzhu felt helpless about this situation.

Before she came to meet Jing Yan at the Juhua Restaurant, she was at the Alchemist Association inquiring about this matter.

However, no one could provide her with an answer, and she was unaware of the reason behind the cancellation of her bidding qualifications.

Upon hearing what Jing Qingzhu had said, Jing Yan's expression instantly darkened slightly.

He thought of a possibility!

This incident might be related to Gao Zhao Hai, and the likelihood was high.

Otherwise, why would the Green Jade Auction cancel Jing Qingzhu's participation qualification without any reason?

Back at the Manager's Mansion, Jing Yan had offended Gao Zhao Hai.

Given Gao Zhao Hai's capabilities, finding out Jing Yan's identity was extremely easy.

Knowing Jing Yan was from the Jing Family of Donglin City, he would just need a word to prevent the Jing Family Office from participating in the Green Jade Auction.

Gao Zhao Hai was a fourth-level Pill Master and undoubtedly held a high position in the Alchemist Association.

The Vice President of the Alchemist Association was merely a fifth-level Pill Master.

As these thoughts flashed through his mind, a cold light flickered in Jing Yan's eyes, and a smirk appeared on his lips.

If it really was Gao Zhao Hai causing trouble, then this man was indeed despicable.

Trying to strike at the Jing Family as vengeance against Jing Yan was truly ridiculous.

"Elder Qingzhu, perhaps I have a way to regain our bidding qualifications," Jing Yan said after a slight pause to Elder Qingzhu.

Even if the Jing Family Office's bidding qualifications were cancelled by no fault of Gao Zhao Hai, as a member of the Jing Family Disciples, Jing Yan should do everything possible to help.

Moreover, if the cancellation of the Jing Family Office's qualifications was indeed due to him, then Jing Yan could not simply ignore it.

"Huh?" Jing Qingzhu was momentarily stunned when she heard Jing Yan's words.

She had never expected Jing Yan to say such a thing.

In fact, Jing Qingzhu had not mentioned this to Jing Yan because she hoped for his help; she didn't believe Jing Yan could be of any help.

Having been in Lanqu County City for so many years, she knew quite a few relevant people, but she had no ideas herself, so how could Jing Yan have any?

She and Jing Yan had brought up this matter simply to vent her frustration.

But now, Jing Yan was claiming he might have a way, which seemed impossible.

Did Jing Yan possibly know someone in the Alchemist Association?

But even if Jing Yan knew someone from the Alchemist Association, it would still be difficult to find a solution.

The Jing Family Office's bidding qualification had already been revoked, and the Green Jade Auction was officially starting tomorrow.

It was clearly impossible to now add the Jing Family Office back to the bidding list.

Jing Qingzhu looked at Jing Yan somewhat dazed.

“Elder Qingzhu, let’s go to the Alchemist Association now,” Jing Yan said, shifting his gaze as he stood up.

“Jing Yan, what can you possibly do?”

Those people are difficult to deal with.

For small families like ours from a small city, they don’t take us seriously at all.

To put it bluntly, even if our family Clan Leader, Jing Chengye, were to come, he might not even be able to meet the more important figures in the Alchemist Association,” Jing Qingzhu said with a self-deprecating laugh.

She was entirely right, even if Jing Chengye himself were to come, in the eyes of the Alchemist Association, he would still be nothing.

A mere Clan Leader from a small city like Donglin City, who is not even in the Dao Spirit Realm, is considered insignificant.

Even Martial Artists who are in the Dao Spirit Realm might not receive much respect from the Alchemist Association.

Although Jing Qingzhu did not say it explicitly, in her heart, she felt that Jing Yan was oversimplifying things.

In Donglin City, even the City Lord Mansion might show some respect to the Jing Family, to Jing Yan the Martial Arts Genius.

But here, this is Lanqu County City, not comparable to Donglin City.

“Elder Qingzhu, it doesn’t hurt to try.

Besides, I know the Vice President of the Alchemist Association.

Perhaps, he can help us,” Jing Yan said with a smile after seeing that Jing Qingzhu had little faith in him.

He did not blame Jing Qingzhu for her lack of confidence in him.

If he were in her position, he might think the same.

However, Jing Qingzhu didn’t know that he was acquainted with Liu Wen, the Vice President of the Alchemist Association, and that Liu Wen owed him a favor.

“What?” Jing Qingzhu was stunned again.

Jing Yan, knew the Vice President of the Alchemist Association?

How could that be possible?

The Vice President of the Alchemist Association was a person of what stature?

In terms of status and position, the Vice President of the Alchemist Association was absolutely among the elite in the entire region of Lanqu County City.

Jing Qingzhu, although not exactly aware of how high the status of the Vice President was, certainly knew that the Vice President could hold his ground even in front of the Prince, and have considerable influence.

Now, Jing Yan claiming to know the Vice President of the Alchemist Association was somewhat shocking.

Jing Qingzhu had been active in Lanqu County City for many years and knew a few members of the Alchemist Association.

However, the highest among them was merely a low-level manager.

And to establish a connection with this manager, Jing Qingzhu had to act subserviently and send expensive gifts every year.

But would Jing Yan talk nonsense?

Jing Qingzhu knew that Jing Yan was not someone who made empty claims or liked to boast.

“Elder Qingzhu, let’s go!” Jing Yan said cheerfully, urging her on.

The Alchemist Association was not far from the Prince Manor, and it took only about half a cup of tea time to walk there from the Juhua Restaurant.

The building of the Alchemist Association was naturally very grand and magnificent.

“Quite arrogant indeed!” Jing Yan remarked with a sneer as they entered the Alchemist Association.

The Alchemist Association was not a place just anyone could enter.

So, it took Jing Yan and Jing Qingzhu more than a cup of tea’s time to get inside.

Inside, everyone was an alchemist, and almost every person Jing Yan saw had an arrogant expression.

That arrogance seemed to be ingrained deep in their bones.

Even the warriors in the Innate Realm seemed much more noble than other Innate Martial Artists who were not alchemists.

If it weren't for Jing Qingzhu knowing a minor manager in the Alchemist Association, Jing Qingzhu and Jing Yan might not have been able to enter at all.

An alchemist led them into a small room, instructing them curtly to wait there without wandering around, then turned and left with a sweep of his sleeve.

"Jing Yan, don't speak carelessly.

We can't afford to offend these people," Jing Qingzhu said hurriedly as she heard Jing Yan's words, her voice tense.

Inside the small room, the two of them waited for about half an hour.

Finally, a figure hurriedly entered from outside.

“Jing Qingzhu, what’s going on?” the person snapped rudely as he entered.

Then, his gaze fell on Jing Yan.

His already displeased face grew even darker.

“You brought someone else with you?”

“Jing Qingzhu, what did I tell you?”

If you continue like this, we won’t be able to stay in touch in the future,” the alchemist said, his tone turning colder.

“Alchemist Jiao Ming, this is Jing Yan.

Jing Yan, this is Alchemist Jiao Ming from the Alchemist Association, also a manager,” Jing Qingzhu hurriedly stood up and introduced.

Jing Qingzhu appeared completely unconcerned about Jiao Ming’s tone and maintained a smile on her face throughout.

To put it bluntly, she was extremely subservient, treating Alchemist Jiao Ming almost reverently.

“Humph!” Jiao Ming snorted coldly, his nose in the air, and said arrogantly, “Jing Qingzhu, what do you want again?”

Speak quickly, I’m very busy, and you know the Green Jade Auction starts tomorrow.

I really don’t have time to entertain you.

My time is very precious!”

## Chapter 257 - 257 257 Gao Zhao Hai's Obstruction

Chapter 257: Chapter 257: Gao Zhao Hai’s Obstruction Chapter 257: Chapter 257: Gao Zhao Hai’s Obstruction Jiao Ming was somewhat impatient.

Had it not been for Jing Qingzhu presenting him with a generous gift every year, he would not even have taken the time to see Jing Qingzhu right now.

Although he was just a minor manager in the Alchemist Association, there were plenty of people who flattered him on a regular basis.

In his view, the fact that he was giving Jing Qingzhu some of his time was already a great favor.

“Hmm?” After Jiao Ming uttered his impatient words, he saw Jing Yan still boldly sitting there, and his gaze sharpened.

Jing Qingzhu had quickly stood up when he entered, but this young man named Jing Yan dared to remain seated.

Damn it!

Such behavior was disrespectful towards him, even contemptuous.

Naturally, Jing Qingzhu noticed the change in Jiao Ming’s expression, and she glanced at Jing Yan, signaling with her eyes for him to stand up.

Although Jing Yan claimed to know the Vice President of the Alchemist Association, even if he really knew them, what of it?

What sort of status did the Vice President have?

Would they intervene in such trivial matters?

Jing Qingzhu did not believe that Jing Yan could have the opportunity to meet the esteemed Vice President.

Her main hope now was to use Jing Yan's claim of knowing the Vice President to get Jiao Ming to spend time talking with her, to tell her why the Jing Family Office's auction qualification had suddenly been revoked.

Only by knowing the reason could she come up with a countermeasure.

However, if Jing Yan continued with this kind of attitude, she feared Jiao Ming would not be inclined to elaborate.

Her heart grew even more anxious, but it was inappropriate to speak out in front of Jiao Ming.

"Jing Qingzhu, is this boy your subordinate?"

"Heh, your subordinate sure has a big air about him.

I'm standing here, and he's sitting down!

Very good, extremely good indeed!

It seems there's nothing else we need to discuss.

Jing Qingzhu, you'd better leave the Alchemist Association soon.

I have other matters to attend to,” Jiao Ming sneered coldly, speaking in a disdainful tone.

Jing Yan, who appeared to be in his teens, shared the same surname as Jing Qingzhu, indicating he was likely from the same Jing Family.

Such a minor figure before him, putting on airs as if he were the boss—who was he trying to impress?

Suppressing his anger, Jiao Ming scoffed a few times, then turned to leave.

He couldn't be bothered to teach this young man a lesson.

“Alchemist Jiao Ming, please don't be angry.

Jing Yan is young and ignorant.

I beg you not to take it to heart,” Jing Qingzhu hastily apologized.

“Humph, the boy is ignorant, and you are too?

If he doesn't know any better, can't you teach him?

Ah?

Jing Qingzhu, what exactly are you thinking?" Jiao Ming directly rebuked Jing Qingzhu.

His demeanor was akin to that of an adult scolding a child.

Even though Jing Qingzhu was accustomed to it, she couldn't help but feel her face flush with heat.

"Jiao Ming, is it?"

Jing Yan slowly stood up.

In fact, Jing Yan was prepared to stand up with Jing Qingzhu when Jiao Ming entered, but after hearing what Jing Qingzhu said upon entering, he changed his mind.

Now, seeing Jiao Ming's attitude towards Jing Qingzhu, Jing Yan's inward sneer grew even colder.

Jing Yan stood up, looking at Jiao Ming, and uttered those few words indifferently.

Jiao Ming's gaze darkened, a flash of sharpness in his eyes, and before he could speak, Jing Qingzhu's face turned slightly pale.

Jing Yan's tone wasn't very friendly, and although he had stood up, he had directly called out Jiao Ming's name.

It's done!

This would thoroughly offend Jiao Ming; any small connection they had with him was likely lost.

Jing Qingzhu sighed softly to herself and shook her head slightly.

She had spent a lot effort and time to establish a relationship with Jiao Ming, and now that connection might be severed.

Perhaps she shouldn't have brought Jing Yan along in the first place!

That was what Jing Qingzhu thought, looking at Jing Yan but not blaming him, feeling only a sense of weariness.

"I really don't know what you have to be so proud about!"

"You think I don't respect you?"

Hehe, Jiao Ming, what skills do you have that are worthy of my respect?

You're just a Second-level Alchemist.

Before me, you really don't have much to be proud of," Jing Yan said with a smile.

Jing Qingzhu had already informed Jing Yan about this Jiao Ming on the way there, aware that Jiao Ming was a Second-level Alchemist.

"Huff..." Jiao Ming's face instantly turned livid with fury as he exhaled angrily.

This young man actually dared to look down on him.

"Take a look, this is the elixir I refined with my own hands.

If you can refine an elixir like this, then that would truly be worthy of my respect," Jing Yan said, tossing a jade bottle to Jiao Ming without waiting for an outburst.

Jiao Ming, out of reflex, caught the jade bottle.

Wait... What did this young man say?

An elixir he refined himself?

Could it be that this young man was an alchemist too?

Jiao Ming, who was about to roar out his words, forcefully swallowed them back.

If this kid was truly an alchemist, then he indeed could not be underestimated.

This kid, looking at his age, was probably in his late teens, close to twenty perhaps?

At such an age, if he were an alchemist, his talent in the Alchemy Dao would be extremely terrifying.

Hesitating, Jiao Ming glanced at Jing Yan several times.

He still found it hard to believe that Jing Yan could be an alchemist.

Jing Qingzhu, too, stared at Jing Yan in astonishment.

She didn't know that Jing Yan was an alchemist.

Jing Qingzhu had always kept in touch with the Jing Family and knew that Jing Yan now possessed Innate Realm Cultivation, with formidable strength, having even killed Zhao Zhenyan of the Zhao Family.

However, even the Clan Leader Jing Chengye and the rest of the Jing Family were unaware of Jing Yan's identity as an alchemist.

Jing Qingzhu was even less aware of Jing Yan's actions in Lanqu County City under the supervision of the Chief Manager.

So, when Jing Yan claimed he had personally refined an elixir, Jing Qingzhu was also stunned, silently gazing at Jing Yan.

Previously, when Jing Yan mentioned knowing the Vice President of the Alchemist Association, could it be that it was this esteemed Vice President who taught Jing Yan Alchemy?

If that were the case, Jing Yan's relationship with this Vice President would be anything but ordinary.

Still, even so, for Jing Yan to become an alchemist, couldn't be that swift, right?

To successfully ascend to the ranks of alchemists, even with a famous master's teachings, would require at least several years, wouldn't it?

While Jing Qingzhu was lost in her wild thoughts, Jiao Ming had already opened the Jade Bottle and taken out a pill.

“Guiyuan Pill?” Jiao Ming looked at the elixir in his hand.

“Humph, a mere Guiyuan Pill, would I not be able to refine it?” Jiao Ming scoffed with a sneer.

A Guiyuan Pill was merely a First-level Elixir.

As a Second-level Alchemist, of course, he could refine it.

“Huh?” As he said this, his expression suddenly changed.

Because he realized that the Guiyuan Pill in his hand was not the third-class elixir he had subconsciously assumed, but rather a Second-class Elixir.

Although he was a Second-level Alchemist, he indeed could not refine a Second-class Elixir at all.

Jiao Ming’s eyes widened as he inspected the pill more closely.

Indeed, the Guiyuan Pill he was holding was a Second-class Elixir.

Then, he looked up at Jing Yan in amazement.

“Impossible!

Absolutely impossible!

Refining a Second-class Elixir would make you a Little Pill King.

This elixir definitely can't be something you refined.” Jiao Ming said incredulously, shaking his head repeatedly.

“This elixir, I refined it.

Jiao Ming, before me, you indeed have no grounds for undue pride.

Moreover, I can tell you, I can not only refine Second-class First-level Elixirs, but I can also refine Second-class Second-level Elixirs.” Jing Yan said with a smile.

Jing Qingzhu, standing beside him, had long been frozen in place, staring at Jing Yan in a daze.

Since when did Jing Yan achieve such accomplishments in the Alchemy Dao?

It must be known that even among the Alchemist Association, those alchemists were generally older.

Even the First-level Alchemists were almost all over thirty years old.

“Alchemist Jiao Ming, I have a question.”

“The one responsible for this Green Jade Auction, arranging the list of attendees, was it Gao Zhao Hai?” Jing Yan abruptly asked.

Jiao Ming took a slight breath and his gaze towards Jing Yan softened considerably.

Although he still found it hard to believe that Jing Yan had refined the Second-class Elixir, if, by any chance, it was really refined by Jing Yan, then this person was no ordinary individual.

The Alchemist Association would indeed be very willing to recruit such a talented alchemist as Jing Yan into their ranks.

Once Jing Yan joined the Alchemist Association, his status would certainly be above his own.

“It’s not Gao Zhao Hai who’s in charge, but Fang Xu,” Jiao Ming said after a moment’s thought, still responding.

“Oh?” Jing Yan’s gaze shifted.

“However...

If you’re asking why Jing Qingzhu’s name was removed from the list, I heard that it was indeed Gao Zhao Hai who gave the order.

I had asked Fang Xu about this issue previously.” Jiao Ming paused before continuing.

He had been aware of the reason why Jing Qingzhu was invited this morning, but he hadn’t told her.

“So it really was Gao Zhao Hai.” Jing Yan chuckled coldly, “Gao Zhao Hai is indeed narrow-minded, using such despicable means because of a little conflict with me, hehe...”  
Hearing Jing Yan’s words, Jiao Ming couldn’t help but roll his eyes.

Who was this kid, and where did he pop up from?

Gao Zhao Hai was one of the managers of the Alchemist Association, and here was Jing Yan speaking so disrespectfully of him, accusing Gao Zhao Hai of being narrow-minded and underhanded.

Huh?

What did he say?

He had a conflict with Gao Zhao Hai?

Jiao Ming's body trembled slightly.

"Jiao Ming, I would like to meet Manager Fang Xu," Jing Yan stated after a thought.

"I'm afraid that's not possible.

Manager Fang Xu is in the midst of finalizing the list, he might not have time..." Jiao Ming began, shaking his head.

"Why don't you show the Guiyuan Pill to Manager Fang Xu and say that I have a few other similar elixirs.

If possible, I will put up some Second-class Elixirs for auction at the event," Jing Yan interrupted Jiao Ming, waving his hand as he spoke.

“This...

Alright!” Jiao Ming finally nodded.

Indeed, what Jing Yan had said was somewhat frightening.

Having a conflict with Gao Zhao Hai was not something just anyone could manage.

Ordinary people, even if they wanted to create some friction with Gao Zhao Hai, wouldn't likely be able to.

Yet, judging by Jing Yan's attitude, it seemed entirely possible; otherwise, why would Gao Zhao Hai suddenly instruct Fang Xu to remove Jing Qingzhu's name from the list?

## Chapter 258 - 258 258 Despicable Trick

Chapter 258: Chapter 258 Despicable Trick Chapter 258: Chapter 258 Despicable Trick “Jing Yan, are you an alchemist?”

Jing Qingzhu still felt as if he were in a dream.

How had Jing Yan suddenly become an alchemist?

Becoming an alchemist was much more difficult than a martial artist advancing to the Innate level.

In Lanqu County City, Innate Martial Artists were as common as stars, but how many were alchemists?

The two were incomparable.

“Yes, I was already a Second-level Alchemist when I was in Donglin City.

However, the clan leader and the others didn’t know about this,” Jing Yan said with a smile.

What Jing Yan didn’t mention to Jing Qingzhu was that he could possibly refine Third-level Elixirs now.

With some more materials and a few more attempts, the possibility of successfully refining a Third-level Elixir was quite high.

Jiao Ming led the way upfront, while Jing Yan and Jing Qingzhu followed behind.

Just before, Jiao Ming had shown Fang Xu the Second-class Guiyuan Pill crafted by Jing Yan, and had explained that Jing Yan might bring out more elixirs to be placed at the Green Jade Auction.

Subsequently, Alchemist Fang Xu agreed to meet Jing Yan.

Thus, Jiao Ming returned to lead Jing Yan and Jing Qingzhu to meet Alchemist Fang Xu.

“Alchemist Fang Xu is in the room, you can go in,” Jiao Ming said, standing outside a huge house.

The house was very large, and it was not inhabited by just one individual—Jing Yan could sense the presence of over ten people inside.

Some of these presences were robust, some so faint they were almost undetectable.

Yet, with Jing Yan’s heightened senses, even the typical Dao Spirit Realm experts could hardly conceal their presence from him at this distance.

“Jiao Ming, I need you to do one more thing for me, please fetch Alchemist Liu Wen,” Jing Yan, turning towards the expressionless Jiao Ming, said.

“Ahem—” Jiao Ming nearly choked on his breath upon hearing this.

Alchemist Liu Wen?

Which Alchemist Liu Wen?

As far as Jiao Ming knew, within the Alchemist Association, there was only one Alchemist Liu Wen, and that was the vice president of the Alchemist Association, a Fifth-level Pill King.

What had Jing Yan just said?

Jiao Ming, felt his mind starting to blur.

“What’s wrong?”

“Could it be that Alchemist Liu Wen isn’t here at the moment?” Jing Yan paused to ask.

“He is, he is!”

“You mean the Vice President?” Jiao Ming nodded repeatedly, his eyes wide as he stared at Jing Yan.

“Yes, Vice President Liu Wen.”

It's good he's here.

You go and call Alchemist Liu Wen over, just say Jing Yan from Donglin City has arrived," Jing Yan patted Jiao Ming's shoulder and smiled.

Jing Yan had already planned to give Gao Zhaohai a piece of his mind.

In fact, although there had been some unpleasantness with Gao Zhaohai at the Manager's Mansion previously, Jing Yan hadn't taken it to heart.

However, this Gao Zhaohai, with his despicable behavior, had obstructed Jing Qingzhu from participating in the Green Jade Auction, which infuriated Jing Yan.

Give respect and receive respect tenfold—that was the kind of person Jing Yan was.

Had Gao Zhaohai targeted Jing Yan directly, Jing Yan might not have been so angry.

But Gao Zhaohai had gone too far, targeting the Jing Family Office in Lanqu County.

Such a person needed to be taught a lesson.

Indeed, the saying held true: the conduct of the disciple reflected the conduct of the master.

The demeanor of Gao Zhaohai's disciple, Cang Yu, had now shown that Gao Zhaohai himself was no different—both were despicably shameless.

“Go ahead, I know Alchemist Liu Wen,” Jing Yan smiled again and patted Jiao Ming's shoulder once more.

At this moment, Jiao Ming felt his body go numb.

From Jing Yan's demeanor, it seemed like he truly knew Vice President Liu Wen.

This was utterly unbelievable.

“Elder Qingzhu, let us go in and meet Manager Fang Xu,” Jing Yan said to Jing Qingzhu as he turned.

Upon entering the large room, more than ten figures were present, and Jing Yan's gaze swiftly swept over these people.

One familiar figure immediately caught his eye.

Gao Zhaohai!

There was Gao Zhaohai, unexpectedly also present in the room.

And not far from Gao Zhaohai, a white-bearded elder was flipping through a thick booklet—a man whose aura was similar to Gao Zhaohai's, presumably the manager in charge of arranging the participation for the auction: Manager Fang Xu.

As Jing Yan and Jing Qingzhu entered, all eyes in the room turned towards them.

Jing Yan looked intently at Gao Zhaohai, then turned his gaze to the seated elder, gathered his Qi, and said, “This must be Alchemist Fang Xu, right?”  
“I am Fang Xu!

You are Jing Yan?

Did you refine this Guiyuan Pill?” Fang Xu looked at Jing Yan and then pointed to a Guiyuan Pill laid out in front of him.

“This elixir is the Guiyuan Pill that Jiao Ming just brought over.”  
“It was refined by me,” Jing Yan nodded.

“Not bad, it has great potential.

You haven't joined the Alchemist Association yet, have you?

You could join, and it would open up greater prospects for you.

Jiao Ming mentioned that you plan to auction some elixirs at this session of the Green Jade Auction?

Alchemist Gao Zhao Hai is also here; he is in charge of arranging resource auctions.

You could discuss this matter with him," said Fang Xu, his face devoid of much expression, showing little interest in further conversation with Jing Yan.

That was indeed the case.

Fang Xu himself had not intended to meet Jing Yan.

Even though Jing Yan was a Second-level Little Pill King, Fang Xu felt no need to see him.

Moreover, he was extremely busy and did not have much time to spare.

When Jiao Ming came over to report, Fang Xu's original intention was not to meet him.

However, Gao Zhao Hai happened to be there, and upon hearing the news, he asked Jiao Ming to bring Jing Yan over.

His intention was not out of kindness.

It was deliberate.

Jing Yan had caused him to lose face in front of Mu Liantian, and this was his way of revenge.

He wanted Jing Yan to understand his authority.

Gao Zhao Hai, on the other hand, had not expected Jing Yan to come to the Alchemist Association, but since he had, it suited his intentions well.

He wanted to humiliate Jing Yan severely in his presence, to make the young man understand that not everyone could offend him.

Hearing Fang Xu's words, Jing Yan's expression slightly darkened.

“The matter of auctioning elixirs is secondary.

I can entrust the Alchemist Association with the auction, or I can choose not to entrust it.

I am here to ask Alchemist Fang Xu why Jing Qingzhu's name was removed from the list of participants for the auction.

As far as I know, Jing Qingzhu was previously listed and had qualified to participate in this session of the Green Jade Auction," Jing Yan asked gravely.

"Jing Yan, actually, I don't have to answer your question.

However, considering your young age and status as a Second-level Alchemist, I have decided to answer it.

Because there are many participants in this session of the Green Jade Auction, I had to remove some unimportant people; otherwise, our Alchemist Association's auction venue wouldn't be able to accommodate everyone," Fang Xu said bureaucratically, his eyes shifting.

In this statement, he implied that Jing Qingzhu was one of the unimportant people.

"Alchemist Fang Xu, there's no need to be so euphemistic!" Gao Zhao Hai interjected with a cold laugh from the side.

His gaze towards Jing Yan was sharp and gleaming.

“Jing Yan, to tell you the truth, the reason your Jing Family Office cannot participate in the Green Jade Auction is because of you.

I must also tell you that not only is your Jing Family Office barred from this session of the Green Jade Auction, but from future sessions as well,” Gao Zhao Hai said with a triumphant expression.

“Oh?”

“So, it was you, Gao Zhao Hai, who removed Jing Qingzhu’s name from the auction participant list?” Jing Yan’s tone became tense, and his voice slightly raised.

Throughout the room, more than a dozen staff members halted their work and looked towards Gao Zhao Hai and Jing Yan.

Of course, they didn’t recognize Jing Yan.

But seeing the situation now, they knew that this young man named Jing Yan seemed to have some conflict with Manager Gao Zhao Hai.

Now, it seemed Manager Gao Zhao Hai was intentionally making things difficult for Jing Yan.

What exactly was the conflict between the two that led Manager Gao Zhao Hai to take such aggressive action?

From Manager Gao Zhao Hai's posture, it seemed he loathed Jing Yan greatly.

To be entangled with a Manager like Gao Zhao Hai suggested that this Jing Yan was no simple character!

Jing Qingzhu's eyes also fell on Jing Yan, her emotions violently tumultuous.

She was now certain that Jing Yan indeed had a conflict with Manager Gao Zhao Hai.

When Jing Yan had mentioned it before, she had some doubts.

Now it seemed, the conflict between Jing Yan and the Alchemist Association's Manager Gao Zhao Hai was not only real but also intense.

What exactly had happened to Jing Yan?

Not only did Jing Yan know the Vice President of the Alchemist Association, but he also had a conflict with a Manager like Gao Zhao Hai.

This was a bit exaggerated, wasn't it?

Jing Qingzhu took a deep breath.

Having spent many years in Lanqu County City, it was hard for her to even see someone like Gao Zhao Hai, let alone offend him with her status.

“Yes, it was me who did it.

What are you going to do about it?

Oh right, you plan to auction elixirs at the Green Jade Auction?

That won't work either.

The auction starts tomorrow, and the arrangements are already in place.

You're too late,” Gao Zhao Hai sneered.

This was not the Manager's Mansion; he didn't care about offending Jing Yan.

Of course, due to Mu Liantian's intimidation, he really didn't dare to physically attack Jing Yan.

However, within the Alchemist Association, even Mu Liantian could not interfere with internal affairs.

"Alchemist Fang Xu, I'm still a bit unclear.

I know that you, Alchemist Fang Xu, are responsible for arranging the participant list for the auction, not this Gao Zhao Hai.

I want to know why he has the authority to remove Jing Qingzhu's name.

What right does he have to intervene in the participant arrangement?" Jing Yan looked towards Fang Xu and asked.

"Ha ha ha... Ignorant boy!" Before Fang Xu could respond, Gao Zhao Hai burst out laughing.

"Young fellow, as a manager of the Alchemist Association, even if I'm not directly responsible for this session's participant list, it's still acceptable for me to make some recommendations.

Alchemist Fang Xu values my suggestions highly.

I thought Jing Qingzhu wasn't suitable for the auction, and Alchemist Fang Xu adopted this view; it's quite normal," Gao Zhao Hai said with increasing smugness.

Seeing Jing Yan's expression, Gao Zhao Hai felt immensely satisfied.

These days, it felt as if a stone had been pressing on his heart.

## Chapter 259 - 259 259 Not Giving You Face

Chapter 259: Chapter 259: Not Giving You Face Chapter 259: Chapter 259: Not Giving You Face  
Recalling the day at the Manager's Mansion, in front of Mu Liantian, when Jing Yan fiercely slapped his aged face back and forth, Gao Zhao Hai felt as though a thorn was lodged in his heart.

In his entire life, he had never been so humiliated.

And all of this, was because of the little bastard in front of him, this damned beast.

Gao Zhao Hai's gaze toward Jing Yan was oppressively repressed.

If it wasn't because of Mu Liantian, he truly wished to kill this little beast with his own hands here and now!

Hearing Gao Zhao Hai's words, Jing Qingzhu was also infuriated.

Although Jing Yan had not told her much previously, she could now discern that Jing Yan must have offended Gao Zhao Hai at some point, causing Gao Zhao Hai to bear a grudge and seek revenge against Jing Yan constantly.

Now, Gao Zhao Hai wanted Fang Xu to remove the Jing Family Lanqu Office from the list of auction participants, with the true intention of taking revenge on Jing Yan.

Such a tactic was indeed despicable.

Jing Qingzhu's face turned pale with anger, biting her teeth, she really wanted to publicly denounce Gao Zhao Hai as shameless.

But in the end, she held back.

Because, she was still unaware of the specific details of the matters involved.

Moreover, Gao Zhao Hai was a director of the Alchemist Association, and offending him completely could cause an unbearable blow to the entire Jing Family.

If it were just her, she wouldn't mind, but she must consider the family, for the sake of the clan.

Jing Qingzhu was a very steady person, otherwise, she would not be in charge of the Jing Family's office in Lanqu County City.

“Alchemist Fang Xu, I believe you can see that Gao Zhao Hai is intentionally seeking revenge, right?”

“I, Jing Yan, have had some unpleasantness with him, Gao Zhao Hai, previously.

Alchemist Fang Xu, and all the pill masters present here, you do not know the nature of the unpleasantness between me and Gao Zhao Hai, and some of you may think that I am at fault.

But I want to say that from the beginning to the end, I have never provoked Gao Zhao Hai.

The reason why he harbors such resentment against me is because in the realm of alchemy, I have reached places he cannot, and it is precisely because of this that he lost face in front of several important figures in our Lanqu County City.”

“So, he harbors resentment against me and wants to eliminate me.

You all must be curious, I, Jing Yan, come from Donglin City, which is just a small city within Lanqu County City's region, some of you might not even have heard of Donglin City.

I come from this small city and am preparing to participate in the assessments of the Three Major Academies, to enter and cultivate, I do not have any significant background.”

“Gao Zhao Hai hates me so much, why doesn’t he just get rid of me directly?”

It’s because there’s that person with high status, I’ve helped this lord, making Gao Zhao Hai hesitant to openly take action against me.

Everyone here is wise, and you should be able to see that what I’m saying is true.”

“What I want to say now is that Gao Zhao Hai dare not blatantly take action against me, so he resorts to such means, obstructing the Jing Family from participating in the Green Jade Auction.

Everyone, don’t you feel that this Gao Zhao Hai is too low and shameless?

Is such a person suitable to be a director of the Alchemist Association?”

Jing Yan’s voice rose as he rapidly spoke these words.

He did not directly respond to Gao Zhao Hai but instead chose to say these things.

Of course, he had a purpose.

He wanted to plant a seed in the minds of the crowd first, to let these people know that Gao Zhao Hai's actions were utterly unjustified.

Hearing Jing Yan's words, many pill masters in the room remained silent.

They did not speak up for Jing Yan.

But from their expressions, it was apparent that most of them believed Jing Yan's words.

It was only because of Gao Zhao Hai's identity that they found it difficult to speak up for Jing Yan.

Even Fang Xu frowned slightly and cast a glance at Gao Zhao Hai.

Previously, when Gao Zhao Hai found him and asked for a favor to remove Jing Qingzhu's name from the list, Fang Xu did not think too much and removed her name after knowing she was a representative of a small family from Donglin City.

In his view, this was not a big deal.

It was not the removal of someone with clout from the list.

Now thinking back, if things were really as Jing Yan had said, then Gao Zhao Hai's pettiness was indeed too narrow-minded.

Taking revenge against Jing Yan in this manner was indeed a bit of a villainous act.

However, Gao Zhao Hai was ultimately a director of the Alchemist Association, a position similar to Fang Xu's own.

In this moment, he could only keep quiet and avoid further entanglement in this matter.

"Little beast, stop spouting nonsense!" Gao Zhao Hai's face darkened, he felt as though his lungs were about to explode with rage.

This damn brat was too sharp-tongued, and what was worse, what he said was all true, leaving him with no grounds to refute.

"I'm spouting nonsense?" Jing Yan sneered.

"Gao Zhao Hai, you are well aware of your own deeds."

"You harboring a grudge against me is a personal vendetta between the two of us.

Now, you are exploiting your power in the Alchemist Association for personal vengeance.

To call you despicable is to overstate your merit,” Jing Yan countered disdainfully.

“Little beast, you’re looking for death!” Gao Zhao Hai felt the gazes of the pill masters in the room upon himself, and suddenly he could barely maintain his composure.

A flash of fierce light in his eyes, his aura solidified, and Primordial Energy circulated around his body.

He was, after all, a practitioner of the Dao Spirit Realm; killing Jing Yan would indeed not be difficult.

But still, his heart was heavy with reservations.

To kill Jing Yan in front of so many—would the Chief Manager of Prince Manor, Mu Liantian, pursue the matter?

The key was, if he were to kill Jing Yan, it was without justification.

If he had sufficient reason, he would not fear Mu Liantian’s pursuit.

Although Mu Liantian's status was extraordinary, he could not simply act against the director of the Alchemist Association without cause.

The senior figures of the Alchemist Association would not let Mu Liantian easily touch a pill master of the Association.

In the high-stakes game of power, holding onto reason was of vital importance.

When one's strength isn't sufficient to crush the rules, whoever has the reason, has the initiative and can make things difficult for the other party.

Gao Zhao Hai, took a deep breath.

In the end, he suppressed the raging fury in his heart.

Although he loathed Jing Yan, to kill Jing Yan now could very likely cost him his future, or even his life.

In his eyes, that obviously wasn't worth it.

The more he endured, the more other Pill Masters started to believe what Jing Yan said was true.

Perhaps, Jing Yan really did help an influential figure, and this favor wasn't something even Gao Zhao could assist with, causing Gao Zhao Hai to harbor resentment against Jing Yan.

Otherwise, why wouldn't Gao Zhao Hai dare to make a move right now?

As for Jing Yan not revealing the name of that influential figure, this was understandable too.

If you did a favor for a big shot but blabbered about it everywhere, wouldn't that be foolish?

Which influential person would want to see someone they owed a favor to, broadcasting that fact for all to hear?

Jing Yan saw Gao Zhao Hai forcefully suppressing his anger and couldn't help feeling slightly disappointed as he shook his head.

Of course, he hoped Gao Zhao Hai would attack him, because if Gao Zhao Hai did so, the subsequent blow to him would be even heavier, possibly depriving him of any chance of recovery.

Regrettably, Gao Zhao Hai, the old man, still managed to maintain his reason even under great rage.

“You little rat, no matter how sharp your tongue is, or how eloquently you argue!

Your family will still not be able to attend the Green Jade Auction.” Gao Zhao Hai gritted his teeth and said viciously.

“I’ve seen shameless, but someone as shameless as you, not often.

I’ve certainly broadened my horizons.” Jing Yan scoffed.

“Jing Yan, stop talking, let’s go.

It doesn’t matter if we don’t participate in the Green Jade Auction,” Jing Qingzhu said angrily.

“Hmph, not only will you fail to participate in this year’s Green Jade Auction, but you also won’t be able to attend any Green Jade Auction in the future,” Gao Zhao Hai said gloomily.

“Gao Zhao Hai, do you really have that much power?

I almost thought you were the President of the Association!”

Just then, a weighty voice suddenly broke the silence.

“Haha... Of course, I have that...” Gao Zhao Hai let out a laugh.

However, before he could finish his sentence, his eyes narrowed and he then closed his mouth, his gaze turned startled towards the front.

A gray figure was slowly walking into the room from outside the door.

“Gao Zhao Hai, I’m telling you, you do not have that power,” the gray figure said with a smile.

“Vice President?”

“Vice President!”

“Greetings to the Vice President!”

Upon seeing the person who just entered the room, the Pill Masters within quickly bowed in greeting.

Alchemist Fang Xu, too, swiftly stood up to greet and pay respects.

This person who just came in was Vice President Liu Wen from the Alchemist Association.

“Alchemist Liu Wen,” Jing Yan greeted Liu Wen with a slight upward curve of his mouth, smiling.

“Jing Yan, it has been a while since I’ve seen you.

I’ve heard you’ve come to Lanqu County City to take part in the entrance examination of the Three Major Academies?” Liu Wen greeted Jing Yan with a smile.

The other Pill Masters in the room, upon seeing Jing Yan and Vice President Liu Wen greet each other so casually, were all stunned into disbelief.

How could Jing Yan know the Vice President of the Alchemist Association?

Even if he knew him, their manner was so casual; it was like old friends meeting.

Just who was this Jing Yan?

Even Jing Qingzhu beside Jing Yan had her beautiful eyes wide with incredulity as she looked at Jing Yan.

She had already known that Jing Yan was acquainted with Vice President Liu Wen.

When Jing Yan asked Jiao Ming to go invite Liu Wen, she thought Jing Yan was oversimplifying.

Even if Jing Yan knew Vice President Liu Wen, it was unlikely that the Vice President would intervene, especially for such a minor matter.

For her, Jing Qingzhu, whether they could attend the Green Jade Auction was of utmost importance, but for someone like Liu Wen, the Vice President of the Alchemist Association, such a matter was inconsequential.

Yet now, Vice President Liu Wen had not only appeared but also greeted Jing Yan so casually in front of so many Pill Masters...

## The Sword God of the Universe

Chapter 260: Chapter 260 Aggressive Chapter 260: Chapter 260 Aggressive Within the room, astonished gazes fell upon Jing Yan.

Especially for Gao Zhao Hai, others might simply be shocked at the Vice President's attitude toward Jing Yan, but Gao Zhao Hai was not just shocked, he was horrified.

Amid his horror, Gao Zhao Hai's body abruptly shuddered.

He began to realize that from the beginning, Jing Yan had not claimed to know Vice President Liu Wen, which meant that Jing Yan had a plan from the start—a plan targeting him, Gao Zhao Hai.

If Gao Zhao Hai had known at the outset that Jing Yan had a close relationship with Liu Wen, then even if he were reluctant, he would definitely have tried to make amends, consulting with Fang Xu at the first opportunity, to have Jing Qingzhu's name added back onto the list.

But Jing Yan had not said a word.

Clearly, Jing Yan did it on purpose, aiming to deal with him, Gao Zhao Hai.

Thinking this, Gao Zhao Hai looked at Jing Yan with an increasingly sinister gaze, wishing he could tear Jing Yan apart alive.

This wretched brat dared to set a trap and let him, Gao Zhao Hai, jump into it—and he had indeed jumped.

Gao Zhao Hai was well aware that his actions were not insignificant.

Such matters, as long as no one pursued them, naturally wouldn't be a big deal.

But in the grand scheme of things, he was using his power for personal gain, being capricious with the authority of his position at the Alchemist Association, which could cause a huge negative impact on the reputation of the Alchemist Association.

If he was the one responsible for compiling the list of auction participants, then there might be a reason to prevaricate.

But the person in charge of this list was not him, it was Fang Xu.

Damn it!

How vile!

Gao Zhao Hai was beset by various thoughts at this moment.

“Yes, we are currently waiting for the assessments of the Three Major Academies to begin,” Jing Yan replied with a smile amidst a sea of shocked expressions.

“Right, we shall catch up later; right now, I need to deal with an internal issue that has arisen at the Alchemist Association,” Liu Wen nodded, then turned to look at manager Fang Xu.

“Manager Fang Xu, please explain the sequence of events,” Liu Wen said with an indifferent tone.

“Yes!” Fang Xu quickly responded.

At this moment, Fang Xu was, of course, also nervous, while feeling some annoyance toward Gao Zhao Hai.

Originally, he had nothing to do with this; whatever grievances Gao Zhao Hai had against Jing Yan were irrelevant to Fang Xu.

Yet now, he was dragged into it against his will.

If Jing Yan was of no significant background, then it wouldn't matter.

However, it was now apparent that Jing Yan had a profound relationship with Vice President Liu Wen.

Manager Fang Xu honestly recounted the events from start to finish, without any bias.

As for the prior conflict between Jing Yan and Gao Zhao Hai, he certainly didn't mention it, because he was not aware of what was going on between them.

He only needed to objectively report the situation as he knew it.

"It seems that some people within our Alchemist Association have overstepped their bounds," Liu Wen sighed lightly.

"Manager Fang Xu, you are also responsible for this matter.

This list was yours to screen; how could you allow others to influence you and change a confirmed list at will?" Liu Wen looked at Fang Xu.

"Vice President, I indeed bear responsibility," Fang Xu said humbly, without excusing himself.

"Let's not talk about your issue for now.

For the time being, add Jing Qingzhu's name to the list," Liu Wen waved his hand.

Since the Green Jade Auction was starting the next day, it was somewhat inappropriate to replace Fang Xu at this time.

Bringing in someone new might not enable them to familiarize themselves with Fang Xu's work promptly.

A large-scale auction like this requires extremely complicated preparations.

A last-minute change of personnel could lead to significant problems.

"Yes!" Fang Xu said.

“As for Gao Zhao Hai, let’s have him suspended for now, and after the auction ends, the President and I will discuss how to handle this,” Liu Wen directly stripped Gao Zhao Hai of his managerial role.

Liu Wen’s statement caused the atmosphere to tense among the Pill Masters present.

A managerial role in the Alchemist Association was very high.

Now, Vice President Liu Wen had immediately suspended manager Gao Zhao Hai and mentioned that, after the auction, there would be further discussions on specific punitive measures.

Such punishment could be considered very severe.

Even Gao Zhao Hai himself had not anticipated that Vice President Liu Wen would come down so hard on him.

He knew Liu Wen had had it in for him for a while, but Liu Wen’s actions might seem excessive and cause idle gossip.

“Vice President, you can’t do this!” Gao Zhao Hai cried out anxiously upon hearing that Liu Wen intended to suspend him.

“And why can’t I do this?” Liu Wen sneered coldly.

Gao Zhao Hai’s breathing hitched, leaving him speechless.

Indeed, as Vice President of the Alchemist Association, there was nothing inappropriate about Liu Wen seizing this opportunity to suspend him.

“Gao Zhao Hai, take this time to reflect properly,” Liu Wen’s gaze sharpened.

Gao Zhao Hai’s body trembled once more!

A trace of unwillingness flickered across his face.

“Who are these two, and why are they here?”

At this moment, another low shout came from the direction of the door.

An elderly man dressed in a beige robe stood there, looking at Jing Yan and Jing Qingzhu.

Jing Yan’s eyebrows slightly furrowed.

The elderly man’s tone was hardly friendly.

Although his question seemed ordinary, the tone carried an interrogative implication.

“Vice President Xu Dong!”

“Greetings to Vice President Xu Dong!”

Everyone in the room once again paid their respects.

Another Vice President.

Jing Yan’s heart stirred slightly.

The Alchemist Association had one President and two Vice Presidents.

These two Vice Presidents, one of them was Liu Wen, and the other must be this Pill Master named Xu Dong.

“Vice President Xu Dong!” Liu Wen greeted Xu Dong with a cupped-fist salute.

“Vice President Liu Wen, these two individuals are not members of our Alchemist Association, are they?” Xu Dong responded, his gaze steadfastly on Jing Yan and Jing Qingzhu.

Jing Yan also discerned that Vice President Xu Dong’s words had an aggressive undertone.

“Vice President Xu Dong, indeed, neither of these two are members of the Alchemist Association,” Gao Zhao Hai spoke first, his tone colored with vindictiveness.

Upon seeing Xu Dong enter, Gao Zhao Hai’s expression clearly improved, and his eyes lit up once again.

“You just stay put, didn’t Vice President Liu Wen tell you to properly reflect on yourself?” Xu Dong frowned, glanced at Gao Zhao Hai, and scolded him sharply.

“Yes!

Yes!” Gao Zhao Hai nodded repeatedly.

Although Xu Dong had rebuked Gao Zhao Hai, it was clear to Jing Yan and the others that Gao Zhao Hai was definitely close to Xu Dong, and Xu Dong’s remark was deliberate, meant for Liu Wen and the others to hear.

Xu Dong’s gaze shifted away from Jing Yan and Jing Qingzhu, resting intently on Liu Wen.

“Jing Yan and Miss Jing Qingzhu are not members of our Alchemist Association,” Liu Wen replied, as he had to.

Gao Zhao Hai was indeed Xu Dong's man.

Although Liu Wen and Xu Dong, both Vice Presidents of the Alchemist Association, had a seemingly amicable relationship, in reality, they were rivals with significant competition between them.

Therefore, they each had their own factions, and Gao Zhao Hai was from Xu Dong's faction.

The reason Liu Wen stripped Gao Zhao Hai of his managerial position so decisively was also influenced by this, seizing the opportunity to hit at Xu Dong's power.

It was a golden opportunity that Liu Wen certainly wanted to grasp.

If Gao Zhao Hai hadn't made a mistake, Liu Wen wouldn't have had a good way to deal with him, but now Gao Zhao Hai had erred, and he was trapped by his own doings.

"Since these two are not members of our Alchemist Association, why are they present within it?"  
"Moreover, these two individuals were found in the important administrative area of our Alchemist Association, how can this be?"

Isn't it a known rule of the Alchemist Association that outsiders are not allowed to enter key administrative areas?" Xu Dong's eyes flashed, his tone became more intense, his demeanor pressing.

Indeed, the Alchemist Association had such rules.

Not to mention the key administrative areas; even the internal sections of the Association were not places ordinary people could easily enter.

The reason Jing Qingzhu was able to bring Jing Yan inside was due to her previous connection with Jiao Ming.

Now, Xu Dong was clearly looking to handle things by the book.

After Liu Wen had stripped Gao Zhao Hai of his managerial role, Xu Dong didn't express any opinion on it after entering, and with Gao Zhao Hai being his man, Xu Dong showed no intention of pleading with Liu Wen for leniency.

By focusing on Jing Yan and Jing Qingzhu's presence within the administrative district of the Alchemist Association, it was evident that he intended to use this as a means to strike at Liu Wen.

"We are staff from the Jing Family's office established within Lanqu County City, Donglin City.

Previously, I had obtained the eligibility to participate in the Green Jade Auction, but then it was suddenly revoked, so I came to inquire about the situation," Jing Qingzhu quickly reasoned.

Having maneuvered among various powers within Lanqu County City for many years, she understood the contests among these significant figures to a certain extent.

Jing Qingzhu knew of the close relationship between Liu Wen and Jing Yan.

With Liu Wen being the Vice President of the Alchemist Association, he evidently had a dispute with this Vice President named Xu Dong.

She spoke thus to avoid implicating Vice President Liu Wen.

Of course, the presence of these two at the Alchemist Association and their arrival here were not directly related to Liu Wen.

It was after their arrival that Liu Wen appeared to meet Jing Yan.

Yet, in such power games, many things can't be clearly articulated.

The best approach was to completely sever any connection with Liu Wen.

Hearing Jing Qingzhu's words, Xu Dong's eyes narrowed slightly, and he gave Jing Qingzhu a cold look.

"Impudence!" Just a moment ago, Xu Dong's face showed little change as he assessed Jing Qingzhu, but then his eyes suddenly flashed sharply, and he shouted sternly.

“What do you think the Alchemist Association is, your house?”

You think you can just come and go as you please, linger as you wish?

There are plenty who want to attend the Green Jade Auction; should we include every single person who wishes to bid in the Association?

Are all those unable to bid and yet wish to, supposed to come to our Alchemist Association demanding an explanation?” Xu Dong reprimanded her severely.