

Time 171

Chapter 171 - 171 Heaven's Dome city

"Then... young master Shun... what must I do, for you to forgive me?"

A big smile covered Shun Long's face, as he finally heard the words that he had been waiting to hear, since the first time that they had met with Zhang Dingxiang.

All of his actions until today, since he had arrived in the Night star continent, including having the 'Silver-winged panther king' out in the open and strolling around the Silver sword city on its back, were planned to lead to this moment.

Shun Long was certain that since he had entered a 'seemingly big guild' from the outside, there would definitely be a high-rank Elder who would try to recruit them, as soon as he and Liu Mei stepped inside.

And indeed, as soon as he and Liu Mei entered inside, everything went according to his expectations, as an Elder from the Pale Moon guild had come to meet them.

Of course, Shun Long hadn't been certain that Zhang Dingxiang would be tricked with just a few top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills', which was why he was prepared to refine the rank 4 'Golden Jade spirit tree' into a rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pill' before he came here again.

Who would expect after all, for the Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild' to be so greedy, that Shun Long didn't even need to put in motion his second plan ?!

Shun Long smiled as he looked at Zhang Dingxiang in front of him, but the tone of his voice was still cold as he said

"I have a few questions. If Elder answers truthfully, then I will think of staying to the 'Pale Moon guild' until the 3 months period is over. However, if you lie to me again Elder Zhang, then you can forget about me helping your guild."

Zhang Dingxiang's heart constricted, as he clearly understood that he had fallen into a trap, and with a painful look in his eyes, he nodded his head as he said

"Please ask your questions young master Shun. If I can answer, then I will definitely do so. But you should also understand, that some things are impossible to reveal."

Shun Long didn't seem to mind the bald Elder's words, and nodding his head he asked

"Then, here is my first question. Who is the strongest person in your 'Pale Moon guild'?"

Zhang Dingxiang exhaled a sigh of relief when he heard the question before he replied

"This isn't really a secret within the Silver sword city. At least, all of the strong guilds know, that our Guild Leader is madam Xie.

Madam Xie is an S-ranked mercenary, as well as an early stage Nascent Soul expert."

Shun Long nodded his head without asking any more questions regarding this matter. After all, he hadn't really cared that much about the guild leader, but it was good to have a general idea of how strong the upper echelons were.

With a nonchalant look on his face, he then continued

"Then, what about the rest of the guilds who are ranked in the top 10?"

Zhang Dingxiang replied truthfully, without hiding anything

"Aside from the 'Turtle Tycoon merchant guild', as well as the 'Dark Blade guild', there are no other guilds inside the Silver sword city that have any SS-rank mercenaries. Of course, the Mercenaries' Association, as well as the rulers of the Silver sword city, the Silver sword clan, also have SS-ranked mercenaries."

Shun Long nodded without any expression on his face, but inwardly he was actually surprised.

Thankfully, what Zhang Dingxiang considered 'common knowledge', while he thought that Shun Long was still testing him, was actually valuable information to Shun Long who had just arrived here?with Liu Mei just half a month ago.

After all, Shun Long didn't know anything about the Silver sword clan so far, but according to Zhang Dingxiang's words, both they and the Mercenaries' Association, had at least an SS-ranked mercenary each, if not even more.

At this point, Shun Long only had 2 more questions to ask the bald Elder in front of him.

An invisible glint flashed through his eyes, but the tone in his voice was still the same 'uncaring tone' as before, as he asked the chubby Elder

"Then, what do you know about the Heaven's Dome city?"

Shun Long saw the look in Zhang Dingxiang's face change into one of fear, astonishment, and awe. The middle-aged Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild' observed Liu Mei and Shun Long seriously for a few moments before he asked a question on his own

"Young master Shun... are you referring to the Heaven's Dome city where the Mercenaries' Association's main headquarters is?"

Even Liu Mei was astonished, as she didn't know how Shun Long knew a city named Heaven's Dome city. The only logical conjecture would be, that the Dao King inside the 'Vermilion realm' had told Shun Long about this.

Liu Mei saw Shun Long nodding his head at Zhang Dingxiang without any change in his expression, confirming that they were talking about the same city.

Shun Long however, had only seen the name of this city inside the map that Cui Guoliang had given to him, so he wasn't entirely certain if this was truly the same city. After all, with how vast the Night star continent is, it was possible that there was more than one city with the same name.

Zhang Dingxiang nodded his head somewhat absent-mindedly, looking like he was recalling some memories. After taking a deep breath, he looked at Shun Long and said

"Young master Shun... I really wonder about your origins. However, I must warn you, that even with a peak rank 5 magic beast to protect you, you will still be weak inside the Heaven's Dome city."

Shun Long's eyes flashed with a bright light, as he looked seriously at the bald Elder in front of him.

After a brief pause, Zhang Dingxiang continued with a serious look in his eyes

"Actually, I have only been to the Heaven's Dome city a few times, mostly while I accompanied Madam Xie.

However, young master Shun I can tell you the same thing that Madam Xie told me before we entered the city.

"The Heaven's Dome city, is a city filled with luxury, where you can find everything inside as long as you have enough money... but it is also a city filled with terrifying monsters."

Chapter 172 - 172 Shun Long's offer

Shun Long and Liu Mei were stunned when they heard Zhang Dingxiang's words, but the bald Elder didn't seem to notice as he continued

"Although I haven't personally seen any of them, I have heard rumors of some very powerful underground sects, hidden inside. So, if you really intend to go to the Heaven's Dome city, I suggest that you seriously rethink about it."

Shun Long nodded his head, but a myriad of thoughts were flashing through his mind.

Obviously, he couldn't avoid going to the Heaven's Dome city, since it was the city closest to the 'Dragon Lord's villa', at least according to Cui Guoliang's map.

Additionally, Shun Long had his own plans as well, so knowing more information about the city, no matter how trivial, could prove to be of enormous help in the future.

Liu Mei stole a glance at Shun Long, but she didn't notice any change in his facial expression, as he was staring at the Elder in front of him, and asked in a leisurely tone

"I only have one last question for you Elder Zhang."

Zhang Dingxiang nodded his head, while inwardly he exhaled a sigh of relief. It seems that each and every one of Shun Long's questions, was either common knowledge inside the Silver sword city, or of no use whatsoever.

Although he was a bit curious, as to why the young man who was sitting in front of him was interested in the Heaven's Dome city, Zhang Dingxiang wouldn't meddle if Shun Long and Liu Mei wanted to court death.

"Then, Elder... do you mind telling me, what is it that you need my help with, in 2 months from now?"

Even Liu Mei turned to look at the chubby middle-aged Elder in front of them curiously.

Zhang Dingxiang however, cursed his bad luck inwardly. This was the one question that he didn't want to answer the most, since he was afraid that Shun Long would back out once he learned about it. However, knowing that it would be even more suspicious if he didn't answer, Zhang Dingxiang took a deep breath as he said with a crafty glimmer in his eyes

"Young master Shun... well, this is quite a sensitive topic so I can't reveal too much information for now. However, what I can tell you is, that this concerns a personal matter of our Guild master, Madam Xie."

Seeing that Shun Long was still looking at him with that same smile on his face, Zhang Dingxiang knew that he had to reveal a few more things, otherwise the young man in front of him would

plainly refuse him, based on what he had said earlier. however, all of this was still within the expectations of the middle-aged Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild', who suddenly smiled as he looked at the peak rank 5 'Silver-winged panther king' that was lying next to Shun Long before he continued

"Well, since young master Shun seems to be interested in this topic, I suppose that I can tell you one more thing. The only thing that young master Shun will have to do, will be to take care of an early rank 7 Nascent soul cultivator. Everything else will be handled by our guild. "

A light seemed to have flashed inside Shun Long's eyes, as he didn't speak but simply stared at the bald Elder in front of him.

Although Zhang Dingxiang had tried to put it in such a way that it wouldn't attract his attention, Shun Long still understood the hidden meaning of his words.

An early rank 7 Nascent soul stage cultivator, was also an SS-ranked mercenary.

Liu Mei's eyes behind her veil, looked at the bald Elder in front of them in astonishment, but Zhang Dingxiang didn't seem to mind too much.

After all, although he had preferred to keep everything a secret until the time came 2 months later, he still wouldn't be able to hide this matter from Shun Long in the end. The only problem would be Shun Long's reaction.

Zhang Dingxiang clearly noticed a sneer in Shun Long's face as he looked at him, but the middle-aged Elder still thickened his skin and asked smilingly

"So, what do you think young master Shun? I answered all of your questions honestly after all..."

Contrary to Liu Mei's and Zhang Dingxiang's expectations, Shun Long nodded his head as he replied

"I can indeed agree to help your 'Pale Moon guild', but do you really think that I will fight against an SS-ranked mercenary for your guild, just for a rank 2 silver grade cauldron and 30.000 spirit stones?"

Zhang Dingxiang was stunned for a moment, but his shock receded almost immediately as he had been prepared for Shun Long's renegotiations from the start.

After all, he hadn't really expected for Shun Long and Liu Mei, to agree dealing with an SS-ranked mercenary just for the original 30.000 spirit stones. Zhang Dingxiang had intentionally kept the price at this range however, so that when they would try to renegotiate with him again 2 months later, he would be the one in control by then.

Nodding his head, the bald Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild' seemed to have an understanding expression on his face as he said

"Indeed, young master Shun,?I admit that your words aren't unreasonable. After all, you are not a native of the Silver sword city, so this matter may cause some inconveniences to you."

Zhang Dingxiang seemed as if he had fallen deep in thought for a couple of minutes, before he raised his head, and looking at the young man and young woman in front of him, he said in a 'sincere' tone

"How about this young master Shun? Our guild can officially offer you up to 150.000 spirit stones, in exchange for your assistance this time. If you want, I can even agree to pay you right now."

Liu Mei felt surprised, that the usually cunning Elder Zhang was willing to raise the price, 5 times compared to his original offer.

Shun Long looked as if he was pondering seriously over Elder Zhang's offer, however, a minute later, he shook his head at the middle-aged Elder, before he said in an amiable tone

"Elder Zhang is truly 'generous'. However, I have a different offer for you. If you really want my help this time, then I want half of the earnings."

Shun Long smiled as he said these words, since inwardly he was completely certain by now, that there was no way for the 'Pale Moon merchant guild' to offer him 150.000 spirit stones if there wasn't going to be tremendous earnings for them as well.

When Zhang Dingxiang heard these words, his smiling expression immediately turned ugly as he involuntarily shrieked

"Impossible! Do you even know how many millions of spirit stones this concerns?"

Chapter 173 - 173 Zhang Dingxiang's clues

Shun Long frowned when he saw Zhang Dingxiang's reaction, who shook his head vehemently as he continued

"Half the earnings is absolutely impossible."

As he heard these words, Shun Long stood up and took Liu Mei's hand, before he walked towards the door of the private room. The black panther opened his eyes and threw a cold look at the bald Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild', before it followed its master.

Zhang Dingxiang however, was completely flabbergasted.

He had originally expected for Shun Long and Liu Mei, to be immediately swayed by his generous offer of one hundred and fifty thousand spirit stones, but instead, they demanded half the share that their guild would earn.

The Elder had originally felt happy to be praised by the guild master, for finding an SS-ranked level magic beast to help them with their mission. However, it seemed that their deal wouldn't be going through now.

After all, Zhang Dingxiang was certain that, even the guild master wouldn't agree to give up millions of spirit stones in exchange for Shun Long's help.

Just as Shun Long and Liu Mei reached the door of the private room, the chubby Elder couldn't help raising his voice

"200.000 spirit stones! Just to help our 'Pale Moon guild' once!"

Shun Long and Liu Mei however, didn't even flinch at his offer as they opened the door.

Zhang Dingxiang gritted his teeth as he then spat out another offer

"400.000 spirit stones! This is my final offer!"

Just as he opened the door of the room, Shun Long turned his head around and stared at the purple-robed middle-aged man before he said

"You should probably talk with your Guild master if this is really your final offer."

Without waiting for an answer, Shun Long took Liu Mei and got on the 'Silver-winged panther king' as they then left the 'Pale Moon merchant guild'.

Shun Long was confident that this wouldn't be Zhang Dingxiang's final offer.

From the frenzied offers that he had received before he left the room, Shun Long understood that the earnings for the 'Pale Moon guild' would simply be astronomical.

A stunned Zhang Dingxiang was still staring at the door of the private room, unable to believe what had just happened.

He thought that he had managed to secure the assistance of the peak rank 5 black panther for their guild's mission, but everything seemed to have changed in just one hour.

Unable to hold it inside him anymore, Elder Zhang's amiable image finally crumbled as he roared madly

"F.U.C.K!!!

I-I... I'm f.u.c.k.i.e.d...

Madam Xie will kill me..."

While Zhang Dingxiang was just a few moments away from a mental breakdown, Shun Long and Liu Mei were now touring around the Silver sword city.

Liu Mei who was still staring at Shun Long's back, couldn't resist asking

"Long-ge... was it a good decision to refuse helping them?"

Liu Mei was certain, that Shun Long had asked for such an exorbitant reward because he knew that the 'Pale Moon guild' wouldn't agree.

Shun Long smiled as he told the black panther to head towards the King's courtyard, before he turned his head to the side look at the beautiful young woman behind him as he said

"Mei'er you don't seem to understand. I have already gotten all the information that I needed from the 'Pale Moon guild'. When we entered inside the first time, I hadn't even expected that there would be such a 'bountiful' mission for us."

Liu Mei felt a bit confused by Shun Long's words, who then continued explaining

"The main reason that I agreed for us to enter the 'Pale Moon guild' in the first place, was to get information regarding the Heaven's Dome city. Even if it wasn't the 'Pale moon guild', any other guild in the top 10 of the Silver sword city, would work just the same for us.

However, Zhang Dingxiang seems to not have understood their situation properly.

Since he said that the strongest person in their guild, is their S-ranked mercenary guild master, how are they going to fight an SS-ranked mercenary without us? Even if we hadn't entered their guild, considering that we were walking around the city on top of the black panther, they would have reached out to us by themselves. It was simply a pure coincidence that we found them first."

Seeing the shocked look on Liu Mei's face, Shun Long smiled as he continued

"Now, think about the second clue that Zhang Dingxiang gave us.

He said that he wants to fight against an SS-ranked mercenary, but he also admitted, that there are only 4 forces in the Silver sword city that have SS-ranked mercenaries. What does this mean?"

Liu Mei's eyes suddenly widened, as she seemed to have suddenly understood what Shun Long was trying to say, when she asked

"Then.. Long-ge, do you mean that they are trying to attack one of the 2 top-ranked guilds?"

Shun Long nodded his head as he explained

"No matter how strong or bold the 'Pale Moon guild' may be, they shouldn't have the guts to scheme against the Mercenaries' Association, whose headquarters isn't even in the Silver sword city.

As for that so-called Silver sword clan, since they are the official rulers of the city, it's likely impossible for a single guild to be able to challenge them.

Zhang Dingxiang also said that, since we aren't natives of the Silver sword city, this is a matter that can bring trouble to us in the future, which means that there are only 2 powers left inside the city that could potentially bring any trouble to us. It would be that 'Turtle Tycoon merchant guild', as well as the 'Dark blade guild'."

After a brief moment of pause, Shun Long continued

"Of course, I could have also agreed to help them for 400.000 spirit stones, since fighting against an early rank 7 Nascent soul cultivator wouldn't prove to be of any danger to the 'Silver-winged black panther', but their guild wasn't honest from the start. Besides, we don't have any reason to take any risks, for the 'Pale Moon guild' to get most of the profits."

Liu Mei was left speechless.

It looked like every single word that Zhang Dingxiang had said, was actually a clue that had shaped their current situation.

It wasn't just her who hadn't noticed these details during their conversation inside the room however, but the Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild' had missed them as well.

Shun Long didn't decide to look for another guild to auction his 'Blood combustion pills' or the cultivation techniques that he had received from Cui Guoliang, and 10 minutes later, they had already arrived back to the 'King's courtyard'.

At the same time that Shun Long and Liu Mei entered their room, inside a private room in the depths of the 'Pale Moon guild', Zhang Dingxiang was kneeling on the floor, with whip marks all over his body. His back was filled with blood, but the Elder didn't say a single word, as he kept kneeling on the ground.

Suddenly, the angry voice of a woman resounded throughout the room, sending chills down Zhang Dingxiang's spine

"You trash! Do you have anything else to say for yourself?"

Chapter 174 - 174 Xie Rong

Zhang Dingxiang's body started to tremble when he heard this voice, but he didn't dare to raise his head from the ground.

In front of him was a beautiful woman in her early 30s, dressed in a light green dress. She had long blonde hair and light green eyes, but the expression on her face was anything but amiable as she stared at the Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild' in front of her.

Zhang Dingxiang felt aggrieved in his heart, since he was the one who had 'discovered' Shun Long in the first place, but in front of the tyrannical blonde woman in front of him, he didn't dare to give any excuses.

Seeing that Zhang Dingxiang wasn't trying to defend himself, Madam Xie's rage started to slowly die down.

She then proceeded to seat herself on a large white couch, before she took a deep breath to calm herself.

The rage in her eyes however hadn't disappeared just yet, as she looked at the still kneeling Elder in front of her, and with a cold but hopeful tone she asked

"Do you think that there is any hope for us to mend our relationship with this kid?"

Zhang Dingxiang shook his head as he replied with certainty

"Guild master, that kid is just too greedy. He made it absolutely clear, that he wasn't willing to help our guild unless we gave him 50 percent of the earnings. How can we give him this much? We should just proceed with our original plan anyway."

Xie Rong didn't speak when she heard Zhang Dingxiang's answer.

Instead, she gritted her teeth, seemingly as if she was trying to come to an agreement with herself.

She knew that right now she had 2 options. The first was to proceed with their plan without Shun Long, while the second was to pay Shun Long an exorbitant price in exchange for his help.

Deep in her heart, she wasn't willing to follow any of these 2 plans, since both of them would cause her tremendous losses, which caused her to fall into a state of deep thought.

10 minutes later, she finally opened her eyes as she looked at Zhang Dingxiang with a determined look.

At the same time, back inside Shun Long's courtyard, heavy panting filled the room, as Shun Long and Liu Mei had just finished another round of dual cultivation together.

Liu Mei looked at Shun Long with gleaming eyes, before she planted a deep kiss on his lips as she said

"Long-ge... every time we.. sleep together, I can feel a powerful energy filling my body."

Shun Long nodded his head at Liu Mei, who was now just a few steps away from entering the early rank 3 in Heaven grade as he said

"This is a secret technique that I got from the Dao King inside the 'Vermilion realm' that connects my Yang with your Yin essence, and slowly strengthens them both at the same time.

You can think of this secret technique as a rope that ties the 2 of us. The higher one of us advances in cultivation, the higher the benefits will be. The only drawback of this technique is that, it can only be used once a day at most."

Liu Mei nodded her head, as she too had felt this in the past days. Now that Shun Long's cultivation had advanced to the peak of rank 3 in Heaven grade, he was filling her own body with even more Yang essence. At the same time, this was dragging Liu Mei's cultivation even higher, and the higher she advanced, the more Yin essence she held inside her as well.

A day soon passed in the outside world, while Shun Long had spent 10 more days inside the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time'. Although he hadn't managed to breakthrough to the early rank 4 in Heaven grade just yet, he wasn't that far away from successfully condensing his 28th ball of qi. He estimated, that it would take around 15 days, to a month at most, until he managed to enter the middle stages of the Heaven grade.

He then visualized himself leaving the 'Stone of Time', as he returned back to the room and saw Liu Mei looking at him with a strange gaze.

Shun Long looked at Liu Mei curiously, who opened her small mouth as she said

"Long-ge, there are 2 guests outside."

"Guests?" Shun Long asked questioningly

"Isn't it just Zhang Dingxiang?"

He had already expected Zhang Dingxiang to visit them within the next 3 days, since Shun Long had already told him where they lived, but he didn't expect him to bring company as well.

Liu Mei nodded her head as she continued

"They arrived early this morning, but since Long-ge wasn't inside the room, I had them wait in the courtyard."

Shun Long smiled at Liu Mei and grabbed her hand, before he opened the door of the room.

In the courtyard, the peak rank 5 'Silver-winged panther king', was staring at the 2 'guests', who were standing a few dozen meters away from it.

When Shun Long opened the door, aside from Zhang Dingxiang, he also saw a stunning blonde woman dressed in green.

The blonde woman had a sweet smile on her face when she saw Shun Long and Liu Mei, an expression completely different than when she was facing Zhang Dingxiang in the 'Pale Moon guild'.

In comparison, Zhang Dingxiang had his head lowered all this time, evident that he hadn't been having the best of times.

The beautiful blonde woman curtsied at Shun Long and Liu Mei as she held her green dress, before she introduced herself

"Greetings, young master Shun, young lady.

I am Xie Rong, and I am the Guild master of the 'Pale Moon guild'. I have heard everything from Zhang Dingxiang, and I am here to personally offer you an apology on behalf of our guild. I can assure you that Elder Zhang has been personally punished by me for his behavior."

At the same time, Zhang Dingxiang also stepped forward with a lowered head, as he said

"Please forgive me young master Shun, young lady Liu."

Shun Long hadn't expected the Guild master to personally visit them in the inn, let alone to also have Zhang Dingxiang apologize.

However, this couldn't possibly mean that everything was now fine, just because of an apology.

Xie Rong looked at Shun Long with her beautiful green eyes, and with a charming smile on her face she said

"Young master Shun, I hope that you can forgive Zhang Dingxiang's behavior and assist our guild this time. Of course, this is a very important matter for me so I can't reveal too many things unless you agree, but everything can be negotiated."

Shun Long looked at Xie Rong who seemed willing to step back and negotiate their terms with a smile on his face, as he then asked her

"In that case miss Xie, tell me what you are willing to offer!"

Chapter 175 - 175 Xie Rong's conditions

Xie Rong smiled brightly when she heard Shun Long's question, and taking out a small yellow-colored spatial ring from one of her pockets, she said

"Young master Shun, our guild is willing to offer you 300.000 spirit stones as advance payment, as well as 15 percent of the earnings from the mission. After all, we will put the manpower of our entire guild, while all young master Shun will have to do, is keep an SS-ranked level mercenary busy. I believe that this is a good and reasonable offer."

Shun Long however, shook his head as he looked at the alluring woman in front of him, immediately rejecting her offer

"If repelling an SS-rank mercenary was that easy, then why don't you do it by yourselves? Even if you could successfully do it... I wonder if would you really be willing to take this risk?!"

No matter what, it is certain that if I agree to help your guild, I will end up becoming enemies with such a person. Now tell me, is it worth it for me to create such a powerful enemy, only for your guild to take most of the profits in the end?"

The blonde-haired Xie Rong nodded her head at Shun Long's question, before her eyes turned to look at the black panther next to him, as she replied with a pleasant smile on her face

"Indeed, your words are reasonable young master Shun. However, would you really be afraid of making enemies with an SS-ranked mercenary, with a peak rank 5 'Silver-winged panther king' as your mount?"

Shun Long smiled calmly when he heard this, while the look in his eyes had turned into one of amus.e.m.e.nt, as he looked at Xie Rong and said

"You are right, I wouldn't be afraid of a single SS-rank mercenary.

However, what about an entire guild?"

Xie Rong's pupils constricted, while she involuntarily took a step back. She immediately turned to look at Zhang Dingxiang who was next to her, only to see that the look in his eyes was just as shocked as hers.

Zhang Dingxiang hurriedly shook his head as he looked at 'Madam Xie', indicating that he hadn't leaked anything.

Shun Long looked at the shocked Madam Xie, and shaking his head he continued

"Aside from the 'Turtle Tycoon merchant guild' or the 'Dark Blade guild', which other power in the Silver sword city can employ SS-rank level mercenaries?"

Madam Xie nodded her head hesitantly, understanding her blunder. If she hadn't mentioned that there was an SS-ranked mercenary, then Shun Long wouldn't have been able to narrow down their target.

Zhang Dingxiang's eyes immediately widened, but he kept his mouth tightly sealed.

He clearly remembered that he had been the one who gave this information to Shun Long yesterday, but Madam Xie didn't know of this.

Xie Rong took a deep breath, as she looked at the young man in front of her in shock.

Even though she didn't want to admit it, she clearly found herself in a passive position right now.

She then closed her eyes for a few moments, seemingly pondering over what she should do.

Finally, a few breaths of time later, she opened her eyes, and looking at Shun Long, she nodded her head as she agreed with him

"Very well young master Shun.

We can split everything equally, between our guild and you... but, I also want to pick one item first. If you don't agree with this term, then I will be forced to do this without you."

Shun Long had no idea what it was that Xie Rong wanted to take, but he instantly understood that it must be something really important to her, if she was willing to compromise about giving him half of everything else, except for just one item.

Nodding his head, his eyes stared at the beautiful blonde woman in front of him before he replied

"Alright! As long as the spirit stones from this mission are enough, I can agree to your terms."

Xie Rong finally exhaled a sigh of relief.

Although she could feel a pinch in her heart for sharing half the profits from this mission, the risk would be much lower for her, with Shun Long's peak rank 5 magic beast handling the SS-rank enemy mercenary.

Besides, as long as she could get 'that' item, everything else was worth it.

Turning her head to look at Shun Long's eyes, Xie Rong then said in an excited tone

"You don't have to worry about this, young master Shun. If we can really succeed, our total earnings will exceed 100.000 middle-grade spirit stones!"

Shun Long and Liu Mei were both shocked when they heard this amount.

Shun Long had already heard about middle-grade spirit stones and their value, while Liu Mei, as the daughter of the sect master of the 'floating cloud sect', had obviously seen middle-grade spirit stones in the past.

One middle-grade spirit stone, was worth as much as 100 low-grade ones. Then, 100.000 middle-grade spirit stones, were worth as much as 10.000.000 low-grade ones.

Ten million spirit stones.

Shun Long's eyes lit up when he imagined half of this amount entering his 'Stone of Time'.

At the same time, seeing that his Guild master had come to an agreement with Shun Long, Zhang Dingxiang smiled brightly as he looked at the young man in front of him and asked

"Then, young master Shun, will you still put your pills up for auction? I can assure you, that I will personally make sure that they fetch a high price."

Shun Long nodded his head and waved his hand, as 2 small bottles of pills along with a dozen scrolls, appeared in front of him.

Zhang Dingxiang excitedly took the pill bottles in his hands, and stared at them as if he was looking at some priceless treasures.

As a rank 2 silver grade alchemist, the bald middle-aged Elder hadn't paid any attention to the scrolls.

Xie Rong took a look at the white scrolls, before she said in a slightly surprised voice

"All of them are Mystic low-grade cultivation techniques!"

Although she was cultivating in a Mystic high-grade cultivation technique as well, Xie Rong knew that these cultivation techniques weren't cabbages found in the streets.

If Shun Long had one or two of them, she wouldn't have been surprised, but a dozen of them... even her 'Pale Moon guild', only had around 30 Mystic grade cultivation techniques.

Looking at the scrolls in front of her, Xie Rong thought seriously for a moment before she said

"In a rough estimation, these techniques will probably fetch around 200.000 low-grade spirit stones, young master Shun."

Shun Long nodded his head but he didn't really care about the price. After all, having the scrolls taking up dust inside the 'Stone of Time', didn't bring any immediate benefits to him, which made it a much better option to sell them for spirit stones.

However, he wasn't willing to sell everything he had to the 'Pale Moon guild's' auction. After all, he had other plans for the rest of his cultivation techniques and martial skills.

Xie Rong stored the scrolls inside her spatial ring before she continued with her light voice

"Young master Shun, you can come to the guild 4 days from now for the auction. Although my 'Pale Moon guild' isn't the strongest in the Silver sword city, with my connections, you will not regret auctioning your items."

She then curtsied once again as she held the hems of her dress, and bade farewell to Shun Long and Liu Mei.

Liu Mei looked at Xie Rong and Zhang Dingxiang who had finally left their courtyard, before she turned her head to look at Shun Long, when she said in a serious tone

"Long-ge... I could feel that, that woman didn't care about the 10 million spirit stones that much. Although she had put on an excited facade, I could feel that this wasn't her real aim.

Instead... I think that the item that she wants to choose, is going to be even more valuable for her than the spirit stones!"

Chapter 176 - 176 The Silver Sword clan

Shun Long nodded his head at Liu Mei, as he had also noticed this matter.

After all, Xie Rong had been willing to compromise on anything else, other than her, choosing one item first. Just from that, the value of 'this item' was obvious.

Shun Long didn't keep dwelling on this matter, as everything about this mysterious item would be revealed in 2 months from now.

Both he and Liu Mei entered their room to cultivate, while 4 days quickly passed.

What Shun Long didn't know was, that thanks to Xie Rong's connections, word over his mysterious top-grade rank 3 pills, had spread throughout the entirety of Silver sword city.

Even some high-ranking people from the Silver sword clan, had informed the 'Pale Moon guild' that they were going to attend the auction this time, sending waves throughout the entire city.

Inside the majestic manor of the Silver sword clan at the center of the city, there were 2 handsome young men and a gorgeous silver-haired young woman sitting in front of a table, drinking and talking with each other.

One of these young men had narrow eyes and short spiky hair, giving his face a sinister expression. His seemingly 'plain' black robes had a large 'Venom' character on its back, that very few people in the Silver sword city would be able to recognize.

Looking at the white-haired young man in front of him, the man with narrow eyes put down his cup of wine, and after stealing a glance at the quiet silver-haired young woman he then asked

"Yin Cuifen, I heard that you are intending to participate in a small auction of your city today."

The young man who was sitting opposite to him, had his long white hair in a ponytail, while his luxurious white robes had the character 'Silver' on them.

This was the young master of the Silver sword clan, Yin Cuifen.

Yin Cuifen immediately understood what the man in front of him was trying to say as he replied smilingly

"Indeed brother Changpu. Word has already spread throughout the city, that a small guild is going to auction some mysterious top-grade rank 3 pills, that are extremely beneficial to Heaven grade cultivators."

After a brief moment of pause, the white-haired young master of the Silver sword clan turned his head to look at the silver-haired young woman next to him, before he continued with a smile on his face

"And of course, since my beautiful sister is just a step away from entering the peak of rank 9 in Heaven grade, I have decided to accompany her as we take a look at this auction."

The spiky-haired young man turned his head to look at the beautiful silver-haired young woman as well, as he smiled politely and said

"Young lady Ruolan, I am certain that your Silver sword clan definitely doesn't lack top-grade rank 3 pills. Is it worth it for you to make a personal appearance then? If you simply nod your head, my Gu family can provide you with countless top-grade rank 3 pills for your use."

The beautiful silver-haired Yin Ruolan, looked at the spiky-haired young man in front of her, and nodding her head she replied

"Thank you for your concern fourth young master Gu."

Although it is true that I aim to advance to the peak of rank 9 in Heaven grade, a new type of pill appearing in our Silver sword city can be considered an important matter on its own as well.

If the pills are worth it, we can even find the alchemist who produced them and have him work for our Silver sword clan."

A bright light flashed through the spiky-haired Gu Changpu's eyes, when he nodded and smiled as he looked at Yin Ruolan, before he replied

"Of course. Young lady Ruolan's words make sense."

In that case, please allow me to accompany you to this auction today. I am also curious to see these top-grade rank 3 pills."

The white-haired Yin Cuifen looked at his sister and interjected before she could speak

"Sister, brother Changpu is also a renowned rank 2 silver grade alchemist. If he comes with us, he will definitely be able to give us his opinion on the pills as well."

Gu Changpu had that same smile on his face as he looked at Yin Ruolan, who nodded her head slightly as she stood up and said

"In that case, let's get going, brother. Young master Gu. The auction will start in less than an hour."

Yin Cuifen stood up and winked at Gu Changpu, before he followed Yin Ruolan outside of the room.

At the same time, Shun Long was still cultivating inside the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time'.

He had already spent more than a month cultivating in this place, when suddenly, a popping sound was heard from his body.

Shun Long could feel his strength rising, as the 28th ball of Heaven qi finally entered the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

A smile quickly formed on his face, before Shun Long visualized himself returning to his room.

Liu Mei was still practicing her sword moves in the courtyard, when Shun Long's body suddenly appeared on the black cushion inside the room.

After changing his clothes, he opened the door, and saw the beautiful young woman dressed in purple, who had now turned her eyes on him.

Liu Mei's bright black eyes stared at Shun Long with both shock and joy, seeing that he had broken through once again.

With a sweet smile on her face, her beautiful black eyes turned into two crescent moons, as she walked up to Shun Long and hugged him before she said

"Long-ge, congratulations."

Shun Long smiled at the excited Liu Mei, before he said

"Mei'er, let us go to the 'Pale Moon guild's' auction then."

Shun Long wasn't certain if he would have completed his breakthrough in time, before the auction had started.

Liu Mei nodded her head, and walked back inside the room to change from her training clothes.

At the same time that Shun Long and Liu Mei were leaving their courtyard, in the auction venue of the 'Pale Moon guild', the young master of the Silver sword clan, Yin Cuifen, along with his sister and the fourth young master of the Gu family, were all sitting inside a private room as they stared at 2 bottles of pills on a small table in front of them.

If Shun Long was here, he would immediately recognize these pills, since they were his own, top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills'.

Chapter 177 - 177 The balance in the Silver sword city

A few meters away from them, was a middle-aged man dressed in purple robes, who smiled flatteringly at the 2 siblings of the Silver sword clan as he said

"Young master Yin. Young lady. These are the newest pills that our guild has received."

This middle-aged man was no one else than Zhang Dingxiang.

Since Yin Cuifen had 'asked' the 'Pale Moon guild' to have a look at their pills before they were auctioned, even Xie Rong couldn't decline his request, let alone the Elder himself.

After all, this was the young master of the strongest power in the Silver sword city, the Silver sword clan.

The 'Pale Moon guild' couldn't choose to offend the Silver sword clan for something so minor.

As for the 4th young master of the Gu family, since Zhang Dingxiang didn't know him, he eventually chose not to greet him.

Gu Changpu didn't pay any attention to Zhang Dingxiang anyway, since his eyes were glued to the pill bottle in his hands.

Without even asking for permission, he opened the bottle and took one of the top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills' in his hand.

Just like how Zhang Dingxiang had reacted the first time, under the astonished gazes of Yin Cuifen and his sister, Gu Changpu started sniffing the pill in front of them.

Of course, everyone inside the room knew, that this was how an alchemist would try to identify some of the medicinal ingredients that a pill was made of, as the overpowering scent of some powerful medicinal herbs could still be discerned even after the successful refinement of the pills.

A few minutes later, Gu Changpu raised his head, and stared at the chubby, bald Elder of the 'Pale Moon guild', before he asked in shock

"Pig! Who is the alchemist who created this?"

Zhang Dingxiang's eyes widened like saucers when he heard these insulting words that held no regard for his identity, while his face had started to turn red, unknown if it was due to embarrassment or anger.

He wanted to walk up to Gu Changpu, and slap him in the face, but considering that this brat had come with the young master and young lady of the Silver sword clan, Zhang Dingxiang took a deep breath to calm himself down, before he said in a sarcastic tone

"I have no idea.."

Gu Changpu's expression warped, when he saw that, this fat Elder was refusing to answer his question. As the fourth young master of the Gu family, Gu Changpu felt that he had already lowered his status by speaking to him directly.

Zhang Dingxiang smirked after seeing that Gu Changpu had finally gotten angry, before he turned to look at Yin Cuifen with a flattering smile on his face, as he then cupped his hands and said

"Young master Yin. I am certain that you are also aware that I cannot reveal such information. This is a rule that every guild must adhere to, otherwise it could hurt our own reputation. Of course, if you really force me, using the power of the Silver sword clan, then I will have no other choice but to tell you everything..."

Yin Cuifen nodded his head without any expression on his face, as he waved his hand dismissingly and said

"You can leave."

Under the dumbfounded expression of Gu Changpu, Zhang Dingxiang smiled as he retrieved the 2 pill bottles and put them in his robes, before he cupped his hands at the 2 Yin siblings and left without another word.

The moment that the middle-aged Elder left the room, Gu Changpu stared mockingly at Yin Cuifen, as he said

"Yin Cuifen, I didn't think that you are actually a coward.

Are you sure that your Silver sword clan is the ruler of the Silver sword city, and not the pig that just left? Otherwise, why would you have to give face to such a small guild?

If we were at my place, anyone who dared to refuse a request of my Gu family would have already died countless times, no matter which guild they belonged to."

Yin Ruolan's expression turned into one of disgust, but Gu Changpu didn't notice it, as he was still staring at the nonchalant Yin Cuifen.

The young master of the Silver sword clan didn't seem to have gotten offended, as he replied with a profound look in his eyes

"Gu Changpu, do you think that every place is like your Thousand Venoms valley?"

There is more than just one power in my Silver sword city, including the Mercenaries Association. Do you think that your Gu family would have been able to be so arrogant, if there was also a branch of the Mercenaries Association inside your 'Thousand Venoms city'?"

Gu Changpu's expression changed when he heard this.

Although he was arrogant, he wasn't totally stupid. He simply hadn't left the 'Thousand Venoms city' enough times in the past, so he didn't understand how the outside world worked.

But from Yin Cuifen's words, he understood the hidden implications inside them. It seemed that in the Silver sword city, the Mercenaries Association was keeping their Silver sword clan in check. Even if the Silver sword clan was actually stronger than the association branch, it probably wouldn't be by much.

At the same time, Shun Long and Liu Mei had already arrived outside the entrance of the 'Pale Moon guild'.

After showing the token that he had previously received from Zhang Dingxiang to one of the young girls in the entrance, Shun Long and Liu Mei were immediately led to a private room on the second floor of the auction venue, that Xie Rong had personally reserved for them.

The private room was almost identical with the one that Shun Long had entered, the first time that he and Liu Mei had met with Zhang Dingxiang.

There was a large couch that was facing the main stage of the auction hall, while a small table made of black marble was placed on each side of the couch.

A few minutes after Shun Long and Liu Mei had entered their private room, the lighting of the auction hall was suddenly focused on the main stage.

Under the scrutinizing gaze of the crowd, a young man seemingly in his early 30s slowly walked on the main stage.

The man had a round face and a slightly fat nose, as well as a small mole under his left eye. His red robes fluttered as he walked towards the main stage, before he revealed his cultivation that immediately silenced the buzzing crowd on the outer seats.

Even Shun Long was slightly stunned, when he saw that this man had already reached the middle of rank 9 in the Spirit realm.

His cultivation was even higher than Zhang Dingxiang's.

The man looked at the crowd in front of him with an amiable smile on his face, as he introduced himself

"Honorable guests of our 'Pale Moon merchant guild', welcome to our guild's auction.

My name is Yuan Ling, and I will be your auctioneer for today.

Today's auction will be a bit special, as there will only be 10 batches of items.

Of course, the quality of each and every one of them is guaranteed by our 'Pale Moon guild'.

Now, without further ado...

Let the auction begin!"

Chapter 178 - 178 The final 3

The crowd below Yuan Ling was astonished when they heard, that there will only be 10 items for this auction.

In the normal auctions of the 'Pale Moon guild', there were always more than 100 items every time.

Yuan Ling clapped his hands twice, and 2 young women appeared behind him, carrying a large, crimson saber on the main stage.

Yuan Ling personally placed the red saber, on the black table at the center of the main stage, before he turned his eyes to look at the crowd in front of him.

The people in the outer seats of the auction hall, stared at the blood-colored saber with bright eyes, when Yuan Ling's voice resounded in everyone's ears.

"Honorable guests, our first item for today's auction, is a peak rank 2 silver grade weapon, called the Bloodslayer.

This saber belonged to a rank 3 silver grade formation master, of our Night star continent's Hongmeng empire. After the formation master passed away, this saber was handed to our 'Pale Moon guild' to be auctioned by his descendants."

Looking at the excited crowd below him, Yuan Ling knew that he didn't have to say much else. After all, a peak rank 2 silver grade saber was already a hard-to-find commodity in the Silver sword city.

Of course, the largest powers would definitely possess even rank 3 silver grade weapons, but these weapons would never appear in the city's auctions.

Seeing that the crowd was ready to start bidding, Yuan Ling smiled as he raised his right hand and said

"The starting price for this Bloodslayer will be 40.000 low-grade spirit stones, while every subsequent increase, must be at least 1000 spirit stones."

Although the private rooms were quiet, the people in the outer seats couldn't hold themselves back any longer as they started shouting their bids.

"41.000!"

"43.000"

"45.000"

In Shun Long's and Liu Mei's private room, Shun Long watched the bidding below him without any change in his expression. After all, neither he, nor Liu Mei used a saber, so he held no interest in the bidding.

A few minutes later, an old man in the outer seats had successfully won the bid, after spending 83.000 low-grade spirit stones for the Bloodslayer.

The red-robed Yuan Ling smiled as he clapped his hands once again drawing the crowd's attention back to him.

The 2 young women from before carried the saber off the stage, when a slightly plump, tall woman with black hair, appeared on the stage, carrying a thick stack of scrolls in her hands.

Shun Long's lips curved up when he saw these white scrolls, when Yuan Ling's voice sounded in everyone's ears at the same time

"Honorable guests, I am sure that many of you will be interested in our auction's next items!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Yuan Ling took one of the scrolls from the woman's hands and unfurled it half-way, before he turned his head to look at the people inside the private rooms, as he said with that same, amiable smile on his face

"I am sure that there are plenty of esteemed seniors in the private rooms here today, and you can all understand what the scroll that I am holding in my hand is."

Then, pointing at the plump woman next to him, the red-robed auctioneer continued

"All of the scrolls here today are Mystic low-grade cultivation techniques. They were entrusted to our 'Pale Moon guild' to be auctioned today, and our guild has decided to sell them all in a batch sale."

Surprisingly, the people in the outer seats started shouting at Yuan Ling, with eyes full of indignation and fury

"Shameless! Your 'Pale Moon guild' is so shameless!"

"Right, right! Why are you selling them in a batch? Doesn't that mean that we will have no chance to compete with the people inside the private rooms?"

"All the strong guilds have Mystic grade cultivation techniques, but the rest of us barely have a Yellow high-grade technique to train in!"

"Sell them separately!! Don't be shameless!"

Yuan Ling smiled at the raging crowd, but although there was still an amiable smile on his face, his body suddenly exploded with the aura of a middle rank 9 Spirit realm expert's

The crowd was immediately silenced, like cicadas on the winter, before Yuan Ling turned his eyes back to the people in the outer seats as he said

"Our guild has already decided to auction the scrolls separately, as that would yield the biggest profit for the senior who entrusted them to us. Of course, although Mystic grade cultivation techniques aren't common, they aren't that rare either.

I am sure that all of you are aware, that the price of a Mystic low-grade cultivation technique, will usually not exceed the 25.000 spirit stones. So, even if you don't manage to successfully bid for these scrolls today, there will certainly be more chances in the future."

Without giving any more explanations to the people who were previously complaining, Yuan Ling continued

"The starting price for these 12 scrolls, is set at 100.000 low-grade spirit stones, while every additional increment must be at least 2000 spirit stones."

The people inside the private rooms that belonged to the strong powers of the Silver sword city, had their eyes lit up. After all, every power needed more Mystic grade cultivation techniques, since that could strengthen their members even more.

"100.000"

"102.000!"

"108.000"

Voices sounded in rapid succession from the private rooms, as the price of Shun Long's scrolls quickly rose.

In the end, they were purchased by a middle-aged man in a private room, for 264.000 spirit stones.

As the auction continued however, Shun Long was disappointed that there weren't any high-rank medicinal herbs, or anything else that caught his interest.

Like this, an hour quickly passed, when the red-robed auctioneer's, Yuan Ling's excited voice, resounded throughout the auction hall.

Looking at the people in the outer seats in front of him, Yuan Ling smiled brightly as he clapped his hands twice, and a beautiful woman in red robes similar to his walked on the main stage.

Seeing that the crowd's eyes were attracted to the beautiful woman on the stage, and that their excitement was once again fully invigorated, Yuan Ling's lips curved up even further as he spoke

"Honorable guests of our guild, our auction has come down to the final 3 items.

I am certain that many of you have come here today, after you heard the rumors of a new pill that has never before appeared in our Silver sword city."

Seeing that the crowd had completely focused its attention on him, Yuan Ling turned to look at the red-robed woman who had just appeared on the stage.

The woman flashed a charming smile to the crowd, before she waved her hand, and a bottle filled with 10 red pills appeared out of thin air.

Seeing the pills that were emitting a powerful red l.u.s.ter, the crowd stared at Yuan Ling with eyes full of fervor, who in turn started to explain

"I can confidently tell you, that the rumors are true. These are all top-grade rank 3 pills, and their effects are extremely beneficial to Heaven grade cultivators.

It is estimated, that an average peak rank 1 Heaven grade cultivator, will be able to advance to the early rank 2 within 3 days, after consuming one of these pills.

However, the most important part is, that no other major power near the Silver sword city can produce these pills right now.

This is something that our 'Pale Moon guild' has already verified, and I believe that all of you understand what this means.

If any major family in the city can obtain the formula for the pills..."

Everyone, be it within the private rooms, or the people sitting in the outer seats, were staring at the red pills, with eyes full of excitement.

If what Yuan Ling had said was true, then this was probably a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Chapter 179 - 179 Brother Zian

At the same time, in Yin Cuifen's private room, Gu Changpu stared at the gorgeous, silver-haired young woman who was sitting next to him, as he said smilingly

"Young lady Ruolan, don't worry! I will make sure to win these pill for you."

Yin Ruolan however, didn't seem to be paying any attention to Gu Changpu's words, as her eyes were focused on the main stage in front of her.

Although her Silver sword clan was the strongest power in the Silver sword city, in reality they weren't much stronger than a single branch of the 'Mercenaries' Association'. But if they could obtain the recipe of this new pill, then with her clan's power, they could expand even beyond the Silver sword city. By then, they wouldn't have to be afraid of the 'Mercenaries' Association'.

On the main stage, Yuan Ling understood that the crowd couldn't wait any longer.

Pointing at the pill bottle in his hand he then said

"Our guild has obtained 2 bottles filled with these top-grade rank 3 pills, and has decided to auction them separately."

The crowd exploded with even more fervor when they heard that there were 2 bottles filled with these pills.

This meant that even if they lost the first pill bottle, they still had a chance to acquire the second one.

Yuan Ling smiled as he pointed at the bottle in his hand and continued

"Our guild has decided, for the starting price of these 10 pills, to be set at 160.000 low-grade spirit stones. Every additional increment must also be at least 2000 spirit stones higher than the last."

The crowd in the outer seats immediately went silent when they heard this terrifying price.

Every pill's starting price would then be at 16.000 spirit stones. This was almost the same as a rank 4 medicinal herb, and this was just the starting price.

However, although the people sitting in the outer seats were daunted by the huge price, those sitting in the private rooms didn't hesitate at all, as they started shouting bids one after the other.

"164.000"

"169.000"

"172.000"

The price quickly rose, and even after it had reached the 200.000 mark, it didn't seem to slow down at all.

"204.000"

"208.000"

Barely 2 minutes later, the bids had already reached the 250.000 mark, until they started to slowly slow down for the first time.

But even then, the fervor in the air of the auction hall couldn't be suppressed.

"251.000!"

"253.000!"

At the same time, inside Yin Cuifen's private room, Gu Changpu slowly stood up from the couch.

His eyes were also glued at the pill bottle in Yuan Ling's hands before he said confidently

"It's finally time for me to join the party!"

Just when the price had reached the 260.000, Gu Changpu's powerful voice sounded from the private room as he called out his bid

"300.000 low-grade spirit stones!"

The crowd was immediately silenced, as everyone turned their heads to look at the private room, where the voice had come from.

"Who is this person? He immediately raised the price by 40.000 spirit stones!"

"That voice sounded so young! I wonder if that's a scion from one of the powerful families!?"

"Wait! I- that... that is the room where the members of the Silver sword clan entered earlier!"

When everyone heard this, the discussions immediately died down. No matter how powerful a family may be, inside the Silver sword city, no one dared to antagonize the Silver sword clan.

Gu Changpu turned his head to look at the silver-haired Yin Ruolan before he said

"Hahaha! Young lady Ruolan, didn't I tell you that I would definitely win this bid for you?"

A small smile was finally formed on the ice-cold face of Yin Ruolan.

Although 300.000 spirit stones weren't a big amount to her Silver sword clan, if she could avoid spending them, then that would be for the best.

Yuan Ling sighed inwardly as he looked at the silent crowd.

He clearly understood that, if the Silver sword clan was willing to join the bidding war, there was no one else in the Silver sword clan who could actually fight with them, aside of course from the 'Mercenaries' Association'.

Just when Yuan Ling was about to declare Gu Changpu as the winner of this bid, the calm voice of a young man sounded from the outer seats attracting everyone's attention

"302.000!"

"What?"

Everyone, including Shun Long and Gu Changpu, as well as the Yin siblings, had now turned their heads at the outer seats.

The crowd immediately parted, to reveal a young man dressed in azure robes.

This man had a large forehead, as well as distinctively large nose and earlobes, however, he could still be regarded as somewhat handsome.

His eyes were a deep blue color, that revealed a calmness and tranquility inside them.

Yin Cuifen's eyes constricted as he looked at this man, and just when Gu Changpu was about to rage and curse, Yin Cuifen hurriedly said

"Brother Zian!"

Everyone, including Yin Ruolan, were stunned when they heard Yin Cuifen addressing this young man as 'brother'.

"Then again, no normal person who is sitting in the outer seats, would be able to take out 300.000 low-grade spirit stones so easily!"

As Yin Ruolan thought of this, her curiosity for the blue-robed young man who was sitting in the outer seats was peaked.

Although the formations inside the private rooms, allowed the people to look at the outer seats and the main stage, those sitting in the outer seats couldn't recognize the people who were inside the private rooms.

'Brother Zian' looked at the private room where Yin Cuifen had called him from and smiled gently as he asked

"Yin Cuifen, do you want to bid against me?"

Everyone in the outer seats as well as the private rooms, stared at this 'Brother Zian' in astonishment.

Not only had he recognized the voice from the private room that seemed to have belonged to the young master of the Silver sword clan, he even asked him if he wanted to bid against him.

However, Yin Cuifen's answer was even more shocking, as he shook his head inside the private room, and under the astonished gaze of Yin Ruolan and Gu Changpu he said

"How could I bid against brother Zian? If you are free after this auction, you must definitely visit my Silver sword clan!"

While the people in the outer seats were stunned, 'Brother Zian' smiled as he looked at the private room and said

"Very well! Since we both know the young white lord, we can be considered acquaintances after all."

Gu Changpu who was about to scold Yin Cuifen for being spineless, immediately paled when he heard the title young white lord.

Turning his head to look at the young lord of the Silver sword clan, Gu Changpu saw a relieved expression on his face, as Yin Cuifen nodded his head and said

"Of course, brother Zian!"

Aside from Yin Cuifen, and Gu Changpu, the rest of the people in the auction hall didn't seem to have any reaction when they heard the title young white lord.

Since no one else was willing to bid against brother Zian, in the end, he won the first bottle of pills for 300.000 spirit stones.

The second bottle of pills, was instead won by Yin Cuifen for 300.000 spirit stones.

Although the big families in the private rooms were interested in the pills, 300.000 spirit stones wasn't a small amount to them. But the main reason was, that they weren't willing to offend the Silver sword clan as well.

Surprisingly, the finale of the auction was a bottle of pills again.

They were 30 high-grade rank 4 Spirit enhancing pills, that could help cultivators at the Spirit realm, to enhance their spirit sense and spiritual strength in preparation for the Nascent soul stage.

However, Shun Long estimated, that these pills wouldn't be as good as his own rank 4 Spirit nourishing pills, that he could concoct after refining the rank 4 Golden Jade spirit tree.

In the end, the Spirit enhancing pills were purchased by the patriarch of one of the big families for 400.000 spirit stones, as the auction came to an end.

Although Shun Long was disappointed that he didn't actually find anything of interest in this auction, he had still managed to refill his supply of spirit stones.

After he received the spirit stones from Zhang Dingxiang, Shun Long and Liu Mei didn't stay in the 'Pale Moon guild' any longer, as they returned back to the 'King's Courtyard'.

There were only 2 months left until Xie Rong's plan started, and Shun Long planned to advance his, and Liu Mei's strength as much as possible in these months.

Chapter 180 - 180 Training in the martial skills

Night had already fallen, by the time that Shun Long and Liu Mei returned back to the inn.

Since it was already night, Liu Mei sat down on the white meditative cushion, as she started circulating the Moonlight Sigil.

At the same time, Shun Long once again entered the foggy place inside the 'Stone of Time' as he circulated his 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

More than half a year passed like this for Shun Long, while a little more than half a month had gone by in the outside world.

After consuming countless top-grade 'Blood combustion pills', as well as more than 900.000 spirit stones he had already reached the peak of rank 6 in Heaven grade.

However, although time was flowing 10 times faster inside this place, Shun Long also noticed a glaring issue. Without using spirit stones, there was no other way to obtain qi to cultivate inside this place. This meant, that now that he was almost out of spirit stones, Shun Long couldn't advance his cultivation inside this place any further.

Sitting cross-legged on the ground, countless thoughts flashed through his mind

"Selling Mystic grade cultivation techniques isn't actually a good way to earn spirit stones. After all, I don't have that many of them left to begin with. As for auctioning more 'Blood combustion pills', since the Silver sword clan has already obtained the first batch, the other families wouldn't be willing to spend more spirit stones anymore."

After thinking about it for a while, Shun Long decided to cultivate in the outside world during the day, and practice the martial skills as well as get a deeper comprehension in his Dao of Time and the Dao of Space during the night.

2 months quickly passed like this, when the time for Xie Rong to execute her plan had finally arrived.

In these 2 months, Shun Long's cultivation had already broken through to the middle of rank 7 in Heaven grade,

Thanks to their dual cultivation during these 2 months as well, Liu Mei was extremely surprised to find out, that her cultivation had also been pushed upwards, reaching the early rank 5 in Heaven grade.

During these 2 months, Shun Long had also refined countless pills, including the rank 4 'Sunskirt grass' into many top-grade rank 4 'Sun-healing pills', along with many other pills, like anti-toxin pills and so on.

He had also reached a certain degree of proficiency, in each of the Mystic high-grade martial skills that he had gotten from Cui Guoliang during this time.

Surprisingly, the 'Gale steps' was the easiest of these 3 techniques to train in.

Shun Long understood that there were 7 different ranks for the 'Gale steps'.

Having spent more than a year in the foggy place inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long had already mastered the 3rd rank of this movement technique.

Although he couldn't become invisible like Cui Guoliang when he used it, Shun Long could move extremely fast inside the 'Monarch's Domain' when he used this martial skill.

However, both the 'Thunderbolt finger', as well as the 'Staff of Obliteration', proved to be much harder to master.

The Thunderbolt finger was only split in 3 different ranks.

Shun Long had already mastered the first rank, which allowed him to gather his qi in his finger, and turn it into lightning, before he fired a powerful lightning bolt towards the enemy.

Additionally, although this martial skill required a lot more of his qi compared to the 'Gale steps', Shun Long could still use it while he had his 'Monarch's Domain' active.

However, from the 3 martial skills, Shun Long had spent the most time training in the 'Staff of Obliteration'.

This martial skill was split into 6 different ranks, and each rank was followed by a single hit of the staff.

After training in this martial skill the most out of all 3 of them, Shun Long had already reached the 2nd of its 6 ranks. He was certain however, that paired with the 'Purple Blossom staff' as well as his middle third stage 'Monarch's Eternal body', the might of the 'Staff of Obliteration' would be even stronger than the 'Thunderbolt finger'.

Standing up from the meditative cushions, Shun Long and Liu Mei knew, that it was time for them to go to the 'Pale Moon guild' today.

The 'Silver-winged panther king' was still lying on the ground, in the courtyard outside of the room.

Shun Long walked up to it and patted the black panther's head, before he and Liu Mei got on its back and left, towards the 'Pale Moon guild'.

Inside an empty private room in the depths of the guild, Xie Rong was standing in front of 30 men and women dressed in purple and red robes.

These, were the strongest members of the 'Pale Moon guild', as well as Xie Rong's most trusted aides.

Looking at the people in front of her, a sharp glint flashed through Xie Rong's eyes, as she took a deep breath and said in a cold voice

"You all know why you are gathered here today.

Some of you have followed me from the start, while some others joined me on the way, but all of you are equally important to me.

After today however, our 'Pale Moon guild' will officially disband, no matter whether we succeed or fail."

The people in front of Xie Rong, nodded their heads solemnly, when suddenly, a red-robed Elder came inside the private room.

He bowed hurriedly at Xie Rong before he said

"Guild master! The people whom you have been waiting for, have arrived at the guild's entrance!"

Xie Rong nodded her head as she looked at the red-robed Elder, and said

"Very well, guide them here."

The red-robed Elder nodded his head, as he personally led the way for Shun Long and Liu Mei to the private room where Xie Rong and the rest were in.

Shun Long was slightly shocked by the solemn atmosphere in the room, when Xie Rong looked at him, before she said in a slightly warmed voice than before

"Young master Shun, young lady Liu, welcome."

Shun Long's eyes stared at the beautiful blonde woman in front of him, who then continued speaking

"I believe that you also want to know why I needed your help. Since you have come here today, I don't have a reason to keep anything a secret any longer."