

Y Master 321

Chapter 321 [Break the Formation, Treasure]

The next day at noon, a plane flying from Dong Hai landed safely and steadily at Yanjing International Airport, gliding along the concrete runway toward the gate assigned for it in advance.

Not far from the gate, an airport shuttle bus was parked, and a young driver was staring motionlessly at the Ferrari behind him through the rearview mirror.

To be precise, he was staring at the woman beside the Ferrari.

The woman reflected in his eyes was wearing a fiery red cloak, red leather pants on her lower body, and a pair of red boots on her feet, complementing the red Ferrari sports car beside her.

She was a woman with a unique passion for red.

Even her wavy long hair was dyed wine red, and her lips were so enticingly red that one could hardly resist the urge to bite them.

As an airport shuttle bus driver, he had seen many beautiful women, but none left an impression on him quite like the seductive woman behind him.

In his eyes, the woman behind him was like a demon sent from heaven to mesmerize all living beings.

"Handsome... handsome guy..."

Just as the young driver was about to be captivated by the woman, she suddenly gave him a charming smile and spoke in a coquettishly sweet voice that made his bones feel like jelly, causing him to swallow his saliva several times, quite shamelessly.

Perhaps out of embarrassment for being caught staring, the young driver quickly shifted his gaze away. His heart was uncontrollably thumping, his mind awash with images of the woman's sultry body and alluring smile.

"Hmm~"

Later on, as the young driver saw the passenger plane nearing the gate, he took a deep breath to dispel the images in his mind and simultaneously opened the shuttle bus door, waiting for passengers to board.

Meanwhile, the enchanting Chu Ji stopped teasing the young driver and, like him, turned her attention to the passenger aircraft approaching the gate.

Soon, under Chu Ji and the young driver's watchful eyes, the passenger plane came to a halt. Moments later, the cabin door opened and, with the air stewardesses' smiling goodbye, passengers began to disembark in an orderly fashion.

Whoosh!

Every time passengers exited the cabin, they couldn't help but turn their gaze towards Chu Ji, as if she were a magnet with a powerful force of attraction.

Especially for men!

The first sight of Chu Ji made every man's pupils inadvertently dilate, their eyes sparkling with a mixture of amazement, admiration, and desire.

Upon seeing Chu Ji, women felt a sense of inadequacy, with some even pinching their partners fiercely, their faces showing clear anger.

Observing this scene, Chu Ji's face broke into a mischievous smile. Then, when she spotted Ye Fan emerging from the crowd, she quickly waved and called out, "Xiao Fan, over here, here!"

"__"

Ye Fan had seen Chu Ji's fiery figure inside the cabin and witnessed the sensation she caused. Now, seeing her wave at him like an excited little girl, making others look around, he felt somewhat speechless.

However—

What made Ye Fan even more speechless was that Chu Ji, ignoring everyone's stares, strutted over with her chest thrust out and hips swaying in a seductive manner, advancing toward him.

"Didn't you say I should go there by myself?"

Ye Fan had just disembarked and saw all the people around looking at him and Chu Ji, asking with a wry smile.

No answer.

Under everyone's gaze, Chu Ji hooked her arm around Ye Fan's, declaring, "I've been waiting for you for so long, come home with sister and see how I'll deal with you!"

"Eh..."

As soon as Chu Ji uttered those words, the surrounding men looked at Ye Fan with envy, jealousy, and resentment as if to say: Damn it, how come a beautiful flower like her ended up with cow dung?

Driven by jealousy, the women internally scoffed at them: Shameless!

Ignoring everyone's gazes, Chu Ji clung to Ye Fan like a bird nestling up to a person, only releasing him when they reached the Ferrari.

"Senior sister, what are you trying to do?" Ye Fan wanted to cry without tears, knowing that Chu Ji usually insisted on being addressed as Aunt, but today she was calling herself sister in front of everyone.

Chu Ji stood tall, displaying her proud curves: "Isn't your aunt just trying to avoid harassment?"

"So you use me as a shield?" Ye Fan felt his mouth twitch.

"What? Do you feel embarrassed having your aunt with you?" Chu Ji shot him an angry glare.

"Which aunt gets this intimate with her nephew?" Ye Fan rolled his eyes.

"Smack—"

Annoyed, Chu Ji gave Ye Fan a slap on the back of his head and commanded, "Get in the car!"

Ye Fan climbed into the passenger's seat speechlessly.

"Vroom~"

Accompanied by a roaring sound, the fiery Ferrari sped off, gradually disappearing from the onlookers' sight.

Forty minutes later, Chu Ji drove into a rare hutong in Yanjing City and parked in front of a courtyard where Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi was rich.

"Eh, Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array?"

Noticing the unusually dense Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi above the courtyard, Ye Fan was slightly startled.

"You're allowed to set up arrays and cultivate in Ao Xiang Villa, but your aunt can't use the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array for cultivation?" Chu Ji replied discontentedly.

"Has the old man been here?" Ye Fan pondered. Although Chu Ji was powerful, she was only a martial artist and wouldn't be capable of setting up the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array.

"Mhm." Chu Ji nodded and said, "Before the master went on his travels, he came here and casually set up this formation."

"Hmm, no news from the old man?"

Thinking of Chu Xuanji, Ye Fan felt a bit nostalgic. Although he had experienced the mortal world for two years before, each time it was for completing missions, and he never stayed as long in the mundane world as this time.

"No." Chu Ji shook her head and then, thinking of Chu Xuanji's reason for descending to the world this time, a bitter smile spread on her lips.

"I was saying that I would go back and see him after the auction is over." Ye Fan sighed softly, "He must be quite lonely by himself."

"Lonely my big-headed ghost."

Chu Ji adjusted her mood, cursed with a laugh, and then said, "Come on, let's see what your aunt has prepared for you."

"Alright."

Ye Fan smiled and followed Chu Ji into the courtyard.

Hm?

Entering the Courtyard, Ye Fan immediately found himself drawn to the northeast corner, where what appeared to be brightly colored flowers were actually a house disguised by an illusion spell.

"That illusion must be the old man's handiwork too, right?" Ye Fan reflected as he looked towards the northeast, his mind as clear as a mirror.

"Yes, that's the storage room. I stored the things I prepared for you there. To avoid it being stolen when I'm not around, Master used magic to create an illusion," Chu Ji nodded.

"Oh?" Ye Fan, intrigued, exclaimed, "Let me check it out."

"Don't..." Chu Ji's face changed, trying to stop him.

However—

Before she could finish speaking, Ye Fan leaped forward, stepping right into the Illusion Realm!

"Uh..."

Chu Ji was dumbfounded by this sight!

After Chu Xuanji had set up the illusion, he told her that unless it was a magician at the Innate Great Perfection Realm, it would be impossible to break the illusion; at best, one would get lost within it, and at worst, lose their consciousness, or even have their soul dispersed!

"Sss~"

After the shock passed, Chu Ji gasped coldly, then without hesitation, rushed to the front of the illusion, quickly jumping in a peculiar pattern as Chu Xuanji had taught her to break the formation.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan felt as though he had entered a labyrinth, surrounded by white fog with corridors in all directions, unable to distinguish north from south, east from west.

Observing this, Ye Fan focused his consciousness and carefully sensed everything around him, attempting to locate the Array Eye through the fluctuations of Primordial Qi.

As a magician, he knew very well that if he did not find the Array Eye, he would be trapped in this Illusion Realm forever, until his consciousness was lost, leading to his mind's destruction.

"The old man truly is a Supreme Strongman with Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts at the Gang Qi Realm. His formation is so exquisite that I can't even sense the fluctuations of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi."

With careful sensing, Ye Fan noticed he couldn't detect any fluctuations of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and couldn't help but marvel. Then, after a moment of thought, his hand flipped, revealing a black Ghostly Gourd floating in front of him.

"Wuu wuu... wuu wuu..."

As soon as the Ghostly Gourd appeared, a gust of cold wind blew up, and the Evil Yin Qi within it surged out like floodwaters, enveloping the Illusion Realm.

As the Evil Yin Qi emerged, the amount of Evil Yin Qi within the illusion increased sharply, and fluctuations in the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi appeared, with significant pulsations at five locations.

"Rise!"

Ye Fan moved his consciousness and bellowed!

"Swish swish swish swish swish..."

Five sounds of tearing through the air rang out nearly simultaneously, and five yellow flags, which served as the Array Eyes, shot up into the sky and fell into Ye Fan's hands.

Did he break the formation?

Chu Ji, who was fervently trying to break the formation, suddenly found the scene in front of her change dramatically. The flowery scenery vanished, and what appeared was a house functioning as a storage room, with Ye Fan holding five yellow flags, standing in front of the house, a black gourd floating before him.

How did he break it?

Was it with the help of that Ghostly Gourd?

Chu Ji stood dumbstruck, silently asking herself.

"Recollect!"

As if answering Chu Ji, Ye Fan gestured a 'recollect' handprint, and the diffused Evil Yin Qi, as if summoned, was rapidly absorbed back into the Ghostly Gourd, leaving the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi tranquil again.

"You think you're capable now?"

Seeing this scene and confirming her guess, Chu Ji immediately rushed to Ye Fan, reached out with her delicate hand, grabbed his ear, and admonished him.

"It's just curiosity," Ye Fan tried to break free.

"Curiosity killed the cat, you know that?" Instead of letting go, Chu Ji increased her grip.

"Got it, I won't dare to do it again."

Seeing that Chu Ji wasn't letting go, Ye Fan had to beg for mercy. He knew all too well that his elder sister—or rather, his aunt—had not spared him from bullying since they were young, and she had always enjoyed it.

In Chu Ji's words: Elders disciplining the youth is a natural right, strong people bullying the weak is the law of the jungle!

"Learn your lesson."

Chu Ji knocked on Ye Fan's head irritably, then waved her left hand to grab the Ghostly Gourd. She began to examine it closely.

"That is a Magic Artifact for magicians; you can't make heads or tails of it," Ye Fan teased on purpose.

"Take your broken trinket back!"

Chu Ji, knowing that Magic Artifacts are used by magicians and Martial Artists and that the former is only for magicians, angrily threw the Ghostly Gourd back at Ye Fan. She then thought of something else and said, "By the way, I heard that there might be Magic Artifacts for Martial Artists at the auction."

"Really?"

Ye Fan was intrigued; Magic Artifacts were incredibly rare, yet he hadn't expected them to appear at this auction.

"Yes. Not only is this auction the biggest of the year, but it's also happening before the Qing bang Competition. Surely many old fellows will buy treasures to enhance their disciples' strengths, so that their disciples can make them proud in the competition," Chu Ji nodded.

"And those cultivators with treasures will take this opportunity to make a fortune," she added.

"I hope there will be more Magic Artifacts."

Ye Fan's eyes brightened. For him, obtaining a Magic Artifact for Martial Artists, even if it wasn't suitable for him, would be like the Taiyin Xuan Sword; he could absorb its essence to improve his strength.

"It's useless even if you come across them. Good treasures aren't traded with money but are exchanged for equally valuable treasures," Chu Ji said with a wry smile.

"That's true."

As Chu Xuanji's disciple, Ye Fan was naturally aware of this; all the valuable Magic Artifacts, Cultivation Techniques, and martial arts skills were not traded with money and were deemed priceless; some rare Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures were no exception.

"Alright, let's not talk about this for now. Let's take a look at what I've prepared for you; there are two treasures," Chu Ji said as she took out an electronic key and opened the alloy-constructed house door.

Treasures?

Ye Fan was moved and quickly activated the Ghostly Gourd to sense them!

Chapter 322 Surprise

Sensing the treasure.

This was one of the functions of the Mid-level Magical Artifact, the Ghostly Gourd.

In some sense, the Ghostly Gourd's classification as a Mid-level Magical Artifact was largely due to this function, despite its general attack power.

Hmm?

Soon, with the help of the Ghostly Gourd, Ye Fan sensed two dense streams of Heaven and Earth Spiritual Energy and swept his gaze over them like a flash of lightning.

What appeared in Ye Fan's view was a flower and a ginseng.

The flower had five petals, each of a different color: gold, green, blue, red, and yellow.

Miraculously, despite not growing in soil or soaked in water, the flower was not wilted. Instead, the colors of the five petals were extremely vibrant!

And the ginseng, unlike ordinary ginseng, was glowing red all over, shimmering with a red light that, at first glance, appeared like a flame.

"It's actually a Five-Colored Flower and Fire Spirit Ginseng!"

Ye Fan's eyes widened as he stared, akin to a parched man beholding an exquisitely beautiful woman bathing and changing clothes, his eyes gleaming with desire.

As the disciple of Chu Xuanji, Ye Fan had fully inherited Chu Xuanji's mantle, including medical and pharmaceutical skills.

Unlike mundane pharmaceutical methods, Chu Xuanji taught Ye Fan alchemy, which precisely involved using Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures as ingredients and employing magic to manipulate flames within a Medicine Furnace to concoct medicines.

Under such circumstances, Ye Fan had been learning alchemy from a young age and was as familiar with Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures as the back of his hand.

At this moment, the Five-Colored Flower and Fire Spirit Ginseng before him could be said to be the cream of the crop among Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures!

More precisely, these two items had transcended the category of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures—they were known as 'Plant Essences' in the Cultivation World!

The so-called 'Plant Essences' are actually precious Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures that have transformed under the nurturing of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

They possess incredibly precious essences of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi!

Heaven and Earth Essence.

This is something cultivators dream of obtaining!

Once a cultivator consumes a Plant Essence and absorbs the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi within, that essence will directly transform into Essence of Power!

That's right...

It's Essence of Power!!

You see, when Ye Fan needed to perform empowerment on Pan Jueming to boost his strength, he had used a bit of his Essence of Power and took nearly a month to recover.

And that was when he was using the Ghostly Gourd to activate the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array!

If it were an ordinary martial artist, relying solely on meditation cultivation, it would take at least a year!

Had Ye Fan possessed a Plant Essence at that time, not only could he have instantly recovered the spent Essence of Power, but he could have also enhanced his strength just like he absorbed the pure yang energy essence from the Taiyin Xuan Sword!

All of this is enough to prove how precious the Plant Essences are!

Just like high-level magical artifacts, cultivation techniques, or martial skills, they are treasures of inestimable value, almost impossible to buy with money!

"Sister... sister, where did you get these Plant Essences?" After who knows how long, Ye Fan came back to his senses from his shock and looked at Chu Ji with a puzzled face.

"The Xiangshan Group owns an herbal medicine company under its umbrella, not only purchasing ordinary herbs daily but also has a specialized herbal gathering team. These two Plant Essences were obtained by that team from Changbai Mountain and the Southwest respectively," Chu Ji explained calmly, though she secretly sighed inwardly: Master must have gone through a lot of trouble to obtain these two Plant Essences, right?

"No way?"

Ye Fan was somewhat astonished. As far as he knew, the amount of Plant Essences in the world was extremely rare, and they often grew on cliffs or in hidden places. They were difficult for ordinary people to discover, and even if discovered, they were hard to harvest due to the restricted conditions.

"Just lucky, I guess," Chu Ji said evasively, feeling somewhat guilty.

"It's not just good luck, it's unbelievably good luck!"

Ye Fan couldn't help but laugh and cry. He was well aware that many martial artists and even mercenaries from the other Five Great Alliances had traveled around the world and still found it hard to gather a single Plant Essence.

"Don't just get excited, see if the other Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures are of any use," perhaps afraid of being exposed by a jest, Chu Ji quickly changed the subject.

"Hmm."

Ye Fan nodded and then his gaze swiftly swept toward the other items in the warehouse.

Clover, Gold and Silver Flower, hundreds of vines...

"Hmm~"

Despite the shock from the two Plant Essences, Ye Fan was still greatly surprised by the other Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures in the warehouse.

Though not as precious as the Plant Essences, these were extremely rare to encounter and were excellent materials for alchemy.

Besides, in the corner of the warehouse, there was a pile of Essence Stones, one of which was even half a meter long!

You should know that Duanmu, who was a Magician just like the others and an Early Innate Mage, treasured even a fingernail-sized Essence Stone as a prized possession...

"Do you think these Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures can be used for alchemy? If so, you should make some Elixir Pills during these two days and take them to the auction. You might be able to exchange them for something, and even if you can't exchange them, they could be sold at an extraordinarily high price."

Although Chu Ji knew that the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, personally collected by Chu Xuanji, were definitely of high quality, she still harbored some anticipation, hoping that Ye Fan would use them to concoct Elixir Pills!

In this world, the Magicians capable of concocting medicines are few and far between. Thus, although Elixir Pills are not as precious as martial skills, Cultivation Techniques, Magic Artifacts, or Plant Essence, they are still something that cultivators dream of obtaining.

And some powerful Elixir Pills are considered priceless, not purchasable with money but requiring exchanges with other treasures.

"It is possible."

Ye Fan's proficiency in medicine had long surpassed that of Chu Xuanji. With just one glance, he not only knew that the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures in front of him could be used for alchemy but also that they could be used to concoct Intermediate and even High-level Elixir.

"Oh?" Chu Ji was delighted and asked further, "What level of Elixir Pills can be concocted?"

"Both Intermediate and High-level are possible," Ye Fan honestly replied.

"Are you sure you can concoct High-level Elixir Pills?"

Chu Ji was shocked. Like martial skills and Magic Artifacts, Elixir Pills were also categorized into Primary, Intermediate, and High-level.

Among them, High-level Elixir Pills were extremely difficult to concoct, and the materials were incredibly hard to find, their preciousness comparable to a Mid-level Magic Artifact!

"If that Five-Colored Flower is used for alchemy, a High-level Elixir called 'Returning Essence Pill' can be concocted."

Ye Fan nodded and said, "Moreover, if I use my Life-bound Essence Blood as the main ingredient, combined with some other materials, I can concoct a High-level Elixir called 'Nirvana Pill'."

"Uhm..."

Chu Ji was stunned. Although she couldn't concoct Elixir Pills herself, she knew them like the back of her hand due to Chu Xuanji's influence—the two Elixir Pills mentioned by Ye Fan were the most needed and the most precious in the Martial Arts World!

The Returning Essence Pill, as its name suggests, once consumed by a cultivator, can replenish a vast amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and instantly transform the Elixir's Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi into Power.

This means that if a Martial Artist were to excessively deplete their Power during a life-or-death battle, they could completely swallow a Returning Essence Pill to replenish their Power and continue maintaining their combat effectiveness!

Comparatively, the Nirvana Pill is even more precious!

It is used for healing injuries.

As long as the body hasn't sustained fatal damage or the Consciousness isn't impaired, recovery can be achieved through the Nirvana Pill, and the healing speed is extremely fast!

"Do you mean that if we don't use the Five-Colored Flower and Life-bound Essence Blood, we can only concoct Intermediate Elixir Pills at most?" Chu Ji realized something after her shock.

"Yes. The Returning Essence Pill is equivalent to a weakened version of Plant Essence, but it is absorbed faster than Plant Essence. If it is concocted only by absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi through a Formation, its efficacy is far less than that mixed with Plant Essence, and it can only be considered an Intermediate Elixir," Ye Fan nodded in confirmation.

"As for the Nirvana Pill, it's an enhanced version of the Primary Elixir 'Golden Healing Pill,' which requires the addition of Yang Qi Essence that has rapid healing capabilities."

"I see."

Chu Ji had a sudden realization. Ye Fan, with his Extremely Yang Body, contained Yang Qi Essence in his Life-bound Essence Blood.

And although Life-bound Essence Blood was extremely important to Ye Fan, it could be transformed and restored through the Essence of Power.

"By the way, Senior Sister, the materials you provided are just right for concocting Returning Essence Pill and Nirvana Pill. Isn't that too coincidental? Did the old man give you a list of materials, and you specifically purchased them?"

Ye Fan curiously asked. Although these Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures could be purchased with money, Chu Ji couldn't concoct Elixir Pills and wouldn't have been able to collect just the right materials for these two Elixir Pills.

"Um... Master did give me a list of materials, some of which I bought at other auctions, and a few others were collected by that medicine picking team."

Chu Ji was weaving lies, but her heart was filled with emotion: no wonder Master rushed back to Yanjing before the auction, he really was considerate!

"I see..."

Due to his absolute trust in Chu Ji, Ye Fan had no doubts.

"My dear, the surprise came too quickly. I was worried earlier that we had nothing to exchange for the treasures at this auction, but it seems now that this problem no longer exists."

After her sentimental reflection, Chu Ji spoke excitedly, "With the Returning Essence Pill and Nirvana Pill you will concoct, we will reap greatly from this auction!"

"Because there is only one Five-Colored Flower, at most six Returning Essence Pills can be concocted. As for the Nirvana Pills... If I am willing to bleed enough, with the existing materials, at least twenty can be concocted!"

Ye Fan could not help but smile, as in each Elixir, the main material accounted for the highest proportion, and his Life-bound Essence Blood was the best primary ingredient for the Nirvana Pill.

"Six Returning Essence Pills, twenty Nirvana Pills, that's more than enough to exchange for High-level Magical Artifacts!"

Initially excited, Chu Ji's eyes revealed a touch of envy, "No wonder Master was willing to let your progress in the Martial Arts Realm be slow, he wanted you to spend time and effort learning alchemy—a skilled Alchemist is literally a money printing machine."

"If the old guy hadn't taught me medicine and alchemy back then, I'd be done for," Ye Fan said with a bitter smile.

"Just show off!" Although she said this, Chu Ji was well aware of the implications of 'done for' that Ye Fan mentioned.

This secret was known only to her and Chu Xuanji.

This was also why Chu Xuanji never dared to mention 'hero' in front of Ye Fan!

Chapter 323 Black Iron Fist Set

Time flowed like a river, and two days passed in the blink of an eye.

With the arrival of the Yanjing auction, martial artists from all over Huaxia and the world flooded into Yanjing from all directions over the past two days.

To ensure the safety of Emperor City, the leader of the Yanhuang Organization, the number one powerhouse of Huaxia, 'Yan', personally issued an order to be on alert, requiring all members of the Yanhuang Organization to fulfill their duties with due diligence, strengthening patrols and vigilance.

Besides that, the spokesperson for the Yanhuang Organization also specially held a press conference, reading the alert order signed by Yan himself in front of many journalists, and sternly declared: should anyone dare to compromise the safety of Emperor City during the Yanjing auction, the Yanhuang Organization would spare no expense to kill the culprit and eradicate the organization they belong to!

In the afternoon, Ye Long, a member of the Yanhuang Organization Patrol Team, coordinated with relevant departments to be responsible for patrolling the airport area along with four colleagues.

Unlike the police's patrolling methods, they didn't check IDs during their patrols; instead, they used their consciousness to sense their surroundings. As soon as they detected the aura of a martial artist or magician, they would immediately approach them for questioning and only let them go after verifying their information.

And if the martial artists or magicians questioned happened to be members of some dangerous forces, they would be taken away directly and then expelled from Huaxia.

"I really didn't expect this Yanjing auction to attract so many cultivators." A member of the patrol team with a thin face and monkey cheeks couldn't help but remark.

"Yeah, I remember last year's Dong Hai auction wasn't even half as grand as this one," another member said.

"Are you guys dumb? Can last year even compare to this year?"

"That's right, tomorrow there's going to be the Qing bang competition in the Huaxia Martial Arts World, and all the competitors are trying to enhance their strengths, naturally looking to bid on some items at this auction."

The last member, who was on good terms with Ye Long, said enviously as he glanced at Ye Long, "Captain, I heard that the chief has given you three Plant Essences to exchange for a high-level Magic Artifact, so you can shine at next year's Qing bang competition?"

Whoosh!

As his words fell, the other three Yanhuang Organization members also looked at Ye Long with envy.

The Yanhuang Organization, being the flag and management body of the Huaxia Martial Arts World, gets three entries to each Qing bang competition, and with Ye Long ranked second among the younger members, his participation in the Qing bang competition was a sure thing!

More than the qualification to participate in the Qing bang competition, they were even more envious of Ye Long's opportunity to acquire a high-level Magical Artifact!

After all, among the younger generation, only the Martial Arts genius who was taken as a direct disciple by 'Yan' owned a high-level Magical Artifact.

"Hmm."

Feeling his subordinates' envious gazes, Ye Long smiled proudly.

"Captain, what high-level Magic Artifact is it that you need three Plant Essences to exchange for?" The thin-faced member couldn't help but ask.

"It's a secret for now."

Ye Long intentionally played coy, then lifted his wrist communicator to check the time, and said sternly, "The auction starts in three hours. I'll be stepping away for a moment; keep a close watch and be sure not to make any mistakes."

"Yes, Captain!"

The four Yanhuang Organization members took their orders respectfully.

"The Captain has entered the Peak of Innate Realm for a year now and could break through to Innate Great Perfection at any time. If he does, coupled with the high-level Magic Artifact he's about to exchange, except for Emperor Bai and Leng Feng, no one could be his match in the Qing bang competition, right?"

"Isn't that stating the obvious?"

"Exactly, reaching Innate Great Perfection and equipped with a high-level Magic Artifact, he could practically sweep through any cultivator below the Gang Qi Realm."

...

After Ye Long left, the group couldn't help but discuss in hushed tones.

Ye Long heard everything clearly but didn't blame them; instead, he wore a self-satisfied smile.

Forty minutes later.

Ye Long returned home, entered his bedroom, and took out three ancient boxes that had been prepared in advance.

When he opened the boxes, the rich essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi rushed towards him. Just with a single inhalation, Ye Long felt invigorated as the Power Seed within him thrummed enthusiastically, as if pleading with him to absorb the three Plant Essences completely.

"What a pity, if I consumed these three Plant Essences, I would definitely step into the Innate Great Perfection Realm," Ye Long sighed as he looked at the three Plant Essences in the box.

As a Martial Arts genius ranked second among the younger generation of the Yanhuang Organization, he was very clear that a martial artist's cultivation is divided into major and minor realms.

Among them, Postnatal and Innate constitute the major realm difference, while Entry, Great Success, Peak, and Great Perfection are distinctions of minor realms.

The elevation of a major realm signifies a qualitative leap, which places high demands on one's insight into Martial Arts and spiritual cultivation. On the other hand, the advancement of minor realms is a quantitative change and has lower requirements for Martial Arts insight and spiritual cultivation; bottlenecks are easily broken through!

In fact, as long as one persists in absorbing the essence of Heaven and Earth and converts it into Power and Mind Power, they will eventually reach Great Perfection.

Of course, the best approach is to consume treasures like Plant Essence that contain the essence of Heaven and Earth Qi, converting it into the Essence of Power, which can greatly increase one's strength in a very short time!

For example, powerful Wu Xue Sects invest massive resources in their Sect's Martial Arts geniuses, including precious treasures like Plant Essence!

In such circumstances, those Martial Arts geniuses don't have to worry about improving their strength and can use the time saved from absorbing Heaven and Earth Qi to practice martial skills, enhancing their combat effectiveness!

Of course, there's one prerequisite!

That is, the Martial Arts geniuses must enter the Innate Realm through their own efforts!

Because... the Postnatal Realm is the stage where one lays their foundations; if the foundations aren't solid, even if one uses external aids to increase their strength quickly, their future achievements will be very limited!

"Huh~"

After a moment of impulse, Ye Long took a deep breath to dispel the distractions in his mind, murmuring to himself, "Although Plant Essence is important, the high-level Magic Artifact 'Black Iron Fist set' that will appear at the auction is even more precious. Touted as the best Magic Artifact for fist practitioners, once I get the 'Black Iron Fist set', the power of Yanhuang Fist will increase significantly!"

"And as long as I make a brilliant appearance at next year's Qing bang competition, my master will surely find a way to request more Plant Essence from the leader for me!"

Toward the end, Ye Long's eyes shone brightly, "Furthermore, there is still plenty of time before next year's Qing bang competition. I can definitely break through to the Innate Great Perfection realm based on my own strength!"

As his words faded, Ye Long closed the three ancient-looking boxes with determination and then packed them into a pull-along suitcase.

After finishing all this, Ye Long, pulling the suitcase, left his home and drove straight to the location of the auction.

Although there were still two hours before the auction, he had to get there early to assist the members of the Yanhuang Organization there, to ensure the safety of the auction venue together.

At the same time.

Inside the courtyard in Yanjing Sanlin Alley, where the primordial qi between heaven and earth was rich.

Ye Fan sat cross-legged on the stone table in the courtyard, with the Ghostly Gourd floating in front of him, acting as the 'Array Eye' for the 'Gathering Essence Array'. Streams of Wood Element Qi, separated from the surrounding heaven and earth, plummeted down like a waterfall from the sky, entering the Medicine Furnace and continuously maintained the operation of the 'Fire Dragon Formation' within it.

Ye Fan's consciousness was divided, half controlling the slow entry of Wood Element Qi into the Medicine Furnace, and the other half using magic to stimulate the 'Fire Dragon Formation' within the Medicine Furnace. It was somewhat strenuous, causing fine beads of sweat to appear on his forehead, but he did not wipe them away.

Because at this moment, he had to carefully control the fire, otherwise, the flames would burn the heavenly materials and earthly treasures within the Medicine Furnace and fail to extract their essence.

"Hiss hiss~"

Above the Medicine Furnace, flickering red flames crackled, and various herbs sizzled lightly under the flame's grilling.

"Swoosh——"

After an unknown period, Ye Fan sensed that the essences of the heavenly materials and earthly treasures within the Medicine Furnace had been completely refined, he suddenly exhaled a mouthful of blood. The blood turned into a blood arrow as it entered the Medicine Furnace.

"Sizzle~"

As soon as the blood touched the black flames, it evaporated, transforming into a white vapor.

Pure Yang Qi!

That was the Pure Yang Qi contained within Ye Fan's Life-bound Essence Blood!

"Clang——"

With the appearance of Pure Yang Qi, Ye Fan instantly withdrew the Fire Dragon Formation, and then with a thought, the lid of the Medicine Furnace rose into the air, swiftly capping the furnace.

Chu Ji's heart tightened upon seeing this scene!

Although she did not practice alchemy, she had seen Ye Fan and Chu Xuanji perform alchemy on multiple occasions and knew that at this point Ye Fan had already refined the essences of various heavenly materials and earthly treasures and had injected the main material, his Life-bound Essence Blood, into them.

What Ye Fan needed to do next was to combine the essences of the heavenly materials and earthly treasures with the Pure Yang Qi contained in his Life-bound Essence Blood to form a pill.

This was the most critical moment in alchemy, where the slightest carelessness could lead to failure in pill formation, and all efforts would go down the drain!

"Combine!"

Just as Chu Ji was worried, Ye Fan suddenly let out a loud shout, a flash of golden light at his brow as telekinesis surged out, controlling the fusion of various essences of heavenly materials and earthly treasures with the rich Pure Yang Qi in the Medicine Furnace. At the same time, his hands rapidly formed the handprint for 'Combine'.

"Clang!"

As the handprint formed, a crisp sound echoed!

The lid of the Medicine Furnace flew up suddenly, and a rich fragrance wafted out from within, enveloping Ye Fan like a white fog.

"Swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh..."

Immediately afterward, the sound of cutting through the air rang out as twenty red-tinted white 'Nirvana Pills' burst forth from the Medicine Furnace, instantly intensifying the aroma.

Ye Fan, seeing this, did not hesitate. He quickly controlled the Nirvana Pills with his telekinesis, guiding them into an orchid porcelain bottle he had prepared beforehand to preserve their potency.

"Phew... It's finally done!"

Upon witnessing this, Chu Ji quietly let out a sigh of relief. Her hanging heart gradually settled, and her tightly clenched fists relaxed.

Although she knew that Ye Fan's medical skills were miraculous and his alchemy surpassed even Chu Xuanji, the fact that the twenty Nirvana Pills were so precious caused even her steadfast spirit to be unavoidably nervous!

In contrast, Ye Fan had been much more relaxed when using the Plant Spirit 'Five-Colored Flower' to refine the 'Returning Essence Pill' yesterday.

"I was originally planning to refine the Taiyin Xuan Sword and make Flying Knives out of it, but it seems I have no time now," Ye Fan himself also breathed a sigh of relief, then wiped the sweat off his forehead.

"What's the rush?" Chu Ji handed Ye Fan a napkin with an exasperated tone, "The Flying Knives are for your own use, not for the auction. You can slowly refine them after the auction ends. Besides, who knows, there might be high-level magical artifacts in the form of Flying Knives at the auction, right?"

"That's also true," Ye Fan replied with a smile as he stood up. Although he was capable of using the Taiyin Xuan Sword to make Flying Knives, because of the special material, they could barely be considered mid-level magical artifacts. To be classified as high-level magical artifacts, they would need to have formations added to enhance their power.

As Chu Xuanji had been immersed in alchemy in his later years and had not devoted much effort to artifact refining, his level of artifact crafting was merely at an elementary level.

Ye Fan, having inherited Chu Xuanji's mantle, though showing signs of outstripping his mentor, could only barely manage to refine mid-level magical artifacts at best!

"Let's go, the auction is about to start, and we shouldn't be late," Chu Ji checked the time and reminded him.

"Alright."

Ye Fan nodded, collected the bottle of Nirvana Pills, and walked out of the courtyard with Chu Ji. They got into a car and headed straight for the site of the auction!

Chapter 324 Martial Arts Genius

Climbing the Great Wall, eating roast duck, touring the Forbidden City, wandering around Pan Garden...

It's unknown when it started, but this has become the compulsory itinerary for tourists from the other Five Great Alliances visiting Yanjing.

Pan Garden developed gradually with the rise and prosperity of folk antique and art trade, and now it has become a large-scale antique and art market renowned for spreading folk culture with its ancient charm.

Located at the Southwest of Pan Garden Bridge on the South Road of Yanjing's Eastern Third Ring, Pan Garden covers an area of 48,500 square meters.

The market is divided into seven operating areas: the stall area, ancient architecture area, classical furniture area, modern collection area, stone carving area, auction area, and catering service area.

Among them, the auction area was built five years ago and is located underground with three floors, divided into Primary, Intermediate, and High-grade Auction Halls.

The upcoming Huaxia Martial Arts World auction in Yanjing will be held in Pan Garden's High-grade Auction Hall.

As dusk fell, the usually quiet auction area began to bustle as cars arrived one after another at the parking lot, and cultivators stepped out from the vehicles, heading toward the entrance of the auction hall.

Twenty members of the Yanhuang Organization Patrol Team, in cooperation with the police and armed police, were responsible for patrolling and monitoring every move within the auction area.

At the entrance, ten members of the Yanhuang Organization Law Enforcement Team were divided into two rows, tasked with checking the cultivators who came to participate in the auction.

First, they verified the identities of the cultivators, then checked whether they were in possession of an invitation letter.

The invitation letters were distributed by the organizer of the auction, the Huaxia Collection Association, but before being distributed, they underwent stringent scrutiny by the Yanhuang Organization. Some forces and individuals deemed dangerous by the Yanhuang Organization were unable to receive an invitation.

For example, the Hongwu Sect.

Originally, Hongwu Sect sent people to Hanghu to deal with Ye Fan, but not only were they killed by Ye Fan and Chu Ji under the rule of 'self-defense,' they also violated the rules of the Yanhuang Organization. They were punished by the Yanhuang Organization, listed as a dangerous force, and barred from participating in any events of the Huaxia Martial Arts World, including auctions, Qing bang competitions, and more.

As for foreign underground forces like the Qinghong Gang, they were even less likely to receive an invitation.

At seven o'clock, an imposing Rolls-Royce Phantom Presidential Edition pulled into the parking lot of the auction area.

The limited-edition Rolls-Royce Phantom Presidential Edition, known as the king of cars, did not cause a sensation; even the cultivators who came for the auction hardly gave it a glance.

On one hand, as cultivators, they had little desire for these worldly things. More importantly, the Rolls-Royce Phantom Presidential Edition might not even compare to a single Heavenly Material and Earthly Treasure on their person.

This was why Su Jindi mentioned at Su Liuli's birthday banquet that the Body Refining Pill Ye Fan refined could buy ten of Ouyang Lingfeng's Aston Martins.

Perhaps because today's auction was specifically for cultivators, Chu Ji not only refrained from arriving in a flashy sports car but specially dressed in a red cheongsam with a pair of old Yanjing cloth shoes. Her round, fair legs wrapped in flesh-colored stockings were enticingly attractive.

Ye Fan also shed the Zhongshan suit he was used to wearing and donned a black robe, which made him appear much more mature and reserved, while also adding a touch of mystery.

Not only them, but most of the cultivators who came to the auction today were dressed in Martial Arts Uniforms and robes.

Swoosh!

As Chu Ji and Ye Fan stepped out of the car, the Yanhuang Organization members and the police patrolling the parking lot, like iron to a magnet, unanimously turned their eyes towards Chu Ji and Ye Fan.

The police officers were captivated by Chu Ji's charm, while the Yanhuang Organization members were attracted by her identity.

Demon Queen Chu Ji!

This title not only held great influence in the upper echelons of the Mortal World but even more so in the Martial Arts World!

After a brief stop on Chu Ji, their gazes moved en masse to Ye Fan in his black robe.

The police officers gave him a cursory glance, while the Yanhuang Organization members paused.

Apparently, they had not expected Ye Fan to attend the auction.

Unconcerned with the gazes of the crowd, Ye Fan and Chu Ji walked shoulder to shoulder straight towards the entrance of the auction hall.

As Ye Fan and Chu Ji arrived relatively late, by the time they reached the entrance to the auction hall, the other cultivators had already entered, and they did not attract attention.

"There are three auction halls here in total; the first underground level is the Primary Auction Hall, which frequently hosts some auctions, selling ordinary antiques; the second underground level belongs to the Intermediate Auction Hall, which holds an auction every six months, selling some precious antiquities of the Mortal World, including national treasures; the third underground level is the High-grade Auction Hall, specifically for cultivators, holding an auction only once a year, but its influence far exceeds that of the Primary and Intermediate Auction Halls."

Entering the elevator, Chu Ji pressed the button for the third basement floor and explained the composition of the auction halls to Ye Fan, before she couldn't help but exclaim, "With the flourishing prosperity of the Martial Arts World, the status of cultivators is becoming higher and higher."

"Indeed."

Ye Fan nodded, setting aside the fact that Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, Cultivation Techniques, spiritual elixirs, and Plant Essence were priceless, nowadays, the strength of a cultivator at the Gang Qi Realm to the Five Great Alliances was as significant as a powerful deterrent weapon.

"Xiao Fan, do you know why the Martial Arts World suddenly began to flourish at the end of the last century?" Chu Ji suddenly asked.

Chapter 325 Martial Arts Genius_2

"Why?"

Ye Fan had never thought about this question, but now, hearing Chu Ji ask it, he couldn't help but feel curious.

"Since the end of the last century, the concentration of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi on Earth has suddenly increased, approximately tenfold!" Chu Ji revealed the mystery.

"What... what?" Ye Fan was startled and blurted out, "How could the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi suddenly become denser?"

"I don't know."

Chu Ji shook her head and continued, "But because the concentration of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi has increased tenfold, cultivators' cultivation speed has also increased accordingly, giving rise to one martial arts genius after another and many experts! You should know, in the past, a supreme strongman of the Gang Qi Realm would only emerge every few hundred years!"

"Ding Dong—"

As Chu Ji finished speaking, before Ye Fan could recover from his astonishment, a crisp sound rang out, and the elevator doors slowly opened.

"Whew~"

Ye Fan took a deep breath, adjusted his emotions, and followed Chu Ji out of the elevator.

Outside the elevator was an antique corridor, paved with pebble stones, with various flowers and plants growing on either side.

Seeing this scene, Ye Fan felt a slight stir in his consciousness and sensed that a 'Gathering Essence Array' had been set up on the third underground level of the high-level auction hall, allowing these plants to grow without sunlight by drawing in the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

After walking through the long corridor, a grand hall decorated in an ancient style appeared. It was furnished with sets of tea tables, chairs, and sofas made from high-grade redwood and pearwood.

This hall was the resting area of the high-grade auction hall where guests could rest and chat.

Since the auction had not yet started, many cultivators and super-rich individuals who had come to attend the auction grouped together to drink tea and discuss.

Ten maids dressed in cheongsams, exuding classical beauty, were constantly moving through the hall, serving the guests.

Swish!

When Chu Ji, dressed in a cheongsam, stepped into the hall with Ye Fan, gazes swept over them like lightning!

Hmm?

Upon seeing Chu Ji, both the cultivators and the super-rich in the rest area were momentarily stunned.

Then, they quickly shifted their gazes to Ye Fan, who was behind Chu Ji.

When they saw Ye Fan's face, which was not very familiar but certainly not unfamiliar, the pupils of everyone in the rest area, except for the maids, instantly dilated!

Clearly, they recognized Ye Fan!

For those super-rich individuals, their knowledge of Ye Fan was largely due to the fact that he was Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son and the trouble he had stirred up in Hanghu and Dong Hai.

And for those from the major martial arts sects, martial arts families, and forces, their awareness of Ye Fan stemmed from his recent slaying of the Wudang Sect's martial arts genius, Murong Sheng!

That battle made Ye Fan's name known throughout the entire Huaxia martial arts world!

Even the martial arts worlds of the other Five Great Alliances had heard of him!

"I had heard that Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son was a martial artist; seeing him here today must mean it's true."

"He must be here to bid for treasures."

"That's right, Chu Ji must be his money bag!"

After the initial shock, a few of the super-rich quietly discussed amongst themselves.

"This Ye Fan was previously unknown, but he just killed the Wudang Sect's martial arts genius Murong Sheng a few days ago and now appears here. Could it be that he intends to buy treasures to increase his strength for the upcoming Qing bang competition?"

"Definitely, with his strength, he not only qualifies for the Qing bang competition but is also strong enough to be a seed player!"

...

Not only the few super-rich, but the majority of the cultivators were also whispering among themselves, almost all concluding that Ye Fan was planning to participate in next year's Qing bang competition.

And there were a few people who did not make a sound; their gazes followed Ye Fan's movement, always locking on to Ye Fan!

Hmm?

Sensing a gaze filled with intense murderous intent, Ye Fan's heart stirred, and upon sweeping his gaze over, he unexpectedly saw a middle-aged man dressed in a black robe.

The middle-aged man was not tall, with a small face, deep-set eyes, and a gaze that was empty and cold. At first glance, he resembled an evil ghost, giving off an eerily chilling vibe.

"He is the eldest disciple of the Ghost Sect, named Ku Rong, a Peak stage of Innate Mage," Chu Ji also noticed Ye Fan's gaze on Ku Rong.

"No wonder I felt such strong murderous intent in his gaze; he must want to avenge his junior brother, Duanmu, by killing me," Ye Fan said upon hearing this, suddenly realizing the situation, and then noticed that Ku Rong had shifted his gaze and stood up to walk into the Auction Hall, moving incredibly fast, almost as if gliding.

"The one on your left is Nolan Xuan from the Northeast Nolan Family, a Barbarian clan member, said to be an Innate Great Success Martial Artist specializing in strength. But judging by his current aura, he should have stepped into the Peak stage of Innate," Chu Ji spoke up once again.

Ye Fan followed Chu Ji's direction and unexpectedly saw a young man in a white robe with braided hair.

"The young man in front of you to the right is Xiao Selang, a Martial Arts genius from the Tian Shan Sect, who also seems to be of Peak stage Innate strength, and the old man next to him is his master, also a strong person ranked within the top ten of the Dragon Ranking, called Cang Bo, known as Huaxia's Number One Sword. His swordsmanship is so refined that he should have entered the Gang Qi Realm," Chu Ji added.

"Gang Qi Realm?" Ye Fan was startled. The Gang Qi Realm was nearly equivalent to the strongest force on Earth, and he had not expected to encounter one here.

"I've told you before, because of the sudden surge in the Earth's Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi in the past twenty years, many Martial Arts geniuses have emerged, as well as some Supreme Strongmen!"

Chu Ji made a startling statement, "I can tell you clearly that right now, the number of Gang Qi Realm strong people in the Huaxia Martial Arts World is definitely more than ten!"

"Hiss~"

Ye Fan inhaled sharply, "Does that mean that the top ten of the Dragon Ranking are all in the Gang Qi Realm?"

"That's correct, because the Dragon Ranking is prepared by the Yanhuang Organization, they replace the rankings every year," Chu Ji said and then chuckled bitterly, "You shouldn't be surprised, the surge in Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi not only increased the speed of cultivators' Cultivation but also gave birth to lots of Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, and even Plant Spirits, such treasures. And you know, once a cultivator steps into the Early Innate Realm, they can completely enhance their strength with the help of external things."

"That makes sense."

Having heard Chu Ji explain this, Ye Fan felt relieved. If he had not absorbed the Pure Yang Qi inside the Taiyin Xuan Sword, it would have taken him at least two years to break through to Innate Great Success. Now, all he needed to do was condense another Power Seed inside his body to achieve it!

"However, relying on external things to enhance one's strength works best the first time; the effect diminishes with each subsequent use."

Chu Ji continued, "That is to say, after all, the path of Cultivation depends on one's own comprehension, will, and effort, especially if you want to become a Gang Qi Realm strong person, it is not something those so-called Martial Arts geniuses can achieve."

"Yes, I understand."

Ye Fan nodded. Although the realms of those Martial Arts geniuses were almost all higher than his, he did not feel envious. On one hand, the so-called Martial Arts geniuses typically enhanced their strength through external objects, on the other hand, due to his special method of Cultivation, the resources he

would need to reach Innate Great Perfection Realm would be a hundred times more than those geniuses!

If it was not so, with just the absorption of Pure Yang Qi from the Taiyin Xuan Sword, he could have already broken through to the Peak stage of Innate!

"These so-called Martial Arts geniuses are showing their War Intent because they saw you rise to the challenge; having slain Murong Sheng, they all want to defeat you to prove their own strength."

Chu Ji did not introduce other Martial Arts geniuses and revealed the reason instead, yet she internally sneered.

She was very clear that if it was not for Chu Xuanji deliberately toughening up Ye Fan and slowing down his Cultivation speed to build a solid foundation, in order to facilitate a smoother breakthrough to the Gang Qi Realm at Innate Great Perfection, Ye Fan's talent alone, even without relying on external objects and judging by Martial Arts Realm alone, could leave these geniuses far behind.

"Heh..."

Ye Fan let out a disdainful chuckle. With his current strength, by utilizing the Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts, he could basically sweep through any cultivator in the Innate Great Perfection Realm!

What's more, he could entirely rely on consuming Plant Essence to enhance his strength!

He did not even consider those so-called geniuses a threat!

"Little Chu!"

Suddenly, an excited voice rang out.

An aura that made Ye Fan's heart fear suddenly appeared in the hall!

Chapter 326 The Eldest Young Master of the Ye Family

Hmm?

Sensing that terrifying aura, Ye Fan's heart stirred, and his gaze swept over like a bolt of lightning.

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

At the same time, those cultivators and tycoons who had been conversing in the hall stopped their conversations almost as if by an agreement and, like Ye Fan, turned their attention to the source of that aura.

What appeared in everyone's view was a man dressed in a black martial arts uniform.

The man was nearly 1.8 meters tall and although he wasn't burly, his limbs were sturdy, and his arms hung naturally. His entire body was filled with explosive power, as if a single punch could kill a bull.

His temples were slightly bulging, his eyes were sharp like lightning, and as he walked, the air swirled around him, forming a miniature Qi vortex that looked quite strange.

Seeing that perpetual Qi vortex, everyone in the hall, aside from Cang Bo, the Sect Leader of the Tian Shan Sect, showed envy.

Qi vortex!

This was the mark of a cultivator who had cultivated Gang Qi!

Once a cultivator stepped into the Gang Qi Realm, the Gang Jin in their Dantian would transform into Gang Qi, forming a Qi vortex, and the Power Seed would also shatter, becoming the centerpiece of the Qi vortex!

And when a Gang Qi Realm cultivator did not conceal their aura, a small Qi vortex would form outside their body as well.

"An expert of the Gang Qi Realm?"

Feeling the black-clad man's powerful aura and looking at the spinning Qi vortex, Ye Fan was momentarily stunned.

"He has not stepped into the Gang Qi Realm, he's only at the Half-step Gang Qi Realm," explained Chu Ji, shaking her head.

"Half-step Gang Qi Realm?"

Ye Fan, puzzled, asked, "Wudang's Grand Elder Murong Gu is also at the Half-step Gang Qi Realm, but there is only a faint hint of a Qi vortex around him. Why is his Qi vortex so prominent?"

"That's because he has reached the pinnacle of the Half-step Gang Qi Realm and could step into the Gang Qi Realm at any moment," Chu Ji explained. "Besides, he is acclaimed to be the most promising future Gang Qi Realm expert in the Huaxia Martial Arts World!"

"Who is he?"

Ye Fan asked curiously, noting that the black-clad man's gaze was fixed on Chu Ji as he walked straight over.

"Hong Lie, Captain of the Yanhuang Organization's Law Enforcement Team, the direct disciple of 'Yan,'" Chu Ji expounded.

A disciple of 'Yan'?

Ye Fan was slightly startled, then wanted to say more, but Hong Lie had already approached.

"Little Chu, I truly didn't expect you to attend this auction."

Shortly, under everyone's watchful eyes, Hong Lie approached Chu Ji, saying so with a smile while deliberately reining in his own aura, his eyes fixed on Chu Ji without any attempt to hide his affection.

"Is that so strange?"

Facing the formidable Hong Lie, Chu Ji responded indifferently.

Hmm?

Noticing Chu Ji's indifferent attitude, a slight stiffness appeared in Hong Lie's smile, and a flicker of confusion passed through his eyes.

His affection for Chu Ji was common knowledge in the Martial Arts World.

Indeed, the fact that he had confessed to Chu Ji and been rejected was a hot topic within the Martial Arts World.

However—

Despite the rejection, Hong Lie hadn't given up his pursuit of Chu Ji.

In his view, with his undying devotion to Chu Ji, once he stepped into the Gang Qi Realm, he would surely move her!

After all, the title of a Supreme Strongman of the Gang Qi Realm signified a lofty status!

Now, he was on the brink of stepping into the Gang Qi Realm, yet Chu Ji was as indifferent as ever—how could he not be confused?

"It seems I have to step into the Gang Qi Realm to move her."

After his confusion, Hong Lie wasn't disheartened, but rather he laughed it off and said, "Not strange, just unexpected."

"The auction is about to start; if there's nothing else, we'll go in first." Chu Ji still wore an indifferent expression, preparing to end the conversation.

"There are ten minutes left before the auction starts."

Hong Lie seemed to want more conversation with Chu Ji, presumptuously adding another comment, but seeing Chu Ji's brows raise, he turned his attention to Ye Fan on the side and changed the subject, "This must be your nephew, I presume?"

"Hong Lie, the fact that my nephew slayed the Wudang genius Murong Sheng is well known in the Martial Arts World. What's the point of your pretense?"

Chu Ji had always been indifferent to Hong Lie, not particularly disliking him, so she maintained a detached demeanor in hopes that he would give up on his own.

But today, not only had Hong Lie begun by ignoring Ye Fan's presence, but he had also played the fool, which immediately irked Chu Ji!

"Uh..."

Perhaps not expecting Chu Ji to get angry, Hong Lie was taken aback.

The next moment.

Without waiting for him to say anything else, Chu Ji snorted coldly and brushed past him.

Ye Fan, having noticed that Hong Lie hadn't paid any attention to him, didn't bother to ingratiate himself and instead followed closely behind Chu Ji.

Hong Lie, seeing this, frowned slightly, apparently dissatisfied with Ye Fan's disregard.

After all, he was the person most likely to become the next Gang Qi Realm Supreme Strongman in the Huaxia Martial Arts World!

Claiming to be the foremost under the Gang Qi Realm wasn't an overstatement!

Later, just as Chu Ji and Ye Fan were about to enter the auction hall, a young man in a black robe walked out from the auction hall and spotted Chu Ji and Ye Fan approaching head-on.

This sighting caused the pupils of the black-robed youth to dilate slightly, and he instinctively stopped in his tracks, staring intently at Ye Fan.

Hmm?

Sensing the black-robed youth's gaze, Ye Fan was slightly taken aback—he was certain he did not know the black-robed youth ahead.

"Hello, Master Chu."

As Ye Fan's gaze swept over, the youth in the black robe withdrew his own gaze and walked briskly towards Chu Ji. With a smile, he greeted Chu Ji with a clasped fist and even bowed slightly, showing great respect for her.

Respect, because he knew that Chu Ji was Chu Xuanji's disciple, and more so because he knew his own master, Hong Lie, had been pursuing Chu Ji!

In such a situation, he naturally wanted to leave a good impression on Chu Ji!

Perhaps it was because Chu Ji was annoyed by Hong Lie's earlier disregard for Ye Fan, but when faced with the youth's courtesy, she didn't even spare him a glance.

Seeing this, the youth in black was momentarily stunned, but the smile on his face didn't diminish. Just like Hong Lie, he quickly shifted his attention to Ye Fan, "Hello, Cousin Ye Fan."

Cousin?

Ye Fan was taken aback, "Who are you?"

"My name is Ye Long, I am a fourth-generation member of the Ye Family, and Ye Wenhao is my third uncle."

Ye Long first introduced himself, then extended his hand and said, "I've heard for a long time that Cousin is a rare genius in the Martial Arts World who possesses dual cultivation of magic and martial arts; I've always wanted to meet you but never had the chance. Today, I finally got to see you."

"Hello."

Despite feeling that Ye Long's smile and attitude were somewhat insincere, Ye Fan still extended his hand to shake his out of courtesy.

"Cousin, it's rare for us to meet. How about we find a place to have a good drink and discuss martial arts after the auction ends? What do you think?" Ye Long released Ye Fan's hand, extending an invitation.

"Xiao Fan doesn't have time."

This time, before Ye Fan could respond, Chu Ji coolly replied.

"Uh..."

Faced with being slighted by Chu Ji again, Ye Long was lost for words and didn't know what to say.

"Let's go in."

Not caring what Ye Long might think, Chu Ji said to Ye Fan before continuing to walk forward.

Ye Fan had already felt that Ye Long was putting on an act, and seeing Chu Ji's behavior, he immediately guessed something. Without another word, he followed Chu Ji's pace toward the entrance of the auction house.

Ye Long maintained a smile on his face, but it seemed somewhat stiff.

And as Ye Fan passed him by, the smile on his face completely vanished, replaced by a flash of anger in his eyes!

Being a fourth-generation member of the Ye Family, he not only had the influential Ye Family as a backing but was also the second most outstanding member of the younger generation in the Yanhuang Organization!

Such an identity earned him respect in both the Martial Arts World and the Mortal World!

If it weren't for considering his master Hong Lie who pursued Chu Ji, with his status, he wouldn't have to give Chu Ji the time of day!

As for Ye Fan...

In his eyes, Ye Fan was just an illegitimate child of the Ye Family!

If it weren't for Chu Ji, would he have bothered with Ye Fan?

"Damn it, really ungrateful! Especially that bastard, doesn't he look at himself in the mirror to see what he's worth? How dare he act high and mighty in front of me?"

Ye Long cursed inwardly, then quickly adjusted his emotions and walked quickly toward Hong Lie, who also looked displeased.

Meanwhile, Chu Ji led Ye Fan into the auction hall.

In the light of the lamps, Ye Fan took in everything inside the auction hall.

As the most high-end auction hall in Yanjing, it was not small, able to accommodate three thousand people, and decorated in an antique style.

What was even more exceptional was that the entire auction hall was filled with Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, and the concentration was several times higher than that of the outside lounge area!

"The organizers have really gone all out. They've actually set up a simplified Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array in the auction hall," Ye Fan mused upon sensing the rich Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi around him. He not only discerned the layout of the Spirit Gathering Array within the hall but also located its Array Eye.

The Array Eye consisted of nine pots of plants that looked like bonsai on the outside but were in fact rare Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures!

"The Demon Queen Chu Ji has arrived too!"

"Is the young man behind her the Ye Fan who killed the Wudang genius Murong Sheng?"

"It must be. It's said that Ye Fan is Chu Ji's nephew."

"Since Ye Fan is attending this auction, he must be planning to participate in the Qing bang competition next year!"

"I wonder if he's going to buy a magic artifact or Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures?"

...

As Ye Fan and Chu Ji entered the auction hall, those seated in the hall immediately turned their attention toward them, buzzing with conversation.

Ignoring the gazes and comments of the crowd, Chu Ji led Ye Fan directly to two seats in the first row and sat down.

"That Ye Long is no good bird; don't be fooled by his pretense," Chu Ji said with a serious expression, as if recalling some unpleasant memories, as soon as they sat down.

"Yeah."

Ye Fan nodded and then snorted coldly, "I am self-aware; to the Ye Family, I'm just an outsider. How could the Ye Family people possibly welcome me?"

"It's not just a matter of unwelcomeness."

Chu Ji sighed involuntarily, "He and his father, Ye Wenhai, are the two people in the Ye Family who most want to see you dead!"

"Why? Are they afraid I'll drag down their Ye Family?"

"It's because if you die, Ye Wenhao will definitely seek revenge for you and do something reckless."

Chu Ji's eyes flickered as she spoke, "And once Ye Wenhao does that, he will definitely lose his position as the successor to the Ye Family. Then, he will be replaced by Ye Long's father, Ye Wenhai!"

"I see."

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan's eyes narrowed slightly.

Chapter 327 Bidding at the Auction

A few minutes later, the cultivators and the super-rich in the rest area entered the auction hall one after another. Ye Long walked directly to the seat next to Ye Fan, smiled at Ye Fan and Chu Ji, and then sat down.

Under the lighting, the anger on his face had already disappeared without a trace, as if nothing had happened.

"A barking dog never bites. Compared to Ku Rong, the top disciple of the Ghost Sect, this Ye Long is much more dangerous," Ye Fan thought to himself, observing Ye Long's composed demeanor.

"Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for attending the annual auction of the Huaxia Martial Arts World."

Shortly afterward, once everyone who was attending the auction had taken their seats, a tall woman dressed in a cheongsam, holding a microphone, gracefully walked out from the right side of the stage. She wore a professional, radiant smile, and her voice was crisp and pleasant, "I am Xu Qian, your host for this auction."

"Clap clap..."

As the host finished speaking, a thunderous applause erupted.

"Now, please welcome the public notary of this auction, the president of the Collection Association, Xu Chuan, the captain of the Yanhuang Organization Law Enforcement Team, Master Hong Lie, and the auctioneer from the Yanhuang Organization, Miss Long Yue." As the applause ceased, the female host's voice rose again while she extended her left hand in a welcoming gesture.

Shush!

At the host's announcement, including Ye Fan, everyone turned their gaze towards the left side of the stage.

Under their watchful eyes, an elderly man with white hair wearing reading glasses, and Hong Lie walked out from the left side of the stage, followed by a young woman in a black martial arts uniform.

"This auction is indeed of high standards."

"Yes, both the auctioneer and the public notary are from the Yanhuang Organization!"

"It's one thing for them to be from the Yanhuang Organization, but having Hong Lie as the public notary is quite something. You know, he's considered the foremost below the Gang Qi Realm!"

"With Hong Lie serving as the public notary, we can be completely assured of the authenticity of the treasures."

"It looks like the rumors are true, there will be some great treasures at tonight's auction."

...

When Xu Chuan, Hong Lie, and Long Yue made their appearance, most of the martial artists in the audience looked at Hong Lie with admiring eyes, buzzing with discussion.

Hearing the crowd's chatter, Ye Long, a direct disciple of Hong Lie, slightly curled his lips in a grin, his face brimming with pride.

On the stage, Hong Lie casually glanced at Chu Ji, his gaze burning with intensity.

Chu Ji, however, remained indifferent.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am Xu Chuan, the president of the Collection Association and the person in charge of this auction. Welcome everyone to this auction..." Soon, Xu Chuan, the elderly man with white hair, began to speak.

Perhaps knowing that despite his title as the person in charge he was merely a token figure, Xu Chuan briefly spoke a few words, then handed the microphone to Hong Lie beside him.

"It is a great honor to serve as the public notary for this auction. I will fulfill the responsibilities of a public notary, carefully certifying each item at the auction to ensure the authenticity of the treasures."

Speaking with Xu Chuan was different; when Hong Lie spoke, his voice was full of confidence and resonance, reminiscent of a force that might shake one's heart and lungs. "Additionally, I am in charge of security for this auction," he proclaimed, "I hope that everyone present will adhere to the rules set by both the auction and the Yanhuang Organization. Thank you!"

"Applause..."

As Hong Lie finished speaking, applause broke out once again in the auction hall, this time even more vigorous as if it might lift the roof off.

"Next, I'll explain the rules of this auction. First, I will introduce the items up for auction, then President Xu Chuan and Master Hong Lie will jointly appraise each item to ensure they match the description provided. Once that is confirmed, I will announce the starting price, and you may begin bidding. The highest bidder will acquire the item and proceed to the trading hall for the transaction after the auction."

Long Yue, a member of the Yanhuang Organization holding the microphone, first introduced the auction process, then continued, "There are a total of 186 items to be auctioned today. The first item is 'Star Blue'."

Star Blue?

Whoosh——

Upon hearing the words 'Star Blue,' the entire auction venue erupted into a commotion.

"My God, it's the Plant Essence Star Blue!"

"Even though the first item in the auction is only second to the finale item in terms of value, auctioning the Plant Essence Star Blue is still insane!"

"That's right, not only is Plant Essence priceless, it also hasn't appeared in the past few auctions."

"I wonder what price this Star Blue will fetch?"

"It seems everyone is familiar with Star Blue. Since that's the case, there's no need to labor the point. I'll give a brief introduction. Star Blue, a type of Plant Essence, originates from the African Union. It's a blue fruit, its surface shimmering with blue light, looking just like a star and rich with the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi."

About half a minute later, Long Yue made a calming gesture with his hand to quiet the murmurs, and then with a smile, he said, "Now, may I ask our staff members to bring out the first auction item 'Star Blue' for President Xu Chuan and Master Hong Lie to appraise together!"

Click! Clack! Click! Clack!

As soon as Long Yue finished speaking, the sound of high heels striking the ground resonated, and a tall model, holding an antique-looking box in both hands, walked towards the center stage with a seductive stride, placing the box on the table before retreating to stand next to the host.

In the meantime, Xu Chuan, as the person in charge of this auction, knowingly gestured for Hong Lie to proceed first.

Although he was the president of the Collection Association and responsible for this auction, his expertise was mainly in antiques and he knew little about the treasures of the Martial Arts World, making him unable to appraise them properly. Thus, he could only let Hong Lie appraise first and then repeat the results of Hong Lie's appraisal.

Seeming to understand Xu Chuan's intention, Hong Lie did not show any modesty but expressionlessly went to the box, opened it in front of everyone, and took out the Star Blue.

Woosh!

Seeing this, the cultivators and ultra-wealthy individuals attending the auction, all widened their eyes, seemingly eager to get a clear look at the legendary Plant Essence 'Star Blue.'

Just as Long Yue had described, the Star Blue was a blue fruit, its surface aglow with a blue light, making it look quite magical.

"The Plant Essence Star Blue matches the description."

Half a minute later, Hong Lie put the Star Blue back into the antique-looking box and announced the appraisal result.

Having done all this, he returned to his original position, Xu Chuan stepped forward, pretending to scrutinize it in his hand just like Hong Lie, and then, without missing a word, proclaimed Hong Lie's appraisal result.

"As stated by Master Xu Chuan and Master Hong Lie, the Plant Essence called Star Blue matches its description. I will now announce the starting bid for the auction."

Seeing Xu Chuan retreat next to Hong Lie, Long Yue stepped forward, holding a microphone in one hand and a small hammer in the other, and loudly said, "There are two kinds of starting bids for the auction of Plant Essence Star Blue."

"Two kinds?"

A cry of surprise arose from the audience below.

"Yes, two kinds. The first is calculated in Huaxia Coins, with a starting low bid of fifty billion Huaxia Coins."

Long Yue said word by word, "The second is calculated in high-level Elixir Pills, the Nirvana Pill, with a starting bid of two Nirvana Pills. Additionally, according to the owner of Star Blue, if both types of bids are offered, the Nirvana Pill bid will take precedence!"

"I see."

Hearing Long Yue's words, the audience below understood clearly that the so-called fifty billion Huaxia Coins was just a nominal bid, while the true aim of the owner of Star Blue was to acquire high-level Elixir Pills, the 'Nirvana Pill'.

"My master is indeed making painstaking efforts."

Chu Ji pondered deeply. In view of being unable to find the rare Plant Essence, Chu Xuanji chose an indirect method—finding materials for Ye Fan to refine the 'Nirvana Pills' himself and then using them to exchange for Plant Essence at this auction."

While feeling emotional, Chu Ji thought of the twenty Nirvana Pills Ye Fan had refined and smiled as she glanced at him.

"Could it be that Chu Ji is going to use the Nirvana Pills to exchange Star Blue for this bastard Ye Fan?"

Catching a glimpse of Chu Ji's action, Ye Long felt tense.

As a disciple of Hong Lie, he knew Chu Ji was Chu Xuanji's disciple, and that Chu Xuanji, known as the Evil Emperor and Divine Doctor, could refine Nirvana Pills.

Similarly, he was also aware of the miraculous effects of the Plant Essence Star Blue!

Once Ye Fan consumed the Star Blue, his strength would soar!

"Plant Essence Star Blue, starting bid at fifty billion Huaxia Coins or two Nirvana Pills, the auction begins!"

As Ye Long's heart tightened, Long Yue suddenly raised her voice. Although she was a member of the Yanhuang Organization, she was somewhat excited to auction an item as precious as Plant Essence Star Blue.

"Fifty-five billion!"

As soon as Long Yue spoke, a super-rich businessman from Nangang eagerly bid the auction price.

"Sixty billion!"

Another super-rich businessman bid, directly increasing by five billion.

"Sixty-five billion!"

"Seventy billion!"

"Two Nirvana Pills!"

Suddenly, a loud voice stopped the three super-rich businessmen from raising the bid.

Swish!

At the sound, everyone's gaze swiftly turned to the northeast corner of the auction hall, where they saw a man dressed in a white robe, raising his bidding card.

The Martial Arts genius of the Northeast Nolan Family, Nolan Xuan!

He had bid two Nirvana Pills!

Hearing Nolan Xuan's bid of two Nirvana Pills, thinking of what the auctioneer had said earlier—that the owner of Star Blue prioritized the second type of bid—the three super-rich businessmen trying to bid with Huaxia Coins instantly turned as pale as death.

And other cultivators wore looks of envy, jealousy, and hatred!

They dreamt of obtaining the Plant Essence Star Blue, but the equally invaluable 'Nirvana Pill' was something they couldn't offer!

"Mr. D2 offers two Nirvana Pills, according to the owner of Star Blue, the next offers must be in Nirvana Pills—does anyone have a higher offer?" Long Yue spoke again.

Hearing Long Yue's words and seeing no one raising their bidding card at the scene, but rather looking enviously, jealously, and hatefully, Nolan Xuan felt a surge of excitement.

He had already reached the Peak of Innate Realm, and if he could secure this Star Blue, he could not only solidify his status at the Peak but also had hopes of breaking through to Great Perfection!

In such a circumstance, he had the capital to compete in next year's Qing bang Tournament!

"Two Nirvana Pills, once!" Seeing no one raising their card, Long Yue reminded aloud.

Swish!

Listening to Long Yue's words, whether it was Hong Lie on the stage or the cultivators below, all turned their eyes towards Chu Ji, seated in the front row.

Demon Queen Chu Ji was Chu Xuanji's disciple!

This was no secret in the Huaxia Martial Arts World!

In their eyes, the only one who could offer more Nirvana Pills to outbid for Star Blue was probably Chu Ji.

"Three Nirvana Pills!"

Just as everyone's gaze focused on Chu Ji, Ye Fan slowly spoke up, his voice not loud, but clearly reaching everyone's ears.

Star Blue, he was determined to have!

Chapter 328 Shocking and Unconventional

Whoosh!

As Ye Fan's voice rang out, the attention of everyone in the venue immediately focused on him, and a question arose simultaneously in their hearts, "Could it be that Chu Ji is going to bid for the Star Blue for Ye Fan to use?"

Yes!

At virtually the same time, they came up with the same answer.

Because they were very clear that when Chu Ji dominated the number one spot on the Qing bang, she was already at the Innate Great Perfection realm. After so many years, she had long reached the limit of Innate Great Perfection.

And for cultivators to break through from Innate Great Perfection to the Gang Qi realm, they relied entirely on insights into martial arts and spiritual cultivation. External objects were of no use—the Star Blue, which other cultivators dreamt of obtaining, had an insignificant effect on Chu Ji!

"Although I've long heard that Demon Queen Chu Ji treats Ye Fan well, I never thought she would actually help Ye Fan bid for the Star Blue."

"Yeah, although the Nirvana Pill is not as precious as the Star Blue, it is still a high-level elixir, which only an Innate Mage skilled in alchemy can refine. Moreover, its main ingredient, Yang Qi Essence, is extremely rare!"

"If only I had such an aunt..."

As the answer emerged, those cultivators below the stage discussed enviously and jealously, feeling as if they would love to immediately take Ye Fan's place and become Chu Ji's nephew.

"Hiss~"

While the venue was abuzz with discussion, Nolan Xuan, the martial arts genius of the Nolan clan, was so angry that the corners of his mouth twitched uncontrollably.

Although the Nolan family was the number one clan in the Northeast and had a significant reputation in the martial arts world, the entire clan did not have a single Mage and therefore could not refine high-level elixirs like the Nirvana Pill.

Before this auction, the head of the Nolan family, Nolan Yide, found out through a special channel that someone was going to exchange Plant Essence for Nirvana Pills at this auction. So, he reluctantly used a

precious piece of Black Iron that the Nolan family had acquired and exchanged it for three Nirvana Pills from Bai Di, the martial arts prodigy of the Bai Family.

He intended to exchange a Plant Essence for Nolan Xuan during this auction to enhance his strength!

Under such circumstances, just as Nolan Xuan was about to exchange for the Plant Essence with his two Nirvana Pills, Ye Fan, this Cheng Yaojin, suddenly popped up and bid three pills...

This meant that he would lose the qualification to bid for the Plant Essence!

"Mr. A6 bid three Nirvana Pills, does anyone else offer more?"

As Nolan Xuan twitched with anger, Long Yue once again spoke up, scanning the cultivators seated below stage one by one.

No response.

The vast auction venue fell silent.

"Three Nirvana Pills for the first time!"

"Three Nirvana Pills for the second time!"

"Three Nirvana Pills for the third time!"

"Clang!"

Half a minute later, as a crisp sound rang out, the bidding for the Star Blue ended, and Long Yue smiled and said, "Congratulations to Mr. A6 for winning the bid for the Star Blue with the offer of three Nirvana Pills!"

"Damn it!"

As he saw the bird that was almost in his mouth fly away, Nolan Xuan, the martial arts talent of the Nolan clan, trembled with rage, cursing endlessly in his heart. His furious gaze seemed as if it wanted to tear Ye Fan into pieces.

"Hmph, Chu Ji really thinks highly of this bastard."

At the same time, Ye Long was suffused with a feeling of sour grapes, but then he sneered to himself when he remembered that Hong Lie had given him three plants of Plant Essence to exchange for the Black Iron Gloves, "This bastard is just at the Early Innate Realm and has the combat power of the Peak of Innate. Even if he takes the Star Blue, he won't possibly be my opponent! Once I get my hands on the Black Iron Gloves, killing him will be as easy as slaughtering a chicken!"

"Mr. A6, according to the auction rules, after the auction ends, you need to bring three Nirvana Pills to the trading hall to exchange for the Star Blue. If you fail to produce the three Nirvana Pills by then, Mr. D2 will make the exchange instead."

Although she understood that Ye Fan, being the nephew of Chu Ji, could not possibly fail to produce the Nirvana Pills, Long Yue still reminded him of the auction rules.

"Thank you for the reminder, Miss Long Yue."

Ye Fan nodded his thanks, then politely inquired, "Miss Long Yue, may I ask if the owner of the Star Blue is present at today's auction?"

Hmm?

What is he planning to do?

Taken aback by Ye Fan's question, not just Long Yue herself, but also the other cultivators showed puzzled looks.

"I am Meng Ke, the owner of the Star Blue."

Shortly afterward, before the crowd could figure out his intention, a tall and burly black man stood up from seat D10.

"So, it's Meng Ke!"

Upon hearing this, the crowd turned their gaze toward Meng Ke, showing signs of realization.

While Meng Ke may not have been a member of the Huaxia martial arts community, his reputation in the Huaxia martial arts world was not small.

For he was the leader of the 'Adventurer' mercenary group, ranked second in the world, and possessed Half-step War God realm strength!

In the Five Great Alliances, cultivators were categorized as Warrior Level, War General Level, and War God Level, corresponding to the Postnatal Realm, Innate Realm, and Gang Qi Realm of the Huaxia Martial Arts World, respectively.

With Half-step War God level strength, Meng Ke was equivalent to a Half-step Gang Qi realm cultivator in the Huaxia Martial Arts World, which made him an absolute strong person!

"Hello, Mr. Meng Ke."

Having undertaken missions in the other Five Great Alliances many times, Ye Fan was already well aware of Meng Ke's reputation and stood up to give Meng Ke a fist salute from his seat as a sign of respect.

"Do you have an objection to the recent auction?" Meng Ke frowned as he looked at Ye Fan, subconsciously assuming that Ye Fan had objections to the auction, which somewhat displeased him.

"Of course not."

Ye Fan quickly shook his head and explained, "My question just now was to make sure if the owner of the Star Blue still has any other Plant Essences."

"Oh?" Meng Ke looked at Ye Fan with some surprise and asked, "Do you want to exchange for Plant Essence?"

"Yes, Mr. Meng Ke. If you still have Plant Essence, I am willing to exchange it for Nirvana Pills, using the bidding price just now as a standard, three Nirvana Pills for one Plant Essence!" Ye Fan nodded.

Whoosh—

Startled by Ye Fan's reply, the auction hall was once again abuzz.

Although Ye Fan was the one who had just bid, everyone believed it was Demon Queen Chu Ji who intended to bid for the Star Blue on behalf of Ye Fan.

Originally, considering that the Nirvana Pills were also extremely precious, the 'actions' of Demon Queen Chu Ji had taken everyone by surprise, and now hearing that Ye Fan wanted to use Nirvana Pills to exchange for Plant Essence directly shocked them!

After all, that was the Nirvana Pill that could heal injuries in a very short time...

Not a cabbage you could find just anywhere on the streets!

"I do have more Plant Essence, but do you have more Nirvana Pills to offer?" Not only the cultivators below, but even Meng Ke himself was taken aback.

Magicians overseas are also known as Wizards, and when it comes to strength, they are on par with the Huaxia Martial Arts World, but because the secret methods for Elixir crafting originated from traditional Chinese medicine, almost none of the wizards abroad know how to perform alchemy.

This directly makes Elixir Pills far more precious in the other Five Great Alliances than in the Huaxia Martial Arts World.

As the leader of the adventurer mercenary group, Meng Ke boasted not only strong personal power but also eight capable assistants.

Some time ago, he led his eight assistants on an expedition to the South American Alliance, only to encounter a mutant beast in the forest, a result of absorbing Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

Though he and his men eventually killed the mutant beast, the loss was heavy—excluding himself, the other eight assistants were all seriously injured!

To treat his men, Meng Ke had to travel the distance to Yanjing, reluctantly exchanging the Plant Essence Star Blue for the miraculously healing Nirvana Pill.

Originally, he thought it would be fortunate to even exchange for two or three Nirvana Pills, but now Ye Fan, who had just bid for the Star Blue, was going to exchange for Plant Spirit!

"I do have more Nirvana Pills, and if you agree, we can make the exchange right now," Ye Fan said with a smile.

"I have two more Plant Essences. If you can take out another six Nirvana Pills, they're yours," Meng Ke replied after pondering briefly.

While Plant Essence is precious, Meng Ke was already a strong person at the Half-step War God level, and consuming it would have little effect on him.

The Nirvana Pill could not only treat his subordinates but also serve as a life-saving talisman for the future—if he were injured in combat, he could completely heal his wounds with the Nirvana Pill, thereby maintaining his combat strength!

"Whizz Whizz Whizz Whizz Whizz Whizz..."

Upon hearing Meng Ke's words, Ye Fan's heart stirred. With a flip of his hand, the bottle containing the Nirvana Pills appeared. As the bottle's cap opened, six pills, white with a reddish hue, flew out from the bottle. Under Ye Fan's telekinetic control, they magically floated in front of him, "Mr. Meng Ke, these are the six Nirvana Pills!"

"Uh..."

The cultivators below were dumbstruck, their eyes fixed on the six floating Nirvana Pills like statues, motionless.

And... Nolan Xuan in seat D2 turned as pale as a ghost!

After failing to win the Star Blue, his anger was also tinged with regret for not directly bidding three Nirvana Pills—he thought that Ye Fan probably only had three Nirvana Pills and if he bid three, Ye Fan would've had no chance!

Now, watching Ye Fan casually take out another six Nirvana Pills, his regret turned to despair!

It wasn't just Nolan Xuan; Ye Long's face also looked extremely ugly.

Originally, Ye Long thought that even if Ye Fan consumed one Plant Essence, he could still kill Ye Fan as easily as slaughtering a chicken, but now Ye Fan was about to exchange for three Plant Essences all at once...

Three!

This was the optimal number of Plant Essences for a cultivator to consume, allowing for the maximum efficacy of the Plant Essence, with any more consumption resulting in greatly diminished effects.

Ye Long, who had once ingested a Plant Essence, was crystal clear about this.

At the same time, he knew that if Ye Fan had not consumed any Plant Essence before, with these three Plant Essences, advancing to the Peak of Innate Realm would be no difficulty at all!

Once Ye Fan stepped into the Peak of Innate Realm and wielded the Wudang Sect's magical weapon, Taiyi Xuan Sword, he would possess the power to challenge him!

This was a blow to him no less devastating than to Nolan Xuan!

"How could Demon Queen Chu Ji provide so many Nirvana Pills for this bastard?"

While feeling deeply struck, Ye Long couldn't help but cast his gaze toward Chu Ji.

Why?

Woosh!

Woosh!

Woosh!

One after another, the cultivators turned their gazes towards Chu Ji, harboring the same doubt in their hearts.

"If they knew that Xiao Fan was the one who crafted the Nirvana Pills, their expressions would be even more spectacular, wouldn't they?"

Noticing those surprised and questioning glances, Chu Ji thought to herself, her originally charming face blooming with a radiant smile.

Chapter 329 Outsmarting Oneself

"Hiss~"

Even as the leader of the adventurer mercenary group and a half-step War God realm strongman, Meng Ke couldn't help but gasp at the sight of Ye Fan taking out six precious high-level Nirvana Pills at once.

Surprised, his gaze was firmly fixed on the six floating Nirvana Pills, as he released his consciousness and used his breath to sense them.

Upon sensing, Meng Ke clearly perceived the rich aura within the elixir pills.

"Top-grade among high-level elixirs?!"

Meng Ke was shocked, his eyes displaying a fiery glow as he hurriedly said, "These are Ghost Mushrooms and Bone Corrosive Spirit Flowers from the Australia Continent, both are rarely seen plant essences."

As soon as he finished speaking, Meng Ke took out two square boxes and opened them quickly, as if he was afraid that Ye Fan would change his mind.

The first box contained a mushroom with a faint black gas floating around its surface, and its top resembled a ghastly face, quite eerie.

The Ghost Mushroom grows in an Extreme Yin Body. Due to long-term absorption of the Evil Yin Qi within the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, the mushroom has formed an essence of yin energy inside.

The Bone Corrosive Spirit Flower, a grey flower with nine petals merged into one, surrounded by yin energy, also contains essence of yin energy within its petals.

As an Innate Mage, Ye Fan's spiritual sensing power far exceeded that of martial artists of the same level. With just one sensing, he recognized the essence of yin energy within the Ghost Mushroom and Bone Corrosive Spirit Flower.

Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi can be roughly divided into Yin Yang Qi, and further divided into the five elements: metal, wood, water, fire, earth.

The key to judging whether a heavenly material is a plant essence is to see whether it contains the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

Now, both the Ghost Mushroom and the Bone Corrosive Spirit Flower contained the essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, and the quantity was slightly higher than the previously seen Star Blue, both certainly qualified as upper-grade plant essences.

"Mr. Meng Ke, it's a deal!"

With a slight smile, Ye Fan's mind stirred, and with the power of telekinesis, he controlled the six Nirvana Pills to float toward Meng Ke.

"Great!"

Meng Ke waved his right hand, and the air stream surged, immediately sweeping the six Nirvana Pills into his hand.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

After putting away the Nirvana Pills, Meng Ke didn't linger. With a wave of his left hand, another air stream was generated, whisking the boxes containing the Ghost Mushroom and Bone Corrosive Spirit Flower toward Ye Fan at high speed.

Seeing this, Ye Fan's brow flashed with golden light, and two stronger streams of telekinesis shot out simultaneously, acting on the two boxes and making them stably float in front of him.

"Your skill with magic is not low; it should have reached the Innate Realm, right?"

Witnessing this scene, Meng Ke's pupils slightly dilated, an odd light flickering in his eyes. Magicians were extremely rare in the Cultivation World, and those who cultivated both magic and martial arts were even rarer, let alone reaching the Innate Realm in both!

"Hmm."

Ye Fan nodded with a smile, maneuvering inanimate objects with telekinesis was something only an Innate Mage could do, and it was normal for Meng Ke to recognize this.

His dual cultivation in magic and martial arts had already spread throughout the Huaxia Martial Arts World; there was no need to hide such a fact.

"To have reached the Innate Realm in both magic and martial arts, this Ye Fan is truly formidable."

"Indeed, he has already cultivated both magic and martial arts to the Early Innate Realm. Now, with three plant essences, if he consumes them all, he will certainly step into Great Success or even the Peak of Innate Realm!"

"Once he steps into the Peak of Innate Realm, he will definitely have the strength to compete for the top five in next year's Qing bang competition!"

...

Hearing the conversation between Meng Ke and Ye Fan, the cultivators below gradually came out of their shock, discussing with envy.

"If this bastard consumes the three plant essences, his strength will definitely soar. If he then uses the Wudang Sect's treasure Taiyin Xuan Sword, his combat ability will be impressive."

While the cultivators were discussing, Ye Long couldn't help but look greedily at the boxes containing the Ghost Mushroom and Bone Corrosive Spirit Flower, contemplating in his heart, "But it doesn't matter. As long as I get the Black Iron Fist Set, I can still treat him like a dog!"

"Three plant essences..."

Xiao Selang, the martial arts genius of the Tian Shan Sect, also coveted as he watched Ye Fan put away the Ghost Mushroom and the Bone Corrosive Spirit Flower, his eyes filled with deep desire.

However—

Thinking of his master, Cang Bo, exchanging the High-level Magical Artifact 'Black Iron Fist Set' for plant essences for him, Xiao Selang's envy lessened a bit, and he slowly withdrew his gaze.

"Next, the auction will continue..."

On the stage, Long Yue spoke again. Since Ye Fan and Meng Ke's exchange did not violate the auction's rules, she made no mention of what just happened.

Generally, the first item at the auction is only second to the finale item, and then the rest are auctioned off in ascending order of price.

For example, the second auction item was a talisman with a calming effect and could also prevent the entry of Evil Yin Qi. It was similar to one of the talisman's effects Ye Fan had made for Su Liuli, but its quality was much lower.

Eventually, the talisman was acquired by a super-rich businessman from Nangang for a high price of 100 million.

After the talisman, various heavenly materials and earthly treasures, martial arts techniques, magic artifacts, and elixirs appeared in the auction, but most were of low quality. Only after the 150th auction item did rare heavenly materials begin to show up.

And as various precious medicinal herbs appeared, Ye Fan bid again, spending nearly 70 billion Huaxia Coins to buy twelve materials for alchemy, including those for the Returning Essence Pill. The ingredients for the Nirvana Pill, however, did not appear.

As time passed, the auction gradually approached its end, but the emotions of the cultivators below were surging—they knew the later it got, the better the treasures!

"Up to this point, the auction has successfully auctioned off 180 items. The following 6 items will be the most precious items of this auction—any one of them could be the final showpiece at other auctions!"

Seeing the excitement of the cultivators below, Long Yue cleverly teased them before suddenly raising her voice, "The 181st item is the Returning Essence Pill refined by the Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji!"

Whoosh—

As Long Yue's words ended, the auction hall erupted in shocked murmurs!

The Returning Essence Pill, like the Nirvana Pill, is one of the high-level elixirs most needed by cultivators, and this Returning Essence Pill was refined by the Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji himself!

"The Returning Essence Pill can allow cultivators to restore their inner strength and Mind Power after consuming it. Although its effects may not match the Plant Essence, it excels in its rapid recovery speed, and at crucial moments, it serves as a life-saving talisman for cultivators!"

Long Yue seemed very pleased with the reaction of the cultivators below. She deliberately picked up the Returning Essence Pill in her hand and said, "This Returning Essence Pill in my hand was refined by the Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji, with unquestionable quality. Its starting price is two billion Huaxia Coins—let the bidding begin!"

"Twenty-one billion!"

"Twenty-five billion!"

"Twenty-eight billion!"

...

For a time, the auction hall was boiling over, with the powerful Martial Arts Sects and Families bidding fiercely for the Returning Essence Pill as if mad.

Seeing this scene, Chu Ji couldn't help but look at Ye Fan with admiration.

Auctioning the Returning Essence Pill and the Nirvana Pill was Ye Fan's decision.

In Ye Fan's words, it was the perfect opportunity to use the money from auctioning these two high-level elixirs to purchase alchemy materials and make a profit from it.

And in order to drive up the price, Ye Fan had deliberately made it known through Chu Ji when contacting the organizers that they were refined by Chu Xuanji.

The titles of Evil Emperor, Divine Doctor, Array Master, a Supreme Strongman of the Gang Qi Realm who practiced Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts, the second-ranked expert on the Dragon Ranking, a hero who saved the world...

Chu Xuanji had too many titles under his name. Although Ye Fan had already surpassed Chu Xuanji in alchemy, in terms of fame, he was far behind Chu Xuanji!

Seeing his plan succeed and noticing Chu Ji's gaze, Ye Fan smiled and winked.

"Thirty-six billion!"

In the end, the Returning Essence Pill was won by a martial arts genius from the Xingyi Sect.

Although the number of masters in the Xingyi Sect was not particularly high, the sect had a vast number of Outer Disciples and had opened martial arts schools in many places across Huaxia and the world, wielding significant influence. Its annual operating income was staggering, second only to the two major Sects of Shaolin and Wudang!

In such circumstances, the martial arts genius of the Xingyi Sect did not feel the pain of spending thirty-six billion for the Returning Essence Pill; instead, he looked at Ye Fan with envy, jealousy, and hatred.

He remembered how Ye Fan had displayed the Nirvana Pills to everyone as if they were mere cabbages...

"The 186th item is a Nirvana Pill, also from the hands of the Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji. In quality, it matches the one Mr. Meng Ke previously exchanged, and its starting bid is still two billion Huaxia Coins!" Long Yue spoke again, glancing unconsciously at Ye Fan, her eyes also carrying a hint of envy.

Just like with the Returning Essence Pill, the Nirvana Pill caused a frenzy among the cultivators below, and because Ye Fan had previously exchanged the Nirvana Pill for the Plant Essence, its price was driven even higher, eventually selling for forty-three billion.

The three items auctioned later included a high-level cultivation method, a high-level martial arts skill, and a top-grade mid-level magical artifact 'Thunder Blade' used by Martial Artists.

Among them, the Thunder Blade was sold for sixty-eight billion to a martial arts genius from the Saber Sect.

The Saber Sect, one of the well-known Martial Arts Sects in the Huaxia Martial Arts World that specialized in saber techniques, has a long history. The renowned Sword King Wang Wu of the past was a representative figure of the 'Saber Sect'.

"Finally, it's time for the last showpiece item!"

"Who knows what treasure will be the finale?"

"The only thing more valuable than the Plant Essence has to be a high-level magical artifact, right?"

...

After the 185th item, the Thunder Blade, was auctioned off, the cultivators below began to discuss again.

Although most of them didn't have the strength to bid for the final showpiece item, they were eager to know what treasure could be the grand finale of this auction.

"The wait is finally over!"

As the cultivators discussed, Ye Long muttered to himself and clenched his fists tightly. His gaze was burning with desire as he fixed his eyes on the stage, his expression one of determination to win.

Hm?

Noticing the change in Ye Long's emotions, Ye Fan's heart stirred, and upon seeing Hong Lie on the stage, he immediately understood that Ye Long might have known in advance what the finale treasure was.

Clang!

Ye Long's heart suddenly tightened—Ye Fan had just acquired three Plant Essences and was fully capable of competing with him for the Black Iron Fist set!

"The optimal dose for consuming Plant Essence is three pieces. If he already had some, he wouldn't need to exchange for three—so he must only have the three Plant Essences he exchanged for!"

To be on the safe side, Ye Long gritted his teeth and secretly made a decision.

Chapter 330 The Final Auction!

"Please quiet down," Long Yue said.

Due to the cultivators' excitement below the stage, the discussion grew louder and Long Yue had to intervene, making a pressing-down gesture. Only when the chattering had subsided did she manage to muster her emotions and said, "Just now, I heard someone in the audience speculate that the highlight of this auction could be a high-level magical artifact—congratulations, you guessed right!"

Is it really a high-level magical artifact?!

Stunned by Long Yue's words, many cultivators, including Ye Fan, were taken aback.

Compared to elixir pills, cultivation techniques, martial arts, and heavenly materials and earthly treasures, magical artifacts are the most precious treasures in the cultivation world.

And a high-level magical artifact is truly a treasure among treasures!

If this were not the case, the sect leader of the Wudang Sect and the Supreme Strongman in the Gang Qi Realm, Heavenly Master Zhang, would not have lost control of his emotions over the loss of the high-level magical artifact, the Taiyin Xuan Sword, to Murong Gu and his son, Father Murong.

All this because the crafting of high-level magical artifacts is enormously challenging.

Firstly, the materials required to craft high-level magical artifacts are extremely strict, with only a handful of materials suitable as the main ingredient for high-level magical artifacts.

Secondly, a high-level magical artifact contains at least two high-level arrays.

Generally, an Innate Mage can activate high-level techniques, but only a Gang Qi Realm Cultivator is capable of setting up high-level arrays within the main material used in artifact crafting!

Ye Fan's inability to create a flying knife of high-level magical artifact standard from the material of the Taiyin Xuan Sword was largely due to his unskilled artifact-crafting technique and because he couldn't set up high-level arrays in the black iron.

Lastly, like alchemists, there are very few wizards in the world capable of crafting magical artifacts!

Currently, it is said that there are no more than three Gang Qi Realm Cultivators who can craft high-level magical artifacts!

Specifically, in the cultivation world, only the Ghost Sect's leader Wu Mu, reputed as the number one in Huaxia's magic, and a War God level wizard from the European Union are well-known.

Due to the difficulty in crafting, most of the high-level magical artifacts in the cultivation world are passed down from generation to generation by major sects and noble families, serving as treasures fundamental to the sect or family, hence they are incredibly precious.

While the audience below the stage was shocked beyond comparison, a male staff member brought a pitch-black wooden box to the table in the center of the stage.

Whoosh!

Seeing this, the cultivators below the stage stopped their discussions unanimously, their eyes widened, staring unblinkingly at the wooden box, waiting for the finale treasure to appear.

Ye Fan and Chu Ji were no exceptions!

"In fact, tonight's final treasure is no stranger to you all—it has shocked the cultivation world not just once!"

As an auctioneer, Long Yue knew well how to play on the emotions of the audience. She deliberately did not open the wooden box but continued to whet their appetite.

"What is it exactly?"

"Stop keeping us in suspense, just open the box!"

The cultivators below grew impatient, their anticipation akin to a groom on his wedding night, all undressed, only to find the bride undressing slowly.

"Click—"

Seeming to sense that she had kept them in suspense long enough, Long Yue smiled and slowly opened the wooden box, then picked up the treasure within.

The next moment.

A pair of fist sets appeared in front of everyone.

It was a pair of dark black fist sets, looking very thin with five black spots at the joints, where a dark light surged, dazzling the eyes.

"Black Iron Fist set!"

"Oh my god, it's the Black Iron Fist set!"

As the dark black fist sets were revealed, exclamations erupted from the audience, with many cultivators recognizing the Black Iron Fist set.

Ye Fan was naturally no exception!

Under the lights, he resembled a collector who had discovered an ultimate treasure, his pupils dilated, his gaze intensely focused on the Black Iron Fist set, immovable!

Black Iron Fist set.

This was the only high-level magical artifact successfully crafted on Earth in the past twenty years!

The creator of the Black Iron Fist set was the European Union's War God level wizard and artifact-refining master, Odin, who used Black Iron extracted from an outer heaven meteorite. This material, far harder than diamond on Earth, is one of the best materials for crafting high-level magical artifacts!

"Yes... this is the Black Iron Fist set crafted by the European Union's War God level wizard and artifact-refining master, Odin!"

On stage, Long Yue, practicing the Yanhuang Fist, held the Black Iron Fist set as if cradling the face of a beloved lover, her expression extremely excited, "Aside from Black Iron extracted from an outer heaven meteorite, its main material also included the extremely flexible Thousand Gold Vine, integrating the hardness and sharpness of Black Iron with the flexibility and toughness of Thousand Gold Vine. Though it appears as thin as paper, not even the sharpest high-level magical artifact can damage it!"

"Besides the special nature of the materials, Master Odin also set up two high-level arrays that double the speed and strength of the cultivator using it during an attack!!"

As she finished, Long Yue became somewhat overcome with emotion, seeing it as the coveted treasure desired by all strong martial artists practicing boxing!

"Whew~"

Taking a deep breath, Long Yue continued, "As I mentioned earlier, it has shocked the cultivation world more than once. The first time was at the end of the last century, when it was first introduced, driving all martial artists practicing boxing to madness. The second time, five years ago, when the European Union's War God level strongman, Oster, challenged the Tian Shan Sect's Sect Leader Cang Bo with the Black Iron Fist set as a wager, only to be slain by Master Cang Bo!"

Whoosh!

As Long Yue revealed the origin of the Black Iron Fist set, including Ye Fan, all cultivators couldn't help but turn their eyes towards the Tian Shan Sect's Sect Leader Cang Bo.

That battle had astounded the entire global martial arts world and brought fame to the Huaxia Martial Arts World!

"The starting price for the Black Iron Fist set is two plant essences!"

It had been half a minute, and when Long Yue noticed the cultivators below refocusing their attention on the Black Iron Fist set, she announced the bid price for it.

"Exchange it for Plant Essence?"

As Long Yue's words rang in their ears, the cultivators below were initially startled, and then they came to a realization — only precious Plant Essence could be exchanged for such a treasure!

"Hss~"

Chu Ji gasped excitedly and quickly said to Ye Fan, "Xiao Fan, we must get it!"

"Got it!"

Ye Fan nodded to Chu Ji with a trace of excitement. Although he had trained in many martial arts techniques, the deepest and most powerful for him was still the "Xuansha Fist." The Black Iron Fist set could be said to be a high-level magical artifact tailor-made for him!

Sometime later...

Ye Fan did not wait to bid when Ye Long cut in first, "Three stalks of Plant Essence!"

Perhaps out of overexcitement, Ye Long inadvertently used a spiritual attack while speaking, his voice booming like thunder, bursting forth in the auction hall and instantly drowning out all other murmurs!

Whoosh!

In an instant, all cultivators, including Ye Fan, subconsciously turned their gazes toward Ye Long.

Among them, those martial artists who practiced boxing sighed in admiration.

On one hand, they could not produce three stalks of precious Plant Essence for the auction like Ye Long did; on the other hand, even if they could, they did not dare to compete with him!

Ye Long was the apprentice of Hong Lie, the captain of the Yanhuang Organization's Law Enforcement Team and was the second genius among the organization's young members, destined to be a high-ranking executive in the future!

In such a scenario, competing with Ye Long would mean indirectly offending not only him but also the future Yanhuang Organization!

While the martial artists who practiced boxing sighed in admiration, Ye Fan had a slight frown on his forehead.

Right from when the Black Iron Fist set appeared, he had decided to participate in the auction. Even when Long Yue mentioned that Plant Essence was needed for the bid, he was not distressed — instead, he was secretly delighted.

Only—

He had not anticipated that Ye Long would act first!

"Hey, bastard, you thought you could compete with me?"

Seeing Ye Fan's frown from the corner of his eye, Ye Long's heart was filled with a cold sneer.

Because he witnessed Ye Fan also bidding on Plant Essence and faintly guessed that Ye Fan might participate in bidding for the Black Iron Fist set, he had decided beforehand, to make the first bid once the auction started — and he directly offered three stalks of Plant Essence to cut off Ye Fan's chances!

Now, seeing Ye Fan frowning, Ye Long subjectively believed his judgment was correct — Ye Fan wanted to bid for the Black Iron Fist set, but with only three stalks of Plant Essence from the auction, he could no longer compete!

"Ye Long actually put up three stalks of Plant Essence out of the gate; he must be determined to win the Black Iron Fist set!"

"That's for sure; aside from Ye Fan who just acquired three stalks of Plant Essence, who else would be able to take out three stalks, right?"

"It's good to be under the big tree for shade. If it wasn't for his entry into the Yanhuang Organization and becoming Hong Lie's disciple, he couldn't possibly take out three stalks of Plant Essence!"

"Yes, it's said that Ye Long has cultivated to the peak of the Innate realm and is on the verge of breaking through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm. If he gets the Black Iron Fist set and combines it with 'Yanhuang Fist', which was created by the Emblem, no one among the younger generation, except for the martial arts genius Bai Di Cheng of the Bai Family and Leng Feng, the top martial arts genius from the Yanhuang Organization, would probably be a match for him."

...

For a moment, the cultivators below started discussing, their faces filled with envy and jealousy.

"Mister A7 bids three stalks of Plant Essence; is there a higher offer?" Shortly after, Long Yue took a deep breath, raising her voice suddenly to subdue the murmurs of many cultivators, "Three stalks of Plant Essence once!"

"Ye Fan, my cousin, you aren't also thinking of bidding for the Black Iron Fist set, are you?" Seeing this, Ye Long pretended to be naïve and asked.

Without responding, Ye Fan shifted his gaze from Ye Long back to the Black Iron Fist set.

"Three stalks of Plant Essence for the second time!" Long Yue's firm voice resounded once more.

Upon hearing this, Ye Long grinned and said, "Ye Fan, my cousin, we are both members of the Ye Family, and the blood of the Ye Family runs through our veins. We are connected even if the bones are broken. If you can offer four stalks of Plant Essence, I'll give up bidding and let you have the Black Iron Fist set..."

"Four stalks of Plant Essence!"

Ye Fan raised his placard, slowly speaking out. His voice was not loud, but it firmly interrupted Ye Long's speech!

"Uh..."

Under the spotlight, he stared wide-eyed, his mouth agape, shock plastered on his face as he looked at Ye Fan, trying to say something but feeling utterly blank inside, completely occupied by one question: How... How could he possibly pull out four stalks of Plant Essence?

Is it even possible??

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

One after another, incredulous gazes turned toward Ye Fan.

The previously noisy hall suddenly fell into deadly silence...

Ye Fan's calm face stood out strikingly!