

Time 201

Chapter 201 - 201 Secrets of the Night star continent

Everyone in the room was silent when they heard Sheng Jun's words.

The old king of the Shentian dynasty, turned his attention to the 2 old men from the 'Alchemists' Guild', as he asked in a slightly expectant tone

"Is there any hope for the main 'Alchemists' Guild' to help us?"

The 2 old men turned their heads to look at each other with a hopeless expression on their faces, before the old man who was sitting the closest to Sheng Jun took the initiative to answer

"Old man Jun, you should know the answer to this already... The main 'Alchemists' Guild' is governed by the Feng family, who has a good relationship with the Demon Emperor Palace.

We also know what would happen if the Demon Emperor Palace took control of the Night star continent but... when we requested from the headquarters to intervene, their answer was that the 'Alchemists' Guild branches in the continent would not be affected by the Demon Emperor Palace in any way."

Everyone was disappointed when they heard the old alchemist's response, but his answer had been within their expectations.

After all, everyone here was a person of high status in the Night star continent, and they were privy to secrets that normal Dao Kings would never be aware of.

Seeing that silence had permeated the room once again, one of the 2 stunning women from the dark elf race coughed once, attracting everyone's attention to her, as she spoke in a somewhat angry but at the same time hopeless tone

"Even if we really put all of our attention into raising the younger generation, do you really think that anyone of them will be at a high enough level, to enter the Holy sect in just 3 years of time?"

Turning her head to look at Sheng Jun, the dark elf woman continued

"Old man Jun, do you really have that much confidence in Sheng Huang? Or do you perhaps think that the test for the Holy sect may not be that hard for your own grandson?"

I don't think that it's good to bet everything on the younger generation. We have all been there before, so I'm sure that everyone here remembers the cruelty of those tests.

How many people will die this time? Which one of you can say with confidence, that your descendants or your disciples can successfully survive, and pass the fourth test?

If they don't, do you really think that the Demon Emperor Palace will have the slightest misgivings in taking over the Night star continent?"

After a brief pause, the red-haired dark elf woman looked at everyone who was seated around her, as she then continued

"I think it's actually better for us, to all enter the Dragon Lord's villa together, and try to look for a treasure that will help us breakthrough to the Emperor realm. I refuse to believe that the core of the villa doesn't have at least one such item inside it."

Sheng Jun's wife, Qiao Lifan, looked at the dark elf woman with undisguised mockery in her eyes, and without waiting for anyone else to speak, she replied

"Yi Huian, do you really think that you are the only one who has thought about this? Me and Sheng Jun have entered inside the villa more times than anyone else here... there is simply no way to forcefully breakthrough to the core of the villa by using force."

Seeing that the red-haired Yi Huian had fallen silent, Qiao Lifan continued in a forceful tone

"Let me ask you then, is there any other alternative, aside from putting all of our hopes onto the younger generation? Do you think that we can take on the Demon Emperor Palace by ourselves in that case?"

Although no one of us probably considers themselves a hero, if we can't even protect the place where our families live in, then what's the point of cultivating in the first place?

You should know that, once the Demon Emperor Palace takes over the Night star continent, blood will start flowing in rivers, and even I can't estimate how many mortals and cultivators alike will die!"

Seeing that no one else was speaking after Qiao Lifan, the elderly woman from the 'Mercenaries' Association' stood up from her chair, and as her eyes swept over everyone around her, they settled on Sheng Jun, as she then spoke in a hoarse voice

"I agree with Yi Huian. I don't believe that anyone from the younger generation is more talented than we were in our youth.

However... no one of us here has any confidence in breaking through the Dao Emperor realm on their own, otherwise, we would have already attempted that long ago. Without a Dao Emperor realm expert, our Night star continent will not have any protection, so as much as I may not like it, I will agree with Sheng Jun and Qiao Lifan this time.

Our 'Mercenaries' Association' agrees!"

The middle-aged man from the 'Mercenaries' Association' stayed silent, indicating that he had also agreed with the elderly woman's decision.

Sheng Jun nodded his head when he heard this, before his eyes then stared at the other 6 people around him, as he waited for their decision.

At the same time, while the bigshots from the 5 peak powers in the Heaven's Dome city were trying to come to an agreement, Shun Long had entered inside the foggy place of the 'Stone of Time'.

His goal right now, was to advance to the peak of the Heaven grade as quickly as possible, before he started to refine the rank 4 'Golden Jade spirit tree' that he had gotten from the entrance of the half-fiend village, into rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pills'.

The 'Heaven swallowing vine' in front of him, was quickly swallowing the middle-grade spirit stones, as an unprecedented amount of pure qi had started flowing around Shun Long's body.

The pure qi inside the middle-grade spirit stones, was actually incomparable to the qi from the low-grade ones.

As Shun Long absorbed the pure qi from the 'Heaven swallowing vine', he could feel the qi ball that he was forming in his hand, as it quickly turned into a bright golden color.

Almost 2 months had passed like this inside the foggy place in the 'Stone of Time', when a popping sound was heard from Shun Long's body, as his cultivation had reached the early rank 9 in Heaven grade.

Chapter 202 - 202 Refining the Golden Jade spirit tree

Shun Long opened his eyes and looked upwards, where 75 balls of qi were floating above his head inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

The balls of qi that were closer to the entrance of the hourglass, were shining with a golden color that was brighter than the rest, indicating that the qi inside them was evidently purer.

Although Shun Long hadn't reached the peak of rank 9 in Heaven grade, he was still satisfied with the results of his cultivation in the past 2 months.

After thinking for a moment, he then transferred the rank 4 'Golden Jade spirit tree', from the herb garden of the 'Stone of Time' to this place.

By now, Shun Long already had more than 10 fully-matured 'Golden Jade spirit trees' in his herb garden.

Shun Long then turned to look at the tree in front of him that seemed as if it was made from pure gold, before he also took out a dozen more medicinal herbs from the 'Stone of Time'.

It was finally time for him to refine the 'Spirit nourishing pills'.

Little Black who was also inside the foggy place along with his master now, stared at the golden tree with curiosity in his eyes.

Although he didn't know the use of the tree, the black dragon clearly remembered Shun Long's excitement, when he had seen the 'Golden Jade spirit tree' at the half-fiend village's entrance.

Shun Long however, knew about the use of this tree.

He already knew that in order for a cultivator to breakthrough from the peak of rank 9 in Heaven grade to the Spirit realm, 3 conditions needed to be met.

The first was, that the cultivator's dantian had to accumulate enough qi until it had reached saturation. Shun Long knew that this was similar to him having 81 balls of qi inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

After all, although the 'Monarch's Hourglass' was different from any other cultivation technique that he had currently seen, Shun Long didn't believe that the process of breaking would be different than most other cultivators, at least during the breakthrough to the Spirit realm.

The second condition, was for the cultivator to enhance their spiritual strength. In order to step into the Spirit realm, cultivators needed to enhance the power of their own spirit first. This was usually accomplished, by either spending countless hours in meditation, or by consuming precious pills that could help in this regard.

However, such pills were extremely scarce in the Night star continent, as both the medicinal herbs that were needed were extremely rare, and the alchemists who could refine such pills were almost all at the gold grade.

As for the third condition, it was for the cultivator to increase their comprehension of their Dao.

Without sufficient insights in their Dao, a cultivator wouldn't be able to break through to the Spirit realm, and would have to spend their life stuck at the peak of rank 9 in the Heaven grade.

As for Shun Long's rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pill', it was precisely such a pill that could help enhance his spiritual strength.

Of course, the reason that Shun Long hadn't started to refine the 'Golden Jade spirit tree' earlier and waited until his cultivation had advanced, was because of the difficulty in the refinement of the tree.

As a rare high-level rank 4 medicinal ingredient, the 'Golden Jade spirit tree' was much harder to refine into medicinal essence than the rank 4 'Sunsirt grass'.

Shun Long estimated, that even now that his cultivation had reached the early rank 9 in Heaven grade, he may still not succeed in the pill refinement.

After taking a deep breath, Shun Long's spiritual strength had reached its peak, as a small flame appeared beneath his cauldron.

The look in his eyes was serious as his qi flame was warming up the cauldron.

A few minutes later, he then started to slowly place the medicinal herbs inside, refining them one after the other.

"Rank 3 'Silverwood branch', a handful of rank 3 'purple illusion powder', rank 2 'white-smoke fruit'..."

Shun Long started to mumble as he continued with the refinement of the herbs.

Finally, a quarter of an hour later, Shun Long stared at the golden tree that was on his side, before he raised his left hand, and using his forefinger, he gently poked a hole on the tree's trunk.

A golden-colored liquid that resembled honey, had then started to flow from the 'Golden Jade spirit tree'.

Shun Long used his spiritual strength, to guide the golden-colored liquid inside the cauldron.

However, this liquid was extremely resistant to spiritual strength, making Shun Long struggle to even guide it inside the cauldron.

The moment that the golden liquid entered inside the cauldron, Shun Long could feel a stinging pain in his head, almost as if his spiritual strength was suddenly being attacked.

Although the golden liquid wasn't a sentient being, any rare medicinal herb that involved the spiritual strength in any way, had a certain danger of backlash.

Shun Long's qi flame increased in strength, as it tried to purify the liquid and refine it into medicinal essence even faster than before.

The golden liquid however was greatly resistant to fire, making the refining process extremely slow.

Gritting his teeth, Shun Long then activated his second 'Monarch's Domain', but instead of having it envelop his own body, the blue light completely covered the golden liquid.

Beads of sweat were rolling down from Shun Long's forehead, but with the use of the Dao of Time, the golden liquid had started to rotate clockwise inside the cauldron, under the guidance of his spiritual strength.

Finally, more than an hour later, a strong medicinal scent erupted from the cauldron, while at the same time, Shun Long's qi flame was extinguished and he slumped on the ground.

His spiritual strength was almost completely drained by now, but he still willed himself to sit up and open the cauldron's lid.

Little Black was also staring at his master's cauldron with anticipation in his eyes.

The moment that the lid of the cauldron was opened, 5 pills that were shining with a golden hue could be seen inside, emitting a powerful medicinal scent.

Shun Long wasn't disappointed when he saw that 2 of the pills were high-grade instead of top-grade.

Instead, he placed them in 2 different pill bottles, before he sat down to recover his spiritual strength.

3 hours later, his spiritual strength had recovered to its peak, but Shun Long didn't choose to consume the top-grade rank 4 'Spirit enhancing pills' right away.

He could clearly feel that lately, although his cultivation base was advancing at a rapid rate, his combat strength hadn't reached his peak.

He was certain that if this situation continued and he didn't get fully used to his strength, his cultivation would start to stagnate in the future.

Without any hesitation, Shun Long simulated himself leaving the foggy place, as his body appeared back in the room of the inn.

Chapter 203 - 203 Accepting a mission

The sun had long since risen a few hours ago, and the moon was already hidden in the sky.

In the courtyard outside of the room, Shun Long saw Liu Mei who was once again practicing her sword arts.

Although 2 months had passed for Shun Long inside the foggy place, barely a week had gone by for Liu Mei.

And yet, because of her dual cultivation with Shun Long, the top-grade rank 3 'Blood combustion pills', as well as her Saint grade cultivation technique, her cultivation realm had already reached the early rank 6 in Heaven grade.

Shun Long however knew, that in reality, Liu Mei had the same problem as him.

Since she wasn't honing her cultivation in real life battles, it was very likely for problems to occur in the future as well.

After all, there were no experts being born, just from cultivating in seclusion.

After bringing this matter up, Shun Long then said

"Mei'er, let's go and see if there are any suitable missions in the 'Mercenaries' Association'."

Liu Mei nodded her head and with a smile on her face, she quickly changed from her training robes before she returned back to the courtyard.

Shun Long already knew that the headquarters of the 'Mercenaries Association' was also at the west of the Heaven's Dome city.

He and Liu Mei were both sitting on the black panther's back, as they soon reached the 'Mercenaries' Association' headquarters.

However, before the black panther entered through the giant gates of the 'Mercenaries' Association', Little Black's voice sounded in Shun Long's head

"Master! You should be careful! I can sense many Dao Kings inside this place and 2 of them seem to be paying attention to us!"

Shun Long was stunned when he heard this, and sensing the change in his emotions, the black panther slowed down his speed.

Sending his spiritual strength inside the foggy place, Shun Long looked at Little Black as he then asked

"Won't they discover your soul sense, since we have already found out about them?"

Little Black shook his head, as he then said in a proud tone

"After I broke through to the peak of rank 5, my soul sense has become a lot stronger. It was as if a mysterious power inside me had suddenly woken up. Unless it's a peak rank 9 Dao King, they won't be able to discover my presence.

And even a peak rank 9 Dao King won't be able to find me easily."

Shun Long was stunned, but at the same time happy that Little Black had grown so strong already.

After thinking about it for a bit, he still decided to enter the 'Mercenaries' Association'.

Although some Dao Kings may have been paying attention to him, that was probably because of the panther, and not because of his individual ability. After all, Shun Long hadn't revealed anything that would tempt a Dao King, aside from the black panther itself of course.

And even then, relatively strong Dao Kings had the ability to capture even rank 6 magic beasts, let alone a peak rank 5 one.

Liu Mei understood that Shun Long seemed to have been facing some kind of problem, but since he had told the black panther to enter inside the headquarters of the Association, she didn't say anything.

At the same time, 2 old men were sitting in front of a table, inside a hidden room in the 'Mercenaries' Association', drinking and smiling to each other.

One of these old men had a face filled with wrinkles, 2 large earlobes and almost no hair left on his head. The other one was a stout old man with long white hair that reached his back, and a large forehead.

Each of these men had a golden badge pinned on their black robes, which indicated their status in the 'Mercenaries' Association'.

They were both SSS-rank mercenaries.

The moment that the bald man's soul sense noticed the black panther hesitating for a moment, he looked at the man with the white hair and laughed as he said

"Hahaha! It seemed that this pup has noticed your soul sense Hao Ping!"

The long-haired man had a shocked look in his eyes as he mumbled

"Did I make a mistake? How was I discovered?"

The bald man with the big earlobes however, was still scanning his panther covertly with his soul sense, as a greedy look was filling his eyes.

The white-haired man next to him noticed this, as he then asked smilingly

"Old Zhilan, you seem very interested in this black panther! Do you want to take it?"

The old man didn't retract his soul sense, but raising his head he looked at the long-haired man next to him as he said

"We will see..."

At the same time that the 2 old men were chatting with each other, Shun Long went to the registration counter and changed his badge from a D-rank mercenary to a B-rank.

Now that his cultivation had reached the late-stages of the Heaven grade, he could definitely be considered a B-rank mercenary after all.

After receiving his badge, he and Liu Mei both walked towards the gigantic mission board in the back.

There were countless missions, from D-rank all the way to S-rank mercenaries, while Shun Long even noticed a few missions that could only be accepted by SS-rank mercenaries. Of course, there was none for SSS-rank ones.

The missions for the B-rank and C-rank mercenaries included, helping to protect merchants as they come and go to the Heaven's Dome city, exterminating dens of bandits, or look for precious medicinal ingredients.

Of course, there were the even more specialized missions, that included helping people take personal revenge.

After thinking for a while, Shun Long and Liu Mei both chose 2 missions that were neither too close, nor too far from the Heaven's Dome city.

C-rank mission: Kill the 2 middle rank 3 'Fire-toothed hyenas', and obtain the rank 4 'Meridian-heating fruit' that they are guarding inside the Dreamland forest.

Reward: 50.000 low-grade spirit stones.

B-rank mission: Exterminate the den of the infamous killer Hao Jingguo, outside of the Dreamland plains.

Reward: 200.000 low-grade spirit stones.

Chapter 204 - 204 Target

(Author's note: There was a problem with , so the chapter that was uploaded yesterday wasn't complete, and a few details were missing in the end. The name of the fruit that the C-rank mission requires is the 'Meridian-heating fruit', and the reward for each mission is also added in the chapter.)

After taking a look at the 2 missions that he had selected, Shun Long walked to the mission counter and officially registered himself as the team captain, before he and Liu Mei accepted the 2 group missions.

The young man at the mission counter looked at Shun Long with a weird look in his eyes.

Group missions were usually taken on by experienced groups of 3-5 mercenaries. So taking a mission with just 2 people, one B-rank mercenary and one C-rank, was tantamount to suicide.

But the moment that the young man noticed the black panther behind Liu Mei, he immediately understood what was going on.

"So they are planning to use a magic beast to pass the missions? Sigh? Young masters really have their lives all set up for them."

Nodding his head subconsciously, the young man behind the counter looked at Shun Long and reminded him

"You need to bring proof for each mission, in order to successfully claim the reward.

The C-rank mission only requires for you to bring back the rank 4 'Meridian-heating fruit', while the B-rank mission requires for the head of Hao Jingguo."

Nodding his head, Shun Long accepted both missions, as he and Liu Mei got on the black panther and left the 'Mercenaries' Association'.

The moment that they exited through the gates of the association, the bald old man with the large earlobes slowly sat up from his seat.

The long white-haired Hao Ping looked at him with a glimmer in his eyes as he asked

"Old Zhilan, have you decided then?"

Nodding his head, Xue Zhilan looked at Hao Ping, before he said with an expressionless tone

"Indeed, a small brat at the Heaven grade shouldn't be allowed to have a peak rank 5 magic beast as his mount. This is a disgrace to any rank 5 magic beast after all.

As long as these brats go to the Dreamland plains, it will become their final resting place!"

Xue Zhilan's look then turned serious as he continued

"However, although I am confident in killing the 'Silver-winged panther king' if I need to, I'm not certain if I can force it to submit. Old Ping, if you help me with this, I will give you 20,000 middle-grade spirit stones, along with the 'Four seasons azure sword'."

Hao Ping's eyes lit up when he heard Xue Zhilan's words, especially the final part, but after a moment of pondering, he shook his head as he said with a serious look in his eyes

"Old Zhilan, the truth is, that I have already heard about a pair of small brats who were riding on a rank 5 black panther inside the city.

Although I don't know their identities, I know that this brat in blue is a member of the 'Alchemists' Guild'. Even if I help you kill them, there is no way that the 'Alchemists' Guild' won't notice it.

Additionally, I don't know why, but this brat is definitely hiding his cultivation. A week ago, when he entered the 'Alchemists' Guild', he became a rank 3 silver grade alchemist. I am sure that you understand the consequences that we would have to face, if we kill an important member of the 'Alchemists' Guild'."

Xue Zhilan was stunned for a second when he heard this.

He knew that Hao Ping's network of information was much better than his own, since he was a reclusive person himself.

Gritting his teeth, the bald Xue Zhilan looked at the old man in front of him and said

"I will add 30.000 middle-grade spirit stones more, along with the 'Four seasons azure sword'. Hao Ping, don't tell me that you are really afraid of the 'Alchemists' Guild' finding out about this. We only have to make a move once they are outside of the city, and no one will ever know.

As for the 'Silver-winged panther king', I can just say that we found it by accident. As long as there is no proof, the 'Alchemists' Guild' won't be able to do anything in the end!"

After staying silent for a moment Hao Ping finally nodded his head, as he and the bald Xue Zhilan soon disappeared from the secret room, as if they had never existed inside it to begin with.

At the same time, Shun Long toured through the western part of the city with Liu Mei, as he visited many herb shops, purchasing any kind of useful medicinal herbs that he found.

He had spent more than 300.000 low-grade spirit stones before he finally moved towards the northern part of the Heaven's Dome city.

The Dreamland forest was located at the north of the Heaven's Dome city, and even with the black panther's speed, it would take them at least 2 days to get there.

At the same time that Shun Long and Liu Mei left the Heaven's Dome city, in a large building at the east of the city, a young man in his mid 20s was kneeling in front of a stunning woman dressed in purple robes.

The young man didn't dare to raise his head and look at the beautiful woman in front of him, as he knelt on the ground and said

"Elder Zhong! The target that we were monitoring seems to have accepted a mission from the 'Mercenaries' Association', and is now heading towards the Dreamland forest."

Zhong Biya was taken aback when she heard the report. She hadn't expected for a rank 3 silver grade alchemist, to accept a mission himself and leave the Heaven's Dome city by himself.

With an alluring smile on her face, the purple-robed woman suddenly stood up, before she turned into a wisp of purple smoke as she instantly disappeared from the room.

Chapter 205 - 205 Ambush?!

The young man was in a daze as Elder Zhong disappeared from the room.

A day soon passed and the black panther had spread his silver wings as he was flying above the clouds, heading towards the Dreamland forest.

The look on Shun Long's face however, was completely serious, without a hint of a single smile.

Turning his head to the side, he looked at Liu Mei who still had her white veil on her face, and with a solemn tone he said

"Mei'er, things will probably turn difficult for a while.

However, it is still under control."

Less than 5 minutes later, a pair of old men were blocking the way ahead.

Liu Mei's eyes constricted when she saw the golden badge on each of these old men's chests, understanding that they were both SSS-rank mercenaries.

The aura that these 2 old men were emitting, had completely horrified Liu Mei, while the 'Silver-winged panther king' immediately came to a halt.

Seeing the 2 Dao Kings in front of him, the look on Shun Long's face had turned serious, but not a single hint of anxiousness could be seen on his expression.

Of course, these 2 old men were none other than the man with the large earlobes Xue Zhilan, and the long white-haired man Hao Ping.

Xue Zhilan looked at Shun Long and Liu Mei with an evil smile on his face, before his eyes were glued to the peak rank 5 'Silver-winged panther king'.

At the same time, the long-haired Hao Ping looked at Shun Long and Liu Mei, and with a regretful tone he shook his head as he said

"Little brats, if you had stayed in the Heaven's Dome city, under the protection of the 'Alchemists' Guild' we wouldn't have touched you, but you just had to come here.

You should know in your next life, that if you aren't strong enough to possess something, it's better to let it go."

Xue Zhilan shook his head when he heard this, but just as he was about to speak, a melodious laughter resounded from behind Shun Long and Liu Mei.

Out of nowhere, a wisp of purple smoke appeared in front of Shun Long, before the alluring figure of a red-haired woman started to condense itself.

Shun Long and Liu Mei saw this woman who was smiling at them. She seemed to be in her early 30s, and her red-eyes seemed as if they were looking straight at Shun Long's soul. She had a bewitching smile on her face, while her bright red hair were flowing with the wind.

The color of her hair wasn't dark red, like the princess' of the dark elf race, but it was a bright crimson red that resembled the color of blood.

After smiling brightly at Shun Long, the woman turned her head to look at the 2 old men opposite to her, who were staring at her with serious looks in their eyes, before she said

"Hahaha! It seems that I have come uninvited, but I wonder if there is a spot in your party for me as well."

The bald Xue Zhilan had an ugly look on his face when he looked at the woman in front of him, as he then said in a threatening tone

"Zhong Biya, what are you doing here? If you dare to mess with my plans, I can guarantee you that your Blood Moon sect won't be able to pay the price!"

Xue Zhilan wasn't afraid of Zhong Biya or the Blood Moon sect in the slightest. He was afraid however, that she would try to ruin his plans.

After all, if the woman in front of him decided to help Shun Long escape, Xue Zhilan had no confidence in catching the black panther, if it flew back to the Heaven's Dome city at full speed.

By then, he would be the one who would be paying the price, for trying to touch an alchemist of the 'Alchemists' Guild'.

After all, although the combat power that the 'Alchemists' Guild' had wasn't superior to the 'Mercenaries' Association's', it was common knowledge that if someone messed with the high-ranking alchemists of the guild, then they and the power behind them would be banned from purchasing pills from the guild any longer.

If that happened, Xue Zhilan was certain, that the Association would hand him over to the 'Alchemists' Guild' to appease their anger.

The red-haired Elder of the Blood Moon sect, looked at Xue Zhilan with a smile on her face, and shaking her head she said

"Of course I wouldn't want to mess with your 'Mercenaries' Association', Elder Xue! However, I have taken a liking to this young man, and want to take him as a personal pill slave.

Since you are going to kill them anyway, you can just allow me to take the young man with me right? You can do whatever you want to the woman behind him though."

Hao Ping's eyes lit up when he heard this, but Xue Zhilan shook his head without a second thought.

His eyes stared at the red-haired Zhong Biya without a hint of kindness as he responded coldly

"Scram! There is no way that I am letting this brat alive!

Otherwise, if you decided to help him return to the city, wouldn't I and Hao Ping both be doomed then? Even if we don't die, the 'Alchemists' Guild' will certainly skin us alive!

Zhong Biya, don't mention this again! Just scram and I will consider it as if you were never here!"

Hao Ping seemed to have just realized, that he was on the same boat as Xue Zhilan right now. Indeed, if something happened, he would definitely be forced to lose a skin of his meat from the 'Alchemists' Guild!

The look in his eyes instantly turned cold as he stared at Zhong Biya without saying a single word.

Zhong Biya's face had turned red from anger but she still took a deep breath to calm herself down, before she looked at Xue Zhilan and said seriously

"Elder Xue, aren't you afraid that I will tell everything to the 'Alchemists' Guild' myself? I don't care what you want to do with the black panther or the woman behind him, all I want is the alchemist himself. I am willing to swear a Dao oath as well that I won't reveal anything that happened here!"

Xue Zhilan laughed when he heard Zhong Biya's threat, and with a mocking look on his face he said

"Hahahaha! Idiot!

Even if you tell everything to the 'Alchemists' Guild', as long as this brat is killed and there is no proof, who will believe you? Will you allow someone to willingly search through your memories just to incriminate me? Don't make me laugh!

As for your Dao oath, I couldn't care less about this bullshit!

Who doesn't know that you have been stuck at the early rank 2 Dao King realm for the past 6 millenniums? You don't have any hope of advancing anyway!

For the last time, SCRAM!"

Anger had instantly clouded Zhong Biya's mind the moment she heard these words, while the expression on her face had turned extremely ugly.

Not only had she lowered herself and said that she was willing to swear a Dao oath, but Xue Zhilan actually cursed her in response, and refused to give her the slightest bit of face.

An evil smile immediately filled her face, as she suddenly turned around and looked at Shun Long before she said

"You only have 5 seconds!"

Then, without waiting for an answer, her voluptuous figure immediately became a cloud of purple smoke, that moved towards the 2 SSS-rank mercenaries in front of her.

Shun Long's expression didn't change when he saw the scene in front of him, and with the same look on his eyes, he told the black panther to fly towards the east.

He didn't feel any sense of gratitude towards Zhong Biya, as he understood, that this woman had heard everything about him from the rank 2 silver grade alchemist Yao Huang, while her goal just now was to take him as a pill slave.

If Xue Zhilan had agreed to her request, she would have probably joined hands with him just now as she fought against him.

Xue Zhilan looked at the purple smoke around him with a furious expression on his face, before he shouted in a voice that reeked with killing intent

"Zhong Biya, you bitch! I will make you pay!"

Seeing that the black panther was flying towards the east, the bald man turned his head to look at Hao Ping next to him, and with a determined look he said

"Don't let them escape!"

Chapter 206 - 206 Chased by a Dao King

Looking at the purple cloud of smoke that had completely surrounded them, a determined expression appeared in Xue Zhilan's face, as he took out a yellow-colored talisman from his spatial ring.

Hao Ping's eyes lit up when he saw the talisman in Xue Zhilan's hands. He knew that Xue Zhilan had spent more than 20.000 middle-grade spirit stones in the past, in order to purchase this talisman from a rank 2 gold grade formation master.

The talisman itself contained a full-powered blow from a peak rank 3 Dao King realm expert, and could cut through anything in its path.

Sending his qi inside the yellow talisman, Xue Zhilan turned to look at Hao Ping, as he said in a commanding tone

"Go!"

A powerful yellow qi then erupted from the talisman, and moved towards the purple wave of smoke that had surrounded Xue Zhilan and Hao Ping.

Zhong Biya had been utterly horrified when she saw the yellow-colored slash moving towards her.

Although her body had turned into smoke, as long as the Dao King who had sealed his power inside the talisman was stronger than her, she would still suffer heavy injuries.

Without a moment's hesitation, the red-haired Elder of the Blood Moon sect instantly opened a large path inside the smoke for the attack of the talisman to pass through.

The purple smoke seemed as if it had been cut in half for a moment, while the long-haired Hao Ping immediately took advantage of it and escaped from Zhong Biya's entrapment.

Without any hesitation, his body shot through the sky as he gave chase to the black panther.

Xue Zhilan exhaled in relief when he saw that Hao Ping had successfully escaped and chased after the black panther.

Although he and Hao Ping were both slightly stronger than Zhong Biya, they would have been delayed for at least a few breaths of time until they managed to break through her entrapment.

Even if they killed Zhong Biya then, they would still be unable to catch the 'Silver-winged panther king'.

In addition, although Xue Zhilan was stronger than Hao Ping, he had no confidence in catching up with the black panther's speed by himself.

But Hao Ping was different!

Zhong Biya didn't seem to care that the long-haired Hao Ping had escaped, while the purple smoke continued to surround Xue Zhilan.

If Shun Long managed to escape, then Xue Zhilan would be done for, but if he didn't, Xue Zhilan still couldn't do anything to the Blood Moon sect by himself.

Unless he revealed to the rest of the 'Mercenaries' Association' the reason that he wanted to take revenge, it was extremely unlikely that the higher echelons of the association would agree to help him.

Since he had refused to give her the slightest bit of face, Zhong Biya was determined to make the old man in front of her regret his words!

At the same time, Shun Long and Liu Mei were flying away on the black panther's back, when Liu Mei finally asked anxiously

"Long-ge! Are we going to be okay? These people earlier were definitely Dao Kings."

Shun Long turned his head around, and looking at the anxious Liu Mei he said with a slight smile on his face

"Don't worry! Although they are indeed Dao Kings, they still won't be able to do anything. After all, I knew that they were tailing us, even before we left the Heaven's Dome city."

Liu Mei heaved out in relief when she heard this, when a booming sound was suddenly heard from the sky behind them, as a streak of lightning could be seen flying towards the black panther at extreme speed.

When Shun Long saw that the bolt of lightning was quickly closing the distance between them, he had the black panther to stop holding back any longer and fly at full speed.

The panther's wings then shone with a silver light, as his speed immediately doubled.

Hao Ping who had turned into a streak of lightning smirked inwardly, while his own speed shot up as well.

No matter how fast the black panther moved, Hao Ping was slowly closing the distance between them.

Once the distance between them was reduced to less than 3 miles, a long, thin sword had appeared in Hao Ping's hands, and looking at the black panther ahead of him, Hao Ping had an evil smile on his face, as he infused his qi inside his sword, before he sent a powerful slash cutting through the air.

The slash tore apart the clouds, as it flew towards the black panther's back.

The panther's wings shone even brighter, as it agilely moved to the side and avoided the Dao King's attack.

The chase continued like this for more than an hour, until the 'Silver-winged panther king' stopped when he arrived above a large forest.

Seeing that the panther had finally stopped running away, a confident smile appeared in Hao Ping's face, and looking at Shun Long and Liu Mei he said

"Do you finally understand how pointless it was, to try and escape from me?"

However, I have to say, that you brats really are unlucky! If you had met any other Dao King at the middle of rank 2, then you could have probably escaped. It's too bad that you had to meet with me."

Seeing that Hao Ping was blowing his own horn, Shun Long had a mocking look on his face as he responded with a smile

"Old man, the truth is, that I knew that you were tailing us even before we left the Heaven's Dome city. And yet, I still chose to leave, even though I knew that 2 Dao Kings were chasing after us. Don't you want to know why?"

A shocked expression flashed through Hao Ping's face when he saw the confident look in Shun Long's eyes, but his expression quickly turned into one of mockery, as he slowly walked towards him and said

"Stop bluffing brat! Who are you trying to fool?"

Even a middle-stage Dao King wouldn't be able to spot mine and old Zhilan's soul sense, without us noticing him in return!"

Hao Ping looked at the black panther who had taken a defensive position in front of Shun Long, and with a smile on his face, he held his sword in his hand, as he slowly walked towards it.

The moment that Hao Ping was just 100 meters away from Shun Long, the 'Silver-winged panther king' exploded with all of its strength, as it spread its wings and flew towards the long-haired man in front of it.

Seeing that the panther was flying at him with open jaws, Hao Ping took on a defensive stance, as he used his sword to parry the panther's teeth.

Although the panther had pushed him a step back, Hao Ping easily blocked the attack.

However, just as his feet were about to kick the panther's ribs, the SSS-rank mercenary felt a sudden pain on his back and chest.

Instinctively, he lowered his head to look at his chest, where a gigantic pitch-black claw was now protruding from it.

Chapter 207 - 207 Little Black's power

Liu Mei's eyes were wide open, as she saw a huge black dragon, almost 10m (33ft) tall, standing behind Hao Ping.

The dragon had plunged his huge claw in Hao Ping's back, as he tore a huge hole through it.

Blood and guts, along with Hao Ping's internal organs were hanging from Little Black's claws.

Little Black's size had grown by almost 3 times, once he broke through from the peak of rank 4 to rank 5.

While Liu Mei was looking at the black dragon with a shocked look on her face, a feeling of disbelief had filled Hao Ping's eyes when he saw the huge claw that had pierced his back and chest.

He wanted to turn his head around and look behind him, but he could feel that something had already pierced his heart, as his strength was now leaving his body.

Even for a Dao King realm expert, once their heart was completely crushed, their body couldn't stay alive any longer.

"AHHHHHHHHHHH"

Hao Ping roared madly, as he tried to summon the last bits of his strength in an attempt to escape, when suddenly his vision turned black.

Little Black had spat a wave of black flames from his mouth, that had completely engulfed the Dao King's body!

The flames were so powerful, that Hao Ping could even feel his soul being eroded, while an insufferable pain made him feel like he was better off if he died.

Sparks of lightning were coursing through his body, in an attempt to jolt little Black's claw, but the black dragon didn't even flinch, as if he had never felt the lightning on his body.

Gritting his teeth, Hao Ping sent his soul outside of his body, completely abandoning what seemed to be a former shell of the Dao King's glory, as a wisp of white smoke shot towards the sky.

However, even after leaving his body, Hao Ping was horrified to see that the black flames were still bringing endless pain to his soul.

Lowering his head to look at the ground, Hao Ping was stunned when he saw the 10m (33ft) long black dragon, staring at him with his expressionless blue eyes.

Hao Ping couldn't understand what had happened.

"Why is there a dragon here? A real dragon? Why did he attack me all of a sudden?"

Suddenly, a terrifying possibility flashed through his mind, as the Dao King turned to look at Shun Long, when his previous words reverberated in his mind

Hao Ping looked at Shun Long with a terrified expression on his face, while the constant erosion from the black flames, finally burned his soul into a wisp of nothingness.

Shun Long heaved out in relief once he saw that Hao Ping's soul had completely dispersed.

Although Little Black had already told Shun Long that he could take care of the 2 men that were following them, it was better to take care of the 2 Dao Kings one by one, rather than both of them together.

After all, Little Black was still a peak rank 5 magic beast, and Shun Long knew, that even if he had the strength to fight against a peak rank 3 Dao King, it wouldn't necessarily mean that he would get out unscathed from this battle.

However, with Hao Ping who was chasing after them with wild abandon, and had put his complete focus on the black panther in front of him, it was the perfect time for Little Black to kill the middle rank 2 Dao King realm expert.

Liu Mei looked at the black dragon in shock, before her eyes turned to look at Shun Long.

Seeing the confusion on her face, Shun Long smiled lightly as he said

"This is my partner, Little Black. He is an important friend to me."

It was a simple introduction, and yet, it was all that needed to be said.

Liu Mei looked at the black dragon in front of her, and involuntarily nodded her head.

The black panther was also staring at Little Black with a confused look, before he turned his head to look at Shun Long.

Shun Long patted the black panther's head, when Little Black let out a small roar.

After all, the black panther's soul wasn't strong enough to communicate with Shun Long the same way that Little Black did.

Due to both of them sharing a connection with Shun Long however, both the black panther and Little Black, could feel each other's existence, and as magic beasts, they could also communicate between themselves.

After Little Black returned to the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long walked over to Hao Ping's body in order to collect his spatial ring.

After all, there was no way that he was going to ignore the wealth of a Dao King.

However, only black ashes remained in place of Hao Ping's corpse, along with a spatial ring and a long and thin white sword.

Shun Long was pleasantly surprised when he noticed that the sword was a rank 1 gold grade weapon.

Although its quality wasn't as good as his 'Purple Blossom staff', it was still a rank 1 gold grade weapon after all.

"Indeed, since Cui Guoliang had so many weapons, its only natural for most Dao Kings to wield gold grade weapons as well" Shun Long mumbled for a while before his attention was focused on the black spatial ring.

As soon as his spiritual strength entered inside the ring, tens of thousands of middle-grade spirit stones instantly greeted Shun Long's eyes.

There were more than 150.000 middle-grade spirit stones inside the spatial ring, along with many bottles of alchemy pills and some medicinal herbs.

In addition, a familiar-looking bronze badge was also placed in an unassuming corner of the spatial ring, along with more than a dozen scrolls around it.

However, the most unexpected thing to Shun Long, wasn't the tens of thousands of middle-grade spirit stones, nor the 'Dragon Lord's medallion', but it was an orange-colored medicinal herb with contorted lines on its surface.

"Rank 4 'Spirit cleansing fruit'!"

Chapter 208 - 208 Little Black vs Xue Zhilan

This was one of the 3 main medicinal ingredients that Shun Long needed to refine the rank 4 'internal reconstruction pill'.

Shun Long knew that, in order to advance to the fourth stage of the 'Monarch's Eternal body' once he reached the peak of the third stage, he would have to refine the rank 4 'internal destruction pill'.

After all, the 'Monarch's Eternal body' was different from the other body refinement cultivation techniques, and simply absorbing energy or eating the flesh of powerful magic beasts wasn't enough to advance once Shun Long reached the peak of the third stage.

When he was in the 'Alchemists' Guild', he had already asked Jin Wenling and the other 3 gold grade alchemists about these medicinal herbs, but the response he had received was, that only one of these herbs was currently available in a branch guild, and Jin Wenling would send someone to bring it over to the Heaven's Dome city.

Of course, Jin Wenling had also said that she would keep an eye around for the other 2 herbs as well.

After placing everything inside the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long had a wide smile on his face, satisfied with the contents of Hao Ping's spatial ring.

"More than 150.000 middle-grade spirit stones, 2 Mystic high-grade cultivation techniques, 5 Mystic middle-grade cultivation techniques, 3 Mystic high-grade martial skills, one of which is meant for sword users, and a 'Dragon Lord's medallion'!"

Although Hao Ping could be considered poor in front of Cui Guoliang's cultivation techniques collection, the spirit stones that he had equaled to 15 million low-grade ones.

This was even more than what the Guild master of the 'Dark Blade guild', Tan Duyi, had in his spatial ring.

Although Tan Duyi wasn't a Dao King realm expert, as the Guild master of one of the 2 biggest guilds in the Silver sword city, his wealth didn't pale in front of a Dao King's after all.

Just as Shun Long was taking a look at Hao Ping's martial skills, Little Black's voice suddenly resounded in his mind

"Master, the bald old man from before is quickly approaching us!"

The look in Shun Long's face immediately turned serious when he heard this, as he activated the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

The indistinct figure of an hourglass expanded from his body, while his eyes instantly turned golden.

Although Shun Long wasn't planning to actually fight against a Dao King, he wasn't going to take things lightly.

After all, little Black had already mentioned, that this old man was an early rank 3 Dao King realm expert.

Even though Little Black had said that he was confident in taking the bald old man down, Shun Long still prepared himself for the worst.

Indeed, a few moments later, Xue Zhilan appeared in the sky.

The SSS-ranked mercenary looked around him with a confused look in his eyes, before his eyes were focused on the black panther.

Then, turning his head to look at Shun Long and Liu Mei, the old man asked in a voice full of suspicion

"Brats, where is Hao Ping?"

Xue Zhilan didn't believe that Hao Ping had actually failed to keep up with the 'Silver-winged panther king', and there was also no way for him to lose against a peak rank 5 magic beast.

And yet, the scene in front of his eyes was completely different from what he had expected.

Aside from a patch of scorched earth on the ground where Shun Long was standing on, there weren't the slightest traces of a battle.

The black panther was in perfect condition, but Hao Ping was nowhere to be seen!

Looking at the old man who was standing in the sky, Shun Long smiled lightly as he answered in a confident voice

"He is already dead."

They were 4 simple words, and yet, they had left Xue Zhilan speechless.

The old Dao King stared at Shun Long in disbelief, before he suddenly erupted with mocking laughter

"Hahahaha! Dead? Who killed him brat? Tell me so that I can go and pay my respects to this expert, who could kill a middle rank 2 Dao King realm expert in the time that I took to come here."

Seeing the mocking look in Shun Long's face Xue Zhilan couldn't take it anymore, as his body exploded with the aura of an early rank 3 Dao King realm expert.

A piece of metal armor had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, completely enveloping him from head to toe, as the old Dao King descended from the sky like a meteor as he headed towards Shun Long.

The black panther roared when he saw Xue Zhilan's attack, and without any hesitation, it spread its silver wings as it rushed at the old man.

Xue Zhilan looked coldly at the black panther who was attacking him with open jaws, and clenching his fist beneath his metal armor, he sent a punch at it as he shouted angrily

"Scram! I will deal with you in a bit!"

The moment that the metal fist hit the black panther, the peak rank 5 'Silver-winged panther king' was sent flying backwards for tens of meters until it stabilized itself.

At the same time however, Shun Long's golden eyes shone with a bright blue light while his body immediately disappeared from the ground.

Although Xue Zhilan had most of his attention focused on the black panther, with his soul sense spread around him, he immediately sensed that Shun Long had somehow appeared behind him, when a sudden sense of danger filled his heart.

The early rank 3 Dao King realm expert immediately turned to escape, but a massive black claw had appeared from behind him and made contact with the metal armor on his back.

BOOM!

Xue Zhilan was sent flying downwards at an even faster speed than before, as his body heavily crashed into the ground!

A large wave of dust and smoke was kicked up, as soon as Xue Zhilan's body crashed on the ground, but Little Black's eyes didn't seem to contain the slightest hint of emotion as the black dragon opened his mouth and spat a gigantic ball of black flames towards the old Dao King.

Chapter 209 - 209 Xue Zhilan's trump card

The ball of black flames landed in the same place where Xue Zhilan had crashed on, when a scream filled with pain and anger sounded in the air.

"AHHHHHHHHHHHH! I WILL KILL YOU!"

Shun Long's golden eyes were staring at the place where Xue Zhilan had landed on, with a solemn look.

He had used 'blink' to instantly appear behind Xue Zhilan, before he summoned Little Black.

Little Black's attack had also hit the bald old man when he couldn't dodge, as it then sent him crashing to the ground.

The black flames had made contact with his body as well, and yet, the bald old man was still strong enough to shout threateningly!

Little Black didn't wait for the black flames to dissipate as he dove downwards, his claws reaching inside the cloud of smoke.

The sound of metal clashing against itself resounded in the air, while the cloud of dust started to spread thinner and thinner.

Soon, Shun Long could see the scene on the ground, where Little Black's claws and wings attacked Xue Zhilan relentlessly.

The old Dao King was shocked when he saw a living black dragon in front of him, attacking him without any mercy.

Xue Zhilan felt his brain short-circuiting for a moment, and yet his senses told him that Little Black's attacks were completely real.

Shun Long could clearly see a large claw mark on Xue Zhilan's back, while the metal armor on his body had already started to melt.

From the side, the black panther was watching Little Black's fight with shining eyes, staring at Xue Zhilan like a predator who was looking at a tasty piece of flesh.

Xue Zhilan wanted to use his Dao of Metal and reform the destroyed parts of his armor, but the black dragon didn't give him a moment's rest.

Each attack was nearing a step closer to taking his life.

Looking at the endless barrage of attacks that were coming his way, the old Dao King felt that he couldn't keep taking them head-on any longer.

Gritting his teeth, he allowed Little Black's attack to land on his shoulder, as he started gathering his qi in his hands.

Crack

The moment that Little Black's gigantic claw hit Xue Zhilan's shoulder, the sound of bones being crushed was heard, while an expression of pain and endless killing intent filled the old Dao King's face.

At the same time, a metal shield appeared from Xue Zhilan's hands, before it completely encapsulated his body.

Little Black didn't seem to stop once the metal shield appeared, as he started to attack the metal shield.

However, no matter how hard he tried, his talons could only leave small cuts on the shield in the end.

Seeing that he couldn't break the metal shield like that, Little Black soared in the sky before he opened his mouth. A gigantic ball of black flames, even bigger than the one that he had created before, started to condense in the black dragon's mouth then,

At the same time, Xue Zhilan who was covered beneath the metal shield had an ugly look on his face as he looked at the injuries on his body.

Little Black's talons had not only destroyed a big part of his armor, but some attacks had even reached the Dao King's bones.

"F.U.C.K! How can a real dragon be here? Where did this brat find a dragon to help him in the first place?"

Looking at his bone-deep injuries and his completely crushed shoulder, Xue Zhilan roared inwardly to vent his frustration.

He only wanted to get the black panther, but he was now faced against a 10m(33ft) long dragon.

Clenching his teeth, the old man took out another yellow-colored talisman from his spatial ring as he thought to himself

"This is my last offensive talisman. Although the attack stored inside comes from a peak rank 3 Dao King, it is probably comparable to a full-out attack of an early rank 4 Dao King realm expert!"

Without any hesitation, Xue Zhilan sent his qi inside the yellow-colored talisman, while a ruthless look had appeared in his eyes.

He had already estimated that Little Black's strength was close to a peak rank 3 Dao King realm expert's, and he was certain that even if the dragon survived from this attack, he would still be close to death.

As soon as Xue Zhilan's qi entered the yellow-colored talisman, the talisman started to glow with a bright light, as rays of resplendent qi started to tear through the metal shield.

At the same time, Little Black looked at the metal shield with a cold look, as he then sent the enormous ball of black fire towards it.

It seemed that even the air itself was burning under the heat of Little Black's powerful fireball, which quickly arrived in front of Xue Zhilan's metal shield.

The SSS-rank mercenary had plenty of experience in life and death battles, and could instantly feel the deadly danger that approached from the sky.

He was certain that even his metal shield would be destroyed in an instant under the horrifying attack that was closing in at him.

He didn't wait any longer for the yellow-colored talisman to absorb more of his qi, and without hesitation, he pointed the talisman towards the sky.

A yellow qi immediately erupted from the talisman, taking the form of a bronze sword.

Guided by Xue Zhilan's qi, the sword pierced through the metal shield as it shot towards the sky.

Xue Zhilan's metal shield was immediately cut in half under the might of the sword, when he saw a giant black fireball flying towards him.

Terrifying power was hidden both inside the bronze sword, as well as Little Black's fireball.

Shun Long stared at the scene in front of him with his golden eyes, before he used blink and immediately teleported himself next to Liu Mei.

BOOOM!

The moment that the bronze sword clashed with the black fireball, it pierced directly through it when a massive explosion then filled the air.

Under the erosion of the black flames, the luster of the bronze sword dimmed until it was eventually extinguished.

The black fireball however, had also lost its shape and more than half of its mass by now, leaving behind nothing but wisps of flame!

Xue Zhilan's eyes were filled with terror when he saw the wisps of black flame continuing to fly towards him.

The metal shield that had already been cut in half from the bronze sword earlier, instantly disintegrated under the heat of the black flames, revealing Xue Zhilan in his metal armor.

"NOOOOOOOOO!"

The early rank 3 Dao King realm expert shouted and turned to escape, as he felt the embrace of death approaching him along with the black flames.

Little Black's flames however had completely surrounded him, leaving him with no path of retreat.

Xue Zhilan's miserable shrieks resounded in the air, filled with anger, unwillingness and killing intent, but under Little Black's flames, they slowly died down.

Chapter 210 - 210 Xue Zhilan's immense wealth

Submerged under Little Black's flames, Xue Zhilan's cries eventually went silent.

20 breaths of time later, the black flames were extinguished by themselves, leaving behind nothing but a pile of black ash.

The black dragon was still hovering in the sky, as he made sure that Xue Zhilan's soul had also been swept up in the flames along with his body, before he flew towards Shun Long.

Shun Long smiled when he saw the proud look in Little Black's eyes, while Liu Mei and the black panther stared at the huge dragon with awe in their eyes.

After all, Little Black had managed to kill a rank 3 Dao King realm expert.

After patting the black dragon's head, Shun Long walked towards Xue Zhilan's remains.

There was no corpse, or bones left however. There was just a pile of black ashes along with a half-destroyed spatial ring, that seemed to have suffered severe damages.

Shun Long heaved out in relief when he saw that the spatial ring could still be used, and without any hesitation, he sent his spiritual strength inside it.

This was the spatial ring of a rank 3 Dao King, and its contents were certain to be even better than Hao Ping's!

Indeed, as soon as Shun Long's spiritual strength entered inside the black ring, a stunning scene appeared in front of his eyes.

Nearly 300.000 middle-grade spirit stones along with dozens of weapons were piled up on top of each other, forming small mountains that were exuding powerful energy fluctuations.

Tens of pill bottles were lying around on the ground, and almost a dozen medicinal herbs were thrown left and right.

Additionally, on an unassuming corner, more than 100 scrolls were neatly placed on top of each other, while next to them, Xue Zhilan seemed to have placed his 'Dragon Lord's medallion.

Shun Long's eyes lit up with a bright light, when he saw the stunning amount of wealth inside Xue Zhilan's spatial ring.

Even if he added Hao Ping's and Tan Duyi's wealth together, they would still pale in comparison to Xue Zhilan's!

Just from the pile of weapons next to the spirit stones, Shun Long noticed more than 6 rank 1 gold grade weapons, while his attention was soon focused on a blue-colored sword.

4 words were carved on the sword's surface, shining with a bright silver light

'Four seasons azure sword'

Shun Long immediately understood, that this sword was just like his 'Purple Blossom staff', a pinnacle rank 1 gold grade weapon.

Since Shun Long was still using his 'Purple Blossom staff', he decided to give the 'Four seasons azure sword' to Liu Mei.

After all, her rank 1 silver grade sword would be unable to bring the full might of her cultivation in the future.

As for the bottles of pills that were lying around, most of them were either middle or low-grade rank 5 healing pills, anti toxin pills, or qi restoration pills.

After sorting out the medicinal ingredients that were tossed around, Shun Long's eyes shone with disbelief when he saw a withered, almost completely dead crimson herb.

'Rank 5 Dragonblood grass!'

Excitement filled Shun Long's eyes once he verified that this was indeed a stalk of 'Dragonblood grass', as he quickly placed it in his herb garden inside the 'Stone of Time'.

"Although the rank 5 'Dragonblood grass' is created from the blood of drakes instead of actual dragons, it is still a rank 5 medicinal herb that can help me, Little Black, and the black panther advance to the next ranks!"

It didn't matter that the 'Dragonblood grass' was completely withered. With the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long could make it grow endlessly, as well as restore its vitality, by using his own qi to nourish it.

After placing the rest of the medicinal herbs inside the 'Stone of Time' as well, Shun Long turned his attention to the pile of scrolls.

From the 100 scrolls, more than 60 of them were cultivation techniques, while the rest were martial skills.

Among them, Shun Long found a Saint low-grade cultivation technique, called the 'Metal convergence', as well as 4 Mystic high-grade martial skills.

Since none of them caught his eye however, Shun Long placed them all inside the 'Stone of Time', along with the 'Dragon Lord's medallion', before his spiritual strength returned back to his body.

Liu Mei, the black panther and Little Black, were all waiting around him, when they saw a bright smile forming on his face.

Looking at Liu Mei, Shun Long handed her the 'Four seasons azure sword'.

A shocked look flashed past Liu Mei's eyes, but since Shun Long gave her a gift she didn't refuse.

The length and the shape of the sword were very similar to her white sword as well.

The only difference that Liu Mei felt, was that the hilt of the blue sword was noticeably thinner compared to her white sword.

Seeing the rare excitement in Liu Mei's face, Shun Long smiled before he patted Little Black's head, who then returned to the 'Stone of Time'.

After all, Little Black knew, that unless he and Shun Long became strong enough, the black dragon wouldn't be able to stay outside of the 'Stone of Time' for too long, otherwise his life could be at risk.

Shun Long sighed but didn't say anything to Little Black who returned to the 'Stone of Time'. After all, he too had the same feelings and knew, that the only way for Little Black to show his face to the world, was for them to both become even stronger.

After taking a look around him, Shun Long also patted the excited black panther's head, before he and Liu Mei climbed on its back.

Right now, Shun Long and Liu Mei were less than a day's travel from the Dreamland forest.

Shun Long planned for him and Liu Mei to clear the C-rank mission first inside the Dreamland forest.

The black panther then spread its majestic silver wings and took to the sky, as it headed towards the north.

A day soon passed like this, when Shun Long and Liu Mei arrived in front of an endless forest, that was filled with purple trees as far as the eye could see.