

Y Master 1171

Chapter 1171: Shattering Void

When Qidian's Dong Mansion had just opened, some elders nearby noticed.

Soon, two disciples responsible for distributing Spirit Stones came over and said to Qidian, "Do you need anything?"

Qidian was a bit embarrassed and said, "Well... I've used up my Spirit Stones, could I have some more?"

"Used... used up?!"

When they heard Qidian's words, both let out a cry of surprise, nearly biting their tongues.

What kind of freak is this Qidian?

Those were thousands of kilograms of Spirit Stones!

Even if he broke through to the Mid True Essence Realm, he shouldn't have used up so many Spirit Stones, right?

Let's take a step back: even if he ate Spirit Stones like food, it couldn't be finished in twenty days!!

For a moment, the two disciples looked at Qidian as if he were a monster, and in their hearts, a thousand herds of grassy horses galloped past!!!

"Um... it's not that we don't believe you! May we come in and take a look?"

The two really couldn't believe it. So many Spirit Stones used up in just twenty days.

"Come in!"

Qidian had already put away the Nine Heavens Mystical Crown, so he wasn't worried about them looking inside, as there was nothing in the cave except a pile of discarded stones that had exhausted all Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

"It's unbelievable!"

When the two saw the pile of waste stones in the cave, they couldn't say a word beyond shock.

With their eyesight, they could naturally tell that these dull waste stones were the original Spirit Stones, and the quantity was considerable, but the Primordial Qi in the Spirit Stones had been thoroughly depleted.

“Please wait a moment, we’ll bring you more Spirit Stones immediately!”

Having verified it, Qidian hadn’t wasted a single Spirit Stone, indeed he had used them up. Other than being speechless, the two couldn’t say anything and could only quickly deliver Spirit Stones for Qidian to use for cultivation.

“What? Used up? Does he think Spirit Stones are cabbages? Such a prodigal!”

The elder guarding the Spirit Stones warehouse was gobsmacked when he heard Qidian had consumed all the thousands of kilograms of Spirit Stones sent to him.

“Elder, we also feel this matter is somewhat baffling, but it is indeed true. We personally verified that all the Primordial Qi in the Spirit Stones has been depleted; otherwise, we wouldn’t have come to find you.”

The two felt quite depressed because, logically speaking, thousands of kilograms of Spirit Stones should be enough for a Holy Embryo Realm cultivator to train for a long time, yet Qidian had just barely broken through from Early-stage True Yuan Realm to Mid-stage True Yuan Realm and had consumed them all. Completely defying cultivation common sense!

“Alright then, deliver another thousand kilograms of Spirit Stones to him. I want to see if he can deplete them all again!”

The elder guarding the warehouse was also quite frustrated. The Xuanwu Sect's stock of Spirit Stones was substantial, but it couldn't withstand such consumption.

...

Qidian was unaware that his actions almost made the elder in charge of guarding the warehouse jump up and curse.

Upon receiving another thousand kilograms of Spirit Stones, he entered seclusion again.

Cultivation knows no day or night!

He had consumed less than half of the thousand kilograms of Spirit Stones and nearly refined his cultivation to the extreme of Mid True Essence Realm. To advance further was almost impossible; he needed time for inspiration and consolidation.

Although his realm hadn't improved, Qidian's physical strength had reached an extreme through repeated Body Refinement, and using Mid True Essence Realm's True Yuan for further refining had no effect.

Under such circumstances, Qidian had to stop his self-abusive cultivation.

In the Virtual Space, Qidian had stored Thunder Liquid. Once True Yuan Body Refinement lost its effect, Qidian started to consider these Thunder Liquids.

In the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm, although he understood a lot about Thunder Power's Secret Technique, he was far from comprehending it fully!

Qidian decided to take this opportunity to see if he could continue understanding it. The Thunderclap Treasure Technique was fascinating even to the Great Emperor, naturally extraordinary. If he could fully comprehend it, his combat power would see an unimaginable increase.

"Boy, don't waste your effort here; you can't comprehend the Thunderclap Treasure Technique here. This isn't the Thunder Primordial Secret Realm. Although Thunder Liquid is precious, without the Thunder Power between Heaven and Earth, you're wasting your effort."

Just as Qidian decided to use Thunder Liquid to perceive the Thunderclap Treasure Technique, Elder Xuan manifested and said to him, "Instead of this, why not train in the fifth form of the Flying Sword Skill 'Shattering Void'."

Flying Sword Skill?!

Qidian thought it over and realized Elder Xuan's words were not without reason. Although the Thunderclap Treasure Technique is sharp and aggressive, with unmatched attack power, it's also the hardest to comprehend, and perhaps Thunder Liquid alone is really not enough.

Rather than wasting effort, it's better to use time to perceive and train the Flying Sword Skill, and also improve his Magic Cultivation.

Lately, he had only focused on Martial Arts cultivation and neglected Magic cultivation.

This was not right.

After all, Magic is also a very powerful means of attack.

Especially now when no one knows about his Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts. If he could cultivate Magic to the same Mid True Essence Realm as Martial Arts, it would be a highly lethal trump card.

In critical moments, Magic Cultivation might be able to turn the tide of battle, or at the very least, add a survival skill.

Once he thought about it, Qidian immediately sat cross-legged and focused on comprehending the fifth form of the Flying Sword Skill 'Shattering Void'.

Originally, there was no specific secret technique for the fifth style of the Flying Sword Skill in his mind, but as he began to cultivate, the secret technique of the fifth style, "Shattering Void," flowed from his heart like a clear spring.

The fifth style of the Flying Sword Skill is called “Shattering Void,” which implies the sword shattering the void. It brings speed to the extreme, with one sword flying out and shattering the void.

The True Yuan is retracted, with no light or glitter, appearing like an ordinary sword. However, its speed is so fast that it can cross the barriers of space, mysterious and unpredictable, with astonishing power.

Ye Fan continuously comprehends the true meaning of “Shattering Void.” With a flick of his wrist, a Xuanye Flying Blade flew out, with purple light flowing on the blade, looking different than before.

“What’s going on?”

“The original Xuanye Flying Blade, although of decent material and quality, never emitted purple light like this. What happened to the Xuanye Flying Blade?”

Ye Fan was very curious. With a thought, the flying knife turned back and stopped in front of him, as if something was holding it, completely still.

Ye Fan carefully observed it and found that the blade was actually covered with Thunder Patterns. From the blade, one could faintly feel a trace of Thunder Power flowing.

At this point, Ye Fan suddenly realized that the Xuanye Flying Blade had been brought into the Thunder Liquid during his body refining and had absorbed the Thunder Power.

But the strange thing is, the quality of the Xuanye Flying Blade isn't that great, right? On Earth, it might be quite good, but in the Xuan Realm, such a quality magic artifact could only be considered the worst, not even classified as a Spiritual Artifact.

But this worst magic artifact was not destroyed by the Thunder Power. Instead, it fused with the Thunder Power, and its quality undoubtedly had a significant improvement.

Of course, calling this flying blade a Spiritual Artifact is a bit of an exaggeration, but at least it can be said to fall within the range of a Spiritual Artifact, which made Ye Fan pleasantly surprised.

What Ye Fan didn't know is that even in the Xuan Realm, Thunder Liquid is an extremely precious treasure. Xuanye Flying Blade had been immersed in the Thunder Liquid with him for a long time, so the change in quality is not surprising.

After all, even Thunderfire Grass, such a Supreme Yang Treasure Medicine, can be nurtured beside the Thunder Pool!

Whoosh—

Ye Fan activated the Xuanye Flying Blade with the fifth style of the Flying Sword Skill and found it was moving as smoothly as his arm, without the slightest hindrance, as if he had practiced it many times. What is going on?

Ye Fan, who couldn't understand it despite pondering, decided to introspect and look at his Magic Seed.

Over the past year, he had hardly paid attention to the growth of his magic power except for using the Flying Sword Skill.

Focusing inward, Ye Fan astonishingly discovered that the Magic Seed in his Yintang point on his forehead had changed from the original diamond shape to a pentagon, flashing with five colors of light and changing colors from time to time, like a neon light.

Estimating roughly, unknowingly, his magic power had grown to the Mid True Essence Realm, on par with his Martial Arts Cultivation.

But I've never cultivated magic power! What's going on here?

Just as Ye Fan was bewildered, Elder Xuan's voice came: "Are you surprised? You haven't intentionally cultivated magic power, so why has it grown so fast?"

Ye Fan nodded honestly, looking at Elder Xuan in confusion, waiting for his explanation.

"The reason is simple. Although you have not intentionally cultivated magic power, magic power, which is spiritual power, is linked to martial arts will. They are both components of the Divine Soul. During your body refining, you endured tremendous pain, and while using martial arts will to endure this, your spiritual power also grew rapidly, strengthening your Divine Soul without you realizing it."

"That's why your magic power has unconsciously grown to this extent."

Elder Xuan explained to Ye Fan with a smile: “Actually, all the energies in the world are interconnected. Just like the Nine Heavens Xuan Emperor, he wasn’t practising both magic and martial arts, but after becoming an emperor, he could use magic power to attack because his Divine Soul was already unimaginably strong.”

Speaking of which, Elder Xuan proudly said, “Cultivating the Nine Heavens Profound Body is not just about refining the physical body, it’s also about honing martial arts will and the Divine Soul. Otherwise, how could the Nine Heavens Profound Skill be worthy of being called the cultivation technique of the Great Emperor?!”

“So that’s how it is...”

Ye Fan suddenly realized and marveled at the strength of the Nine Heavens Profound Skill.

After the amazement, Ye Fan did not get so excited that he forgot himself, but continued to cultivate the fifth style of the Flying Sword Skill—Shattering Void!

With a thought, the flying knife pierced the void instantly, moving as fast as lightning!

Ye Fan could not help but sigh. This “Shattering Void” style of the Flying Sword Skill is simply made for assassination, its power is incredible.

...

A month passed quickly. Ye Fan had completely comprehended the true meaning of “Shattering Void,” able to control it with ease, moving smoothly.

On this day, Ye Fan received notice from his master, Wu Xinhai, to prepare to go to Tianyuan City to participate in the Genius Competition.

Ye Fan did not dare to be negligent and immediately closed the door and walked out of the cave.

Shortly after he went out, Wu Xinhai flew over from the direction of the Xuanwu Summit. Seeing Ye Fan, who had already broken through to the Mid True Essence Realm and whose strength had increased again, he was overjoyed.

“Master, when do we leave? What do I need to prepare?”

Ye Fan was a little impatient to go to Tianyuan City to test his closed-door cultivation effects through the Genius Competition and see how much his strength had increased.

“Don’t rush!”

Seemingly sensing Ye Fan’s eagerness, Wu Xinhai chuckled bitterly and said, “First, go to Xuanqing Summit, where Supreme Elder Wang Qingshan is in seclusion. After he came out of seclusion, he specially came here to ask me to tell you to find him after coming out, probably to give you a reward!”

Chapter 1172: Rewards and Expectations

“Kid, don’t be silly and refuse! He is like an iron rooster, never giving away even a feather. It’s rare to have such an opportunity. No matter what he gives you, accept it. It won’t be bad.”

After Wu Xinhai finished speaking, he added with concern.

He knew Ye Fan was polite and didn’t easily accept things from others. But this time was different. Whatever Elder Wang Qingshan was offering as a gift couldn’t be shabby. If Ye Fan turned it down and Elder Wang took it back, it would be hard to get it from him again.

“Don’t worry, Master, I know what to do.”

Ye Fan chuckled silently, not expecting his master to urge him to ask for Elder Wang Qingshan’s treasures.

Actually, there was no need for him to say it. Ye Fan wasn’t a stubborn fool; if there was a spiritual artifact he could use, he wouldn’t foolishly refuse it.

“That’s good. Go on then. I’ll wait for you here; I won’t follow to avoid Elder Wang speaking ill of me.”

Though Wu Xinhai was a recluse, he wasn’t daft. He knew if he was present, Wang Qingshan might not offer anything good due to his stingy nature. But if he wasn’t there, Wang Qingshan might feel embarrassed to deceive Ye Fan.

...

Xuanqing Summit is one of the five main peaks of the Xuanwu Sect, a significant place. Besides the elders and the supreme elders, no disciple is qualified to own a main peak as a place for secluded cultivation.

Spirit Turtle Island is centrally located in the entire Xuanwu Sect, making it convenient to reach any main peak. Ye Fan saved a lot of time by flying directly.

Moments later, Ye Fan arrived at Xuanqing Summit and headed towards the place where Elder Wang Qingshan was in seclusion.

Unlike other places where seclusion happens in caves, the five main peaks have buildings on top. These buildings are simple, almost blending with nature.

Elder Wang Qingshan was in seclusion in a stone hut, made entirely of stone, without any wooden items. Even the tables and benches in the courtyard were made of stone.

When Ye Fan reached the courtyard, there were already two people there.

Ye Fan knew both of them. One was the master of Xuanqing Summit, Wang Qingshan, and the other was Sect Leader Tong Tianhao.

When Ye Fan appeared in the courtyard, the two were engrossed in a game of chess at a stone table.

Seeing the chessboard between them, Ye Fan was stunned to find it was Go, the oldest board game from Huaxia on Earth.

“What kind of connection does the Xuan Realm have with Earth?”

“Could it be that Earth people came to this world in ancient times? Otherwise, how did Go spread here?”

Although internally astonished, Ye Fan hid it well without showing any flaws. Instead, he stood by and observed the game closely.

Regarding Go, Ye Fan wasn't at the level of a grandmaster but had some exposure. It wasn't easy for regular players to defeat him.

He owed this to Chu Xuanji!

In his younger years, Chu Xuanji's broad interests were astonishingly vast. There was almost nothing he hadn't explored.

When Ye Fan was very young, Chu Xuanji studied Go and even had Ye Fan as his practice partner.

During his learning phase, Ye Fan lost more than he won. After mastering it, Chu Xuanji never won again, getting so angry he spat his beard, slammed pieces, and swore never to play with Ye Fan again, as it hurt his self-esteem too much.

All of this was because Go highly values innate talent and perception. There's a saying in the Go world: "If you haven't become a national player by twenty, you're forever hopeless."

After watching for a while, Ye Fan noticed Elder Wang Qingshan was not in a favorable position. Despite setting up a long snake formation, he was almost immobilized by Tong Tianhao's black pieces. Without remedy, it was only a matter of time before his big dragon was cut off, and not even an immortal could help then.

Not having played Go for a long time, Ye Fan felt an itch and couldn't help pointing out a position for Wang Qingshan.

With a move placed, it seemed a glimmer of hope appeared. Following this line of thought, the long snake formation could be revitalized.

At that point, it might even be possible to counterattack the opponent's big dragon.

"Wonderful, wonderful, simply wonderful!"

Wang Qingshan was also a Go expert and immediately saw the key in Ye Fan's pointed move, giving a round of praise.

Now it was Tong Tianhao's turn to frown. He scratched his head for a long time before cautiously placing a piece. Wang Qingshan quickly followed Ye Fan's idea, pressing forward move by move.

After more than a dozen moves, Wang Qingshan's long snake formation finally took effect, trapping Tong Tianhao's big dragon completely.

With this capturing move, Tong Tianhao had almost no chance to turn the tables, leaving him no choice but to admit defeat by resigning.

"Kid, are you deliberately messing with me? Don't you know that a real gentleman never comments on a game?"

Tong Tianhao was exceptionally unhappy about losing. If Ye Fan hadn't come, Wang Qingshan definitely wouldn't have been his match. He was about to win, but Ye Fan's intervention led to a heavy loss, making him extremely reluctant.

"That's not entirely true. While a real gentleman never comments on a game, there's also a saying that not rescuing someone in danger is unsportsmanlike! Ye Fan did right, and I admire that."

Wang Qingshan was in an exceptionally good mood. His Go skill was almost on par with Tong Tianhao's, but slightly weaker. He usually lost more than he won against Tong Tianhao, and a win would make him happy for days.

This time, he was about to lose, but unexpectedly, under Ye Fan's guidance, he turned the tables and won, making him especially delighted.

Therefore, hearing Tong Tianhao blame Ye Fan, he immediately spoke up in defense, always standing up for Ye Fan.

"Hmph!"

Tong Tianhao snorted softly, tidied up the chess game, and said, "Speak your mind; we'll play another game later. I don't believe you can beat me again."

Wang Qingshan felt particularly invigorated, stood up and stretched a bit, and said to Ye Fan, "Xiao Fan, you saved my life and are the disciple with the most potential in our sect. Before you go to the competition, I want to give you a few small gifts."

While speaking, Wang Qingshan took out a spiritual medicine with a four hundred-year herb age and a pair of fist gloves from his sleeve, and handed them to Ye Fan solemnly.

The spiritual medicine emitted a faint medicinal fragrance, indicating it was extraordinary, as a spiritual medicine becomes a treasure medicine after five hundred years. This one was only a step away from being a treasure medicine.

Especially these fist gloves, which surprisingly carried the power of thunder, extremely rare, and highly compatible with Ye Fan's Domineering Fist.

"Xiao Fan, quickly thank Elder Wang. This spiritual medicine is part of his collection, extremely rare, already having the nature of a treasure medicine, containing vast plant essence."

Tong Tianhao explained to Ye Fan on the side, "These gloves are called Thunder Fist set, a top-grade spiritual artifact of the Holy Embryo Realm. They can fully unleash your combat power, perfect for someone like you who has grasped the power of thunder."

"Elder Wang went to Tianyuan City's auction specially just to get this top-grade spiritual artifact, spending a lot of resources to acquire it."

"Thank you, Elder Wang, for your generous gift!"

Ye Fan was deeply moved and quickly expressed his gratitude.

He was well aware of how useful the Thunder Fist set would be for him!

His cultivated Domineering Fist, once fused with thunder power, greatly increased in strength, but lacked a suitable spiritual artifact; the original Black Iron Fist set was already rendered useless, the Thunder Fist set was a timely rescue.

“Ye Fan, Elder Shen will lead you five to Tianyuan City for the competition. Go prepare, gather outside the mountain gate tomorrow.”

Sect Leader Tong Tianhao gestured for Ye Fan to leave as he prepared to play another round with Wang Qingshan, determined to reclaim his loss.

Hm?

Ye Fan was puzzled; Elder Wang Qingshan was the most suitable candidate to lead the team, why was Elder Shen Ximen taking charge?

Soon after, Ye Fan understood, Elder Wang was definitely preparing for a full-scale breakthrough into the Divine Power Realm, hence Elder Shen taking the lead.

“Elder Wang, Sect Leader, I’ll head back now!” Ye Fan slightly bowed and retreated.

“Wait, don’t leave yet.”

Just as Ye Fan was about to fly up into the air, Elder Wang suddenly called out.

“Elder Wang, do you have further instructions?”

“Join Sect Leader for a game, I want to see your chess skills!”

Wang Qingshan knew his chess skills were slightly inferior to Tong Tianhao’s, possibly unable to win, so he wanted Ye Fan’s help, not giving Tong a chance to turn the tables.

“This...”

Ye Fan felt troubled; playing chess with the Sect Leader, needing to win, he wasn’t an Elder like Wang Qingshan. Though supported by Wang now, what about later?

“Don’t listen to him, Xiao Fan, you can leave, no need to stay here. Seeing you makes me angry!”

Sect Leader Tong Tianhao dared not play chess with Ye Fan, winning would be unfair and bullying, losing would be disgraceful.

“Uh...”

Ye Fan chuckled wryly, stuck in the middle was truly awkward!

Wang Qingshan seeing Ye Fan's plight, reluctantly waved him to leave.

After Ye Fan left, Tong Tianhao turned to Wang Qingshan, saying, "Elder Wang, how do you view this boy?"

"His temperament, talent, potential, comprehension are impeccable, truly a rare genius. I faintly sense his strength has dramatically improved; hope he shines at the Genius Tournament and brings glory to Xuanwu Sect!"

Wang Qingshan, a strong expert at the Half-step God realm, had discerning insight; the changes in Ye Fan didn't escape him.

"I also hope he will shine brightly at the Genius Tournament!"

Tong Tianhao gazed toward Ye Fan's retreating direction, his eyes full of anticipation!

Chapter 1173: The Two Academies, Emperor Road

In the early hours of the next morning, before dawn had fully broken, Ye Fan was awakened by Tong Qianchen.

"Brother Ye, I made you a set of clothes. Quickly try them on to see if they fit. If they don't, I can alter them for you on the spot."

Just as Ye Fan stepped out of the Dong Mansion, Tong Qianchen thrust a set of clothes into his hands, urging him to try them on.

This was truly a gift in need; Ye Fan did have a few sets of clothes, but over these days, they had been mostly consumed.

Because of this, he had specifically thought about when to buy some clothes to have ready in Virtual Space.

To him now, clothes are basically disposable items.

In the event of a battle or during Body Refinement, clothes are often the first to suffer, either torn or blasted apart, making them unwearable.

No amount of clothing is enough when consumed like this, but he can't predict when such battles and refinements will occur, so he can only prepare extra clothes for emergencies.

Back in the cave, Ye Fan took off his old worn robe and put on the clothes Tong Qianchen had given him.

The clothes seemed tailored just for him: a moon-white inner lining, a deep blue robe, with long black hair tied at the back with a strap, appearing especially graceful.

Hmm?!

As he walked out of the cave, Tong Qianchen was almost dumbfounded, her beautiful eyes scanning Ye Fan from head to toe.

“Brother Ye looks so handsome, just like the Immortals in legends.” Tong Qianchen praised.

“Immortals...”

Since arriving in Xuan Realm, Ye Fan’s appearance had become increasingly handsome with each fragmentary rebirth, but being compared to an Immortal by Tong Qianchen left him speechless.

“Of course, I’ve never seen Immortals. Not only me, I bet no one has,”

Tong Qianchen pouted and said, “But according to legend, there really are Immortals in this world. Even the Great Emperor is pursuing their footsteps, hoping to become an Immortal and live eternally between heaven and earth.”

Tong Qianchen didn’t know she inadvertently revealed a major secret: that even the Great Emperor is pursuing Immortals, indicating they are stronger, yet more elusive.

The Great Emperor is, after all, human, even if he can endlessly prolong his life after Proving Dao and becoming an Emperor, he cannot escape death, only Immortals can.

“Has even the Great Emperor never seen an Immortal?” Ye Fan asked excitedly, curious.

“We’ll talk on the road, if we don’t leave now we’ll be late; Elder Shen is probably already waiting for us at the mountain gate.”

Tong Qianchen grabbed Ye Fan’s hand and flew directly from Spirit Turtle Island, heading towards the mountain gate.

By the time they arrived outside the mountain gate, Zhang Taiyi, Shen Tu, and Jin Zhanfei were already there, seeing the two arrive hand in hand, they flashed mischievous smiles.

Tong Qianchen’s pretty face flushed red, quickly letting go of Ye Fan’s hand, deliberately keeping a little distance from him to avoid being misunderstood.

“Ye Fan, this outfit looks nice! Fits well, where did you buy it?”

Although Jin Zhanfei was bold and straightforward, he was also quite cunning—his behavior could be described as particularly sly in Earth terms.

He immediately noticed the new outfit on Ye Fan, fully aware it was given by Tong Qianchen, yet pretended not to know and asked deliberately.

“__”

Ye Fan suddenly had a headache.

“Alright, everyone’s here, let’s set off!”

Just as Ye Fan was unsure how to respond, Elder Shen Ximen spoke up to save him.

Whoosh!

With a wave of his hand, Elder Shen Ximen launched a cyan Cloud Boat from his hand, expanding with the wind and stopping steadily in the air, more than enough space for ten people.

Whoosh!

The six boarded the Cloud Boat, operated by Elder Shen Ximen, it sped away, swiftly like a meteor streaking across the sky.

“Elder Shen, it’s our first time participating in the Tianyuan City’s talent competition, is there anything we should be aware of? You are a senior, surely you know some details, share them with me!”

On the Cloud Boat, Jin Zhanfei could not resist the silence and nudged Elder Shen Ximen for details and taboos about the competition.

He wasn't seeking preparedness out of necessity; he simply wanted to hear stories. Otherwise, with such a long journey ahead, who knows how far it is to Tianyuan City? Wouldn't it be unbearably dull?

Zhang Taiyi was known for being sparing with words, always valuing silence as golden, hard to get a word out of him.

Though Shen Tu and he had reconciled, their temperaments clashed; a conversation would surely lead to conflict, so talking to Ye Fan was preferable.

However, seeing Tong Qianchen constantly close to Ye Fan, even with his rough and casual manner, he knew disturbing Ye Fan now was not wise.

Even if Ye Fan wasn't annoyed, he had to consider Tong Qianchen's feelings; if he angered this little Princess, he would have a hard time later.

After considering, only Elder Shen Ximen's status was transcendent, unaffected by others, moreover Shen Ximen's temperament suited him. He almost apprenticed under Elder Shen Ximen once.

Although he didn't become his disciple due to various reasons, their relationship was still good, Shen Ximen frequently guided his Cultivation.

It's precisely because of this that he dared to be so presumptuous in front of Elder Shen Ximen.

Besides, what he asked was reasonable, and getting to know the situation of the tournament is never a bad thing.

Ye Fan actually wanted to ask too, but before he could open his mouth, Jin Zhanfei beat him to it, so he simply listened intently to Elder Shen's introduction.

Not only him, but even Zhang Taiyi, Shen Tu, and Tong Qianchen also straightened up, all wanting to know about the situation of this tournament to avoid making a fool of themselves due to a lack of knowledge, which would not only embarrass themselves but also the entire Xuanwu Sect, something they couldn't afford.

"So eager to learn? Alright, let me tell you about it!"

After Elder Shen Ximen set the Cloud Boat's course, he didn't have to operate it anymore. As long as the Spirit Stone in the energy slot didn't run out of Primordial Qi, the speed of the Cloud Boat wouldn't decrease.

"Speaking of this genius tournament, it's been around for a long time. Even Great Emperors of the past have emerged from such tournaments..."

Shen Ximen comfortably stretched, placing his legs up at the front of the Cloud Boat, and narrated the origin and some key points of the tournament to Ye Fan and the others in detail.

According to Shen Ximen, the entire Tianxuan Continent is divided into five super domains: Eastern Domain, Southern Domain, Western Domain, Northern Domain, and Central Domain, each extremely vast with numerous nations and sects.

Each super domain is further divided into several states, like Tianyuan State where the Xuanwu Sect is located.

Each state also contains several sects or ancient clans.

The genius tournament is divided into three stages: state, domain, and Tianxuan Continent.

The top ten from each state can participate in the domain-level genius tournament, and the top ten from each domain have the opportunity to be selected by Holy Lands, Wu Shang Sects, Di Clans, or even the two academies!

The two academies refer to the Immortal Academy and the Imperial Academy, which are superpowers of Tianxuan Continent, possessing countless cultivation techniques, spiritual artifacts, and Dong Mansions, with numerous experts and a foundation and strength comparable to, if not exceeding, the Di Clans. It is the dream place for all 'poor' geniuses seeking admission!

“Young man, if you wish to stir up the storm on Tianxuan Continent, entering the two academies for cultivation is the best choice! Once there, you will not only receive abundant resources and training!

Being heavily cultivated by the two academies could even lead you to walk the Emperor Road, carving out a bloody path among thousands, eventually proving your Dao and becoming an Emperor.

Of course, you might also perish in the great waves, utterly eliminated, which all depends on personal fortune.

In every generation, peerless geniuses appear from the Holy Lands, Di Clans, and Wu Shang Sects, all aiming to walk the Emperor Road, inevitably culminating in a battle.

It can be said that the Emperor Road is paved with blood and bones, a path where one's success is built upon countless sacrifices, where one becoming an Emperor turns an entire era's people into stepping stones, whether they belong to the Human Race or the Demon Clan. Furthermore, you might encounter geniuses from major Di Clans and Holy Lands like the Ling Family..."

When Shen Ximen mentioned the two academies, Elder Xuan spoke up to remind.

Ye Fan did not communicate with Elder Xuan but silently noted it down and continued to listen.

Besides the top-tier peerless geniuses potentially being chosen by the two academies, some sect geniuses will also catch the attention of other superpowers.

Once noticed by these superpowers, it results in immense benefits for the participants and their sect—this sect then becomes an affiliate of a Wu Shang Sect, emboldened by the backing of Holy Lands or Wu Shang Sects and Di Clans, allowing them to walk with pride!

Who would dare challenge an affiliated sect of a Holy Land or Di Clan?

Though giving up a genius would pain the sect, the returns are astonishingly huge.

For instance, if Ye Fan performs outstandingly, dominating his competitors and claiming first place, he might catch the eye of a Holy Land.

Joining a Holy Land is absolutely a swift leap to greatness for a cultivator, as Holy Lands are mighty forces on par with Di Clans, undoubtedly possessing exceptional foundations.

Of course, these are potential benefits; the clear advantage is that in this genius tournament, entering the top ten not only grants generous rewards but also offers a chance to experience the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

The Tianyuan Secret Realm is a very special place in Tianyuan State, containing various spiritual medicines, secret treasures, and even martial arts and cultivation techniques not of this world.

With good luck, one might not only harvest many spiritual medicines from the Secret Realm but possibly acquire a secret treasure or two.

In the luckiest of cases, one might even comprehend martial arts not present in this world, which is the true allure.

With such rich rewards and the potential to catch the attention of a Holy Land or Di Clan, it's certain that a large number of people will participate.

However, this competition has many restrictions, primarily on age—absolutely not exceeding twenty-five years old, or participation is forbidden.

Additionally, cultivation must be above the True Essence Realm, also a precaution for the safety of the participants.

If anyone could just join, the City Lord hosting the tournament wouldn't be able to manage it, as even with a large staff, they'd be overwhelmed by the many sects and ancestor clans in a state, busy to the point of exhaustion.

“With a demon like Ye Fan, claiming first might be tough, but aiming for the top ten is possible. Yes, I must enter the legendary Tianyuan Secret Realm then, to see if I can seize a great fortune!”

After listening to Shen Ximen's narrative, Jin Zhanfei began to aspire.

Zhang Taiyi and Shen Tu didn't speak, but their actions showed enthusiasm.

“To join the two academies or be noticed by a Holy Land, one must perform exceptionally well in a domain's tournament! Let's not think too far ahead, the urgent task is to first secure the Tianyuan City's tournament, then enter the Tianyuan Secret Realm to see if the spiritual medicine needed to treat Liu Li can be found in this Secret Realm!”

Meanwhile, Ye Fan contemplated inwardly.

Chapter 1174: Tianyuan City

The speed of the cloud boat was extremely fast. In just half a day, it had flown tens of thousands of miles. By noon, Ye Fan had already seen the winding city walls that stretched for thousands of miles and the gigantic city gate from the cloud boat.

This was his first time visiting a densely populated city on the Tianxuan Continent, and he was directly awed by the grandeur of Tianyuan City!

Before seeing this legendary ancient city, Ye Fan had imagined what Tianyuan City would look like, but it was only upon seeing it with his own eyes that he realized how pale his imagination was.

The city walls, winding for thousands of miles, were about six zhang high, covered with mottled marks from knife cuts and axe hews, telling the story of the battles this ancient city had once endured.

To still stand tall after thousands of years, full of vitality, was nothing short of a miracle. On Earth, almost no ancient city could be preserved for such a long time; nearly all were destroyed in wars.

When they were about ten li away from the ancient city, Shen Ximen put away the cloud boat, and the six of them slowly descended, walking along the wide road towards Tianyuan City.

The closer Ye Fan got to Tianyuan City, the more he could feel a thick sense of historical desolation washing over him.

The mottled walls silently spoke of past sufferings and glories. The road was bustling with people coming in and out, many of whom were cultivators, but not a single person was flying flamboyantly over the city walls into the city.

At the city gate, Shen Ximen revealed his identity to the two guards, who instantly showed respectful expressions and allowed Ye Fan and the others to enter the city.

Passing through the cool city gate, Ye Fan and his companions quickly arrived on a bustling street, with a road paved with blue flagstones that had been worn smooth by the footsteps of many people.

On both sides, taverns and shops stood in great numbers, with cries of buying and selling incessantly echoing, making Ye Fan feel as if he had traveled back to a marketplace on Earth.

“Authentic deer meat soup dumplings! Men eat to enhance vitality, women eat for beauty, cultivators eat to replenish qi and blood!”

“Roasted peanuts and sunflower seeds, freshly roasted and sold...”

Hearing the familiar calls around him, Ye Fan couldn't help but feel a bit emotional. Ordinary people in the Xuan Realm were almost no different from those on Earth, all busy striving for a day's meals.

The life of a cultivator was monotonous and lonely, only those with steadfast martial arts will could reach the end, not getting lost in the bustling world.

After walking for a while, unknowingly, the pedestrians around him dwindled, leaving almost no ordinary people, only cultivators.

At this time, Ye Fan noticed that the peddling sounds around him had also changed. Jin Zhanfei and Tong Qianchen and others were enthusiastically walking to stalls on both sides, curious about what they wanted to buy.

“Red Lingzhi, Supreme Yang Spirit Medicine, already a thousand years in age, don’t pass by without stopping...”

“Dragon Whisker Grass, Heavenly God Fruit, selling at rock-bottom prices, miss this village, and you won’t find this shop, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, first come, first served...”

“Blood Transformation Saber, Top-grade Spiritual Artifact, kills without a trace of blood, truly an artifact for murder and arson, a must-have for home travel, take it for just half a jin of Crimson Blood Dragon Gold.”

“Chasing Cloud Boots, speed increase by thirty percent, absolutely the best treasure for chasing enemies and fleeing for life, can be yours for just one liang of Divine Blood Soil.”

“Ancient Treasure Map, selling only for a hundred jin of top-grade spirit stones, absolutely a losing bargain, passed down from my ancestors, break one and I’ll compensate ten times.”

Ye Fan was dumbfounded, where had he arrived?

How could these rare spiritual medicines and artifacts be hawked on roadside stalls?

Since when did spiritual artifacts become so worthless?

Upon closer inspection, Ye Fan found that he had unknowingly followed Shen Ximen onto a relatively secluded street, with sparse stalls on both sides displaying some rare spiritual medicines and artifacts.

However, these people were also demanding high prices, except for the old man selling the Ancient Treasure Map, others were bartering. Ye Fan had no spiritual medicines or artifacts to exchange, so he could only look and broaden his horizons.

Tong Qianchen and Jin Zhanfei, though occasionally running to the stalls to look, were not willing to trade anything.

They did have some spiritual medicines or artifacts, but they were mostly useful. Even if something wasn't useful, they wouldn't dare exchange it easily—what if they were tricked? They'd have no place to cry even if they wanted to.

“Elder Shen, don't they fear being robbed for openly laying out spiritual medicines and artifacts like this? If a robber were to ransack this place, they'd make a fortune!”

Ye Fan was very puzzled. Isn't the Xuan Realm a world where the strong prey on the weak? Without certain strength, carrying too many valuable items on oneself would easily draw unwanted attention.

"Pfft!"

Shen Ximen couldn't help but laugh and said, "Rest assured, nothing like murder and treasure snatching will happen here. The City Lord of Tianyuan City is extremely powerful, rumored to be a Divine Power Realm strong person, and comes from a major power."

"He has set a rule that fighting and brawling is strictly prohibited within Tianyuan City, violators shall be executed without mercy. There are many soldiers constantly patrolling the city, no one dares to cause trouble under his watch."

"Besides, do you really think those so-called spiritual medicines and artifacts they're selling are genuine? Don't be foolish, those are all fake. If they were real, they'd have been taken to the auction house already, why sell them here? Is their stomach too full?"

Ye Fan couldn't help but laugh, not expecting that these laborious peddlers were actually peddling fake goods, wondering if they learned from the master forgers of Pan Garden.

It seems, wherever there's profit, there will be forgeries, whether on Earth or in the Xuan Realm, it's no exception.

Although he wouldn't make any exchanges, looking wasn't a problem. Ye Fan gained a lot of knowledge along the way, encountering many precious heavenly materials and earthly treasures he hadn't even heard of before, whether real or fake, at least he saw them this time.

Soon, the six of them walked through this not-so-long street and turned into a bustling main street, lined with some relatively high-end restaurants.

Just past noon, it was meal time, and almost every restaurant was packed, with sounds of dice games and toasts ringing out incessantly.

The tantalizing aroma of food wafting from the tavern instantly whetted everyone's appetite. Although cultivators can go long without eating, when faced with such deliciousness, even they couldn't resist the urge to feast.

"Let's go; today I'm treating! Let's choose a place and have a good meal!"

Shen Ximen led everyone directly through the crowd to a grand tavern situated at the northeast corner of a wide crossroads.

"This tavern is considered the best in all of Tianyuan City. Most diners here are either rich or noble. Today, we can also play the role of country bumpkins in the city, and eat to our heart's content!"

As Shen Ximen introduced the tavern, he walked in first, with Ye Fan and the five others naturally following suit into this luxuriously decorated tavern.

“Welcome, esteemed guests, please come in. What would you like to eat?”

A waiter saw customers entering and quickly shuffled over, guiding Ye Fan and the five others to an empty table inside.

“Bring us your specialties without reservation.”

Shen Ximen was extraordinarily generous this time, as he was using public funds, knowing well that he could get reimbursement from Sect Leader Tong Tianhao once he returned. He wasn’t bothered about the expenses.

“Here’s our menu; please take a look!”

The waiter swiftly placed a menu in the center of the table so all six diners could see it, ensuring nothing was missed.

“Hss...”

Upon seeing the dishes on the menu, Ye Fan couldn’t help but gasp. The ingredients for these dishes were meat from various Xuan Beasts and some spiritual medicine, definitely top-quality items. The highlight dish was meat from a Divine Power Realm Xuan Beast—the owner of this tavern sure had a grand flair.

“Feel free to order what you like!” Shen Ximen gestured robustly, indicating that everyone could freely order whatever they wanted.

Zhang Taiyi and Shen Tu each ordered a dish that wasn't too expensive, Jin Zhanfei hesitated for a moment but eventually ordered a good dish as well. The menu was passed to Ye Fan, who casually picked a dish and then handed the menu to Tong Qianchen.

“None of you are ordering this dish? I'll take it! Give me a serving of roasted Divine Power Realm Xuan Beast meat!”

Seeing that no one else ordered this dish, Tong Qianchen took the initiative to choose what was easily the most expensive and best dish of the tavern.

“Are you sure about ordering this dish?”

The waiter was startled; not many dared to order this dish, certainly people of some standing.

“Yes! Is there a problem?” Shen Ximen asked the waiter with a smiling face.

“No problem, esteemed guests, please wait a moment!”

The waiter grabbed the menu and dashed off to find the tavern owner, realizing such important guests were beyond what he could handle, and needed to inform the proprietor.

Moments later, the waiter returned with a plump, ruddy-faced middle-aged man to Ye Fan's table.

"Esteemed guests, since you've ordered that dish, it wouldn't be right for you to eat here, as it would seem disrespectful to you. Please follow me!"

This ruddy-faced middle-aged man was indeed the tavern owner. Upon hearing the waiter's report, he was quite surprised, and promptly came to personally escort them to the tavern's finest Heavenly Grade room.

The best room was naturally unlike the previous hall; not only was the environment beautiful, it was also extremely quiet with no disturbances. Even discussing confidential matters inside would not risk being overheard.

"Waiter, serve the tea, esteemed guests please relax, I'll instruct the kitchen to prepare your meal immediately."

The tavern owner gave a bow and gently closed the door as he left.

Ye Fan and the six others sat around a large round table, chatting leisurely while waiting for their meal.

At this moment, the waiter suddenly came over, not bearing a teapot, but instead looking quite awkward as he spoke, "Esteemed guests, could you change to another room?"

"Why? Your boss invited us here; why ask us to change rooms? We're not moving; this room is just fine!"

Tong Qianchen was very angry, having just sat down without even warming the seat, being asked to change rooms? How unreasonable is that?

Just as Tong Qianchen finished speaking, an exceptionally arrogant voice sounded from outside the door, "I'm really curious, who in Tianyuan City dares to compete with us, the Tianyuan Sect, for a room?"

Tianyuan Sect?

Ye Fan and the six others exchanged glances; truly, enemies had crossed paths!

Chapter 1175: Tit for Tat

"Uh..."

The waiter stood in the room, looking at the six people who even regarded Tianyuan Sect with disdain, instantly breaking out in a cold sweat, thinking to himself that this time there better not be a fight, otherwise he'd be caught in the crossfire.

Zhang Taiyi sat expressionlessly on the chair, showing no intention of getting up, as if the matter had nothing to do with him.

Shen Tu rolled his Bai eyes, a faint killing intent gradually emanating from him, as if the temperature in the whole room was slowly dropping.

Jin Zhanfei had a carefree and indifferent demeanor, drawing a small turtle shape on the table with his finger.

Tong Qianchen was filled with anger, as if ready to fight anyone from Tianyuan Sect who dared to enter.

Ye Fan's expression was calm, pondering something unknown in his heart.

Shen Ximen's face didn't look good either; he hadn't expected to encounter people from Tianyuan Sect right after arriving in Tianyuan City, truly a case of narrow roads for enemies.

He was sitting directly opposite the door, so as soon as someone entered, he would see them first.

The disciple from outside had originally thought that upon hearing the name "Tianyuan Sect," the people inside would obediently come out and make room. Unexpectedly, after waiting for a while, there was no movement inside, let alone anyone coming out from the room.

Crunch!

In puzzlement, this Tianyuan Sect disciple pushed the door open and stepped into the Heavenly Grade room, ready to rebuke them, suddenly discovering it was Ye Fan and others sitting in front of him, and immediately swallowed back the words he was about to say in shock.

At this moment, he felt like dying, never imagining the people inside were Ye Fan and others, no wonder they dared to disregard Tianyuan Sect.

Simply because of the old grudges between the two sects, they absolutely couldn't give up the spot for him.

Just as the disciple's face changed dramatically, Tong Qianchen stood up with a frosty expression and coldly said, "Get back where you came from!"

"You..."

The Tianyuan Sect disciple was furious after being rebuked by Tong Qianchen and was about to retort when Shen Ximen lazily pointed at the door and said, "Didn't you hear them telling you to leave? Why are you still standing here?"

After saying this, Shen Ximen released his aura of Peak of Holy Embryo Realm, immediately causing the Tianyuan Sect disciple to retreat three steps, his face pale, unable to say a word.

Peak of Holy Embryo Realm, this was undoubtedly a Supreme Elder of Xuanwu Sect! In the eyes of the Peak of Holy Embryo Realm Shen Ximen, he, a minor True Essence Realm cultivator, wasn't even considered an ant.

Cold sweat continuously dripped from the Tianyuan Sect disciple's face; at this moment, he couldn't even move his feet backwards.

At this moment, he only hoped that the elder from his sect would arrive quickly; otherwise, he wouldn't be able to withstand such a powerful aura much longer.

Tong Qianchen sat down with a nonchalant expression, as if she hadn't just rebuked the Tianyuan Sect disciple.

Ye Fan smiled as he spoke to the now terrified waiter, "Waiter, where's our tea? Is this your way of doing business? Leaving guests here without even serving tea?"

"What? Tea? Yes, yes, yes, I'll go get it right away."

The waiter was so scared his legs went soft, barely coming to his senses now, and hurriedly seized this opportunity to slip out of the room, running faster than a rabbit.

Meanwhile, a tall and imposing elder appeared at the door with four young men, a powerful aura emanating from him, saving the Tianyuan Sect disciple who had been forced to stand against the wall.

“Elder...”

The Tianyuan Sect disciple felt the pressure lightening on him and knew the elder of his sect had arrived, quickly retreating to the door and greeting the elder.

The imposing elder was the Supreme Elder leading the Tianyuan Sect this time, equally ranked with Shen Ximen.

The Supreme Elder of Tianyuan Sect waved his hand, stopping the disciple from speaking, squinting his eyes at Shen Ximen, and sneered, “Shen Ximen, using your might to bully the weak, you surely flaunt your power!”

“No need to be polite, Jiang Qingfeng, you’re no less, I truly didn’t expect to meet you here, what a turn of events, it’s indeed fate!”

Shen Ximen appeared relaxed, as if he didn’t take Jiang Qingfeng seriously, but everyone knew the two were standing off against each other.

“Enough nonsense, Shen, we booked this room for Tianyuan Sect. Earlier, when our disciples asked you all to switch rooms, they weren’t wrong; yet you exerted your pressure on him, isn’t that a bit unreasonable?”

Jiang Qingfeng knew well that Shen Ximen’s strength might not be the strongest in Xuanwu Sect, but his eloquence was unmatched, engaging in a verbal fight with him wouldn’t be beneficial, nor would it be meaningful; so he directly addressed the issue.

“Everything should be done with a sense of precedence, shouldn’t it? We were invited by the innkeeper to sit here, you arrived late and now want to snatch our room, do you think you’re justified?”

Before Shen Ximen could respond, Tong Qianchen coldly refuted Jiang Qingfeng’s words.

“Little girl, when adults are talking, where does a child like you get the right to interrupt? Shut up!”

Jiang Qingfeng raised his eyebrows, quite displeased, but he had no grounds to refute and could only use his status to suppress, attempting to silence Tong Qianchen.

As he spoke, Jiang Qingfeng walked into the room, followed by the other young disciples of the Tianyuan Sect.

“Old geezer, who allowed you to come in?”

Seeing Jiang Qingfeng actually walk into the room, Ye Fan snorted coldly and directly asked them to leave.

As soon as these words were spoken, not only Jiang Qingfeng and the other disciples of the Tianyuan Sect were shocked, but Shen Ximen, Zhang Taiyi, and the others were also stunned, not expecting Ye Fan to be so strong-willed.

The opponent is the Supreme Elder of the Tianyuan Sect, on par with Shen Ximen in terms of status within the Xuanwu Sect, with great strength, a strong person of the Holy Embryo Realm.

Facing such a strong person, Ye Fan still acted so assertively, earning them instant respect.

Zhang Taiyi was dumbfounded. He himself was a very strong person but admitted he couldn't achieve what Ye Fan did, daring to call a Supreme Elder of the Tianyuan Sect an old geezer to his face.

Shen Tu's mouth twitched continually, his gaze full of admiration for Ye Fan. He considered himself quite wild but not to this extent.

Jin Zhanfei's mouth was wide open in disbelief.

Only Tong Qianchen knew that Ye Fan spoke like this actually to vent her anger, as Ye Fan was angry that Jiang Qingfeng had reprimanded her, which is why he spoke in such a way.

Because, in her impression, Ye Fan has always been very composed and never speaks arrogantly, nor does he show disrespect to elders.

"Haha, hahahaha..."

Elder Shen Ximen was stunned but then laughed heartily. Ye Fan's words were precisely to his liking. When dealing with people from the Tianyuan Sect, there's no need to be polite.

"Bastard! Do you know who you're talking to? How dare you be so rude, are you looking for death?"

A Tianyuan Sect disciple, seeing someone dare to insult their sect's elder, was instantly enraged and stepped forward to angrily rebuke Ye Fan.

"Step forward one more step, and you'll lose a leg!"

Ye Fan was utterly fearless, his voice still icy. The Tianyuan Sect has tried multiple times to kill him, and they have always intended to invade Earth, forging a blood feud long ago.

"The frog in the well laughs at the sky, you talk big—I would like to see how you make me lose a leg."

The Tianyuan Sect disciple's bark was worse than his bite. Despite his words, he never took another step forward. He was stunned by Ye Fan's formidable aura.

"Kid, I've seen many arrogant people, but it's the first time I've seen someone as arrogant as you..."
Jiang Qingfeng squinted, speaking angrily.

However—

Before he could finish his sentence, Ye Fan interrupted coldly: "Even if Helian Chang were here, it would still be the same!"

Huh?!

The people from the Tianyuan Sect were all taken aback. Helian Chang, as the head of the sect, rarely had anyone dare to call him by his name outright.

"Jiang Qingfeng, don't blame me for not warning you, the dishes we ordered are about to come, so don't block the doorway and get in the way of our meal."

Shen Ximen was relaxed and confident. He wasn't worried at all, as in terms of cultivation, he was a bit stronger than Jiang Qingfeng, and if it comes to a real fight, his side would definitely not lose out.

"Fine, fine, fine!" Jiang Qingfeng said the word "fine" three times, his voice cold and eerie: "Shen Ximen, alright, we'll see."

With that, Jiang Qingfeng flicked his sleeve and said with an iron face: "Let's go!"

"You must be Ye Fan, right?"

Suddenly, a Tianyuan Sect disciple stared coldly at Ye Fan, his eyes filled with intense killing intent.

“Is there a problem?” Ye Fan looked at the Tianyuan Sect disciple who spoke.

“You won’t be hopping around much longer, but make sure they are ready to collect your corpse.”

The Tianyuan Sect disciple said coldly, his body radiating murderous intent like an unsheathed sharp sword.

He was the first Core Disciple of the Tianyuan Sect, and before coming, he received orders from Helian Chang that in this genius competition, Ye Fan must be slain.

“If that’s the case, then there’s no need for you to keep a complete corpse!”

Ye Fan responded coldly, remaining strong-willed to the end.

Chapter 1176: A Blade Behind the Smile

“Hiss~”

The first disciple of the Tianyuan Sect twitched his mouth in anger, glared at Ye Fan with hatred, and left resentfully.

“Brother Ye, the man just now was Luo Xiaolin, the number one core disciple of the Tianyuan Sect, Helian Chang’s direct disciple, extremely powerful. If you encounter Luo Xiaolin of the Tianyuan Sect in the competition, you must be careful, never be careless!”

Tong Qianchen saw that Ye Fan had completely offended the Tianyuan Sect and quickly reminded him.

“As long as he hasn’t formed a Holy Embryo, he poses no threat. It’s he who should worry, not me.”

Ye Fan was quite confident. This confidence comes from his strength. With his current power, not to mention the peak of True Yuan Realm, even if it’s a strong person at the early-stage of Holy Embryo Realm, he is confident to contend.

“Better safe than sorry, Xiao Qian is right. As far as I know, this Luo Xiaolin’s talents and comprehension far surpass his peers. Xiao Fan, though you are a genius of the moment, don’t underestimate the heroes of the world. You should know, in this vast world, anyone can appear, especially in this genius competition. They wouldn’t come without some skills. Only by respecting each opponent can you eventually achieve victory.”

Elder Shen Ximen earnestly taught. As someone who has been through it, he deeply understood that talents emerge continuously in Tianyuan State, each generation showcasing extraordinary geniuses. Every opponent deserves respect.

“Elder Shen, I understand!” Ye Fan, although confident, wouldn’t arrogantly disregard other heroes. Elder Shen Ximen’s teachings held truth.

Seeing Ye Fan being able to accept advice readily, Elder Shen Ximen was particularly pleased and couldn't bear to say anything further to him. After all, this accidental encounter with the Tianyuan Sect was managed strongly due to Ye Fan's presence, preventing the Xuanwu Sect's reputation from falling.

Because of this, Ye Fan was already a major contributor to the Xuanwu Sect, not to mention his special identity as Wang Qingshan the Supreme Elder's savior and a disciple of Great Elder Wu Xinhai.

With things calm here, the waiter who had slipped out earlier returned quietly, carrying a large teapot, poured a cup for everyone, and then silently left again.

As the best restaurant in Tianyuan City, the culinary skills here are quite impressive, especially as the ingredients are all selected from the best meat of various rare Mysterious Beast Bodies. For cultivators, they can replenish their energy and nourish their bodies, definitely great stuff that money can't buy.

Good ingredients, coupled with great cooking skills, produce dishes with excellent color, aroma, and taste, even making someone like Ye Fan, who isn't particular about food, have a hearty appetite, let alone Jin Zhanfei and others.

The one with the worst eating manners was actually not Jin Zhanfei, the rough person, but rather the Supreme Elder Shen Ximen. His hands were all out, making the table splash with soup, eating so much that oil dripped from his mouth and the breast of his robe soon got soaked with broth.

The most elegant eater was not Tong Qianchen, but Zhang Taiyi, who ate quietly without making a sound, more ladylike than a lady, forming a stark contrast with Shen Ximen.

This meal was quite enjoyable, with delicacies in front, everyone soon put aside the events from earlier, chopsticks flying.

Elder Shen Ximen was eating and drinking at the same time, and as soon as the dishes came, he shattered the clay seal of a liquor jar with a palm, filled a bowl first, then handed the jar to Shen Tu beside him.

Satisfied with food and drink, the table turned into a battlefield, a mess with soup spilling everywhere.

“Uh...”

Elder Shen Ximen hiccupped, took out a toothpick, and while picking his teeth, addressed Ye Fan and the others ambiguously: “You guys go and have a stroll, I’ll stay here to settle the bill and pack these leftovers.”

“Pfft!”

Tong Qianchen burst into laughter and said, “Grandpa Ximen, can we not be so petty? After all, our Xuanwu Sect is not a small sect, packing the leftovers, how disgraceful!”

“Little girl, what do you know, anyway, you can’t eat more, better let me have it. We shouldn’t leave it for the restaurant, otherwise, this money spent feels unjustified.”

After saying this, Elder Shen Ximen took a deep breath, and his round belly instantly deflated like a punctured ball, looking as if he hadn't eaten well for three months, and continued to grapple vigorously with the leftovers on the table.

“__”

Ye Fan was speechless, where does Shen Ximen have a bit of a strong person's demeanor? He's simply an old playful child!

Leaving Elder Shen Ximen to continue feasting, Ye Fan and Tong Qianchen, among others, left the private room and headed downstairs.

Just as they arrived at the second-floor corridor, suddenly a group of people approached head-on. Judging by their attire, they didn't seem to belong to the same force, but they were very familiar with each other, walking closely.

Huh?

When they saw Ye Fan and the others, Ye Fan's side also noticed them. Tong Qianchen was visibly startled, leaned over to Ye Fan's ear, and softly introduced the identities and names of a few people walking towards them.

After Tong Qianchen's introduction, Ye Fan realized that the ones walking towards them were from Qing Xuan Sect, one of the Three Major Sects of Tianyuan State, and the successors of the Ma Family and Liu Family from the Five Great Families.

In the middle, a smart-looking young man was precisely the number one core disciple of the Qing Xuan Sect, named Qingxuan. On either side of him were the direct lineage successors Ma Yuanhang from the Ma Family and Liu Qingyun from the Liu Family.

To be named Qingxuan shows the Qing Xuan Sect's emphasis on this disciple, even intending to groom him as the next Sect Leader of Qing Xuan Sect, or else it would be impossible to let him bear this name.

At this moment, Qingxuan was happily chatting with Ma Yuanhang and Liu Qingyun, occasionally sharing knowing laughs, indicating that he was very well-received by the two.

It's important to note that although the Five Great Families of Tianyuan State have a long legacy, there is still a significant gap compared to the Three Great Sects. Not even the strongest among the Five Great Families, the Chu Family, can compare, despite hiding their strength for years and recently producing a peerless genius.

As the number one core disciple and the most outstanding figure of Qingxuan Sect, how esteemed is Qingxuan's status? Although the heirs of the Five Great Families have impressive identities, they do not have the qualification to address him as a brother.

Yet, Qingxuan appeared to have no airs about him, engaging in a very congenial conversation with the two. To an outsider, it might seem as if they were old friends reuniting!

The hallway of the tavern wasn't spacious, and if two parties didn't avoid each other, they would certainly collide.

At this moment, Qingxuan's eyes lit up. He whispered something to Ma Yuanhang and Liu Qingyun, then hurried up with a warm smile and said, "Aren't these the esteemed members of Xuanwu Sect? Pleasure to meet you all, my name is Qingxuan."

Not hitting a smiling face with a fist, Qingxuan played this move quite wonderfully. Even if Ye Fan saw through his smooth and sophisticated manner, it wouldn't be appropriate to say anything since there was no malice.

"Brother Taiyi, long time no see. Your cultivation is becoming increasingly profound, truly delightful and worthy of congratulations!"

Qingxuan extended his right hand to Zhang Taiyi, who forced a barely passable smile, colder than ice, and shook hands, saying, "Congratulations to you as well; you are also about to take that crucial step."

"Just a fluke, just a fluke."

Qingxuan smiled as he withdrew his hand and extended it towards Ye Fan, saying, "This must be the renowned Brother Ye Fan, who has recently been the talk of the town? Even Brother Taiyi is not your rival. If we meet in the grand competition, please, Brother Ye Fan, go easy on me. I wouldn't want to be incapacitated for the rest of my life."

Ye Fan's heart tightened, realizing that his actions at Xuanwu Sect couldn't be kept secret, and Qingxuan Sect had long been informed.

Since Qingxuan Sect knew, Tianyuan Sect would likely know as well and would definitely have plans regarding him.

“Oh, Qingxuan brother, you’re too kind. The only reason I got first place was that Brother Chu Feng let me have it. Otherwise, how could I possibly compare to Brother Chu?”

Ye Fan smiled in response. Although Qingxuan appeared from beginning to end to be approachable and friendly, he left a poor impression on Ye Fan, much like those smiling tigers on Earth, hiding a knife behind their smile.

Swoosh!

As Ye Fan spoke, in an instant, almost everyone turned their attention to him.

“How did he manage to become the first core disciple of Xuanwu Sect?”

When they realized that Ye Fan was only at the True Essence Realm cultivation level, almost everyone was filled with this question.

Many of them weren’t from the sect, but they understood the sect’s rules very well. They knew that even among core disciples, the treatment differed at each level, and no one would easily surrender their position as first.

“By the way, I heard there’s a grand auction happening today at the Treasure Pavilion. It’s possible some unexpected treasures might appear. Why don’t we go check it out together?”

Qingxuan stared at Ye Fan for a moment and then, with a snap of his fingers, casually shifted the topic.

Auction?

Upon hearing that an auction was being held today, Ye Fan was intrigued. He had been in the Xuan Realm for nearly a year now, but he had yet to see what auctions were like here.

“Brother Ye, should we go take a look?”

Tong Qianchen was evidently interested as well. Even she seldom got to see such a grand occasion as an auction, but she still sought Ye Fan’s opinion, unintentionally raising Ye Fan’s status.

At the same time, Zhang Taiyi, Jin Zhanfei, and Shen Tu were also somewhat tempted. Such a large-scale auction was a rare event, even if they didn’t make a purchase; it was a chance to broaden their horizons and gain knowledge.

“Alright!”

Realizing this, Ye Fan nodded in agreement, deciding to join the others in attending the auction.

Chapter 1177: Treasure Pavilion, Auction House

There were two reasons Ye Fan agreed to go to the auction together.

First, he wanted to see what differences there might be between an auction in the Xuan Realm and one on Earth, and what kind of good things might appear.

Second, he wanted to try his luck to see if he could find auxiliary materials for refining a Soul Gathering Pill. As for the main ingredients, he didn't even dare to think about them – they were simply too precious and rare, hardly anyone in the Xuan Realm knew about them, let alone auction them.

Seeing Ye Fan agree to go, Tong Qianchen was very happy, while Jin Zhanfei quickly went to settle the bill and then sought approval from Shen Ximen.

Upon hearing that an auction was going to be held, Shen Ximen didn't even bother to savor the food, he wolfed down the remaining dishes and then came out with Jin Zhanfei.

When Elder Shen Ximen appeared, Qingxuan inevitably exchanged some courtesies, even Ma Yuanhang and Liu Qingyun came over to pay their respects. Facing a strong person at the peak of the Holy Embryo Realm like Shen Ximen, they had to show sufficient respect.

Fortunately, Elder Shen Ximen wasn't a stickler for formalities, and he wasn't interested in these formalities at all, directly inquiring about some details of the Qingxuan auction.

Through Qingxuan's explanation, Ye Fan learned that this auction was indeed unprecedented, having been in preparation for two years, and there were some truly good things.

Moreover, it was said that even people from some significant forces participated in this auction, making it truly unprecedented.

...

With the guide of a well-versed person like Shen Ximen, the group quickly arrived at the entrance of the auction venue.

From the outside, this auction house seemed unremarkable. Unlike Earth's opulent auction houses adorned with gold and jade, this building even seemed a bit old, yet it embodied a certain sense of history and weight.

There were not many people at the entrance of the auction house right now, only two cultivators in black attire standing on either side, resembling gate-keeper King Kong.

Judging from the aura emanating from them, it was clear that both were between the peak of the True Essence Realm and the Holy Embryo Realm, perhaps one moment away from successfully condensing a Holy Embryo and stepping into the Holy Embryo Realm.

However, Ye Fan knew that these two would never enter the Holy Embryo Realm in this lifetime. Not only were they somewhat too old, but more importantly, they were once cultivators in the Holy Embryo Realm, but their Holy Embryo seemed to have been shattered in their bodies, making it impossible to condense into a Holy Embryo again.

Generally speaking, when the Holy Embryo is shattered, one is destined to die, yet they miraculously survived, with cultivation still between the True Essence Realm and the Holy Embryo Realm, being anomalies.

To use such people as gatekeepers clearly showed how powerful the forces behind this auction house were.

“Please show your invitation!”

When Ye Fan and the group arrived at the door, the two gatekeepers took a step forward simultaneously, blocking their path.

“Without an invitation, call Yaling here. Just say Shen Ximen wants to attend the auction and ask her for a favor.”

Shen Ximen swaggered up to the front, smiling at the two with a Holy Embryo Realm peak aura slowly releasing.

The two were taken aback, and at that moment they noticed the Mystic Turtle pattern on Shen Ximen and Ye Fan’s clothes, quickly bowing respectfully, “Ah, esteemed seniors of the Xuanwu Sect, please enter, I will immediately ask Miss Yaling to issue VIP cards to you.”

Saying this, one of them clapped his hands, and a female cultivator with a graceful figure came out from inside, her black gauze attire adding allure.

“Ladies and gentlemen, please follow me!”

The female cultivator bowed to Ye Fan’s group and then led the way, and they filed in, stepping through the auction hall’s grand entrance.

After entering the entrance, they went down a gently sloping staircase to a grand, opulent hall. The hall was as big as two football fields, big enough to hold tens of thousands, with rows of VIP rooms above.

The female cultivator led Ye Fan and Shen Ximen’s group into a room with the character “Xuan” engraved on the door, “This is your VIP room. Someone will bring the VIP cards shortly. If you need anything, just infuse True Yuan into this icy gem on the wall and we’ll be aware.”

After introducing the room, the female cultivator left, continuing to guide Qingxuan and others to their rooms.

Ye Fan sat on a chair whose material he couldn’t discern, looking outside. He noticed that the wall in front was like a one-way mirror, allowing a clear view of the auction platform in the distance.

But before coming, Ye Fan noticed that this wall could not be seen from outside, not even a mark on the door, showing the auction house’s confidentiality was well-executed.

This also prevented people from knowing who bought the treasure, avoiding the risk of being intercepted along the way.

Soon enough, there was a gentle knocking on the door, accompanied by a particularly pleasant female voice, "Esteemed guests, may I come in?"

"Come in!" Elder Shen Ximen waved a hand, the door slowly opened and an oval-faced female cultivator entered holding a silver tray, then carefully placed a teapot and cups on the table for Ye Fan and others, before putting six golden cards and a booklet in front of them.

The azure tea poured into the cups immediately filled the room with a refreshing fragrance, filling everyone with joy and making it clear that this was a top-grade tea.

A while ago, everyone consumed a lot of greasy food, and a cup of clear tea to cleanse the intestines, reduce heat, and soothe the throat, was indeed a wonderfully precise pairing.

Whether the auction was deliberate or inadvertent, Ye Fan and the others had already developed a favorable impression of this auction.

After the female cultivator left, Ye Fan picked up the booklet on the table and glanced at it. At auctions on Earth, every VIP would have a similar booklet, containing photographs of the items up for auction, very exquisite, with every detail perfectly captured.

Ye Fan opened the booklet in his hand and found that it was indeed very similar to those on Earth, only there was no photographic equipment here; everything was hand-drawn, yet lifelike and incredibly realistic.

“Elder Shen, what is the background of this auction? To be able to organize such a grand auction, it must be a significant power, right?”

While examining the booklet, Ye Fan asked Elder Shen Ximen.

In his impression, hosting an auction wasn’t something anyone could do; one must have influence both in legal and illegal domains and possess extremely powerful connections.

The Xuan Realm is a world without legal constraints, where the strong rule, and the biggest fist is truth. In such a world, holding an auction requires a strong backing, or else the auction might be wiped out before it even begins.

“Of course it is a major power, and not just an ordinary major power, but one that can shake the entire mainland, otherwise it wouldn’t be able to hold its ground.”

Elder Shen Ximen smiled and said, “The backing behind the Treasure Pavilion is a very mysterious organization, its influence spreads across the entire Tianxuan Continent, being one of the superpowers.”

“Over the years, the Treasure Pavilion has held countless auctions across the mainland without a single mishap, even Holy Lands and Di Clans must show them some respect; do you think this power is significant?”

“Hiss~”

Ye Fan gasped, surprised that such a powerful force was hidden in a small place like Tianyuan City, able to command respect from Di Clans and Holy Lands, showing the immense power behind the auction.

Hmm?!

Ye Fan flipped through the pages of the booklet and suddenly, when turning to the last page, he shivered slightly.

As on Earth, the last auction item was the highlight, but Ye Fan didn't expect it to be the Soul Summoning Grass.

Soul Summoning Grass is one of the essential main ingredients to refine Soul Gathering Pill; he never expected such a treasure medicine to appear in this auction.

However, after seeing the starting price, Ye Fan was shocked again, it was extremely high!

The base price is already so high, who knows what astronomical price this Soul Summoning Grass will fetch at the end.

Though the price is high, for Su Liuli, Ye Fan decided he must get it at all costs!

After Ye Fan browsed through all the auction items, night gradually fell, and people began entering the auction hall one after another, each with a stern expression, showing no emotion, clearly having altered their appearances.

This was to ensure safety; if they didn't change their appearances and were recognized, some might risk their lives to kill and steal treasures.

Such incidents have happened before; in Tianyuan City, one's safety is guaranteed, but outside the city, no one can assure it.

As time passed, more and more people arrived, and the auction was about to begin.

At this moment, an old man with silver hair had already stepped onto the auction platform, his posture straight as an arrow, and his eyes occasionally flashing with brilliance, indicating his astonishing power.

Behind him stood two female cultivators, uniformly veiled in black gauze, and their exquisite figures faintly visible through it. With cultivation in a certain technique, nurtured by Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, these female cultivators were exceptionally beautiful, drawing everyone's attention as soon as they took the stage.

The two female cultivators collectively held a rectangular object covered in red cloth, seemingly the first auction item of this event.

“Good evening, fellow Daoists, I am the Chief Auctioneer Gu Xuanran. On behalf of the Treasure Pavilion, I welcome you all to this auction amidst your busy schedules.”

Gu Xuanran bowed to the audience and continued, “Without further ado, I believe none of you are here to listen to my idle talk. Next, let’s unveil our first auction item!”

Chapter 1178: Thunder God’s Fury

“Pa!”

As the conversation continued, Gu Xuanran clapped his hands, and two female cultivators stepped forward, placing the object they held onto the auction stage.

“Ladies and gentlemen, please take a look!”

Gu Xuanran swiftly pulled the red cloth off the rectangular object, revealing an antique box with a mixture of red and purple hues, resembling jade and agate—one glance was enough to tell it was an invaluable antique.

Regardless of what the first auction item inside was, the box alone was already priceless.

Whatever was worthy enough to be stored in such a box must be an exceptionally precious item; otherwise, it wouldn’t do justice to the box’s worth.

“What’s inside the box?”

At this moment, everyone’s curiosity was piqued; all present were connoisseurs and could tell by the box that what was inside was likely beyond most people’s reach.

Although Ye Fan was in the VIP room, some distance from the auction stage, it felt as if he was standing right beside it, seeing everything clearly, proving that the transparent wall was something remarkable.

He had already seen the brochure and knew what the first auction item was, but he was still full of anticipation.

No matter how exquisite the painting, it couldn’t compete with the impact of seeing the real object. Ye Fan was eagerly looking forward to whether the first auction item would make a grand opening.

“Hurry up and open the box...”

“What exactly is it?”

“Stop teasing us, you said we’re not here to listen to your nonsense...”

For a moment, the public seats were in an uproar, with many cultivators unable to resist standing up. After all, they had already altered their appearances, and as long as they did not cause too much commotion, the Treasure Pavilion would not trouble them.

Seeing everyone so anxious, Gu Xuanran still spoke steadily, “We went through great effort to obtain this treasure. I believe it is perfect for everyone here. I dare say, it is one of a kind, and you’ll miss out if you let it slip by...”

“Hurry up and open it, what’s taking so long?”

At this moment, a great Han in the public seats stood up and loudly shouted, suppressing all the other voices.

Seeing that he had teased the curiosity enough, Gu Xuanran finally, carefully and solemnly opened the box, presenting its contents to everyone.

Although Ye Fan was in the VIP room, it was no different from observing closely, which is the advantage of being in a VIP room.

The people in the public seats could also see clearly, but it wasn’t the same as the immersive feeling in the VIP room.

It was an eight-sided Purple Gold Hammer, with handle and all, just two feet long, glowing with a purple light, resembling the Thunder God’s Hammer. Even from a distance, Ye Fan could sense the power emanating from this Purple Gold Hammer.

“Divine Power Realm top-grade Spiritual Artifact, the eight-sided Purple Gold Hammer, known as Thunder God’s Fury, enhances attack power and contains Thunder Power. It is the work of an Artifact Refining Master, infused with the power of thunder and lightning. The starting price is three thousand jin Mid-Grade Spirit Stones, with each increase no less than a thousand jin Mid-Grade Spirit Stones, it’s just like picking it up for free!”

Gu Xuanran, as the chief auctioneer, was indeed impressive. In a few words, he not only highlighted the preciousness of this Purple Gold Hammer but also ignited the competitive bidding spirit in everyone. However, the starting bid for this Thunder God’s Hammer was indeed set a bit low.

Even so, Ye Fan believed that the final sale price of this top-grade Spiritual Artifact would surely be astonishing because its value was evident to all connoisseurs present. No one would want to forgo this treasure, and the bidding was bound to be intense.

He was quite tempted too, as Thunder God’s Fury, with its internal Thunder Power, suited him perfectly. However, he already possessed Thunder Gloves, and he had to save for the final Soul Summoning Grass. He could only regretfully give up on this top-grade Spiritual Artifact, as he didn’t have the financial capability to win both the first and the last treasures.

Bear in mind, at any auction, the first auction item is always carefully selected to maximally capture the audience’s interest and stir a bidding frenzy.

The final item is the grand finale, undoubtedly the best item at the entire auction to serve as the climax, so among all the auction items, these two are the most valuable.

Of course, there may be some items in the middle that are not too valuable but are very important to certain people.

If two parties are determined to win, it can still spark a bidding frenzy and stir everyone's emotions.

"I bid five thousand jin!"

No sooner had Gu Xuanran's voice fallen than someone immediately placed a bid, and with one bid, increased the price by two thousand jin Mid-Grade Spirit Stones, nothing short of extravagant.

But his bid was quickly met with a chorus of ridicule.

"Hmph, you think this is a cabbage? You dream of taking it for five thousand Golden Spirit Stones!"

"Who are you trying to scare with a two thousand jin increase in one go?"

"Everyone knows the value of Thunder God's Fury, five thousand gold won't even let you touch the handle!"

"..."

For a moment, the entire venue was filled with snickering sounds, but the person who first raised the bid didn't care at all. After raising the sign, he sat down, expressionless, betraying neither joy nor anger.

“I bid seven thousand jin!”

“Ten thousand jin of Spirit Stones!”

“Eleven thousand jin!”

“Twelve thousand jin!”

“...”

At this time, not only were the public seats below filled with incessant bidding, but even some of the guests in the VIP rooms joined in the bidding frenzy.

“Brother Ye Fan, if you want it, you can join the bidding. I think this Thunder God’s Fury suits you very well!”

Tong Qianchen, after hearing the introduction, immediately looked at Ye Fan. She knew that Ye Fan had already grasped the Secret Technique of Thunder Power, and if he had the handy Spiritual Artifact Thunder God’s Fury, his combat power would surely rise another level.

On the eve of the genius tournament, having a handy weapon would certainly increase the odds of winning.

“Indeed, Brother Ye Fan, Junior Sister Tong is right, this Thunder God’s Fury seems to be made for you. Get it, and I can’t see anyone stopping you from winning this time.”

Jin Zhanfei also urged Ye Fan to take action. He shared the same thought as Tong Qianchen; since Ye Fan had grasped the Secret Technique of Thunder Power, this Thunder God’s Fury was unquestionably the most suitable Spiritual Artifact for him, and it was a top-grade Spiritual Artifact in the Divine Power Realm, which would definitely enhance Ye Fan’s Thunder Power significantly.

Shen Ximen also thought that Ye Fan would make a move because although this Thunder God’s Fury was very useful to others, without grasping the Thunder Power, they could only utilize the limited Thunder Power contained within the Thunder God’s Fury.

If Ye Fan obtained this Thunder God’s Fury, it would be like adding wings to a tiger, making him unbeatable under the Holy Embryo Realm. Even if the hidden talents of the Di Clan emerged, Ye Fan would still have a fighting chance.

Ye Fan shook his head and said, “The final price for this Thunder God’s Fury will be frighteningly high, I cannot afford it, so it’s better not to make a move.”

“No worries, even if we can’t get it, joining the fun is good too. Anyway, the current price is still within a bearable range, let’s stir things up a bit, and who knows, someone might overlook it, and we’ll get lucky?”

Jin Zhanfei smirked mischievously, revealing his roguish nature, which was undoubtedly a naughty strategy.

“Excellent! Ye Fan, let’s do it this way. If it really becomes unaffordable, we’ll just give up and act as free shills for the Treasure Pavilion.”

Shen Tu, who always wanted to deepen the relationship with Ye Fan, also laughed and spoke up upon hearing Jin Zhanfei’s words.

Originally, Ye Fan would not agree to such a tactic, but after listening to them, he thought it could be fun to join the excitement.

“Elder Shen, can you roughly determine which auction item is most useful to people of a certain power or is something they are determined to acquire?”

Ye Fan’s strategy was unprecedented, though it involved some risk. But to succeed, any method involves a bit of risk, doesn’t it?

“If they start bidding, I might be able to guess a bit. What are you planning to do?”

Shen Ximen looked at Ye Fan in confusion. In his impression, Ye Fan was always prudent and would not use such underhand tactics to compete with others.

Moreover, the value of the Thunder God's Fury was well understood by everyone, and no one would easily let it go. Ye Fan's target was certainly not this Thunder God's Fury, so what else could he need besides this?

"Just wait and see the fun. Later, you just need to tell me which faction is determined to get an auction item."

Ye Fan smiled enigmatically, leaving Jin Zhanfei and the others utterly baffled, not knowing what mystery he was plotting. Yet, Ye Fan refused to reveal anything in advance, leaving them scratching their heads, wishing they could use a hook to pull Ye Fan's words out.

By this time, the price of the Thunder God's Fury had already reached fifteen thousand jin of Mid-Grade Spirit Stones. This was undoubtedly a sky-high price, yet it still hadn't reached the true value of the Thunder God's Fury, so the bidding continued.

At this point, Ye Fan also raised his sign, but he only increased the bid by one thousand jin. If it weren't for the minimum increment standard of one thousand jin, he would have dared to raise by only one jin.

By now, the people below had completely silenced, most of them being Loose Cultivators and small sect members with limited financial resources. Fifteen thousand jin already represented a large proportion of their entire sect or clan's Spirit Stone reserves.

Although they desperately wanted the Thunder God's Fury, they wouldn't risk their entire sect or clan's foundation to compete—they couldn't match the Major Sects at all!

When the people in other VIP rooms discovered that the VIP room where Ye Fan was located also started participating in the bidding, they were suddenly taken aback, not knowing which powerful force had its eye on this top-grade Spiritual Artifact—greatly powerful sects always liked to act last, delivering the final determining blow.

Although Ye Fan's bid increase was not much, it exerted strong psychological pressure on several sects determined to win it.

Chapter 1179: Auction

Each VIP room is an independent space, no matter what you do inside, as long as you don't destroy the room, nothing can be heard from the outside.

However, when making a bid, you input your True Yuan into the room's table, and the sound will be transmitted through a special channel to the outside.

Of course, during this process, the sound is altered to be neither male nor female, making it impossible for anyone to identify who is in the room from their voice.

With Ye Fan's participation, the competition became more intense, quickly surpassing the intrinsic value of the Thunder God's Fury, a top-grade Spiritual Artifact.

Only at this point did the Chief Auctioneer Gu Xuanran's face reveal a knowing smile. He knew that this price was far from the final sale price, certainly sects would fight to the death to snatch it, guaranteeing a hefty profit this time.

When the bid reached twenty thousand jin of Spirit Stone, Ye Fan stopped and did not continue to increase the price.

At this moment, he also guessed that the two constantly bidding were definitely people from the Qing Xuan Sect and Tianyuan Sect, both determined to obtain the Thunder God's Fury.

The reason is simple, Ye Fan has comprehended Thunder Power and his Combat Power has surged dramatically, they urgently need a spiritual artifact with Thunder Power to restrain Ye Fan.

Additionally, they had another idea, which was to see if they could utilize this spiritual artifact to understand the wonders of Thunder Power. Even grasping a small fraction could improve their chances against Ye Fan.

Though they did not really consider Ye Fan a threat, they were quite willing to do things that could increase their own strength.

At this time, in two other VIP rooms, there was a tooth-gritting curse war, but the target was the innocent Ye Fan.

The elder of the Qing Xuan Sect and Qingxuan both had faces ashen, almost bidding with clenched molars.

"I never thought that Ye Fan would have such courage, even daring to continue competing with me. He absolutely cannot get his hands on the Thunder God's Fury which would increase his Attack Power."

Qingxuan could almost represent the entire Qing Xuan Sect, his words needed careful consideration even by the Supreme Elder leading the group.

The Supreme Elder of Qing Xuan Sect sighed, "Xuan'er, you are too naive. This is absolutely not Ye Fan's doing alone. I am sure, it is the Xuanwu Sect that is helping him to increase his strength and is clashing with us. He alone cannot bear such a large number of Spirit Stones."

"Elder, if that's the case, should we withdraw and just let him have the Thunder God's Fury? I believe, I just saw him, he's only at Mid True Essence Realm. Even with the Thunder God's Fury's bonus, I can easily defeat him!"

Qingxuan said very confidently, always appearing as a sophisticated character in front of outsiders, only revealing his scheming side in front of the elders.

"Just snatch the Thunder God's Fury back from his hands when the time comes!"

"Xuan'er, do not be careless. The fact that this child can rise so quickly is a miracle in itself. If there were no extraordinary circumstances, how could he become the top core disciple of the Xuanwu Sect so quickly? Let's continue competing, if we really can't win, we'll have to give up."

The Supreme Elder of Qing Xuan Sect finally decided to increase the bid by three thousand jin of Spirit Stones, which was the highest they could bear, more would be uneconomical.

Despite Qingxuan's desire for the Thunder God's Fury, he knew that the development of a sect required Spirit Stones, and bidding far above an item's value was sheer extravagant waste.

Similarly, in another VIP room, Luo Xiaolin was also cursing bitterly.

"That damned Ye Fan, if I let the Thunder God's Fury fall into your hands, I'll write Luo Xiaolin backwards."

Clearly, Luo Xiaolin also mistook Ye Fan for a bidder, thus clinging persistently.

When the Thunder God's Fury appeared, he thought this weapon was tailored for Ye Fan, subconsciously believing Ye Fan would aim to win it.

And once Ye Fan obtained the benefits of this top-grade Spiritual Artifact, it would no longer be easy to kill him.

Therefore, no matter the cost, he must acquire the Thunder God's Fury!

Ultimately, the Thunder God's Fury was auctioned off by Luo Xiaolin from Tianyuan Sect at a price of twenty-five thousand jin of Spirit Stones, far exceeding its original value.

Gu Xuanran, the chief auctioneer of Treasure Pavilion, was so delighted his mouth was crooked. The first auction item scored a bright beginning, and the room was heated. The subsequent auction items would very likely continue this momentum.

If all auction items were bid up like this first one, Treasure Pavilion would undoubtedly earn a fortune, and his commission would be a considerable figure.

After the intense bidding, the Thunder God's Fury ultimately settled. It awaited the end of the auction to proceed backstage for payment and collection.

Next, Gu Xuanran capitalized on the fervor and brought up the second auction item.

The second auction item's value couldn't compare to a top-grade Spiritual Artifact like the Thunder God's Fury, but it was still a decent spiritual artifact.

"The silk whip, made from Ice Silkworm Silk in the extreme northern region. Although only three meters long, it carries Ice Power, unfortunately, it has a flaw, so it's considered a Low Grade Spirit Artifact, starting price of one thousand jin of Mid-Grade Spirit Stone, feel free to increase the bid, it all depends on your judgment."

Seeing the atmosphere in the room slightly cooled, Gu Xuanran's eyes rolled and he said, "Everyone, although the silk whip's quality doesn't match the Thunder God's Fury, bidding for it for your disciple's use undoubtedly adds a layer of life protection, absolutely worthwhile!"

"I'll take it for one thousand three hundred jin!"

Gu Xuanran's words just fell when someone stood up, instantly increasing the bid by three hundred jin of Spirit Stone, still far from the true value of the silk whip. If no one competed, he would absolutely make a killing.

However, such good fortune is unlikely; as his words fell, someone immediately began adding to the bid.

"Elder Shen, based on your judgment, what is the true value of this silk whip?"

In a VIP room, after examining the silk whip, Ye Fan asked Elder Shen Ximen.

"If flawless, the maximum value is four thousand jin of Mid-Grade Spirit Stone, but its flaw reduces it, so at most, the value is up to two thousand jin of Spirit Stone."

Elder Shen Ximen pondered slightly and provided a fair assessment.

Ye Fan silently noted it in his heart, observing the bidding situation below.

By this time, few people were bidding anymore, everyone was aware the best items were yet to come, saving their energy to bid for better things later, not bothering with what's not especially desired.

Though there weren't many competitors, some smaller sects and clans hoped to secure the item, knowing their financial power couldn't match the Three Great Sects and Five Great Families.

Yet nothing is absolute, the genius competition in Tianyuan City had attracted strong people from other provinces, even those from Wu Shang Sect, so the competition remained fierce.

But hardly anyone continued bidding when it reached only eighteen hundred jin, nearing the silk whip's real value.

In the end, someone from the public gallery raised a bid adding one hundred jin, reaching nineteen hundred jin, already quite close to the silk whip's true value.

Yet at that moment, no one raised the bid, Gu Xuanran observed this anxiously, but was helpless, habitually saying, "This fellow already bid nineteen hundred jin, is there anyone higher?"

Spoken several times, no further bids came. Gu Xuanran had to announce, "Nineteen hundred jin first time, nineteen hundred jin second time, nineteen hundred jin..."

"Nineteen hundred ten jin!"

At that moment, Ye Fan made a move, raising only ten jin, causing uproar among the public gallery below.

Ten jin of Spirit Stone, not even enough for a Mid True Essence Realm disciple's monthly expenditure, yet he brazenly announces it?

However, having previously announced free bidding increases, even if Ye Fan adds just one jin, it's more than nineteen hundred jin, and the host must therefore declare the item Ye Fan's successful bid.

Gu Xuanran secretly wiped his sweat, thinking thank goodness someone saved the scene. Otherwise, if it were really auctioned for nineteen hundred jin, it would be a loss.

Though losses wouldn't be heavy, it wasn't something the chief auctioneer would want to see; Ye Fan's shout was somewhat comical, but it did keep the auction going.

At this moment, he felt like thanking the mysterious person who helped him.

The person who bid nineteen hundred jin below was almost driven mad. Seeing it almost succeeded, didn't expect someone would disrupt this way, a real nuisance.

"Two thousand jin! I don't believe it!"

The bidder below was truly infuriated and directly raised the bid to two thousand jin, now even if he won, he wouldn't profit, merely an equal trade.

But what he didn't expect was, just as Gu Xuanran was about to strike the hammer, Ye Fan spoke again.

“Two thousand ten jin!”

Chapter 1180: Soul Summoning Lotus

Wow!

This time, everyone knew that the person in the VIP room was trying to upstage him. However, Ye Fan raising the price like this was the first time they’d seen it. They all had a mindset of watching the spectacle, curious to see how that person would end up.

That person must also know that if something truly valuable appeared, it wouldn’t be his turn. Bidding on a worthless trinket only to be squeezed like this almost drove him crazy.

Clenching his teeth, the person directly shouted out his psychological highest price, which was his limit. If Ye Fan raised further, he would give up.

“Two thousand three hundred jin!”

The venue instantly fell silent, suddenly realizing the price was three hundred jin too high. It wasn’t like throwing away three hundred jin of cabbage. Spirit Stones are a cultivator’s capital for cultivation. Besides Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, Spirit Stones are the best cultivation resources. Giving out three hundred jin at once would definitely hurt.

At this moment, Gu Xuanran even wanted to call Ye Fan a dear brother. If it weren't for Ye Fan, the price definitely wouldn't have soared so high.

It was then he realized that auctions could be played like this.

No one spoke at that moment; everyone focused their gaze on Ye Fan's VIP room. Although they knew they couldn't see the scene inside, they speculated whether the mysterious person inside would bid again.

In the VIP room, Tong Qianchen, Jin Zhanfei, and others were almost bursting with laughter. None of them expected Ye Fan to be so mischievous, squeezing people bit by bit.

Actually, the silk whip was quite suitable for Tong Qianchen to use. However, Tong Qianchen had something better and disdained to bid on this flawed inferior product.

Ye Fan weighed it over, thinking it was about enough. The timing was right; if he added more, he might end up holding the bag.

Thus, he decided not to raise the price any more, letting the opponent pay an extra four hundred jin of Spirit Stones, enough to make them hurt for a while.

After that, no matter what was auctioned, Ye Fan would use the same tactic. When no one raised the price, he would weigh and add a bit himself, provoking the bidders into a frenzy but leaving them helpless; wanting the item meant raising the price further.

This move was made under the shrewd analysis of Elder Shen Ximen, who determined the financial strength and bottom line of the bidding person, and Ye Fan slowly pressured them, elevating the bidding price with piecemeal tactics.

One could say Ye Fan did a professional job. He managed not to be left holding auction items while extracting the maximum amount of Spirit Stones from others.

Yet by doing so, Ye Fan ended up angering people. Initially, they laughed at the spectacle, but eventually, Ye Fan evoked anger and resentment. Everyone took Ye Fan as an auctioneer's plant, and an exceptionally skilled one at that, truly mischievous.

"Haha... Brother Ye Fan, you've now become a public enemy. I bet if you walk out right now, you'd be devoured by the crowd without even needing sauce!"

Jin Zhanfei laughed, clutching his stomach in pain, pointing mockingly at Ye Fan.

The Alliance's Tong Qianchen covered her mouth, secretly laughing. She never imagined Ye Fan had such a mischievous side, albeit adorably mischievous.

Shen Tu patted Ye Fan's shoulder and said, "Brother, I am impressed. High mountains and flowing waters, meeting a soulmate. From now on, you are my big brother Shen Tu. It's the first time I've seen someone pull such a stunt."

Zhang Taiyi was somewhat astonished, not knowing what Ye Fan was up to, completely puzzled by the whole situation.

Not only him but even Elder Shen Ximen, who participated in Ye Fan's actions throughout, doesn't understand what Ye Fan was doing.

To say Ye Fan wanted to bid on something would be an exaggeration, as he showed no excessive attention to anything. He intervened with every item but merely released his grip when pressing them to the point of desperation, never getting into a stand-off.

Moreover, Elder Shen Ximen was also quite impressed by Ye Fan's vision. Sometimes even when he thought it wasn't prudent to raise the price anymore, Ye Fan would still add a bit.

The end results repeatedly proved Ye Fan correct; the opponent still had room.

Thus, despite offending bidders, Ye Fan entered the Treasure Pavilion's auction hall's red list, becoming the most favored person.

Gu Xuanran even wanted to meet this mysterious person who helped him a great deal, thinking if they polished their act over a few more rounds, this mysterious person could cooperate with him seamlessly.

As time passed little by little, the items auctioned also got better and better, naturally causing prices to continue climbing. Yet Ye Fan remained indifferent, having no intention to pursue the bids, still dangling others, causing the bidders in the VIP room to rage.

Ye Fan's hesitant, indecisive behavior, sticking to the bottom line during each price addition made these people grind their teeth in hatred.

Finally, the grand scene was coming; what was brought out was actually a piece of Crimson Blood Dragon Gold as large as a fist, definitely not the fake stuff seen at street stalls, but authentic Crimson Blood Dragon Gold.

Though it was just fist-sized, it emitted dazzling red light. Watching it long enough felt like gazing into a sea of blood, emanating the unique aura of Crimson Blood Dragon Gold.

This truly pushed the venue to a climax, with bidding voices continuously echoing.

Crimson Blood Dragon Gold is a rare material for sacrificial refining of spiritual artifacts. Even adding a bit of it to ordinary spiritual artifacts or treasures can significantly improve their quality.

Certainly, trying to refine it into a weapon solely wouldn't be possible, unless in creating something like a flying knife or a pair of chopsticks it might work.

Therefore, albeit immensely precious, it had some drawbacks.

Yet, despite this, the scene was frenzied with bidding wars over the Crimson Blood Dragon Gold. Ye Fan and others were tempted but still didn't bid, as the item was too small and had little use. However, it was highly useful for the Wu Shang Sect individuals, perfect for repairing damaged Emperor Weapons.

Just as Ye Fan planned not to bid, Elder Xuan suddenly spoke in his sea of consciousness, saying, "If possible, try to bid for it. This item is valuable for repairing the Nine Heavens Mysterious Crown as well."

Ye Fan was stunned, gritted his teeth, and decided to join the bidding. But after calling out a few bids, Ye Fan realized something was off. The bids from several boxes seemed to be exhausting all their resources. Even if the Xuanwu Sect sold Xuanwu Mountain, they wouldn't be able to compete with these people.

It was obvious that these were people from major sects. Aside from them, no one else had this kind of audacity. Every increase was in the thousands or even tens of thousands of spirit stones, which a sect from a small place couldn't possibly afford.

Ye Fan was silent, and Elder Xuan was silent too. To miss such a good opportunity was really a pity, but there was no choice. Even if Ye Fan took out all the treasures on him, he still couldn't compete with others.

This item was also niche. For an ordinary sect, it was like a chicken rib: tasteless to eat, but a waste to discard. Yet for sects with powerful spiritual artifacts, it was an extremely rare item.

This time, Ye Fan didn't follow suit to cause trouble, and he didn't need to. The people in several VIP rooms were already rolling up their sleeves, ready for a big fight.

Gu Xuanran's mouth was crooked with laughter. This auction could be said to be unprecedentedly successful, and all of this was largely due to Ye Fan's merit.

The people below were almost just watching the excitement. Such an auction had nothing to do with them; they could only watch as the major giants engaged in a bloody bidding war.

However, such a scene was not often seen, and everyone was watching with interest. Although they didn't know exactly which parties were involved, they could make a good guess.

Ye Fan wasn't in the mood to guess. He was secretly worried: if a piece of Crimson Blood Dragon Gold could fetch such a sky-high price, then what about the final highlight, the Soul Summoning Grass? What kind of price would it be driven to? Would his strategy succeed?

No matter what, they had come this far. He had to give it a try no matter what.

In the end, after a fierce competition, the Crimson Blood Dragon Gold was successfully auctioned at a sky-high price of several hundred thousand. Although it was much higher than the value of this piece of Crimson Blood Dragon Gold, no one regretted it.

"Next is our highlight dish, please pay attention, fellow Daoists!"

With that, two female cultivators brought up a jade box, one square foot in size, and placed it on the auction table.

Gu Xuanran ceremoniously opened the jade box and took out an unremarkable herb from inside. It was only palm-sized, with seven leaves on it. There was no flower, no fruit, but a faint fragrance emanated from the leaves.

All of this was very similar to the characteristics of the Soul Summoning Grass. It could be confirmed that this was indeed the Soul Summoning Grass.

“Fellow Daoists, this is a treasure medicine. The medicine age has reached eight hundred years. It is called the Soul Summoning Grass, the best treasure medicine for condensing the Divine Soul and cultivating Divine Sense. The starting price is eight thousand jin of high-grade spirit stones. You can start bidding now.”

Gu Xuanran didn’t give much introduction to the final Soul Summoning Grass, but one couldn’t blame him for it, because the Soul Summoning Grass was too rare. It was hard to see even one, and many people didn’t even recognize this treasure medicine.

“I bid nine thousand jin!”

“I bid ten thousand jin!”

“...”

Until fifteen thousand jin, no one was willing to raise the price any further, and this price was far below the true value of the Soul Summoning Grass.

At this moment, Ye Fan’s voice rang out again: “Fifteen thousand one hundred jin!”

Boom!

The entire auction hall almost exploded, with people standing up and accusing Ye Fan of being unethical.

“Damn you, shill, you want to trick us again, don’t you? We won’t fall for it anymore.”

“How shameless, raising the price by just a bit each time, isn’t that provoking?”

“Exactly, he’s squeezed all our spirit stones dry; let him have this treasure unsold.”

“Since he wants to bid, let him have it, let’s go!”

“Put away your tricks, we won’t fall for it again, you want it? Fine! You can have it.”

At this moment, everyone thought Ye Fan was a shill for the auction house, and they didn’t know the true value of the Soul Summoning Grass. Seeing Ye Fan play this trick again, they collectively went silent. Even those from the major sects stopped bidding.

At this time, Gu Xuanran cried, resentfully glancing at the VIP room where Ye Fan was and lengthening his voice: “Fifteen thousand one hundred jin, first time! Is there no higher bid?”

“Fifteen thousand one hundred jin, second time, this is the Soul Summoning Grass! Worth a fortune, this price is just like picking it up for free!”

The crowd collectively gave him a cold shoulder, thinking that no matter how eloquent you are, we won't fall for it again.

“Fifteen thousand one hundred jin, sold!”

When the tuning hammer fell, Gu Xuanran felt like his heart broke.

That was the Soul Summoning Grass, a treasure medicine...