

Time 281

Chapter 281 - 281 Entering the Blood Pill pavilion

Seeing the red-colored building in the distance, Shun Long didn't choose to fly towards it right away, but instead, he landed a little more than a mile away from it, inside a secluded alley, before he and Liu Mei continued towards it on foot.

After a few minutes of walking, he and Liu Mei had already arrived in front of the large pill shop, with the sign of the crimson cauldron above it.

With their black robes that indicated that they were members of the 'Blood Pill pavilion', nobody stopped the 2 of them from entering inside.

Of course, even without these robes, Shun Long and Liu Mei could still casually walk inside it they wanted to, since this was a pill shop after all.

As soon as they entered inside, Shun Long noticed that the interior of the shop was much larger than his own shop, with the first floor of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' covering more than 4 times the space that the first floor of his own shop occupied.

Additionally, this was a 3-story pill shop, while the 4th floor was exclusively reserved for the high-ranking members of the pavilion.

Glass cases that sold pills could be seen as far as the eye could see, making the first floor an extremely bustling place.

And yet, Shun Long noticed that most pills here were low-level pills, even the highest of which was just a low-grade rank 3 pill.

Of course, as one of the 3 largest pill shops in the north of the 'City of Sin', the 'Blood Pill pavilion' couldn't just sell rank 4 pills alone.

After all, unlike Shun Long's shop, there were many alchemists who were working for the pavilion, including bronze grade level alchemists, who could only refine rank 1 or rank 2 level pills.

At the same time, the 'City of Sin' didn't only have Spirit realm or Nascent Soul stage cultivators, but earth grade and Heaven grade cultivators as well.

Although these people would usually live a harsh life in the cruel 'City of Sin', they still wanted to purchase pills and advance their own cultivation as well, and large pill shops like the 'Blood Pill pavilion' would be more than happy to receive their spirit stones.

The moment that they stepped through the building, Little Black's voice sounded in Shun Long's head, with obvious hints of surprise inside it

"Master, there is actually not a single Nascent Soul stage cultivator inside this building! Aside from 11 peak rank 9 Spirit realm brats who are staying on the fourth floor, the next strongest person is an early rank 8 Spirit realm."

Just as he and Liu Mei were walking through the first floor, Shun Long suddenly paused for a moment when he heard Little Black's words.

"There are no Nascent Soul stage experts? Could it be that the 'Blood Pill pavilion' doesn't actually have any Nascent Soul stage experts behind it?"

No this is unlikely! Then, does that mean that the person behind the 'Blood Pill pavilion' isn't present right now?"

Seeing that Shun Long had stopped walking, as he fell into contemplation, Liu Mei hesitated for a moment before she asked curiously

"Long-ge, where should we go now?"

After hearing Liu Mei's voice, a smile was formed on Shun Long's face as he looked at her and asked in response

"Mei'er, did the floating cloud sect have a treasury?"

Liu Mei was confused for a moment, not knowing why Shun Long had asked this question, but she still nodded her head in response as she answered seriously

"It did. All the martial skills and the cultivation techniques that were used in the sect, as well as the spirit stones that were mined from the spirit stone mines, would all enter the treasury for safekeeping.

Of course, the wealth of the big families or the personal wealth of the Elders of the Sect master would never be deposited into the treasury."

As soon as she finished her words, Liu Mei's eyes widened as she seemed to have understood Shun Long's aim.

"Long-ge wants to rob the Blood Pill pavilion's treasury?!"

Without confirming or denying Liu Mei's guesses, Shun Long didn't continue to stay on the first floor, and instead, he and Liu Mei walked towards the second floor of the pavilion.

However, even the highest grade pill on the second floor left Shun Long disappointed, since it was just a top-grade rank 3 'Qi replenishing pill'.

Without lingering on the second floor any longer, Shun Long and Liu Mei headed up to the third floor.

Unlike the previous 2 floors, the third floor wasn't as crowded, while only Spirit realm experts were present here.

Surprisingly, even the lowest grade pill on this floor was at the low-grade rank 4, while even some top-grade rank 4 ones were for sale.

Of course, the prices of the top-grade rank 4 pills weren't much lower than the prices of Shun Long's pills.

A single top-grade rank 4 'Qi replenishing pill' was priced at 20.000 low-grade spirit stones, while a single top-grade rank 4 'anti-toxin pill' was actually priced at 10.000 low-grade spirit stones!

As for extremely rare pills like Shun Long's 'Spiritual Wind Jade pill' or the 'Blood Ignition pill', there weren't even any low-grade ones, let alone high-grade or top-grade pills.

Of course, even if the 'Blood Pill pavilion' had the recipe and the medicinal herbs to concoct this pill, it wasn't certain that they would have been able to succeed.

After all, the requirements to concoct these pills, involved more than just following a simple recipe. Knowledge of the medicinal herbs that were being used during the pill refinement was also necessary, and even then it was still very likely for the pill concoction to fail.

Besides, with how rare the medicinal herbs that were needed to concoct these pills were, even if the 'Blood Pill pavilion' had managed to succeed in the pills' refinement, it was unknown whether they would put them up for sale or not.

After taking a good look at the pills on the third floor, Shun Long led Liu Mei towards the stairs of the fourth floor, where 2 black-robed guards at the early rank 4 of the Spirit realm were standing guard!

Chapter 282 - 282 Peak rank 6 Spirit realm guards

One of the guards seemed to have noticed Shun Long and Liu Mei walking towards the stairs, and a surprised expression appeared on his face.

Seeing that the guard on the left was about to speak, Shun Long's eyes instantly turned golden, while the invisible figure of an hourglass expanded from his body and covered the 2 middle rank 4 Spirit realm guards.

Placed under the effects of the 'Monarch's Domain', Shun Long had forcibly halted the flow of time around the 2 guards, before he and Liu Mei continued to walk towards the fourth floor without any obstruction.

As soon as the 2 of them arrived on the fourth floor, Shun Long retracted the 'Monarch's Domain', allowing time around the 2 guards to continue to flow once again.

"Halt!"

The guard suddenly shouted, attracting everyone's attention!

People on the third floor turned their eyes towards the guard who was standing in front of the stairs of the fourth floor, including the other guard next to him.

However, there didn't seem to be anyone in front of the guard, making him look like he was shouting at an empty patch of air.

The guard hurriedly turned his head to the left to look at his friend, who seemed to be looking at him with a confused expression as well.

"Was it just an illusion?"

The guard mumbled before he lowered his head in shame, too embarrassed to make contact with the crowd any longer.

At the same time, Shun Long and Liu Mei had already arrived on the fourth floor.

In contrast to the previous floors however, the fourth floor wasn't one vast room that sold pills.

Instead, it seemed to be split into many rooms and corridors, all of them belonging to the high-ranking members of the 'Blood Pill pavilion'.

As soon as they arrived on the fourth floor, Shun Long had Little Black confirm the location of the treasury, as well as that of the 11 peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts.

"Master, the peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivators are all gathered inside a room at the center of the floor!

As for their treasury, it is filled with protective formations, and it is also guarded by 2 peak rank 6 Spirit realm cultivators. I think that even with master's current cultivation level, it will still be hard to take care of 2 peak rank 6 Spirit realm cultivators at the same time!"

After hearing Little Black's words, Shun Long thought seriously for a good while.

Indeed, even with Shun Long's breakthrough to the early rank 4 of the Spirit realm, it wouldn't be easy for him to take care of 2 peak rank 6 Spirit realm experts at the same time, without alerting anyone in the 'Blood Pill pavilion'.

A few moments later however, he nodded his head, as he and Liu Mei headed deeper inside the fourth floor.

With Little Black's directions, Shun Long knew exactly where the members of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' were and easily avoided meeting them.

Without a Nascent Soul stage expert using their soul sense to scan the fourth floor, it was practically impossible for anyone to find Shun Long, with Little Black scanning the way forward.

After walking through more than half of the fourth floor, Shun Long and Liu Mei arrived at the end of the corridor.

Based on Little Black soul sense, Shun Long already knew, that the 2 peak rank 6 Spirit realm cultivators were right beyond this corridor, standing guard in front of the treasury.

With a serious look on his face, Shun Long turned to look at Liu Mei as he said

"Mei'er, I will take down one guard, and will also immobilize the other. You will only have a single breath of time to take care of him!"

Seeing the serious look on Shun Long's face, Liu Mei nodded her head.

She had already heard about the 2 peak rank 6 Spirit realm guards from Shun Long.

Although Liu Mei didn't have any confidence in fighting against a peak rank 6 Spirit realm cultivator head-on, if Shun Long could immobilize them for a single moment, then there was a chance.

Seeing that Liu Mei had nodded her head, Shun Long's eyes instantly turned golden as he circulated the 'Monarch's Hourglass'.

After activating the 'Monarch's Domain', he and Liu Mei both appeared from the edge of the corridor in front of the 2 guards.

The 2 peak rank 6 guards took less than a moment to react, while confused looks had appeared on their faces when they saw the 2 hooded members of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' in front of them.

Shun Long's eyes however were fully focused on the guard on the left while Liu Mei immediately headed for the guard on the right.

Raising his left hand in the air, Shun Long slashed the void in front of him, opening up a space tear, before his right fist immediately followed suit.

As soon as his clenched right fist entered inside the space tear, Shun Long punched forward at full-force, when a booming sound came from the guard's chest.

Crack

The peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert was sent flying through the air, before he collided with the wall behind him, coughing large amounts of blood in the process.

And yet, Shun Long knew that he had failed to hit the guard's heart with his punch!

It seemed that the guard had noticed that something was amiss when Shun Long had tore space open, and causing Shun Long's punch to miss.

Shun Long clearly knew that his punch had actually hit the guard's bones instead of his heart, and even though he was injured, the guard was still alive.

Although his injury was serious, it wasn't lethal, and it wasn't enough to prevent him from shouting for help!

Shun Long however also knew, that he had to ignore this guard now, and turn his attention to the guard on the right, since Liu Mei had already arrived in front of him.

Waving his long yellow-colored sword that had a tinge of black in it, the peak rank 6 Spirit realm guard had an evil smile on his face, as he slashed it towards Liu Mei's waist.

He had already noticed that Liu Mei was just a peak rank 3 Spirit realm cultivator, and knew that she stood no chance against him.

He hadn't even noticed that the other guard had already fallen on the floor and was in a bad condition, while the bloodlust in his eyes intensified as his sword approached closer to Liu Mei.

Shun Long's golden eyes lit up with a powerful blue light as he stared at the guard in front of Liu Mei, before he mumbled to himself

"Time Prison."

Chapter 283 - 283 Alerting the peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts

Suddenly, the peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert's actions were halted, as Shun Long forcefully placed him in a temporary time prison.

Shun Long could feel his qi being sapped at an alarming rate, and nearly half of it was gone in a single instant.

However, the peak rank 6 Spirit realm guard's sword that was just a hair's breadth away from Liu Mei's waist, ready to cleave her in half, was instantly stopped in place.

Holding the pinnacle rank 1 gold grade 'Four seasons azure sword' in her hand, Liu Mei stared at the guard in front of her who still had that evil smile on his face, before she slashed her sword horizontally towards the guard's neck.

Shun Long could maintain his 'Time Prison' for a single breath of time before it was broken, but a single breath of time was actually enough.

Blood immediately spurted from the guard's neck at the same time that Shun Long's time prison was broken, as the guard's throat was instantly slashed open.

At the same time, stepping slightly to the left, Liu Mei barely had enough time to dodge the yellow-colored sword that was aiming to split her body in two.

The peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert, stared at the woman in front of him with his eyes wide-open, not understanding what had just happened.

He was clearly faster than her, so how could his sword have missed, while Liu Mei's attack landed first?!

The other guard was staring at the scene with eyes filled with horror and incredulity.

He clearly saw that the woman was about to die, but the guard suddenly stopped almost as if he was intentionally allowing her to slash his throat.

At the same time that the guard's throat was slashed open, and his body had started to slump on the ground, an illusionary purple blade appeared on Shun Long's right hand.

"Blink"

Shun Long mumbled to himself as his body suddenly vanished, before it reappeared in front of the guard on the left.

As Shun Long slashed the illusionary purple blade towards the guard's chest however, the peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert took a deep breath, before he shouted in a loud voice that shook the entire 'Blood Pill pavilion'

"ENEMY ATTACK!"

Shun Long's spatial blade instantly pierced through the peak rank 6 Spirit realm guard's heart, destroying it in an instant.

And yet, a solemn expression had now appeared on Shun Long's face as he stared at the guard in front of him.

He was certain that everyone inside the 'Blood Pill pavilion', including the peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts, had already heard the guard's shout, and wouldn't take long until they arrived at the treasury.

Turning his head to look at Liu Mei, Shun Long saw that she seemed to have already absorbed the energy from the peak rank 6 Spirit realm guard in front of her, but she didn't try to refine it right away.

Instead, she forcibly kept it inside her body, until she and Shun Long had left the 'Blood Pill pavilion'.

Shun Long then turned his eyes towards the large black door of the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury.

The door was filled with countless runes, that merged themselves together to create a powerful protective formation.

Although Shun Long wasn't a formation master, just from the energy that was coming from the formation that was protecting the treasury in front of him, he understood that this was certainly a pinnacle rank 3 silver grade formation.

Even if a few peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts tried to break through it, they would definitely be unable to do so.

In fact, even an early-stage Nascent Soul expert may be unable to break through it in a short amount of time.

Seeing the serious look on Shun Long's face, Liu Mei asked in a somewhat nervous tone

"Long-ge, perhaps we should just leave for now?"

Although Liu Mei knew that Little Black was always somewhere around Shun Long and could actually destroy the entire 'Blood Pill pavilion' if he wanted to, she also knew that unless absolutely necessary, Shun Long wasn't willing to reveal Little Black's existence, and if he did, he would certainly make sure that anyone who knew about the black dragon would die!

Shaking his head, Shun Long's lips curved up into a small smile, as he looked at Liu Mei and said

"Although I can't break through their protective formation, that doesn't mean that we can't enter inside."

Raising his right hand in the air, Shun Long then slashed the space in front of him open, creating a large space tear more than 2m(6.6ft) long.

Without waiting for Liu Mei's reaction, Shun Long wrapped his right arm around her waist, before he entered inside the space tear.

At the same time, in the room at the center of the fourth floor, Zhou Ning and the other 10 peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts who were chatting with each other, abruptly stood up when they heard the guard's shout about an enemy attack.

The bald middle-aged man who stood next to Zhou Ning, Guan Hong looked at the direction of the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury before he asked in a voice that was filled with disbelief

"Don't tell me that someone has infiltrated our pavilion and is actually attacking our treasury!"

The other peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts, including the old man who seemed to be the one in charge, as well as Zhou Ning, all looked at each other with ugly expressions on their faces, before they headed towards the treasury without another word.

If someone had really dared to attack the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury, they had to die no matter what!

After all, to a large pill shop or a sect, their treasury was their lifeline. All of their important items, as well as the spirit stones they used to pay their alchemists every month, were all stored inside the treasury!

Chapter 284 - 284 Gift

After entering inside the space tear, Shun Long had completely avoided the protective formations around the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury, as he stared at the scene in front of him with eyes filled with shock.

Mountains of spirit stones filled the room in front of him, as well as countless medicinal herbs and medicinal ingredients, including the beast cores of magic beasts, or other parts that were useful in alchemy.

The most shocking thing to Shun Long however, was the amount of spirit stones gathered inside the treasury!

Shun Long had originally expected that the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury would at most have 10 million low-grade spirit stones! After all, even a middle rank 2 Dao King like Hao Ping from the 'Heaven's Dome city's' 'Mercenaries' Association', only had 15 million low-grade spirit stones in his spatial ring, while Xue Zhilan, an early rank 3 Dao King realm expert had 30 million low-grade spirit stones.

However, the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury seemed to have more than 40 million low-grade spirit stones!

This was almost as much, as the wealth of the 2 Dao Kings combined!

Of course, that was only if Shun Long ignored the value of their gold grade weapons, as well as the countless martial skills and cultivation techniques that he had found inside their spatial rings.

As for the 2 'Dragon Lord's medallions'... they couldn't be purchased no matter how many spirit stones one had.

After staring at the scene in front of him for a few moments, Shun Long seemed to have just realized how it was possible for the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' wealth to match that of the 2 Dao Kings.

"Indeed, this is an alchemy shop!

Although they make huge amounts of spirit stones every day, they also have to spend a lot to pay their alchemists, as well as when they purchase medicinal herbs or the parts of powerful magic beasts that are used in pill refinement!

After all, the 'Blood Pill pavilion' doesn't have a herb garden where they can accelerate the flow of time in order for their medicinal herbs to mature faster, so they have to purchase them from outside sources, or send their own people to look for them."

As this thought flashed through his mind, Shun Long seemed to have just understood where the powerful Nascent Soul stage experts and the powerful Dao Kings found the spirit stones that they needed in order to cultivate.

"If one doesn't have their own profitable organization or another huge power behind them like the 'Mercenaries' Association' or the 'Alchemists' Guild', then sooner or later, they would certainly find themselves lacking spirit stones, even if they are powerful Nascent Soul stage experts!"

Just as Shun Long seemed to have fallen into a reverie once again, Little Black's voice sounded in his mind, waking him up as it said

"Master, the peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivators are all heading towards this place right now. They will only take a few breaths of time before they arrive here as well."

Shun Long immediately woke up as soon as he heard Little Black's words, and without wasting a moment he looked at Liu Mei as he said

"Mei'er focus on gathering the spirit stones."

The moment that he finished his words, a bright blue light erupted from his body, covering him completely, as he activated the second 'Monarch's Domain'.

Shun Long could feel his speed sky-rocketing, as time around him was now flowing nearly 10 times faster than before.

His body left afterimages behind, as Shun Long disappeared from his original spot, heading towards the mountains of spirit stones in front of him at full speed.

He was going to gather as many spirit stones as he could before the peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts that were in charge of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' arrived!

Liu Mei nodded her head, while a beautiful smile was formed beneath her black robes as she followed Shun Long in gathering the spirit stones.

Barely a few breaths of time had passed, when booming sounds were heard outside of the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury.

The old man who barely had a few hairs left on his head was the first to arrive, before Zhou Ning and the others followed suit.

As soon as they saw the corpses of the 2 peak rank 6 Spirit realm experts outside the treasury, ugly expressions appeared on the Zhou Ning's and the rest's faces.

One guard was lying in a pool of blood with his neck slashed open, while the other one had his heart pierced through.

How could the old man and the others not understand, that there were no apparent signs of fighting? It seemed that the 2 peak rank 6 Spirit realm experts had only managed to shout once before they had died.

After taking a deep breath, the old man looked at the 10 people behind him before he said in a cold voice

"Lock down the pavilion! Don't let anyone escape, no matter their reasons!"

An old man with a small white dagger on his waist and a fat middle-aged woman with a big protrusion on her forehead, both nodded their heads at the same time as they left the treasury.

The old man's eyes then focused on the large black door of the treasury, but after seeing that the protective formations were still untouched, he let out a sigh of relief.

As a careful person however, the old man still took out a red jade with various runes on it, and placed it on an opening at the center of the black door.

Although the door of the pavilion's treasury was still untouched, the old man still had a bad feeling in his heart, one that made him feel anxious and slightly afraid.

As soon as his red jade touched the black door, the old man and the 8 peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts behind him saw the door slowly open.

The moment that he saw the scene inside the treasury however, the bald old man felt his heart stopping.

His mouth opened and closed as he slowly walked towards the treasury's interior, but no sounds were heard.

Zhou Ning, Guan Hong and the other experts of the 'Blood Pill pavilion', all had shocked looks on their faces as they saw the scene inside the treasury.

The medicinal herbs and the magic beasts parts were all still there and had obviously stayed untouched.

The same went for the cultivation techniques, and the few martial skills!

However... the mountains of spirit stones had disappeared!

The old man walked to the center of the treasury, and bent down before he reached out with his hand, and picked up the single spirit stone that was left inside the treasury.

With a look filled with incredulity and disbelief, the old man couldn't help asking himself

"1 low-grade spirit stone?"

Chapter 285 - 285 The 'Blood Pill pavilion's Pavilion master'

The old man felt his blood gathering in his head, and his face soon turned red, unknown if it was due to anger or embarrassment.

Someone had dared to rob their 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury under their nose, and chose to leave behind 1 low-grade spirit stone?

"SEAL THE PAVILION!"

The furious voice of the old man reverberated throughout the entire 'Blood Pill pavilion', and every single guest inside could feel their ears buzzing while pale expressions had appeared on their faces.

Some people nearly passed out after hearing the old man's loud and furious voice.

At the same time, Shun Long and Liu Mei had just appeared, almost a mile away from the 'Blood Pill pavilion'.

Shun Long knew that he had barely managed to leave, without being noticed by the peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts of the pavilion.

The moment that the black door of the treasury was opening, he punched the air in front of him, creating a space tear, before he and Liu Mei jumped inside.

Looking at the 'Blood Pill pavilion' from a distance that seemed to have entered a state of unrest, Shun Long didn't seem to mind the chaos that he had just caused, and after he and Liu Mei discarded the black robes that they were wearing, he headed back towards the Silver cross street.

A few minutes later, Shun Long arrived back at the spot where he had gotten rid of the 3 members of the 'Blood Pill pavilion', and opening another space tear, he and Liu Mei arrived back inside the shop.

This was done to avoid alerting the second group that was watching the shop.

Shun Long remembered that Little Black had mentioned that there were 2 groups that were watching the shop earlier.

Since the first group belonged to the 'Blood Pill pavilion', Shun Long was certain that the second group definitely belonged to the 'Violent guardian gang'.

Of course, Shun Long who had Little Black and the 'Silver-winged panther king', wasn't afraid of the gang in the slightest.

After all, according to Little Black's soul sense when they had arrived in the city, even the strongest Dao King in the 'City of Sin' was just a middle-stage Dao King.

Even if that person could subdue the 'Silver-winged panther king' head-on, Shun Long was still confident that Little Black could take care of him quickly.

However, unless absolutely necessary, Shun Long wasn't planning to expose the black panther just yet, let alone Little Black.

Besides, he had no reason to go and fight against the strongest Dao King in the 'City of Sin'.

As soon as they entered back in the shop, Liu Mei looked at Shun Long with a look of pain in her stunningly beautiful black eyes, before she said in a weak voice

"Long-ge, I... need to breakthrough."

Seeing the look of pain inside Liu Mei's eyes, Shun Long immediately understood what was going on, before he nodded his head and carried her to their room on the second floor.

Since Liu Mei hadn't refined the energy that she had absorbed from the peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert, her body was under immense pain.

After placing Liu Mei on top of the bed, Shun Long watched her as she closed her eyes and circulated the 'Blood Absorption art'.

Her energy quickly started to rise, as the stored energy of a peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert was being refined extremely quickly.

Half an hour later, only after seeing that the expression on Liu Mei's face had started to ease, did Shun Long decide to enter inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time' in order to cultivate.

There were still 6 hours left until the time to open the shop for today, which was equivalent to more than 2 days inside the 'Stone of Time'.

After sitting cross-legged on his usual seat inside the foggy space, Shun Long stared at Little Black who was munching another stalk of 'Dragonblood grass', as he thought of what he was going to do in the next few days.

Now that he was already an early rank 4 Spirit realm cultivator, Shun Long was confident enough to refine the 'Dragonblood grass' into pills.

"Of course, they will only be high-grade rank 5 pills, since I still don't have the beast cores and hearts of rank 4 and rank 5 beasts, in order to make them into top-grade pills.

After I reach the peak of rank 6 in the Spirit realm, I will consume a top-grade rank 4 'Spiritual Wind jade pill' and breakthrough to the rank 7 in one go!

Me and Mei'er can temporarily leave the 'City of Sin' then, and have a look at the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range'.

Of course, the 'City of Sin' is a decent place to stay in as well, for me and Mei'er to advance our strength, but there are certain medicinal ingredients that even the Heaven's Dome city didn't have and I can only find them after taking a trip to the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range'."

As these thoughts flashed through Shun Long's mind, he quickly organized the plans he had for the future, before he waved his hand, as more than 50.000 middle-grade spirit stones appeared around him.

The 'Heaven swallowing vine' quickly absorbed the spirit stones around it almost as if it was having a tasty meal, before it started to convert the energy inside them into pure qi that filled the air around Shun Long and Little Black.

Shun Long took a look at Little Black who was happily munching on the stalks of 'Dragonblood grass' around him, before he once again closed his eyes and started to absorb the pure qi around him, as he tried to condense the 31st ball of qi.

At the same time, in a luxurious mansion in the northern part of the 'City of Sin', the peak rank 9 Spirit realm old man from the 'Blood Pill pavilion', Zhou Ning, and the fat middle-aged woman who had a big protrusion on her forehead, were all kneeling in front of a middle-aged man, who was sitting on a luxurious throne.

Chapter 286 - 286 The Pavilion master's decision

A middle-aged man was sitting on the luxurious throne, his brown eyes staring at the 3 kneeling people in front of him with a murderous look inside them.

The man seemed to be around 1.70m(5.6ft) tall, with short black hair and a high nose bridge.

He was dressed in dark red robes that failed to completely cover his broad chest.

The murderous aura that was coming from his body however, made the 3 people who were kneeling in front of him shiver in horror.

It was the aura of a furious Nascent Soul stage expert who was barely restraining himself from killing the 3 of them with a single slap.

His right hand that was touching the armrest of his throne was suddenly clenched tightly, crumbling the armrest into countless pieces that turned into dust before they fell on the wooden floor.

The middle-aged man's eyes then swept over the 3 people kneeling in front of him as if he was looking at 3 corpses, before they finally stopped on the old man in the middle, as he then asked in an infuriated tone

"Xue Qiu, give me one reason to spare your pathetic life!

Not only did you allow someone to infiltrate the pavilion while I was away, but he also took all of the spirit stones inside the treasury under all of your noses! What do I need you for if you can't even protect the treasury when I am not present? ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STOLEN SPIRIT STONES?"

The old man named Xue Qiu shivered when he heard these words, before he turned his eyes towards his left and right, to look at Zhou Ning and the middle-aged woman who were also responsible for this.

The 3 of them were the ones who were in charge of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' when the pavilion master was away, so there was no way for either of them to escape the blame.

Xue Qiu could see the fear in Zhou Ning's and the fat woman's eyes, their emotions almost identical to his own.

After all, all of them knew the pavilion master's temper, and how he rose to power in the 'City of Sin'. This was a place where one could kill without rhyme or reason, and if they didn't have a good excuse this time, they would certainly have to shoulder the blame for this matter.

After taking a deep breath to calm himself down, Xue Qiu's eyes suddenly lit up as he stared at Zhou Ning, and raising his head slightly to look at the middle-aged man in front of him, he then spoke in a regretful tone

"I have no excuses. It indeed happened under our noses. If the pavilion master intends to punish us because we were unable to stop a Nascent Soul stage expert, there is nothing we can do. I just hope that the pavilion master will also punish those responsible as well."

The fat woman's eyes held hints of confusion inside them, but Zhou Ning quickly understood the underlying meaning of the old man's words, and hurriedly raised his head as he nodded without any hesitation, clearly agreeing with Xue Qiu's words.

The middle-aged man who was sitting on the throne, stared at the 2 men below him with a placid look in his eyes, as a petrifying silence instantly descended in the hall.

Xue Qiu and Zhou Ning could feel their foreheads dripping with cold sweat, while the stifling silence around them only made the situation even worse. The 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master had a cold look in his eyes as he stared at them, before he finally spoke in an imposing tone

"Which Nascent Soul stage expert did you offend?"

Feeling the terrifying aura that was coming from the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master's body, Xue Qiu, Zhou Ning, and the fat middle-aged woman trembled, before Xue Qiu took the initiative to speak

"It is all because of a new pill shop that appeared in the Silver cross street 2 weeks ago! They are certainly the cause of all this!"

Seeing that he had captured the pavilion master's attention by mentioning that a new pill shop had appeared in their own area, Xue Qiu gloated inwardly as he continued explaining with an aggrieved tone

"It is a very weird pill shop, that sells only high-grade and top-grade rank 4 pills, some of which even I have never even seen before. However, although the prices of the shop are sky-high, they have made millions of spirit stones in the past 10 days!

Some of their pills actually sell for as much as 500.000 low-grade spirit stones as well!

I estimate that by the end of the month, that shop will have made more than 65 million low-grade spirit stones!"

As soon as he finished his words, Xue Qiu saw the dignified pavilion master standing up from his throne with a serious look in his eyes.

65 million low-grade spirit stones!

Even his 'Blood Pill pavilion' only had 40 million low-grade spirit stones inside its treasury, and that was the accumulation of many years in the 'City of Sin'!

Seeing that the pavilion master was waiting for him to continue speaking, Xue Qiu gulped down dryly before he continued

"The most surprising thing is, that a brat whose cultivation is only at the early fourth stage in body refinement is actually responsible for running the shop, so it is impossible for him to create these pills!"

The pavilion master nodded his head as he heard Xue Qiu's report, inwardly agreeing that someone who hasn't reached the peak of the Spirit realm was obviously unable to create top-grade rank 4 pills.

After all, even he, the pavilion master of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' and a Nascent Soul stage expert who was also an accomplished alchemist could only concoct middle-grade rank 5 pills at most.

Almost as if he hadn't noticed the pavilion master's nod, the old man Xue Qiu didn't stop, as he then continued explaining what had transpired in the past week

"As soon as we heard that this shop opened, Zhou Ning personally went there and ordered them to close it down, but the brat responsible for that shop gave him a mocking look.

Although Zhou Ning was angry, since he was unable to ascertain that person's cultivation, he didn't make a move right away. Instead, he came back to the 'Blood Pill pavilion' in order to discuss this with the rest of us before we decide what to do."

Xue Qiu continued explaining everything without missing a detail, from Zhou Ning sending the early rank 6 Spirit realm He Zhenkang to take care of the shop and suddenly disappearing instead, to the members of the 'Violent Guardian gang' threatening Shun Long and being sent flying without being given any face.

As soon as he finished speaking, Xue Qiu immediately fell silent when he saw that the pavilion master was actually pondering this issue with a serious look on his face.

Indeed, based on what Xue Qiu had said, it was very likely that a Nascent Soul stage expert was also responsible for the shop.

This not only explained the arrogance of the kid who was responsible for it, but also the sudden disappearance of He Zhenkang, as well as the theft of the spirit stones from their pavilion.

After all, not many people in the 'City of Sin' would dare to mess with their 'Blood Pill pavilion'.

Of course, even if Shun Long wasn't responsible for the theft of his treasury, after hearing of the 65 million low-grade spirit stones he still wouldn't allow them to keep operating the shop in his own territory.

After taking a few moments to think, the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master's brown eyes were suddenly focused on the 3 people in front of him, as he said with a smile on his face

"I will go and have a talk with Shi Ru and Shi Hui in the 'Violent Guardian gang's' place. I am sure that they have also set their eyes on that shop, and the only reason that they haven't made a move? just yet, is because they aren't certain of the enemy's strength!"

As soon as he finished speaking, an evil smile appeared on the middle-aged man's face as he saw a relieved expression appearing on Xue Qiu's, Zhou Ning's, and the fat woman's faces, before he then continued

"However... no matter what you are responsible for having the treasury robbed, and you will have to pay the price for this!

I don't care how you do it, but you will personally confirm the cultivation level of the Nascent Soul stage expert inside that shop!"

The 3 peak rank 9 Spirit realm expert's instantly paled when they heard the last sentence!

Wasn't this equivalent to order them to die?

Indeed, the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master was an old fox who wouldn't personally risk his life until he knew of the underlying dangers. He was planning to first learn of Shun Long's real strength before he personally made a move to kill the Nascent Soul stage expert behind the shop.

..

At the same time, back inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long finally stood up.

Although he hadn't managed to completely condense the 31st ball of qi, he knew that he wasn't too far away from it. After spending a few more days cultivating inside the foggy space, he was certain that he would be able to breakthrough to the middle of rank 4 of the Spirit realm.

Closing his eyes, Shun Long once again simulated himself leaving the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', as he once again returned inside the room at the second floor of the shop!

Although he knew that he hadn't left any clues behind when he and Liu Mei had robbed the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury, the pavilion would still set them as the first suspects.

Besides, without any spirit stones left inside their treasury, it was only a matter of time until they were unable to continue their business, so they would definitely set their sights on his own shop this time.

Shun Long was certain that sooner rather than later, the 'Blood Pill pavilion' would be desperate enough to send even late-stage Spirit realm experts knocking on his door.

Chapter 287 - 287 Alchemists' Heaven

After returning back inside the room, Shun Long looked at the large bed where Liu Mei was still sitting there with her eyes closed.

It was obvious that she hadn't finished absorbing the energy from the peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert just yet, but her aura was rising with every passing moment.

Shun Long was certain that in a few hours at most, Liu Mei would be able to breakthrough to the rank 4 of the Spirit realm.

And yet, Shun Long also felt somewhat regretful after seeing that she hadn't broken through just yet.

He had hoped that Liu Mei would have finished her breakthrough by now, and would have been able to take care of the shop today, so that Shun Long would be able to have a look around the 'City of Sin'.

In the end, a smile appeared on Shun Long's face as he looked at the beautiful woman on the bed, and without disturbing her, he went down the stairs and arrived on the first floor.

After petting the black panther's head and giving him a few stalks of 'Dragonblood grass' to eat, Shun Long opened the door of the shop and welcomed the new customers for today.

Just like the previous days, the fervor that people had for the new pills on the shop wasn't any lesser this time.

Despite the pills' high prices, Liu Mei's skeletons still made almost 2 million low-grade spirit stones within the first 5 hours.

Although Shun Long should have kept the shop open for 5 more hours, in the end, he decided to close it early for today, ignoring the crowd's protesting.

After all, this was important for his future plans too, and wasn't something he could delay.

After closing the shop, Shun Long took a shower and changed into a set of clean robes, before he decided to take a stroll around the northern part of the 'City of Sin', searching for shops that sold medicinal ingredients.

Although Shun Long had a pill shop, he didn't know anyone in the 'City of Sin' who could provide him with medicinal herbs, so he could only search by himself.

As soon as he left the shop however, Little Black's voice sounded in his head, as the black dragon said with hints of anger in his voice

"Master, there are 2 small fries following master in the dark, ever since we left the shop!"

Nodding his head, Shun Long had already expected that the people from the group that he suspected to belong to the 'Violent Guardian gang', would be keeping an eye on him once he left the shop.

Of course, he didn't turn his head around to verify their locations, since Little Black's soul sense had already done that for him, and instead, he continued strolling forward.

Although he already had a rough idea of the city's layout, even after searching for 3 hours, he only found 3 large shops that sold medicinal ingredients in the northern part of the city.

Unfortunately, none of them seemed to have what Shun Long was looking for, as he then continued towards the western part of the 'City of Sin'.

As he walked around, Shun Long's eyes suddenly lit up as he mumbled to himself

"I remember that there was a big shop near the northwestern part of the 'City of Sin' named the 'Alchemists' Heaven' or something."

Without any detours, Shun Long headed directly towards the northwest of the city.

After walking for almost an incense stick of time, he arrived in front of a huge 3-story building, with the words 'Alchemists' Heaven' plated in gold at the very top.

2 guards in crimson armor with hints of gold in it were each holding a long halberd in their hands as they stood guard in front of the building.

Surprisingly, there were waves of people heading entering inside this place, making this the busiest building that Shun Long had seen in the 'City of Sin' so far.

After taking a brief look at the first floor, Shun Long noticed that this place really was a heaven for the alchemists in the 'City of Sin'.

Not only were there medicinal herbs and medicinal pills for sale, but the precious parts of magic beasts, such as their bones, their hearts, their beast cores, or other important parts were also sold in this place.

Of course, the quality of the pills, the magic beasts, and the medicinal herbs on the first floor, didn't exceed that of rank 2 medicinal ingredients.

The items for sale on the second floor were of a higher quality than the first floor, but aside from a single rank 4 medicinal herb, none of them caught Shun Long's eye who directly moved up to the third floor.

As soon as he stepped foot on the third floor, Shun Long's eyes finally lit up.

"Although the items here can't be compared to the 'Alchemists' Guild' in the Heaven's Dome city, this is probably one of the best shops in the 'City of Sin', for alchemists to find medicinal ingredients."

As this thought flashed through Shun Long's mind, his eyes looked around, at the medicinal herbs for sale, as well as the corpses of the various magic beasts.

Although there were no rank 5 magic beasts, Shun Long still looked around to see if any of the rank 4 ones could be used for his alchemy.

The corpse of a single middle rank 4 magic beast was priced at 100.000 low-grade spirit stones, which was almost double the price compared to the Heaven's Dome city.

Unfortunately, there were less than 10 rank 4 magic beasts for sale, and despite their high prices, Shun Long noticed that none of their remaining parts could be used for alchemy aside from their beast cores.

As he walked around the third floor, Shun Long's eyes suddenly lit up, as his gaze suddenly focused on a single purple-colored medicinal herb with black lines all over it that was placed inside a transparent jade case.

Shun Long lips curved up into a smile that sent chills to everyone around him, as he mumbled to himself

"Soul poisoning hell grass!"

Chapter 288 - 288 Soul poisoning hell grass

After taking a few steps closer to the jade case, Shun Long's evil smile became even wider as he thought to himself

"Hehe, it is really a stalk of 'Soul poisoning hell grass'!"

This was one of the most lethal rank 5 medicinal herbs that a poison master could use to concoct poison or an alchemist could use to create rank 5 'anti-toxin pills', the 'Soul poisoning hell grass'.

Of course, not only was this grass rare to find, but it was extremely difficult to use as well both for poison masters as well as alchemists, in order to refine it into deadly poison or 'anti-toxin pills'.

Shun Long knew that the more black lines a 'Soul poisoning hell grass' had on it, the higher the potency of the poison inside it would be.

At the same time however, the level of difficulty and the danger that one would face during the refinement process would be even higher.

Even experienced gold grade alchemists didn't have absolute certainty into refining the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' into anti-toxin pills, let alone the poison masters who had to directly extract the poison inside it, before they refined it over and over again.

Additionally, the conditions for a stalk of 'Soul poisoning hell grass' to appear were extremely strict.

The body of a rank 5 magic beast or a Nascent Soul stage cultivator had to be used as natural fertilizer for more than 200 years in order for this grass to mature.

Only after the blood of the rank 5 beast or the Nascent Soul stage cultivator's had seeped into the grass, was there a chance for a stalk of this 'Soul poisoning hell grass' to appear.

After taking a look at the price of the rank 5 'Soul poisoning hell grass' however, Shun Long frowned for a moment.

350.000 low-grade spirit stones!

For a stalk of grass that can only be used to refine poison or 'anti-toxin pills', while it had an extremely high chance of killing the alchemist who refined it, paying 350.000 low-grade spirit stones was indeed an unreasonable price.

"So this is the reason why this hasn't been purchased yet? After all, a single middle-grade or high-grade rank 5 'anti-toxin pill', couldn't be sold for more than 30.000 low-grade spirit stones, so it's obvious that only poison masters would be willing to spend so many spirit stones on a single rank 5 medicinal herb."

After thinking seriously for a while, in the end, Shun Long nodded his head before he walked in front of the jade case that held the 'Soul poisoning hell grass'.

The moment that the attendant heard that someone was willing to purchase this grass, his eyes nearly bulged out from their sockets.

After all, there were very few people in the 'City of Sin', who could afford to spend 350.000 low-grade spirit stones for such a medicinal herb that had no direct effect on their cultivation.

Even rank 1 gold grade alchemists would feel the pinch of spending 350.000 low-grade spirit stones in such a situation.

After handing the 350.000 low-grade spirit stones to the attendant and receiving the 'Soul poisoning hell grass', Shun Long first placed it in an isolated patch of grass inside the herb garden in the 'Stone of Time', before he took a look at the rest of the medicinal ingredients on the third floor of the 'Alchemists' Heaven'.

However, aside from a single rank 4 medicinal herb that could be used as a supplementary ingredient when he refined the rank 5 'Dreamy ash flower', there was nothing else that was useful to Shun Long.

Without any reason to stay here any longer, Shun Long left the 'Alchemists' Heaven' and headed back towards the northern part of the city. Barely an incense stick of time later, he arrived back in the 'Silver cross street', and completely ignoring the group from the 'Violent guardian gang' that was following him, he entered inside the first floor of the shop.

Although Shun Long could quickly take care of the 2 people who were following behind him all day, in the end, he planned to allow them a few more days to live and let them report his actions today.

He was certain that after exposing his aura at the early fourth stage in body refinement a week ago, both the 'Blood Pill pavilion' as well as the 'Violent guardian gang' would think that there was a

peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivator hidden inside the shop, and that he was also the one who took care of He Zhenkang and his team.

"Perhaps they will even think that it's a Nascent Soul stage expert.

As long as they keep observing and focus their attention on the expert inside the shop for the next few days... then even if a Nascent Soul stage expert comes by then, they will get a nice surprise!"

As these thoughts flashed through his mind, Shun Long had already arrived on the second floor where Liu Mei was still sitting on the bed with her eyes closed.

Shun Long noticed that her cultivation had already broken through to the early rank 4 of the Spirit realm, and it was actually still rising.

Of course, after absorbing the energy of a peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert, it was natural for Liu Mei to breakthrough to the early rank 4 and still have energy to spare.

After sitting on the bed as well, opposite to Liu Mei, Shun Long closed his eyes, as he simulated himself entering the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'.

At the same time, in a busy street at the north of the 'City of Sin', inside a large building that was shaped like a castle, the pavilion master of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' was sitting on a comfortable brown couch, and was facing 2 middle-aged men in black robes with a serious expression on his face.

The 2 men in front of him were the bosses of the 'Violent guardian gang', as well as two powerful middle-stage Nascent Soul experts in the 'City of Sin', Shi Ru and Shi Hui!

Chapter 289 - 289 Chao Xieren's negotiations

The 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master looked at the 2 men in front of him who were leisurely drinking their wine with an ugly expression on his face.

One of them was about 1.8m(5.10ft) tall, with long blonde hair, dark blue eyes, and a face that resembled that of a woman's. This was one of the 2 bosses of the Violent guardian gang, Shi Ru.

The other one however was more than 2m(6.6ft) tall, with short black hair and a body that resembled that of a titan.

He had a chiseled jawline and deep black eyes, making someone feel that they were staring at a magic beast in human's clothing.

The muscles in his arms bulged visibly, as he held the bowl of wine in his hands.

This was the other terrifying boss of the 'Violent guardian gang', Shi Hui.

Seeing the expression in the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master's face turning even uglier, a burst of feminine laughter escaped from the blonde-haired Shi Ru's mouth, as he looked at the man in front of him and said

"Hahaha! Chao Xieren, you are so pitiful. This elder brother really pities you. Losing all the spirit stones inside your 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury is probably going to make your life really hard.

Tell me, do you need this elder brother to lend you some spirit stones? All you have to do is ask~"

Seeing Shi Ru winking at him, the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master, Chao Xieren, felt shivers running down his spine, before he furiously slammed his left hand on the table in front of him and shouted

"Shut up! Will you fools join hands with me or not? You should know that I may not necessarily need you this time, and I am only allowing you to help me because that shop is also in your own area. Don't waste my time any longer!"

The muscular Shi Hui frowned as he stared at Chao Xieren, but the long blonde-haired Shi Ru laughed instead as he continued

"Chao Xieren, you are not cute when you are angry. Do you think that you can fool this elder brother?"

Would you really be here today if you didn't care about our help?

Besides... do you even know how strong the person inside it really is? What if he is a late-stage Nascent Soul cultivator?

Can you even swallow that small shop on your own then? Be careful not to choke~"

Cough

Cough!

Both Shi Hui and Chao Xieren coughed violently when they heard Shi Ru's words.

As for the shop that they were talking about... it was of course Shun Long's pill shop. It was obvious that the reason why Chao Xieren had visited the 'Violent guardian gang's' bosses today, was to partner up and destroy Shun Long's shop together.

Before Chao Xieren could speak, the 2m(6.6ft) tall Shi Hui looked at the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master, before he spoke for the first time

"Chao Xieren, we can actually partner with you this time. However, our 'Violent guardian gang' will take two-thirds of that shop's spirit stones as well as their pills! You can take the rest."

Chao Xieren's expression immediately turned even uglier than before, and turning his attention to the bulky Shi Hui, he instantly stood up as he shouted loudly

"Shi Hui are you f.u.c.kin crazy? Are you trying to swallow the spirit stones that that person stole from my treasury?"

Stop dreaming!

I will get 40 million low-grade spirit stones first, then we will split everything in half. If you don't agree, I will do this by myself!"

The burly Shi Hui smiled, and looking at Chao Xieren with a mocking look in his eyes, he erupted in booming laughter as he said

"HAHAHA! You want to get 40 million low-grade spirit stones before splitting everything in half?

HALF??

Idiot!

What does the robbery in your 'Blood Pill pavilion's' treasury have to do with us brothers? Besides, how are you even qualified to ask our 'Violent Guardian gang' to split everything in half with you?

Are you by yourself strong enough to contend against Shi Ru and me?

Besides, you dare threaten us that you will leave us out? Who told you that that shop suddenly belongs to you?"

Under Shi Hui's unceasing and furious barrage of questions, Chao Xieren found himself at a loss.

Indeed, he wasn't as strong as the 2 brothers together.

He was slightly stronger than Shi Ru if they were to fight head-on, but Shi Hui was definitely stronger than him!

After taking a deep breath to calm himself down, Chao Xieren said with a deep and serious look in his eyes

"I want half, and I also want the 40 million low-grade spirit stones! This isn't something I am willing to negotiate, otherwise there will be no profits for me!"

Seeing that Shi Hui frowned, and even Shi Ru narrowed his eyes, Chao Xieren smiled evilly as he continued

"In return, my 'Blood Pill pavilion' will scout out that shop, and will probe the strength of the person hidden inside.

No matter whether he is an early-stage, a middle-stage, or a late-stage Nascent Soul cultivator, we will know before we decide to take action!

I will take all of the risks, so it's only fair to split things this way."

As soon as he finished his words, Chao Xieren smiled inwardly as well.

This was precisely the reason that he ordered Zhou Ning, Xue Qiu and the plump woman, to personally confirm the strength of the expert inside Shun Long's shop.

Even if they died, it didn't matter to him.

This was the 'City of Sin', and he was willing to sacrifice as many peak rank 9 Spirit realm cultivators as he needed to.

Besides, by having Zhou Ning and the rest risk their lives, he would also have an extra chip to bargain with Shi Hui and Shi Ru this time.

He had already expected Shi Hui and Shi Ru to have an enormous appetite, and ask for things that he wouldn't be willing to agree to.

After staring at each other for a few moments, Shi Hui shook his head before he answered

"You can take the 40 million low-grade spirit stones, and we can split the rest of the spirit stones in half, but me and Shi Ru will take two-thirds of the pills from that shop!"

Knowing that this was probably Shi Hui's bottom line, the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master, Chao Xieren gritted his teeth before coming to a conclusion.

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At the same time, inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', 3 days quickly passed as Shun Long was sitting cross-legged in his usual place.

This time, he didn't choose to cultivate, but instead, he had used his qi to enhance the flow of time inside his herb garden, hastening the growth of his medicinal herbs.

His single stalk of rank 5 'Soul poisoning hell grass' had now turned into four.

With a serious look in his eyes, Shun Long prepared himself to start refining the 'Soul poisoning hell grass'!

Chapter 290 - 290 Poison master Shun Long

After closing his eyes for a few moments to bring himself back in peak condition, Shun Long waved his hand, as his alchemy cauldron appeared in front of him.

Shun Long sighed slightly the moment that he noticed the cauldron's condition.

Although it was a good rank 2 silver grade cauldron, since Shun Long wasn't a formation master, he was unable to repair the damages in the formations and the core runes inside the cauldron, causing it to slowly deteriorate over time.

Additionally, now that he was planning to refine a rank 5 medicinal herb like the 'Soul poisoning hell grass', doing so with a rank 2 silver grade cauldron that wasn't in its optimal condition was going to be even tougher.

And yet, even though Shun Long knew that he needed a rank 1 gold grade cauldron, he would only get a chance to purchase something like that in the 'Heaven's Dome city' or in another one of the huge cities in the 'Night star continent'.

As for the so-called 'Alchemists' Heaven', the highest grade cauldron that they seemed to be selling, was just a rank 3 silver grade cauldron.

It wasn't even a pinnacle rank 3 cauldron, and yet its price was at 550.000 low-grade spirit stones.

Even Shun Long who was willing to spend spirit stones if something was worth it, wasn't interested in paying more than half a million spirit stones for such a cauldron, that would be useless to him as soon as he found a gold grade one.

However, the issue with his current cauldron still existed.

This was the same cauldron that he had gotten a few months ago from the Pale Moon guild in the Silver sword city. It was very likely that it would slow down the process of his pill refinement from now on every time that Shun Long tried to refine rank 5 medicinal ingredients, until he managed to buy a gold grade one.

After warming up the cauldron with his qi flame for half an incense stick of time, Shun Long then took out 3 stalks of 'Soul poisoning hell grass', 8 different rank 4 medicinal herbs, as well as a few more rank 3 herbs and placed them all in front of him.

The rank 3 and the rank 4 herbs were the supplementary ingredients that he was going to use in the refinement of the 'Soul poisoning hell grass'. However, this time, Shun Long wasn't planning on concocting pills, but poison!

This was the first time that he was going to create poison, and it was an extremely strong one at that.

After all, Shun Long knew, that the effects of the rank 5 'Soul poisoning hell grass' were so potent, that even rank 1 gold grade alchemists had the chance to die if it was not handled correctly.

Additionally, even with his early fourth stage 'Monarch's Eternal body', he didn't have absolute confidence in blocking the poison if something really went wrong.

After taking a deep breath to calm himself down, Shun Long circulated the 'Monarch's Hourglass' and his eyes instantly turned golden.

Looking at the medicinal herbs in front of him, he first placed the rank 4 medicinal herbs that had the ice element inside the cauldron, following with the rank 3 ones, before he turned them all into a pool of medicinal essence.

After adding in the rest of the rank 4 herbs as well, Shun Long closed his eyes for a few moments, before his hands touched a stalk of the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' in front of him.

Gritting his teeth, Shun Long held the stalk of the purple-colored grass with both hands as he tore it in half. Surprisingly, as soon as the grass was torn in half, a white-colored liquid trickled through it, all the way to Shun Long's fingers.

Hiss

Shun Long sucked in a cold breath, as a wave of immense pain suddenly attacked his soul the moment that the white-colored fluid touched his fingers.

It was like a corrosive liquid that was trying to pierce through his mental defenses and destroy his mind.

Without any hesitation, Shun Long placed both of his hands, as well as the stalk of the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' inside the pool of medicinal essence in the alchemy cauldron.

The pain that he was feeling quickly eased up as soon as his hands touched the green-colored liquid inside the cauldron, while a warm feeling appeared in his heart.

However, the moment that the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' touched the liquid inside the cauldron, from the original vibrant green color, the medicinal essence in the cauldron started to turn a dark shade of purple.

"'Monarch's Domain'!"

As soon as he saw the dark purple liquid inside the cauldron, Shun Long didn't dare to touch it with his hand as he activated the 'Monarch's Domain', instantly freezing the flow of time around him.

Taking his hands out of the cauldron, Shun Long then closed the cauldron's lid before he exhaled a sigh of relief.

"Thankfully I was prepared and didn't touch the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' essence after it entered the cauldron, otherwise, I'm not sure if I could survive."

Little Black who was munching on a stalk of 'Dragonblood grass', had a serious look in his eyes as he nodded his head and said affirmingly

"Master, you are right! That poison can probably kill any Nascent Soul stage cultivator who has yet to advance to the rank 9!"

Shun Long nodded his head at Little Black's words, while his attention was still focused on his alchemy cauldron as he mumbled to himself

"Even though there is a high chance for the 'Blood Pill pavilion's' pavilion master to be a gold grade alchemist as well, the chances of him having an antidote for the poison from the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' are practically zero. After all, outside of rank 6 'anti-toxin pills', only the white-colored liquid inside the grass can act as an antidote and expel this poison!"

Although the path of a poison master is dangerous, each of their creations can definitely kill people above their own level. Hehe, after losing all of the spirit stones inside their treasury, I wonder how long it will take for the 'Blood Pill pavilion' to make their move!"

Little Black had a big smile on his face when he saw the excited expression on Shun Long's face.

Although Shun Long would usually choose to avoid trouble, this time he had obviously planned on eradicating the 'Blood Pill pavilion' with this new poison. If it wasn't for the attention that he would attract, Little Black would have already flown over and razed that building to the ground.

Almost 2 hours later, Shun Long opened the lid of the cauldron, where a dark purple liquid that had almost turned completely black by now, was inside it.

Taking out 3 small bottles where he usually stored his pills, Shun Long then poured carefully the blackish purple liquid inside them.

After spending 5 more hours creating another 6 bottles of this poison, Shun Long placed 2 of the pill bottles inside his robes and left the rest inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'.

Shun Long then closed his eyes, and with a smile on his face, he simulated himself leaving the 'Stone of Time', as he appeared back inside the room.

At the same time, the 11 peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts inside the 'Blood Pill pavilion', had serious looks on their faces, as they all stared at the old man, Xue Qiu.