

## Domination 261

### Chapter 261: Grave's Auction

The bids from the buyers and the auction house's desired price was too far apart. After the unsuccessful call for the lowest possible price, the auction house was no longer willing to cut the sum.

"In that case, open the tomb then." The Ice Feather Palace's descendant, Bing Yuxia, said: "It is just a waste of time with everyone being long-winded like this. If the Inheritance Ancient Pavilion is so sure of this tomb, then I'm sure there are great items inside."

"That's right, hurry up and open the tomb. If there are good stuff, then everyone will compete for them." Many buyers couldn't wait any longer so they started to shout out.

Sikong Toutian kept a low profile while standing next to Li Qiye, then he quietly inquired: "What does Brother think about this particular tomb?"

Li Qiye glanced at him and answered with a question: "What do you think about this tomb? I heard you robbed quite a few graves so your insight should not be too bad."

After arriving at the scene, although Sikong Toutian maintained a low profile, the reality was that his eyes were still continuously sweeping everywhere.

"Brother is messing with me. I simply picked up a few pieces of trash, how could I dare to rob graves?" Sikong Toutian wryly smiled, but under Li Qiye's glare, he didn't dare to be stubborn so he had to continue: "This tomb is a bit poor; it's only a Legendary Alchemist after all. Especially when he came from an alchemist clan; there will not be too many valuable things buried with him because he most likely left them behind for his descendants. The only shining light is the ancient medicines... How should I say this, this tomb is a bit different. With my experience in traveling underground, this tomb is a bit strange. I'm looking at the geography and feng shui of this tomb; it is burying the yin and carrying the yang — a bit unconventional. If it is only a Legendary Alchemist's tomb, it is not worth a few hundred thousand Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades, even if the jades are of the lowest level!"

This guy had always said that he was only picking up trash to avoid the grave robbing matter. In reality, however, this guy was a professional when it came to this matter.

Li Qiye gave him a look and smiled without saying anything. This brat truly had some abilities.

"Does Brother have any good input?" Sikong Toutian didn't give up and kept on asking. He felt that Li Qiye had a unique perspective regarding this tomb. Ever since his arrival, he had been watching this entire valley.

"You will see." Li Qiye only smiled and didn't answer Sikong Toutian. However, he recognized Sikong Toutian's outlook. This tomb buried the yin and carried the yang — it was indeed a bit unconventional.

At the same time, there was one thing that Sikong Toutian was left unaware to. This was an extremely ancient matter. In fact, Li Qiye himself didn't personally experience such a thing. It was merely a rumor during that era, and no one knew whether it was true or false.

"Good, since there is no buyer that's willing to pay the high price, the tomb will be opened right now." In the end, the auctioneer of the Inheritance Ancient Pavilion declared.

After the confirmation, the grand characters from the pavilion used an amazing method to open the dome of this tomb. In just a second, the inside of the tomb was exposed before everyone in full view.

At this time, the auctioneer went inside the tomb while the grand characters blocked it once again. He began to look at the treasures in order to identify them. Even though everyone could see everything inside the tomb through the exposed dome, the tomb itself was sealed so no one outside could hear the appraisal from the auctioneer as he evaluated each of the items!

Everyone could see a coffin in the middle of the tomb. It was completely black as if it was made from Gloomy Divine Wood.

Outside of the coffin in the middle of the tomb, there were many bottles and jars laying around everywhere. In addition, medicinal racks were present as well. Whether it was because of rotten wood or some other unknown reasons, these racks already collapsed to the floor. There were a few bottles and treasure boxes scattered on the ground along with a few decayed wooden boxes.

By now, the appraiser had already evaluated all the items. Even though there were many bottles inside the tomb, the appraiser's ability was of the finest level so their speed was quite swift.

At this time, the buyers in the valley were holding their breaths while gazing intensely at all the items in the tomb as well the appraiser, hoping to see a few clues.

In the end, it was a test for the experience and insight of the buyers. Sometimes, an experienced buyer would still be able to pick up some good deals!

"It is indeed a tomb of an alchemist. Just like what everyone thought, only ancient medicines were buried. There are no Life Treasures nor manuals." A buyer murmured after seeing that all the buried items inside the tomb were medicinal bottles.

Another experienced buyer sighed in relief and commented: "Fortunately, I didn't buy the entire tomb; otherwise, it would have been a big loss."

Of course, the buyers who came for ancient medicines were happy and hoped to be able to buy their needed drugs.

Many people began to speculate after seeing all these bottles on the floor. This was a Legendary Alchemist, so his buried items should not be too bad.

"Hopefully, there will be one or two supreme immortal medicines." A person was quite excited and exclaimed.

Many alchemists had a habit of burying a few spirit medicines and immortal grass along with them when they died. Even a weak alchemist would also do the same. It would be a waste of being a prestigious alchemist if they didn't have one or two precious materials buried along with them. [1. I'm sure immortal grass and spirit medicines here are more like adjectives and not literal in this case.]

"Okay, we will begin the grave auction in the order that the items were appraised, not by the price." The auctioneer declared the rules to everyone.

At this time, the first medicinal bottle was brought up. This was an item where the value could be accurately determined.

The auctioneer opened the bottle and a sour, rotten fruit flavor immediately lingered in the air. It carried a bit of a tangy stench along with a faint treasure sandalwood smell. This strand of sandalwood essence immediately livened the spirits of others.

“This is a bottle of Natural Dan Fruit. After our pavilion’s examination, this Natural Dan Fruit has 700,000 years of medicinal spirit, and it has been sealed inside this bottle for more than 1,000,000 years. Everyone should know that a 700,000 year Natural Dan Fruit is quite precious; it could even be considered an ancient medicine. I don’t need to say more about its value. This Natural Dan Fruit will start with 5,000 Ancient Saint Refined Jades, and they have to be of the Grand Saint level.” The auctioneer spoke to all the potential buyers.

Refined Jades of the same realm also had different levels. For example, Refined Jades meant for Ancient Saints were called Ancient Saint Refined Jades, but when it was made from the purest world’s essence within this realm, then it will be classified as Grand Saint Refined Jades!

“So it really is a Natural Dan Fruit.” At this moment, everyone stared at the treasure fruit inside the bottle. Ordinary longevity medicines and this Natural Dan Fruit were a bit different. The fruit had been sealed underground for too long, and it had turned into a dark reddish brown. This was the sign of an ancient medicine absorbing the yin essence of the underworld! [2. Earth Yin would be the literal translation here, but yin essence of the underworld seems to be more clear.]

“I bid 5,000 Ancient Saint Refined Jades!” A Royal Noble of the previous generation immediately declared.

“I bid 6,000.” A different sect master immediately shouted.

There were many people who competed; another royal lord quickly bid: “10,000.”

A Natural Dan Fruit was one of the most important side ingredients for refining Longevity Medicines. Having a 700,000 year old medicinal spirit meant that it could be used to create a True Medicine. This level of medicine was loved the most by Royal Nobles and Enlightened Beings, especially the older ones; thus, it was quite sought after by the experts of the previous generations, resulting in its rarity.

The Royal Nobles and Enlightened Beings of the last generation whom had some formidable backgrounds had most likely used a lot of ordinary Longevity Medicines; maybe it was not their first time trying to extend their lifespan.

To them, even True Longevity Medicines became much less effective due to the tolerance they built up. At this point, no matter how many Longevity Medicines they used, they would not be able to prolong their life for much longer.

Because of this resistance, ancient medicines became their aspiration and goal.

Since they have not used Longevity Medicines made from ancient medicines before, their resistance to it was quite little and the effect would be quite great. Because of this, this Natural Dan Fruit buried for a million years became quite a hot item.

Ultimately, this bottle of Natural Dan Fruit was sold for a price as high as the sky. At 80,000 Ancient Saint Refined Jades, this price was much higher than the initial starting price of 5,000. Moreover, only the old

Royal Nobles and Ancient Saints with a little bit of life remaining bid for it. Naturally, they were willing to pay a high price to buy an item that could increase their lifespan.

“The second item for auction; this is the Profound Vessel Wood.” The second item being brought up was a piece of treasure wood. It was stored in a jar. The moment this jar was opened, a wooden fragrance caused everyone to be intoxicated; it was quite a marvelous scene.

“The value of the Profound Vessel Wood goes without saying.” The auctioneer continued: “Each expert will eventually undergo a Fate Calamity. If they have a piece of Profound Vessel Wood on their body at the moment of their Fate Calamity, I trust that their True Fate will never become lost. This Profound Vessel Wood had been buried for millions of years and its wooden fragrance had been coagulating for just as many years, making it even more powerful. This piece of Profound Vessel Wood will start at 100,000 Enlightened Being Refined Jades.” [3. Raw here is 100 + 1,000 + 10,000 years, so its one billion years in actual text, but this is just an adjective for a very long time, so I chose millions to fit the context better.]

A furor broke out after people heard that it was a piece of Profound Vessel Wood. The people of the younger generation with high aptitudes were especially excited as their hearts started to beat faster.

Cultivators who wanted to reach the apex would always meet two deadly obstacles. If they couldn't rise above these two deadly dao obstacles, then they would die with their dao lost and become mere puffs of smoke in the sky.

These two dao obstacles were Fate Calamity and Life Reduction! There was a phrase circulating amongst cultivators — A Fate Calamity was the devil of the mind and the Life Reduction was the withering of the heavens!

A Fate Calamity was a disastrous tribulation of the True Fate. Any cultivator at the grand achievement Mysterious Fate realm or peak Royal Noble must face their Fate Calamity. If they could not break through their True Fate's tribulation at this level, then they will become nothing!

This was a great disaster to all cultivators. It was extremely difficult to surpass and once they failed, then all of their effort throughout their life would go down the drain.

## **Chapter 262: Competition for the Rotten Underworld Bean**

So when this Profound Vessel Wood appeared, it became very popular, especially towards the gifted young crowd. To them, breaking through Royal Noble and becoming an Enlightened Being was only a matter of time. Even Royal Nobles of the last generation who wanted to reach Enlightened Being did not want to miss out on this block of Profound Vessel Wood.

“150,000 Enlightened Being Refined Jades!” The first to bid was Sima Longyun. He immediately raised the price by 50,000 with a must-win attitude.

“160,000.” Even though ordinary experts were wary of Sima Longyun, this did not mean that no one else would dare to compete against him!

“170,000...” The competition for this piece of wood was mainly amongst Royal Nobles. In the end, they wanted to become Enlightened Beings so they had to face the inevitable Fate Calamity!

“3,700,000 Enlightened Being Refined Jades!” In the end, this Profound Vessel Wood had a sky-high price, and the person who crazily bid such a high price was Sima Longyun!

Bidding more than 3,000,000 jades immediately made many people give up. This price was unreasonably high. Even if some other buyers had the money, Sima Longyun acted as if he must have it, so they were not willing to compete with him any further. In the end, it was not a wise choice to become enemies with the Furious Immortal Saint Country.

“The third item is an urn of Ivory Rock Water. We’ll start at 320,000 Soul Creation Refined Jades.” The third item’s value was worth far less than the previous two items.

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Each buried item was brought out one after another for the auction after being evaluated by the Inheritance Ancient Pavilion’s appraisers. The majority of these items had something to do with spirit medicines and soul grasses. There was no doubt that the owner of this tomb was indeed a Legendary Alchemist; only an alchemist of this level would be able to seal so many ancient medicines to bury alongside them!

After seeing that the buried items all had something to do with ancient medicines, Chi Xiaodao and Chi Xiaodie became quite spirited! Maybe there will really be a Rotten Underworld Bean that they needed amongst the buried items.

“The forty-fifth item for auction is a pot of Rotten Underworld Beans.” Under Chi Xiaodao and Chi Xiaodie’s eager anticipation, a pot of Rotten Underworld Beans finally came out.

A rotten smell rushed out the moment the auctioneer opened the pot. It was really a pot filled with Rotten Underworld Beans. Each of them was the size of a soybean and had a brown color.

Li Qiye sniffed right when the pot was opened to carefully check the smell of the Rotten Underworld Beans.

“This pot of Rotten Underworld Beans will start at 4,000 Royal Noble Refined Jades.” The auctioneer declared.

The Chi sister and brother duo were ecstatic because this was the thing they needed. Even though the price was higher than their expectations, they were still able to afford it.

“I will...” The moment the auctioneer finished naming the price, Chi Xiaodie was unable to hold back. However, before she could say anything, Li Qiye immediately interrupted her and pulled her to the side.

Chi Xiaodie, who was dragged by Li Qiye, immediately glared at him and shook his hand off. She then drily said: “What are you doing, we need the Rotten Underworld Bean.”

This scene was caught by Sima Longyun who had always been watching Chi Xiaodie. He stared at Li Qiye with cold glimmers flashing in his eyes, but he gently talked to Chi Xiaodie instead: “Sister wants the Rotten Underworld Bean? How about I buy it for you?”

Chi Xiaodie looked at him and said: “I will buy it myself!” Finished speaking, she wanted to bid but was stopped again by Li Qiye, who was shaking his head.

A fiery anger flared in Sima Longyun's heart. He didn't know the relationship between Li Qiye and Chi Xiaodie, but his Furious Immortal Saint Country had proposed to the Lion's Roar Gate.

"I bid 5,000." At this time, someone else decided to bid on this pot of Rotten Underworld Beans.

"I bid 10,000!" Sima Longyun immediately challenged the bid and then spoke to Chi Xiaodie: "As long as you need it, I will help you get it!" With that said, he then snorted and glared at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye immediately laughed after seeing Sima Longyun's attitude as he leisurely offered: "I bid 20,000."

Li Qiye's attitude was a challenge in Sima Longyun's eyes and thus, his eyes turned fierce. A nobody actually dared to provoke him!

"What are you doing!?" Chi Xiaodie immediately glared at Li Qiye. Even though they must obtain the Rotten Underworld Beans, bidding required a particular method. If someone acted like Li Qiye who was only raising the price without any finesse, then they would only lose out in the end.

Li Qiye looked at her, then he nonchalantly smiled and said: "As long as you like it, I will grab it for you. Money is not an issue as long as you like it." Having said that, he then revealed an ambiguous and misleading smile.

"Disgusting..." Chi Xiaodie felt the creeps and uttered after seeing Li Qiye act like this. She didn't know why Li Qiye suddenly became crazy and spoke such words!

"I bid 30,000!" Sima Longyun was furious after seeing such a display. A nobody was competing for his woman? Truly tired of living!

Li Qiye raised his eyelids once, then he slowly said: "I bid 40,000!"

Chi Xiaodie glared at him and coldly asked: "Are you out of your mind?"

They truly needed the Rotten Underworld Beans, but their refined jades were not earned without any effort. It was all from Chi Xiaodao's tedious gathering — completely unlike the carelessness of Li Qiye's bidding.

"It's no problem. I might be missing a lot of things, but money is not one of them." Li Qiye leisurely answered. People who didn't know better would actually think that he was trying to win her favor.

The flashy point garnered from this scene — in the eyes of the spectators — was that Li Qiye wanted to please his beauty and didn't care about throwing money away like trash. And Chi Xiaodie, on the other hand, was worried about her dear lover's money so she didn't want her beloved to spend too much. They looked as if they were quite in love.

Sima Longyun was particularly annoyed by such a scene as his expression dimmed with surging murderous intent. The Saint Country had proposed to the Lion's Roar Country so this matter was eighty to ninety percent certain. Yet at this moment, a nobody suddenly appeared and competed for his woman; he must be tired of living.

"I bid 50,000!" Sima Longyun looked at Li Qiye and proudly said: "My Furious Immortal Saint Country does not lack anything, especially refined jades!"

"I bid 100,000." Li Qiye didn't even bat an eye and bid a higher price with complete ease.

"You..." Chi Xiaodie was driven mad by Li Qiye. Would they even need to buy it when the price of the bean was this high now? This was truly insanity!

Chi Xiaodao, on the other hand, kept quiet. He was personally delighted to see the two getting together because he wanted them as a pair. Meanwhile, Sikong Toutian was hiding to the side, waiting to watch the fun for he knew it was fast approaching.

"Really crazy." There were a few people who wanted to bid on the beans, but after seeing Li Qiye and Sima Longyun's attitude, they immediately dropped the thought. This matter was as clear as day to anyone; they wanted to have a competition of wealth! Only big losses would come from this if other people were mixed in.

"Lacking experience, full of vim; lacking age, full of money. Such a good thing!" A cultivator from the previous generation couldn't help but lament. Everyone was quite perplexed by Li Qiye, this nobody who appeared out of nowhere yet dared to compete with wealth against Sima Longyun, who came from the Saint Country.[1. Two statements that probably sound better in its original prose. A youth lacking experience is filled with vigorous and red-blooded energy. A youth lacking in age has a lot of money. These are just phrases to describe Li Qiye and Sima Longyun in this particular situation; and I do say that they are quite apt.]

"100,000! 100,000 going once. Any other bidders?" Naturally, the auctioneer was quite excited. This price was far higher than his expectations so he immediately shouted.

After being provoked by Li Qiye like this, especially in front of the lover in his dreams, how could Sima Longyun swallow this anger? He immediately exclaimed: "200,000! I bid 200,000!"

"500,000!" Li Qiye's demeanor remained calm as he bid a new price in a carefree manner.

"You..." Chi Xiaodie was shaking from anger and wanted to explode into a tantrum. This price had completely exceeded their hopes.

On the other hand, Chi Xiaodao only awkwardly smiled. The situation had escalated to a point of no return.

At this point, Sima Longyun gazed intensely at the smiling Li Qiye who simply shrugged and said: "Money is not something I lack. 500,000 just to see a smile from a beauty is not an egregious matter."

"1,000,000!" Sima Longyun's enmity pierced the sky itself. He came from the Furious Immortal Saint Country, thus he was always high above everyone else; who would ever dare to offend him?

"5,000,000..." Li Qiye slowly enunciated.

"Crazy, this is truly crazy!" There was a sudden uproar right after Li Qiye's bid. Even buyers with some wealth were startled by this price. This was a hundred times more than the price of a Rotten Underworld Bean.

"5,000,000! 5,000,000! Is there anyone else with a higher bid?" The auctioneer was crazily ecstatic. This would definitely be the most exciting scene of this auction.

“10,000,000!” Sima Longyun decisively made a decision and looked at Li Qiye in disdain as he sneered: “I have plenty of money!” In fact, 10,000,000 Royal Noble Refined Jades to buy one pot of Rotten Underworld Beans was extremely insane, but since Sima Longyun’s arrow had been shot, he had no choice but to follow through even if it was a big loss. However, he couldn’t lose face, especially in front of Chi Xiaodie.

At this time, Li Qiye cheerfully smiled and leisurely gave him a thumbs up as he spoke: “So rich! 10,000,000 to buy one pot of Rotten Underworld Beans... I quit.”

Li Qiye’s sudden withdrawal left an annoying sensation in Sima Longyun’s mind. It was as if he mustered all of his strength to deliver one devastating blow only to find that it missed completely. Nevertheless, Sima Longyun still sneered and proudly said: “Competing with me with just someone like you? Still so lacking!”

“10,000,000! 10,000,000! Is there anyone else who wants to go even higher?” The auctioneer shouted with much excitement. This was most likely the most expensive pot of beans in his auctioneering life. It was hundreds of times higher than the ordinary price — extremely ridiculous!

“10,000,000. This bottle of Rotten Underworld Beans goes to Young Noble Sima of the Furious Immortal Saint Country!” Ultimately, the auctioneer repeated three times without anyone else bidding, so Sima Longyun became the highest bidder.

### **Chapter 263: You’re Still Too Inexperienced To Compete Against Me**

Everyone became astonished due to the final price of the Rotten Underworld Beans. It was too illogical; even someone who needed it would not be able to accept such a price. In the end, the pot fell into the hands of Sima Longyun.

“Why did you suddenly go insane!?” Seeing Sima Longyun successfully obtain the pot of beans, Chi Xiaodie couldn’t help but explode and shout at Li Qiye.

The Rotten Underworld Beans was something that they must get, but because of Li Qiye’s meddling, Sima Longyun was able to grab it with such a sky-high price! Even if Sima Longyun didn’t win it, they wouldn’t have been able to afford such a ludicrous price.

At this time, Chi Xiaodie became exasperated because of Li Qiye’s troublemaking! If he didn’t go all out on bidding, then maybe they would have been able to grab this pot of beans at an acceptable price.

“Sister doesn’t need to be angry. If you need it, I’ll just give it to you. Money is only an external thing, it doesn’t matter at all.” Right now, Sima Longyun immediately handed the pot of Rotten Underworld Beans over to Chi Xiaodie.

10,000,000 jades for a pot of Rotten Underworld Beans was outrageous even for Sima Longyun, but if it could earn Chi Xiaodie’s favor and strike a blow to his love rival — Li Qiye, this was plenty worth it for him.

“This is all your fault!” Chi Xiaodie couldn’t help but announce her displeasure towards Li Qiye with a deep tone.

Li Qiye remained unperturbed and answered with a smile while looking at Sima Longyun: “The Rotten Underworld Bean has a great effect. However, a pot of useless beans is not useful at all. Using a pot of useless beans to please a beauty — this matter is really too embarrassing.”

“What do you mean?” Sima Longyun’s expression turned cold after hearing Li Qiye’s words. Many people present were also surprised at this sudden development.

Li Qiye smirked and slowly explained: “As an alchemist, I will provide you with some common sense. Correct, Rotten Underworld Beans are not valuable right after maturity; they need to be buried for a long time before becoming something worthwhile. Clearly, there are a few complications when this alchemist buried them; when he sun-dried these Underworld Rotten Beans, they must have been next to Lustrous Bloodworms.” [1. Could be insect/worm here, can’t tell without more descriptions. However, the word “blood” makes it sound like bloodworms, right? Maybe I play a bit too much World of Warcraft.]

“What’s wrong with sun-drying Rotten Underworld Beans next to Lustrous Bloodworms?” An older cultivator couldn’t help but ask.

Li Qiye leisurely smiled and continued: “If you use the beans immediately, there will be no problems. However, because the beans were stained with blood energy and because they were sun-dried next to the bloodworms, the moment the beans were buried and basked in underworld energy for millions of years, the medicinal effect of the beans had been completely corroded! This turned these beans into waste without the slightest bit of value.”

Li Qiye continued on with a bright smile: “Therefore, when a few alchemists eventually die from old age, they need to make sure to never sun-dry Rotten Underworld Beans together with Lustrous Bloodworms.”

“Nonsense!” Sima Longyun coldly retorted: “The Inheritance Ancient Pavilion appraised these Rotten Underworld Beans!”

Li Qiye glanced at him with a carefree expression and said: “If you don’t believe it, then you can crush a bean to see if it’s true or not.”

Sima Longyun maintained a fierce stare at Li Qiye and finally snorted before saying: “I’ll pinch one just so that you can stop acting like you actually know something here!” Having said that, he immediately took out one bean.

However, the moment Sima Longyun crushed this Rotten Underworld Bean, a black water immediately came out; a sudden terrible smell appeared.

Sima Longyun immediately became shocked and went to crush many beans right afterwards. However, one after another, it was all the same; all of the bean cores were eroded.

“It really is like this. This is too strange, I have never heard of such a matter.” Many people couldn’t help but clamor after seeing this scene. Even alchemists were amazed for they have never seen or read such an occurrence before.

Of course, Li Qiye was well aware of this because he and the Alchemy God had tasted countless grasses and tried numerous medicines; what kind of medicines ever managed to elude their grasps? How could

anyone understand the dao of alchemy more than he in contemporary times? Not to mention, he also had the peerless and supreme Alchemy God's Grand Canon in his hands!

Right when he carefully sniffed the scent of these beans, he immediately knew that there was an issue with the pot. Due to Sima Longyun's provocation, he used this chance to push him down the hole so that he would pay a sky-high price for this pot of beans.

Chi Xiaodie became a bit stunned after seeing the new development; she was unable to say a word for quite some time. At this time, she understood why Li Qiye raised the bid to such a ridiculous amount! With a slight change in her expression, she understood that even if she obtained it, it would have just been a pot of useless beans!

"Your eyesight is pretty bad to be giving a pot of useless beans to a beauty." Li Qiye looked at the livid Sima Longyun and leisurely smiled.

"Wonderful, such great alchemical knowledge definitely opened everyone's eyes today." The Ice Feather Palace's descendant, Bing Yuxia, applauded while sitting in her pavilion.

"What is going on!" Sima Longyun was no longer able to contain himself and shouted at the auctioneer: "Could it be that your Inheritance Ancient Pavilion is auctioning these useless beans to fool everyone?"

The auctioneer remained calm and answered: "Young Noble Sima, do not be angry. Everyone in the Eastern Hundred Cities clearly knows that grave auctions are an equal risk for both the auction house and the buyer. From the tomb opening until now, the entire process was observed by everyone; our pavilion did not commit any shady business. As for the issue of the buried item, it could only be described as a mistake on our appraisers' part. Say, if someone gets a bad deal, will they then ask our pavilion to make up for their loss? This is something everyone knows very clearly!"

"Our Inheritance Ancient Pavilion has been prestigious for many years. If there was a problem with an item in a formal auction, then we will repay the difference ten times over! However, everyone knew the rules of a grave auction; we appraise and observe the item together before auctioning it on the spot to have everyone share the venture and risk! Regardless of whether it be problems with the items, buyers getting a good deal, or we incorrectly appraising an item, these are all within reasonable limits! If you can see it, then you can buy it. This is not fraud on our part, so we will not bear the responsibilities." The auctioneer eloquently clarified because this was not his first time dealing with such a matter.

"One can only accept his misfortune when such an issue occurs at a grave auction. A formal auction would have some insurance, but the starting price would be much higher." A cultivator nodded in agreement.

All the cultivators in the Eastern Hundred Cities knew the rules of a grave auction. They understood that the pavilion did not commit fraud, so naturally, they didn't have to bear the responsibilities.

Sima Longyun's complexion turned pale. He wasted 10,000,000 Royal Noble Refined Jades to buy a pot of Rotten Underworld Beans in order to please the beauty; he didn't expect to treat money like trash and waste this much to buy a pot of useless beans! The lost money was not the issue, it was losing all face in this seemingly prodigal endeavor. To simply put it, this matter was a joke to all the present spectators so how could he not turn pale from anger?

At this moment, the initially angry Chi Xiaodie also turned silent. If it wasn't for Li Qiye's troublemaking, she would have most likely paid a high price for these useless beans.

"If Little Girl doesn't understand, then do not speak nonsense, lest you cause more misunderstandings." At this time, Li Qiye glanced at her and nonchalantly said.

Chi Xiaodie immediately became annoyed with a stomach filled with hot air, but she could only hold it in! She glared at Li Qiye with quite a bit of exasperation!

"The next item up for auction." The grave auction continued even after such a commotion. Everyone became alive again and did not hesitate to bid just because of the Rotten Underworld Beans matter.

Afterwards, a dozen or so items were brought up for bid, and they were all buried precious ancient medicines. The items inside the tomb became fewer as many of them were sold. Chi Xiaodie couldn't help but bitterly smile because there were no more Rotten Underworld Beans amongst the remaining buried items.

At the end of the auction, there were a few buried items that even the pavilion's appraisers had difficulty identifying.

"Next is the cheapest item up for auction." The auctioneer declared as a wooden box was being brought up.

This wooden box had completely decayed and there were many patches of rotten mud stained on the top. There was no need to look any further; even if there were ancient medicines inside the box, they were most likely rotten. If it wasn't for the rotting mud sticking on it, then this wooden box would have decayed entirely.

"This item is a rotted wooden box. After our appraisal, there is a medicinal scent inside, and it could be precious spirit medicines. We will not open the wooden box to take out the medicines; this ancient medicinal box will start at 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades." The auctioneer said.

"What a joke!" Buyers immediately booed after hearing the auctioneer. One of them exclaimed: "This ancient medicinal box looks completely rotten, yet you still want 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades. This is straight up robbery."

The auctioneer replied: "Our appraisers have examined it. The inside is definitely filled with precious spirit medicines. There is a herbal aroma of jewel sandalwood — extremely pure. This is a very rare spirit medicine."

At this time, Li Qiye also carefully took a whiff of the wooden box that had basically turned into mud to check the medicinal scent inside.

"Even if it is a precious ancient medicine, it still isn't worth anything. One would instantly know after just taking a look at the wooden box. It has decayed into mud so any ancient medicines inside would also be rotten. In my opinion, at best, it will only be worth 100 Heaven's Primal Refined Jades. Use this low price so that everyone can gamble to see if there are any remnants of drugs inside this mud!" An alchemist offered his opinion.

“300 Royal Noble Refined Jades — this is the lowest price. If no one wants to bid, then our Inheritance Ancient Pavilion will have to take it back.” The auctioneer maintained this bottom line and declared to all the buyers.

#### **Chapter 264: Turning Something Rotten Into Something Magical**

The auctioneer was this persistent because their appraisers determined that this box once sealed an amazing ancient medicine. Unfortunately, it was not sealed correctly and had rotted away.

“We’ll begin at 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades.” At this time, the auctioneer hammered down. No one made a bid. After a second hammer, there was still no one who gave an offer.

“It has turned into useless residue; it’s definitely not worth 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades.” An alchemist shook his head and stated. Even though 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades was not a ridiculous amount to most of the present buyers, there was no sense of profit from buying a slab of mud.

“300 Royal Noble Refined Jades — going one last time.” After the last hammer, the auctioneer shouted loudly. [1. Going once, going twice, sold. This is what I know, but the raw says third time, which isn’t the regular style?]

“I’ll buy it for 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades.” Li Qiye declared at the very last second.

At this time, many people stared at Li Qiye. 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades to buy a slab of mud — this was akin to having too much money with no place to spend it. Someone shook his head and said: “This brat truly likes to gamble.”

“300 Royal Noble Refined Jades, are there any other bidders?” The auctioneer inquired with a shout, but no other buyers were especially interested towards this slab of mud. In the end, this item was obtained by Li Qiye using 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades.

After seeing Li Qiye winning this auction, Sima Longyun sneered and said with disdain: “This isn’t necessarily a bad thing. Buying a slab of mud and bringing it back home will at least let people know that you have traveled and participated in a grave auction. For a poor brat like you, using 300 Royal Noble Refined Jades to buy some sense of vanity can be considered a good thing.”

Li Qiye initially wanted to store this item away after winning the bid, but Sima Longyun actually stepped on his head. He revealed a smile and looked at Sima Longyun before saying: “What would an idiot like you know about ancient medicines? Only an idiot like you would waste 10,000,000 Royal Noble Refined Jades to buy a pot of useless beans!”

After this humiliating situation was brought up again, Sima Longyun’s expression sank once more. In the end, he coldly stated: “I do not mind wasting 10,000,000 refined jades. At the very least, I still have more face than a lowly broke who wasted 300 refined jades to buy a slab of mud.”

Li Qiye leisurely looked at Sima Longyun and laughed before saying: “Only a fool would think that this is a slab of mud! I’ll let this fool see what is truly considered an ancient medicine!” Finished speaking, he pulled on the slab of mud that had become rotten, splitting it apart.

The moment this slab of mud became separated, one after another, Rotten Underworld Beans rolled out. They were quite big and inside the muddy color was a faint yellow color. As these beans rolled out, a medicinal fragrance that gave a relaxing and comfortable sensation permeated the souls of others.

“Rotten Underworld Beans...” After seeing these beans come out, many buyers were surprised. An older alchemist shockingly exclaimed: “These are finest grade Rotten Underworld Beans; they have a trace of golden shade! Each of these Rotten Underworld Beans is worth more than 10,000 Royal Nobles Refined Jades at the current market price! These are the finest within the finest!”

“Finest Rotten Underworld Beans with one million years of medicinal spirit!” At this time, even an appraiser from the pavilion could not sit still. He was completely frozen after seeing Li Qiye storing them away, completely filling a pot with Rotten Underworld Beans!

At this time, all the buyers present were astonished. One alchemist murmured: “How is this possible? At that degree of decay, even other ancient medicines would become rotten. These Rotten Underworld Beans are not only rotten, but their medicinal spirits became even more refined and pure! Could it be that this Legendary Alchemist did it on purpose when he buried them?”

“If I knew this beforehand, I would have done something. In the market, this pot filled with Rotten Underworld Beans would probably be worth millions of Royal Noble Refined Jades! These finest beans are absolutely a hot item!” Another Ancient Saint with some purchasing power couldn’t help but stomp his feet with feelings of regret.

Chi Xiaodao was ecstatic from seeing this pot filled with finest grade Rotten Underworld Beans. He needed these beans, and he didn’t expect Li Qiye to be able to easily buy so many finest beans with such a low price. This was simply unthinkable.

Chi Xiaodie also felt the same way as she stared intensely at Li Qiye. At this time, she didn’t feel that Li Qiye was lucky; rather, this little demon that she considered to be a swindler was becoming more and more unfathomable and mysterious!

“Fellow Daoist, what is the principle behind this?” At this time, an ancient medicine appraiser of the Inheritance Ancient Pavilion quickly went up to Li Qiye and bowed once. Even he felt that this matter was impossible. It was a completely rotten ancient box, yet the beans inside were of the finest quality! There must be a principle behind this, something unknown to outsiders.

“This is another common principle, but unfortunately, I cannot tell you.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

This appraiser had no choice but to gently sigh. It was understandable that he didn’t want to reveal this matter. The appraiser still respectfully bowed again and didn’t say anything else.

“What now? I spent 300 refined jades to buy this slab of mud in contrast to you spending 10,000,000 to buy useless beans.” Li Qiye looked at Sima Longyun and idly spoke.

If other people dared to step on his head, then he certainly would not hesitate from giving them a good slap without leaving them half a trace of face.

Sima Longyun was absolutely livid as an ugly-to-the-extreme expression was revealed. Today, he failed twice. The first was when he bought the useless beans with a sky-high price, the second was to

sarcastically mock Li Qiye for buying a slab of mud. He didn't expect to be violently counter-slapped by Li Qiye!

"Okay, next is a jar of ancient medicine. Since it is difficult to appraise, we'll start at 700 Enlightened Being Refined Jades." At this point, the auctioneer presented an ancient medicine that the pavilion had trouble identifying.

This jar of ancient medicine — for unknown reasons — had turned into a medicinal contraption, and one couldn't tell what the medicinal contraption was. [1. Medicinal contraption here is the refined part of the actual ancient medicine once placed in a cauldron flame; at least, within Emperor's Domination.]

"I'll bid 1,000." An old alchemist immediately declared after the auctioneer finished his introduction.

"I'll go with 1,500." A different Ancient Saint hurriedly bid right after.

"I'll do 2,000." Suddenly, many people bid and were even competing just to bid.

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They followed in Li Qiye's footsteps, someone who managed to grab a great deal with the lowest price. Three hundred refined jades to buy finest grade Rotten Underworld Beans that was worth more than one million refined jades — this caused many people to become extremely interested in ancient medicines that were not able to be appraised by the pavilion. They all wanted to be like Li Qiye who greatly profited.

Ultimately, all of the unidentified ancient medicines were sold with fairly good prices. Unfortunately, these buyers who wanted to test their fortune had far worse insight than Li Qiye, so they didn't have much of a harvest. Regarding this result, these buyers had nothing to say for they understood the risk.

"Open the coffin; quickly, open the coffin. Let's see if there are any finest ancient medicines inside or not!" After everything in the tomb was auctioned off, the buyers present became impatient and all loudly shouted.

One of them excitedly said: "That's right, hurry up and open it. As a Legendary Alchemist's tomb, we still haven't found any Monarch Medicines or even Seven Transformations Soul Grass — this is a bit unacceptable."

Medicines and grasses older than three million years were referred to as Monarch Medicines. Of course, Monarch Medicines were extremely rare. Countless alchemists spent their whole life searching only to never be able to see a true Monarch Medicine.

"Good, open the coffin!" In the end, after the pressure from the excited mob of buyers, the pavilion decided to open the coffin.

All eyes were glued on it as everyone held their breath in eager anticipation for the items inside.

Keep in mind that any grand character — before dying — would bury the most precious and valuable item of their life next to them!

At this point, everyone wanted to see what items this Legendary Alchemist buried with him. Heavenly Cauldrons, Immortal Dan, ancient medicines, or a manual regarding the alchemy dao?

With a cracking sound, the coffin was finally opened. There was a small trace of remains inside. Its owner seemed to be an old man when he was alive, and the bones appeared to be bent like those that belonged to a hunchback. It was as if he was curling his body when he died; it didn't feel like a spectacular nor formal type of funeral.

The thing that was more shiver-inducing was that this body was completely black. It was as if he died from being poisoned. Outside of the black and tiny corpse, there was another item that was more than three feet long. It appeared to be a measuring stick.

With an inky color and distinctive outlines, this measuring stick seemed to be made out of wood. No one could really tell the specific type of wood it was made of. The corpse inside the coffin gripped this stick really tightly as if it was extremely important.

However, once the buyers saw the small, black corpse, they couldn't help but become disappointed. Seeing that the thing buried with him was only a measuring stick, their disappointment increased even more.

"It seems like this Legendary Alchemist had left all of his treasures behind to his descendants and didn't bury anything amazing with him." A disappointed person remarked after seeing the inside of the coffin.

"This alchemist might have died in an accident ah." Another older alchemist speculated after seeing the black corpse: "His entire body is jet-black; there is a chance that he died during a pill refinement session. It could have been an ominous medicine and he died from suffering the medicinal spirit's backlash."

An Ancient Saint carefully examined this corpse and also nodded in agreement: "That is plausible. There is no divinity in this corpse even though he is a Legendary Alchemist. Outside of an abnormal death, there is no better explanation."

Only experts would have corpses with divinity. Normally, they would have to be at the Heavenly Sovereign or Heavenly King level to have divinity. For example, after a Heavenly King passed away, it wouldn't matter if his body had decayed, there would always be a part that will not be rotten, like a finger, or the bone between the eyebrows, or an eye. This meant that this part was his most powerful aspect when he was alive!

The remains with divinity could be sold at a high price. For example, a finger bone of a Heavenly King could have an absolute power to be reckoned with once refined into a treasure.

### **Chapter 265: A Wooden Ruler Bringing About A Storm**

The appraisers of the Inheritance Ancient Pavilion busily tried to identify this body along with the three foot long wooden ruler! In fact, this body did not need to be appraised; the integral focus was all on this wooden ruler!

However, after a long discussion between the appraisers, they couldn't come up with any specific result; they couldn't even identify the wood that this ruler was made out of.

One had to know that the appraisers of the pavilion could be considered the absolute authority regarding this field. The Inheritance Ancient Pavilion was one of the oldest auction houses, and its appraisers were part of a group that had seen the most treasures in this world. However, they couldn't even determine the material of this wooden ruler.

Li Qiye's gaze was locked on the corpse the moment the coffin was opened. After a long while, he then gazed at the wooden ruler instead. After a meticulous observation, a brilliance flashed in the deepest parts of Li Qiye's eyes, causing him to remember the rumors of that one era! With a slight shudder, Li Qiye thought about an even older legend that had something to do with a mythical race.

"It is strange, it is a bit strange ah." At this time, Sikong Toutian, who had been standing silently next to Li Qiye, couldn't help but murmur.

Li Qiye glanced at him and idly said: "What's so strange about it?"

"Hmm... This..." Sikong Toutian wryly smiled before finally answering: "I have seen many different types of wood, and I'm quite knowledgeable about wooden materials used to craft coffins or divine wood used to create treasures. However, this wooden ruler... It is an oddity; I have never seen this type of wood before."

"There is a myriad of vegetation in this world; it is normal that you haven't seen all of them." Chi Xiaodie shook her head and said.

Sikong Toutian pondered for bit before replying: "What you say is completely true. Who can say that they know all the different species of wood in this world?" At this point, he turned around and asked Li Qiye: "Dao Brother, do you have any insight?"

Li Qiye gave him a look and said: "It's hard to say. All in all, this is not an ordinary piece of wood." A different thought had appeared in his mind.

"What are you all still debating about? Hurry up if you want to continue the auction. Everyone has to leave, you know?" Seeing the appraisers from the pavilion debating for a long time without any result, a dissatisfied buyer demanded.

Many other buyers also protested: "That's right, just decide on a price with some decisiveness. Hurry up and don't waste everyone's time."

In the end, the Inheritance Ancient Pavilion arrived at a unanimous decision. The wooden ruler will be auctioned, but not the corpse because it didn't have any divinity. Normally, once the auction ended, the corpses would be returned to the owner of the tomb or the descendants of the corpse!

"This is a divine ruler; everyone can first take a look at it." The auctioneer raised the wooden ruler with both hands and declared to the crowd.

At this time, everyone came closer to take a careful look at this wooden ruler. Some people were sniffing and others went as far as to lick it, but there was no discernible taste nor smell.

As they were observing the ruler, they found that there were engravings of little ghosts on it; there were ninety-nine of them. Each and every little ghost carving had a different expression that was shown with great clarity. Those who were more cowardly would be scared and nervous after seeing these seemingly alive little ghosts on top of the ruler.

"Brother Zhu Yan, what are these ghosts? Which branch are they from?" After looking carefully at this wooden ruler, an Ancient Saint asked a great character who came from the ghost race.

This person who came from the Ghost Immortal Race observed the ruler with a serious expression, then he shook his head to say: "I also cannot tell. Even though the Ghost Immortal Race is considered to have one hundred different branches, I really haven't seen these little ghosts before, and I've never heard of them either. It could just be that the crafter of the ruler made up some images." The ghost race referred to itself as the Ghost Immortal Race, and it was one of the great races in the contemporary time along with the human race, the demon race, the Heavenly Devils... However, the Mortal Emperor World was the domain of the human race, so it was relatively rare to see the demon race, the ghost race, and the Heavenly Devils...

Although they considered themselves as Ghost Immortals, a few branches within the ghost race had the exact same appearance as the human race; it was extremely difficult to tell them apart. The most direct and effective method to differentiate between them was to look at their blood. The ghost race's blood was a violet color — extremely red with some purple. This was a unique trait that belonged only to the ghost race. [2. It seems like the ghost race here is similar to the devils in hell (teaser image), but we already had Heavenly Devil (mo), so they have to be ghost (gui). This is a more physical form of ghosts, unlike the western spiritual ones. It was a bit hard to translate gui, mo, and yao into English, especially without physical descriptions during the first times I used the terms. I usually do gui = ghost, mo = evil/devil, and yao = demon; but both Heavenly Devils and Immortal Ghosts have a physical appearance just like humans in Emperor's Domination, so the western equivalents can be inaccurate. I didn't want to use fiend as a replacement for ghost since that has a greater connotation of evil which might be reserved for something else in the future. "Just what is this ruler?" All the buyers present looked at it attentively; some even held it in their hands. This wooden ruler was much heavier than expected — like a heavy iron with a cold sensation.

Everyone was thinking about the origin of this wooden ruler, but they couldn't figure it out. In reality, even the appraisers of the pavilion were unable to do so, thus it was even more difficult for outsiders to correctly identify it.

Li Qiye carefully pondered about this wooden ruler. He already had the answer in his heart the moment he studied the ninety-nine little ghosts on its surface.

"This ruler is extraordinary." The Ice Feather Palace's Bing Yuxia carefully contemplated about this wooden ruler before finally murmuring. Of course, only she herself heard these words.

"Gentlemen, everyone has seen this ruler now. As the last buried item within this tomb, our Inheritance Ancient Pavilion will use the grave auction rules to sell this off. This ruler was created by using divine wood. Since it has a great and extraordinary origin with the ghost race, the starting price will be 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades!" The auctioneer declared.

These words were met by an immediate uproar as the scene became rambunctious. A buyer couldn't help but counter: "You're kidding! The origin of this wooden ruler isn't even clear and the wooden material is not known, yet it is starting at 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades? This is too much of a cheat!"

"Yeah! I think that even if it was 3,000 Heavenly King Refined Jades, it would still be too expensive. 3,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades might be worthy of consideration." Another buyer echoed the sentiment.

The auctioneer shook his head in response: "This wood is as hard as steel; these engravings of the ninety-nine ghosts... They are a supreme creation from the ghost race. Our Inheritance Ancient Pavilion does not dare to make any baseless statement regarding this ruler, but we can absolutely guarantee that this ruler is made from divine wood. As for the type of divine wood, there is a need for further deliberation. Of course, if there is someone willing to let us know, we would be happy to accept the assistance."

"Fellow Daoist is correct." At this time, Li Qiye smiled and said: "This ruler starting with 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades is indeed a bit too much. In my opinion, this ruler was crafted from a Harmonious Ghost Tree. This ruler is odorless and has spiral shell patterns on the actual wood. Combined with the faint white amidst the black, these are the characteristics of the Harmonious Ghost Tree. It is indeed rare within the Mortal Emperor World, but there is not too many marvelous uses for it." [3. Harmonious can also mean leaf, here.]

"Harmonious Ghost Tree..." All the buyers were surprised after hearing this name because many of them had never heard of such a tree.

"Harmonious Ghost Tree!" An appraiser from the pavilion who specialized in wood became serious after listening and slowly said: "This is a rare species of trees in the Mortal Emperor World; they only grow in the Burial Grounds, away from the sight of mortals. Even though this wood is indeed rare and precious, it is completely accurate to say that there is not much use for it."

"If you don't trust my words, then you can carefully look at it to see if the wood outlines of this ruler contain spiral shell patterns with a faint white within the black shade or not. This is a special characteristic of the Harmonious Ghost Tree." Li Qiye smilingly spoke.

All the buyers took turns looking at it, and then someone said: "It really does have that spiral pattern with the white and black color scheme."

"I heard about a legend relating to the ghost race — something to do with their origin. Legend has it that the Progenitor of the ghost race was the soul of an ancient corpse, and it finally came back to life. It married a mortal and gave birth to future generations. There is another legend that states that there are ninety-nine descendants; each of the descendants built their own tribe, which is why the ghost race is also named the hundred race." At this time, Li Qiye said with a smile. [4. I don't know if the corpse comes back to life, or the soul took/got a new body. This wasn't clear here in this part.]

Li Qiye's statement was immediately refuted by a master from the ghost race. He coldly shouted: "Nonsense! The Progenitor of our ghost race was a ghost who became an immortal and eventually gave birth to our ghost race. In our veins flows the blood of the Ghost Immortal!"

There were three different theories regarding the origin of the ghost race's Progenitor. The first was that he was a ghost who became an immortal; another was that he was a soul of an ancient corpse; the last was that he was the result from a relationship between a ghost and a mortal!

In fact, their ghost race only accepted the first theory and were especially averse to the soul from a dead corpse theory — the entire ghost race vehemently denied this theory. And as for the last one, some believed it while some didn't.

Li Qiye smiled and replied: “Even though all of your ghost race currently denies this theory, it is undeniable that, during the ancient era, there were ghost members who believed such a theory.”

“Hmph! Those are just heretics! They are not qualified to be a part of the ghost race!” The master from the ghost race coldly proclaimed.

Li Qiye continued on with a grin: “Whether it is heresy or not, it is all in the past now. However, it is a fact that there were ghost race members who believed in this theory. Therefore, during immemorial eras, ghost race members carved the images of the ninety-nine ghosts in order to honor the origin of the ghost race. I trust that this wooden ruler came from the heretics of the ghost race, and it is a memento of the ghost race’s origin. The Harmonious Ghost Tree is indeed precious, but if it is only a memento, then I’m afraid it doesn’t have much value.”

“If that is the case, then 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades is too much ah. Let it be 3,000 Ancient Saint Refined Jades, then!” After Li Qiye’s explanation, another buyer immediately exclaimed.

“Yes, 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades to buy a memento is totally not worth it. I don’t even want it for 3,000 Ancient Saint Refined Jades; how about 3,000 Royal Noble Refined Jades?” Many buyers here began to cause a commotion.

Another buyer also lamented his bad luck as he shook his head in dejection: “I actually thought a Legendary Alchemist would be buried with great drugs and ancient medicines; I didn’t expect this guy to be a heretic of the ghost race. If the other ancient medicines buried along with him weren’t worthwhile, then this grave auction would have been meaningless.”

At this moment when many buyers were clamoring, Bing Yuxia, who was relaxing under her pavilion, stared at Li Qiye with a strange expression. She seemed determined to see through him.

“Help me act out a play; go ahead and bid.” At this time, Li Qiye elbowed Chi Xiaodie next to him and whispered.

Chi Xiaodie angrily glared at him and replied: “Why should I act with you! I am not interested!”

### **Chapter 266: Sky-High Price**

“Hurry!” Li Qiye said slowly. This gentle word carried a dignified tone without a hint of anger.

Chi Xiaodie’s heart shivered for a moment after being stared at by Li Qiye. She didn’t know why, but her heart suddenly acquiesced at this moment as she angrily spoke: “Fine, I’ll bid then!”

At this time, Chi Xiaodie loudly shouted amidst the clamoring crowd to the auctioneer: “If this ruler starts at 3,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades, then I will be willing to bid.”

Chi Xiaodie’s sudden declaration of 3,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades attracted the gaze of many people. It was not a small amount; a memento worthy of such a price would be quite amazing.

“3,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades to buy a wooden ruler memento? Are you crazy? Is this broken ruler really worth that much money?” Li Qiye looked at Chi Xiaodie and exclaimed with an exaggerated expression.

Chi Xiaodie was fed up since she was supposed to act with him, but right now, he was making fun of her; how could she not be angry? She angrily glared at him and snapped: “What does it have to do with you! I like to collect mementos! If I like it, then I’ll buy it!”

Unsuspecting spectators watching their noisy scene actually thought that they were quarreling lovers and laughed at the interesting spectacle.

“If Sister likes it, how about I buy it for you?” Seeing an opportunity, Sima Longyun immediately voiced his concern.

Chi Xiaodie coldly glared at him and responded: “I will buy the items that I like myself! It is not only your Furious Immortal Saint Country that has money!”

Sima Longyun could only smile awkwardly after being met with Chi Xiaodie’s response.

“Little Sister, if you like it, then I’ll buy it for you.” At this time, Bing Yuxia actually decided to join in as she cheerfully smiled: “A girl like a noble canary with some temper — my favorite type. How about I buy it for you?”

Finished speaking, she told the auctioneer: “3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades! I want this wooden ruler.”

“This is too crazy.” Everyone immediately became lost in a furor the moment Bing Yuxia stated this price. 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades to buy a ruler like this — this was truly having too much money without an outlet for spending. But what can one do? This person came from the Ice Feather Palace and she was the descendant; she truly had such wealth!

Even if Sima Longyun wanted to buy the wooden ruler to please Chi Xiaodie, with Bing Yuxia bidding 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades, he didn’t have any other option. And it wasn’t just not having 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades to buy a wooden ruler; even if he did, he would be scolded to death by his elders. Even if he did come from the Saint Country, this amount was still monstrous to a young disciple like him!

The auctioneer immediately shouted: “3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades. Is there a higher bid?” He didn’t think that 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades was a sellable price after Li Qiye’s interference. However, with Bing Yuxia’s gesture, this was the best chance to profit.

“Crazy...” The other buyers all shook their heads and let go of this thought. Such an amount of refined jades to buy a useless wooden ruler — this was too insane.

“For what reason will a little girl dress like a boy all day!?” At this time, Li Qiye had to repress the urge to curse in his mind. He wanted to buy it cheap, but he didn’t expect for this Bing Yuxia to interfere and ruin his plan!

Bing Yuxia didn’t care for Li Qiye’s expression. She stared at him with her pretty eyes that flashed a hint of happiness and leisurely said: “It is my hobby, does Fellow Daoist have something to say about it? I can’t believe Miss Chi is so beautiful and charming, are you interested in visiting my Ice Feather Palace as a guest?” Having said that, her eyebrows slightly raised, giving off a playful expression while teasing Chi Xiaodie.

Chi Xiaodie was at a loss for words. Bing Yuxia was clearly a beauty, yet she — time and time again dressed — like a man and even went as far as teasing other girls!

“Quit your bullshit!” Li Qiye put on a rough appearance and pulled up his sleeve to say: “Oh how grand you are. You, this pervert, actually wants to steal my woman!? 3,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades? Your father will go with 4,000. As long as Miss Chi likes it, I will buy it even if it is at a higher price!”

“This is so crazy. This brat’s boldness truly reaches the sky; he actually dares to oppose the Ice Feather Palace’s descendant like this!”

The buyers present couldn’t help but to rowdily discuss this matter after seeing Li Qiye’s display.

Another buyer added: “This is called a newborn calf not being afraid of a tiger. This brat probably just recently came out with high spirits so he doesn’t know the immensity of the heaven and earth; this is probably why he dares to provoke the Ice Feather Palace.”

“4,000! 4,000! Is there a higher bid?” The auctioneer immediately shouted after hearing Li Qiye’s bid: “4,000! Just 4,000 jades and then you can obtain the happiness of the beauty and bring her back — this is absolutely worth it!” [1. The “bring her back” here is actually carry/embrace her back, which is more of an expression about winning a lady’s heart — not literally. But it is still funny because it sounds very sexual.]

As for the heroine of this stormy competition, Chi Xiaodie’s face became hot and didn’t think about how this matter was getting more and more ridiculous.

“You think you are deserving of Little Sister? Why not look in the mirror first?” Sima Longyun became furious at the unknown junior who competed with him for a woman, so he coldly shouted: “I bid 5,000.” [2. The raw here for “look in the mirror” is actually “use a puddle of pee to look at yourself first”. A lot more foul than the English version, but it sounds a bit weird.]

“10,000, I bid 10,000.” At this time, Bing Yuxia was still as relaxed as before. She looked at Sima Longyun and slowly asked: “Do you dare to bid 20,000?”

Sima Longyun immediately lost his temper after being provoked by Bing Yuxia. In fact, his bid of 5,000 was only a momentary impulse from being blinded with jealousy. It was too ridiculous to use 5,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades to buy a wooden ruler like this. He essentially didn’t dare to follow up to the end after Bing Yuxia’s new bid.

“If Miss Bing likes this wooden ruler, then I won’t compete for something you like.” Sima Longyun cupped his fist with a personable demeanor. This was an easy ladder to step down on while maintaining his gracefulness — truly perfect. [“Ladder to step down on” is an easy way to get out of something without losing too much face. The ladder, in this case, is his excuse of not competing for something she likes.]

“10,000! 10,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades!” The auctioneer immediately cried: “Is there a higher bid?”

“Do you still want to bid?” At this time, Bing Yuxia stared at Li Qiye with a cheerful smile and a provocative furrow of her brows. Initially, she was a great beauty, but dressing as a man gave her a different attractive flavor.

“My grandmother! Why are you, a girl, competing with me for a woman!” Li Qiye couldn’t help but curse with a rude attitude: “Your father only wants to lose money, but not lose the battle! I will do 20,000!”

In fact, he wanted to tell her to stop. This was really messing up his good matter. He could initially buy it with a low price, but now, it was a sky-high price!

“So insane!” At this moment, everyone became staggered with shock while shaking their heads. This was no longer an auction, but rather, a competition for one’s lover!

“You’re crazy!” Even Chi Xiaodie could not bear to watch any longer. Spending 30,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades to buy this wooden ruler was too irrational. However, her attitude — in the eyes of others — made her seem to be a distressed lover who was sad about her honey wasting money. Sima Longyun was especially cold to the extreme as his eyes flashed a frightening murderous intent.

“20,000! 20,000 refined jades! Is there a higher bid?” The auctioneer couldn’t contain his excitement. Naturally, he wished that this love competition would become even more intense!

“Oh, quite a character.” Bing Yuxia laughed and looked at Li Qiye with simpering eyes. She leisurely said: “It seems like... I have to bid 30,000, then?”

Li Qiye was quite annoyed. He could have bought this for a much cheaper price, but because this young miss was causing trouble, his plan completely failed.

“You are a girl so why are you causing a ruckus, here? If you were a boy and came here to flirt, then I wouldn’t blame you, but why is a girl like you competing for a girl with me!? Do you have nothing else to do? You’re just a little girl; don’t pretend to be a boy all day long. Go back to your Ice Feather Palace; go to the Grand Monarch Ridge and take a good look at the Heaven Cutting Tablet. This is something a girl should do!” Li Qiye snappily scolded her with some rude gestures.

However, Bing Yuxia was quite shocked when Li Qiye brought up the “Grand Monarch Ridge’s Heaven Cutting Tablet!” Her eyes became serious as she glared at Li Qiye.

“This brat is too arrogant. He actually went as far as to offend the Ice Feather Palace like this.” Buyers were quite amazed at Li Qiye speaking to Bing Yuxia in such an unrestrained manner.

Sima Longyun — on the other hand — was sneering in his mind. This thing that doesn’t know the immensity of the heaven and earth! He dares to provoke Ice Feather Palace like this — truly courting death.

But right when everyone thought that Bing Yuxia would explode, she suddenly revealed a beautiful laugh that was capable of toppling cities and kingdoms in her male outfit, stirring an indescribable feeling in others.

“Fine, since you want to buy this item to please the heart of the beauty so much, I will oblige and let you have it.” Bing Yuxia beamingly smiled and said.

Li Qiye rolled his eyes a bit. If it wasn’t for this girl messing around, he would have been able to buy this wooden ruler at a much lower price.

“20,000! 20,000! Does anyone else want to go higher?” The auctioneer shouted after seeing Bing Yuxia withdraw from the competition.

Other people naturally would not bid against such a price to buy a wooden ruler. Only a madman would do such a thing.

Some buyers were curious, so one guy asked: "What is this brat's origin? 20,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades is not a small number."

Ordinary cultivators would not be able to get so many refined jades, so a few grand characters were quite curious.

Li Qiye eventually grabbed this wooden ruler, and the auction was now over. The majority of the buyers already left, but one buyer couldn't help but to express his feelings of regret: "It is a shame that there were no Monarch Medicines like within my expectations!"

Sima Longyun was filled with anger, but right before he left, he still maintained a gentlemanly air. He said goodbye to Chi Xiaodie and sent her an invitation: "Would Sister be available to visit my Furious Immortal Saint Country as a guest? I am willing to be your tour guide."

Chi Xiaodie was not very fond of Sima Longyun so Chi Xiaodao quickly defused the situation: "Brother Sima, when we have time in the future, we will surely visit your country."

Before Sima Longyun left, he gave Li Qiye a fierce glance while Li Qiye was too lazy to look back at him.

### **Chapter 267: Heaven Cutting Tablet**

Li Qiye put away the wooden ruler, then he said to the Chi duo: "We are going back."

He didn't want to garner too much attention after grabbing this wooden ruler, so he planned to leave this area. As they began their departure, someone blocked their path before they could return to the Lion's Roar Gate.

Heavenly flowers fell down from the sky as immortal hymns resonated about. A group of beautiful women descended from the sky and below their feet were blossoming ice petals. Right afterwards, Bing Yuxia appeared before everyone.

Her sudden appearance along with the Ice Feather Palace disciples alarmed the group of Chi Xiaodie. Sikong Toutian also lost his calm and said: "This hard-to-mess-with girl is eyeing us."

The wary Chi Xiaodie and Chi Xiaodao both knew that the Ice Feather Palace was absolutely a monster that their Lion's Roar Gate couldn't afford to offend.

"How about the two of us talk for a bit?" Bing Yuxia walked forward as if she was dancing and cheerfully smiled towards Li Qiye.

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes at this strange Bing Yuxia before him and smiled: "We can talk. My favorite thing to do is to speak with pretty girls with our knees pressed close." [1. Knees pressed close = shoulder touching shoulder — something intimate.]

"Look, Young Miss should be careful. Your man is a womanizer." Bing Yuxia smiled cheerfully at Chi Xiaodie and continued: "Why not follow me instead of this heartless lover?"

"He is not my man!" Chi Xiaodie angrily snapped: "I have nothing to do with him!"

Li Qiye was still as calm as ever as he waved his sleeve and dismissively said: “Girl, don’t linger on these things. If you want to talk, then hurry up; otherwise, I will not accommodate you.”

Li Qiye’s arrogant attitude caused Chi Xiaodao to breathe in a cold breath. This was the descendant of the Ice Feather Palace — a future powerhouse. There weren’t many people amongst the younger generation who would dare to speak with such a big tone towards Bing Yuxia within the Eastern Hundred Cities.

“Good, we will talk then.” Bing Yuxia smiled. At this time, the female disciples of the Ice Feather Palace summoned a treasure. In the blink of an eye, a courtyard appeared before everyone.

At this time, the Ice Feather female disciples entertained the group of Chi Xiaodie while Li Qiye and Bing Yuxia walked together to enter the premises.

Only the two of them were inside the building. Bing Yuxia sat in the high position with her male clothing and smilingly spoke to Li Qiye: “Where are you from?”

“Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect’s disciple, Li Qiye.” Li Qiye calmly answered with a smile without hiding anything.

Bing Yuxia’s pretty eyes narrowed and stared at Li Qiye before saying: “Not long ago, I heard about such a person. Some people say that you are the most arrogant little demon in the Grand Middle Territory!”

“It seems like your Ice Feather Palace is very much interested in the Grand Middle Territory ah. You have very good intelligence.” Li Qiye was not surprised in the least bit.

In fact, the Grand Middle Territory was very far from the Eastern Hundred Cities. A sect privy to intelligence from the Grand Middle Territory while situated at the Eastern Hundred Cities would absolutely be powerful.

Bing Yuxia laughed. Her laughter in her male clothing was seven parts beautiful and three parts as bright as the sunshine; there was even a trace of charm mixed in. This type of appearance was quite alluring.

Li Qiye looked at her captivating style and shook his head: “A girl like you didn’t learn anything except your Matriarch’s style of dressing like a man. Isn’t this a bit too strange?”

Bing Yuxia withdrew her smile as she became serious and replied: “So you know our Matriarch very well.”

The Ice Feather Palace was just like its Progenitor, Immortal Emperor Bing Yu. She was an invincible existence that had swept through the world and carried the Heaven’s Will — absolutely peerless.

He couldn’t help but smile after thinking about Immortal Emperor Bing Yu. He then shook his head and said: “Not very well, but I have heard a thing or two about Immortal Emperor Bing Yu. I heard that she was an arrogant lady that was as cold as ice! Even though you dressing as a man does have a little charm, it is not like your Matriarch. Her arrogance, I heard, really made others very uncomfortable!” Li Qiye was probably the only person in this world who dared to comment about Immortal Emperors like this.

“Such a big tone!” Bing Yuxia scowled while looking at Li Qiye. A bit later, she continued on: “I didn’t come to find you to talk about such trivial matters. We need to talk about the Heaven Cutting Tablet!”

“Heaven Cutting Tablet?” Li Qiye burst out in laughter and shook his head: “It seems like besides that girl, Immortal Emperor Bing Yu, no one else is able to understand it.”

“In other words, you know a lot about the Heaven Cutting Tablet!” Bing Yuxia’s eyes became serious as her words carried more gravity as well.

Li Qiye, on the other hand, smiled with a relaxed look compared to Bing Yuxia’s austere countenance. He nonchalantly spoke: “It’s not worth mentioning, but that item originally did not belong to your Ice Feather Palace. Even though your Matriarch, Immortal Emperor Bing Yu, truly had some arrogance, she was not a foolish person. Her method was insufficient, thus she moved it outside.”

“Who on earth are you!” Her pretty eyes turned cold as she glared at Li Qiye.

Still as calm as ever, Li Qiye looked at her and slowly continued: “A Cleansing Incense disciple. In reality, who I am is not important to you. The crucial matter is the Heaven Cutting Tablet, don’t you think?”

“You must really know a lot about the Heaven Cutting Tablet!” Bing Yuxia gravely said.

“This is the result from reading many works. A girl, ah, should stay at home and study well; read a bit more. This will be very beneficial for you! Maybe you would be able to find the answer.”

“I hope to hear your answer even more.” Bing Yuxia slowly responded. At this point, her casual air was no longer present. She carried a cold and exalted demeanor. In the end, she was the descendant of an Immortal Emperor lineage — very formidable.

Her aura had no effect on Li Qiye. He was still at ease like before: “Why must I tell you the answer?”

A cold glimmer flashed in Bing Yuxia’s eyes, creating a chilling and penetrating air that dug all the way to one’s bones as she spoke: “Surely, you do not wish for me to invite you back to the Ice Feather Palace as a guest.”

With a glance at her, Li Qiye couldn’t help but laugh as he shook his head and retorted: “Girl, your ability is great; however, do not boast in front of me. If you dare to act without bringing Immortal Emperor Bing Yu’s True Treasure here, watch out or I will capture you and turn you into a bed-warmer maid!”

As the successor of the Ice Feather Palace, Bing Yuxia’s power was unfathomable. She was a girl but she always dressed as a man without a care for the world. However, she was still very famous within the Eastern Hundred Cities and others had always been wary of her.

Yet today, this little demon in front of her didn’t think much of her despite her threat; he maintained his calm as if victory was already within his grasp.

“It seems that you are confident enough.” Bing Yuxia slowly spoke. It was rare for someone to bluster like this in front of her; even the descendants from ancient kingdoms would not necessarily be able to speak such arrogant words.

Li Qiye glanced at her and smiled to say: “Because I am Li Qiye!” They were such dull words yet they carried an imposing and majestic aura that shot straight to the sky.

Because I am Li Qiye! — such a sentence exuded a sensation of being above all; this kind of confidence was capable of being the sole ruler of the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths.

“Not bad, this phrase ‘because I am Li Qiye.’ “ After a while, Bing Yuxia laughed in a valiant and refreshing manner while exuding an alluring charm.

After cracking up for a while, Bing Yuxia asked Li Qiye: “What do I have to do to convince you to talk about the Heaven Cutting Tablet? How about I connect the strings for you with some people? Within the Eastern Hundred Cities, whether they be the princesses of Ancient Kingdoms, saintesses of grand sects, fairies of sacred gates — I actually know quite a few of them. Do you want me to hook you up?”

Li Qiye smilingly shook his head and said: “Women who can grab my attention aren’t limited to the few around you. Even though they are not bad, they’re still a bit short. How about this, if you stay by my side and be my maid, I will tell you an ultimate secret regarding the Heaven Cutting Tablet of your Ice Feather Palace! The fact that your Matriarch was too arrogant cannot be denied. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have only brought back the Heaven Cutting Tablet that year...”

“... However, your Matriarch was also exceptional and possessed heaven-frightening intelligence. As a frog at the bottom of the well, she was able to comprehend the whole picture while being limited to just one star; she was capable of understanding the mysterious profundity to finally become a generation’s invincible Immortal Emperor! If you stay behind as my maid, I will let you know the true origin of the Heaven Cutting Tablet. At that point, your harvest will not simply be the Heaven Cutting Tablet.” Finished speaking, Li Qiye then glanced at Bing Yuxia.

Bing Yuxia suddenly shivered as she stared at Li Qiye and said: “You know our Matriarch...”

“I wish I could meet her, but unfortunately, I was born millions of years late. Otherwise, with my supreme and peerless charm and also being born in the same era as your Matriarch, I would have been the best dao companion for her.” Li Qiye laughed then shook his head.

Li Qiye’s statement was half true and half false so people couldn’t decipher its validity.

“Enough narcissism! You think a little demon like you would be favored by our Matriarch? When our Matriarch was alive, even the flowers and the moon shied at her presence, and she viewed all the men in this world like dirt! In regards to a little demon like you, I’m afraid my Matriarch wouldn’t even give you a single glance.” Bing Yuxia looked at Li Qiye and shook her head disapprovingly.

Li Qiye simply smiled in response and didn’t say anything else.

“What do you want before you’re willing to talk about the Heaven Cutting Tablet?” A moment later, Bing Yuxia asked with more gravity.

Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile while staring at the cross-dressing Bing Yuxia before him. Even though Bing Yuxia and Little Girl Bing Yu’s appearances were different, their charm was quite similar, especially when both of them were cross-dressing. However, Bing Yuxia — right now — was not as great as Immortal Emperor Bing Yu that year; Bing Yuxia was just a little girl who was arrogant to the extreme. Nevertheless, she really had the ability to be so domineering.

“Forget it, I am the type who finds joy in helping people. This is all because I’ve read so many books and became this knowledgeable, resulting in gaining greater responsibilities, am I right?” Li Qiye smiled before continuing: “I’ll give you a little hint. Don’t waste time on the inscriptions on the tablet. The meaning of the inscriptions is that it is fundamentally meaningless!”

## Chapter 268: Wooden Ruler's Secret

Having heard this, Bing Yuxia couldn't help but murmur: "The inscription's meaning is fundamentally meaningless..."

"Little Girl, don't be cross-dressing all day long. A girl should be a girl, don't try to be a man! Don't be like your Matriarch who lived alone for the rest of her life!" In the end, Li Qiye said with some emotions, then he turned away and left.

Upon hearing this, Bing Yuxia suddenly became shocked. She looked up to find Li Qiye, but he had already left the pavilion so she couldn't see his expression.

In the end, Bing Yuxia left along with the female disciples of the Ice Feather Palace. Before leaving, she closed the fan in her hand like a gentle young noble and smilingly said to Li Qiye: "If Fellow Li is interested, I will connect your red strings in the future and introduce a few princesses from Ancient Kingdoms to you."

Li Qiye could only force a smile at Bing Yuxia's still-not-caring-for-the-world appearance. When he was watching her back during their departure, he couldn't help but to softly sigh.

Although she looked nothing like Immortal Emperor Bing Yu, her charm reminded him of Immortal Emperor Bing Yu, the arrogant little girl! Even though he did not train that little girl in the past, he was the one who led her to join the War God Temple.

Unfortunately, the old men from the War God Temple could not grasp the opportunity in the end, and they couldn't do a good job of training her to become an Immortal Emperor. Ultimately, that little girl left the temple and proudly traversed the Nine Worlds by herself to finally become an invincible Immortal Emperor.

The proud and cold-as-ice girl was always domineering and arrogant. She had one life of invincibility, yet she became alone for the rest of her life. That girl... In the end, Li Qiye silently lamented. That girl must still be hating him more or less in her heart. [1. The word hate here is 恨: hatred, dislike; resent, hate. It is different from the regular word "hate" that is more similar to our western usage of the word. It has a stronger emotion to it, not just a casual hate, but the meaning of this particular usage is that it is a hateful resentment out of endearment. When a girl uses this word to say "I 'hate' you", it means that she has some feelings for you to an extent. Of course, this is just the usage of the word; I'm not making any assumptions about their relationship.]

"She left already, what are you still looking at?" Seeing Li Qiye's expression of being at a loss, Chi Xiaodie looked at him and said with disdain.

Chi Xiaodao also curiously asked: "Brother Li likes Goddess Bing?" He had always wanted to hook Li Qiye up with his sister, but if Bing Yuxia wanted to join in, then his sister really couldn't compete with her.

"Like?" Li Qiye smiled and said: "That little girl is not bad, I can accept her as a maid."

"A toad trying to eat swan's meat!" Chi Xiaodie angrily exclaimed: "Do you know who she is? Yet you still dare to say things such as wanting her to become your maid! You really do not know the height of the sky and the vastness of the earth!"

“She’s only the descendant of the Ice Feather Palace. Even the female successor of the Soaring Immortal Sect is nothing too great; she only barely qualified to be my maid.” Li Qiye said without a care in the world: “My two maids are not any worse compared to any saintess or princess in this world.”

Li Qiye’s words left the Chi duo in silence. What could they do in front of such outrageous arrogance? It took some amazing skill to be able to say such words in this world.

Meanwhile, Sikong Toutian looked at Li Qiye with a strange expression. If other people said that they wanted the Ice Feather Palace descendant to become their maid, he would laugh at it. Who in the Eastern Hundred Cities would be able to take such a high-above person in as their maid?

However, when Li Qiye said such words with all the calmness in this world, it caused his heart to shiver. It was as if this impossible matter was completely trivial to Li Qiye! His attitude bore no sense of arrogance nor ignorance.

“Oh, ah, ah, three fellow daoists, even if the mountains do not move, the rivers will. We will meet again in the future; see you again.” At this time, Sikong Toutian wanted to slip away. He was still very wary of Li Qiye and didn’t want to stay any longer.

Li Qiye glanced at him and didn’t intend to make him stay. This allowed Sikong Toutian to finally take a sigh of relief.

However, Chi Xiaodao, on the other hand, jumped up and said: “Hey, little thief, you still haven’t given me back my medicinal materials!”

“Of course I will return them, of course I will.” Sikong Toutian immediately swore: “Next time, I will bring Brother Chi’s materials to the Lion’s Roar Gate; not even one branch will be missing.”

“Let him go.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “I trust that he will pay you back.”

“Thank you for Brother Li’s trust.” Sikong Toutian thanked Li Qiye, then he immediately ran off.

Li Qiye didn’t say anything else and went back with the Chi duo to the Lion’s Roar Gate.

“Take it and prepare the materials carefully, I will change your Fate in three days.” After they got back to the gate, Li Qiye threw the pot of Rotten Underworld Beans to Chi Xiaodao and said.

The moment Chi Xiaodao caught the pot, he puzzlingly said: “But, but, this is yours from winning the auction ah.”

Finest grade Rotten Underworld Beans such as these — on the market — were worth millions. Not to mention, regarding this type of finest grade beans, even if others had it, they wouldn’t necessarily be willing to sell it.

“Consider it our meeting gift, lest your sister continues to suspect me of swindling your materials.” Li Qiye laughed and turned around to enter the room.

Chi Xiaodao was quite stunned for a bit. One had to know that Li Qiye had already given him a meeting gift, the Heavenly Stone Golden Turtle!

“Egomaniac!” Chi Xiaodie grumpily stomped her foot and then left in anger. Back at the grave auction, she had to play along with him yet, at this moment, this egomaniac was looking down on her!

As for Chi Xiaodao, he could only gently sigh. He really wanted to pair the two of them together, but it seemed like Li Qiye did not think highly of his sister at this moment.

After the Chi duo left, Li Qiye then solemnly took out the wooden ruler he obtained from the grave auction. He, once again, meticulously analyzed every single detail of this thing.

20,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades — even if they were of the lowest grade, it was still a monstrous sum to any cultivator. Even a sect would have a difficult time producing 20,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades.

For some people, it was complete insanity to use this amount of jades to buy a memento. Even the most prodigal son wouldn't be this wasteful.

However, Li Qiye clearly knew that this was not a memento. Bringing up this so-called Harmonious Ghost Tree was just his attempt at tricking the Inheritance Ancient Pavilion.

Yes, the wooden patterns of this ruler did resemble the ones of a Harmonious Ghost Tree. However, it was not made from a Harmonious Ghost Tree; Li Qiye was absolutely certain of this as he held the ruler in his hand. This wooden ruler was made from Ghost Ancestral Wood; there was only one Ghost Ancestral Tree in the entire Nine Worlds!

Li Qiye did not lie entirely back at the time of the grave auction. This item truly had something to do with the ghost race and even its origin!

There were three claims to the origin of the ghost race. The first was the theory proposed by the ghost race themselves; and it was also the most credible theory. This theory stated that the ghost race's Progenitor turned from a ghost into an immortal and finally left behind descendants in this world. Afterwards, one hundred tribes were established, resulting in the current ghost race of today. Because of this theory, the ghost race was also called the Ghost Immortal Race.

Another theory was that this Progenitor was a True Ghost. By combining with a mortal woman, he finally gave birth to descendants which resulted in the current ghost race.

There were both skeptics and believers regarding this theory within the ghost race. The majority did not deny nor admit this claim.

The last theory had always been vehemently denied by the ghost race. The ghost race was also called the hundred races with many side branches; however, all of the branches essentially denied this last theory.

It stated that the Progenitor was a corpse that eventually gave birth to a soul and became alive; then it bred with a mortal woman and its descendants became the current ghost race.

Any believers of this last theory would be considered heretics within the ghost race.

Future generations did not know why the ghost race was so antagonistic to this theory. In fact, even the ghost race themselves did not know why. The denial of this claim had existed since the Desolate Era and had continued up til now.

However, Li Qiye had lived for countless years and knew some inside stories regarding this last theory; it was indeed not an aimless arrow! In a very far and ancient era, an ancient corpse coming to life did appear. No one in this world knew how long this ancient corpse had lived before this!

As for this corpse giving birth to a soul, future generations could not find out whether it was the Progenitor of the ghost race or not.

However, Li Qiye knew a secret unbeknown to the future generations! The origin ground of the ghost race had a Ghost Ancestral Tree. It was the one and only tree of its kind in this world; it was absolutely worthy of being referred to as a supreme Immortal Tree or peerless God Tree!

This Ghost Ancestral Tree — to a certain extent — was related to the origin of the ghost race! In an extremely ancient era, legend has it that the ghost race's Progenitor left behind a key, and it could unlock the secrets of the ghost race's origin. This key had a lot to do with the Ghost Ancestral Tree!

This key was called the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key, and it had a heaven-frightening secret embedded within.

In a future generation, Li Qiye, as the Dark Crow, heard of another rumor. A certain alchemist clan at Eastern Descent City became in-laws with a ghost tribe. People said that this ghost tribe once had an unfathomable character, and there were whispers of him being a True Ghost.

Unfortunately, this ghost tribe believed in the third theory of the ghost race's origin which eventually led to the tribe's complete destruction. And this grand character, who was possibly a True Ghost, was able to escape into Eastern Descent City and hid in the alchemist clan to escape this calamity!

This time at the grave auction, after looking at the geography of the burial ground, Li Qiye felt that this had a chance to be the land of the alchemist clan in the legend.

After opening the coffin and seeing the pitch-black corpse, Li Qiye was sure that this was not the coffin of a Legendary Alchemist, it was merely using this name to bury someone else. He was the grand character of the ghost tribe. Moreover, he had undergone suppression when he was alive, so his divinity withered away!

### **Chapter 269: Fate Changing**

Legends also stated that this ghost tribe truly believed in the third origin theory, and that they tried to find the true secret of the ghost race's origin no matter the cost!

Later on, this ghost tribe was fortunate enough to actually find the Ghost Ancestral Tree in the legends as well as the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key. As a result, they were able to solve the secret of the ghost race!

Because of this, the tribe became even more trusting of the third theory, and in their attempt of solving this mystery, it brought about a catastrophe to them.

"Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key!" Li Qiye gently stroked the wooden ruler in his hand and couldn't help but smirk. Back at the grave auction, the moment he saw this wooden ruler, he immediately guessed its origin. Now, with it in his hand, he was completely certain that this was the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key!

In fact, the ghost race always held a suspicious attitude regarding the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key. They believed that it was just a nonexistent item made up by a few heretics!

It was not strange for them to adopt such an attitude; in the end, no future generations had ever seen this key before, let alone solving the secrets of the ghost race's origin.

However, Li Qiye knew more than the ghost race and others when it came to the ghost race's corpse and the Ghost Ancestral Tree in the legends. He knew that there was indeed such an ancient corpse, but whether it was the Progenitor of the ghost race or not... It was still worthy of further deliberation.

"Ninety-nine little ghosts." Li Qiye gently stroked the wooden ruler and murmured: "Just like the legends! I also want to see what secrets and harvests you will bring me. You absolutely must not let me down."

Above the wooden ruler were ninety-nine little ghosts with different expressions. In fact, Li Qiye knew that these ninety-nine ghosts were not carved on it!

Although the ruler was in his grasp, Li Qiye still needed time to research it. It was not such an easy matter to understand the mysterious profundity of the Ghost's Origin Ancestral Key!

However, 20,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades to buy this key was absolutely worth it! This was an item that was desired by him. As the saying goes, being unable to find the destination after wearing out iron soles, then inadvertently finding it without any effort.

Once Chi Xiaodao prepared the materials, Li Qiye was ready to change his Fate! The elders that were not in secluded meditation wanted to observe Li Qiye's Fate changing to determine whether it was true or false; however, Li Qiye rejected this.

Li Qiye only allowed Chi Xiaodie to observe from afar. The truth was that Chi Xiaodie was worried as well. In the end, Fate changing was not a trivial matter. Chi Xiaodao would become a cripple if there was a mistake.

Before they began, Chi Xiaodie was still quite restless as she couldn't help but ask: "Isn't this too difficult? Fate changing — this is defying the heavens and it will bring about the Heaven's Wrath."

Chi Xiaodie's fear was not unjustified. Even a Legendary Alchemist would not necessarily have the ability to change one's Fate! Fate changing was an extremely mystical matter; some Legendary Alchemists spent their whole life yet they were not able to understand its mystery.

Li Qiye glanced at her and answered: "Don't worry, this is a trivial matter. To be more exact, this is not Fate changing but Fate advancement! Xiaodao is of a Turtle Fate, and your Chi Clan are all natural born Turtle Fates with a great chance of passing on this characteristic. Your Progenitor was of the Heavenly Turtle Fate so this is only advancing his True Fate back to its original level, nothing more."

"True Fate changing is another story. For example, if you had an ordinary Fate type and you want to change it to a Saint Fate, that would truly be Fate changing. Such a heaven-defying matter would bring about the Heaven's Extermination. The high heavens would never allow for such a thing to happen." Li Qiye said dismissively.

Li Qiye was one hundred percent certain regarding this type of Fate advancement. During an older era, he and the Alchemist God had actually performed True Fate changing! They even worked on what was called the Immortal Fate in the legends! Later on, he had performed True Fate changing a few times. No one in the present times knew more about Fate changing and life extension compared to him!

Chi Xiaodie — still with some apprehension — inquired further: “Will this type of Fate advancement bring about the Heaven’s Wrath?” She was concerned about her little brother more than anyone else. She didn’t want anything unexpected to happen; otherwise, how could she face her mother’s entrustment?

“A minor Heaven’s Wrath should not be an issue. I have thought about this before agreeing to do it for him.” Li Qiye flicked his sleeve and said: “Okay, don’t stand here and bother me with your chit chat. I’m going to start.”

Chi Xiaodie was quite annoyed by Li Qiye and responded with a glare. As a heaven’s proud daughter, countless people always indulged her whims; especially the young geniuses, they were even more obedient towards her. However, this little demon simply didn’t put her in his eyes, so how could she not become angry?

“Sis, you can rest assured. I believe that Brother Li absolutely has this ability.” Chi Xiaodao quickly comforted his sister. He was really afraid that these two will argue again.

“Good, get ready for it. Do you remember the method I told you before?” Li Qiye asked Chi Xiaodao.

Chi Xiaodao then took a deep breath and gently nodded his head: “Brother Li, I am prepared. Go for it.”

Li Qiye summoned the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron and slightly shouted: “Open...”

As his words rang down, the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron fell to the ground and turned into a gigantic cauldron with its frog mouth shut tight. The inside became its own vast heaven and earth.

At this time, Li Qiye’s left hand touched the cauldron’s body and channeled his alchemy dao. The Myriad Heavenly Cauldron’s origin flame blazingly appeared. One flame contraption immediately formed and transformed as an ancient medicinal fragrance arose. Inside the transforming flames were faint divine trees with magical arts — mysterious and inscrutable.

Seeing the transformations of the flame caused the Chi duo to become shocked. They had seen the alchemists in the sect refining dan, but they had never seen such a level of flame control or contraption creation!

As the fire continuously changed its form, the flame contraption finally turned into an ancient style medicinal contraption. With roars of tigers and lions resonating from within, it was extremely huge and could contain three to five people.

“Put in the materials.” At this time, Li Qiye gazed at the transformation of the medicinal contraption and commanded.

Chi Xiaodie didn’t dare to hesitate and immediately placed the prepared materials in order. The intervals in between were all according to Li Qiye’s command.

Li Qiye used his alchemy dao to control the contraption to refine all the medicinal materials. In a flash, these materials became part of the contraption. Li Qiye shouted and the cauldron suddenly changed. It took the medicinal dregs out of the contraption and put them into the cauldron's origin flame, so there were only the purest of essences inside the contraption.

Such a removal method astonished the brother and sister even though they weren't experts on the alchemy dao. This was absolutely the technique of a master; at the very least, no alchemists inside their Lion's Roar Gate were able to do such a thing.

"Your turn!" At this point, Li Qiye shouted towards Chi Xiaodao who then jumped into the medicinal cauldron without any hesitation.

"Boom, boom, boom!" After he jumped into the cauldron, his entire body was dipped into the medicinal concoction. At this second, explosions resonated from within as strange images consisting of flying dragons and phoenixes started to appear.

Next were the "zi, zi, zi" sounds. The medicinal concoction pierced into Chi Xiaodao's meridians like fine needles. This immediately caused him to tremble with unbearable pain; his face became distorted, revealing his state of extreme pain.

Chi Xiaodie couldn't help but to hold her breath while witnessing such a scene. Her heart was hanging on a thread as she clenched her fists tightly from being worried.

As the medicinal concoctions were piercing Chi Xiaodao's meridians, a lion's roar resounded. A golden lion emerged in all of its incomparable tyranny. Chi Xiaodao's body was immediately on the verge of exploding as his muscles bulged; they were filled with outbreaking power.

"Open your Fate Palace!" Li Qiye immediately shouted right when Chi Xiaodao's Tyrannical Lion Physique appeared.

Chi Xiaodao roared as his Fate Palace appeared above his head along with his True Fate. At this time, there was an old turtle inside his Fate Palace — this was an extremely rare True Fate. Many other cultivators only had a pure True Fate without anything else to accompany it, but not Chi Xiaodao who had the old turtle as his friend!

The Tyrannical Lion acted as if it had seen its enemy the moment it laid its eyes on the old turtle. It immediately rushed up, aiming to bite this old turtle.

"Go..." In the blink of an eye, Li Qiye shouted and the entire cauldron shook. A dragon made from medicines jumped out of the medicinal contraption as the dragon roars pierced the nine heavens. It coiled its body and immediately clung onto the Tyrannical Lion.

"Rawr", the lion retaliated, thus resulting in a battle inside the medicinal contraption between a lion and dragon. With continuous cries, the dragon tried to coil itself around the lion while the lion tried to snap it away.

"Get ready for the pain!" Li Qiye cried out. In a flash, his right hand lifted up the cauldron's origin fire and this fire immediately turned into a long and thin acupuncture needle.

“Poof!” Li Qiye struck like lightning with his fiery needle into the old turtle’s body. In a split second, the old turtle was writhing around in pain.

“Ah...” Chi Xiaodao also had a difficult time bearing this pain. This was a type of suffering from the depths of the soul; it was far beyond the pain threshold of flesh. He screamed out in pain as he nearly crushed his teeth in agony.

### **Chapter 270: Tyrannical Lion Physique, Heavenly Turtle Fate**

“Settle down...” Li Qiye cried out. His voice was like a morning bell, waking the suffering Chi Xiaodao and enlightening him with perfect wisdom. Chi Xiaodao immediately mustered all that he could to calm his mind. Despite doing so, his body was still shaking in extreme agony.

At this time, Chi Xiaodie was still clenching her fists tightly and was nervous to the point where she almost forgot to breathe.

Li Qiye’s right hand was magical as it controlled the fiery needles piercing into the old turtle. It moved and wove inside Chi Xiaodao’s body and, in just a flash, it created profound mystical patterns that became engraved in the deepest parts of the old turtle’s soul, exuding all of its dazzle!

“Begin...” Right when these profound mystical patterns were completely woven, Li Qiye’s left hand that was placed on the cauldron activated the medicinal contraption. Immediately, a phoenix hymn resounded as the contraption turned into a phoenix that carried the entire medicinal concoction. It then flew up and rushed towards the old turtle.

In this instant, the fiery needles that were weaving these magical outlines suddenly exploded with an unstoppable blinding force. These magical outlines then swallowed the approaching phoenix along with the whole medicinal concoction and used an unbelievable speed to absorb its medicinal effects.

“Poof!” These outlines suddenly grew bigger after absorbing the essence of the medicinal concoction and then it took root in the old turtle’s body.

“Go...” At this time, Li Qiye commanded the dragon. The dragon then roared once and let go of the Tyrannical Lion. In the blink of an eye, it flew towards the rooted magical outlines inside the old turtle’s body and was completely absorbed in an instant.

Once it devoured all the essence of the medicinal concoction, these magical runes acted just like an outbursting root; it turned into a gigantic tree that was capable of covering the sky. In just a second, the magical outlines and the old turtle suddenly integrated into one.

At this point, the Tyrannical Lion lost its opponent. It then crazily roared and aimed straight towards the old turtle, intending to give it a bite. At this second, the old turtle suddenly opened its eyes that were burning like divine torches.

“Bang!” The old turtle swiftly flicked out its giant claw. “Boom!” This one claw was able to pin the Tyrannical Lion down. The lion struggled to get up, but under the suppression of the turtle’s claw, it simply couldn’t do so.

“Ommm...” At this time, divine brilliance flowed on the old turtle’s body and aggregated above its shell before turning into a blue sky. The majestic old turtle — at this time — shouldered this blue sky as if it

had turned into a God Turtle capable of shouldering the nine heavens. “Boom!” At this time, the old turtle slammed down its claw and struck the Tyrannical Lion flying away. The shivering lion wanted to rush in again, but it paused in the end while staring at the old turtle with some hesitation in its eyes. The old turtle emanating its heaven-shouldering momentum frightened the lion, so the lion went back to hiding inside the Inner Physique.

“Success...” Li Qiye slightly nodded in approval after seeing such a scene while the unbearably suffering Chi Xiaodao also began to gradually recover. At this moment, the old turtle accompanied his True Fate as he carried the blue sky on his back in all of its splendor, just like a true God Turtle.

Chi Xiaodie was both happy and nervous for she didn’t think that this impossible matter was actually successful!

“Boom, boom!” Right when Chi Xiaodie breathed a sigh of relief, a thunderous lightning — as thick as a water containing jar — descended from the sky and went straight for Chi Xiaodao with the intention to kill.

“Heaven’s Wrath!” Chi Xiaodie became greatly alarmed the moment she saw this thick lightning striking down as she exclaimed in horror.

“Go...” In this moment, Li Qiye cried loudly as the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron immediately opened its mouth wide. An origin flame from its deepest depths rushed out and turned into a gigantic, unfathomable mouth that was capable of devouring all existences. Before the Chi duo could react, the origin flame had already completely devoured the lightning without a trace remaining.

This origin flame acted as if it didn’t eat enough after absorbing all the lightning from the sky; at this time, it slowly went back inside the cauldron.

“Only a minor tribulation yet you still dared to strike down.” Li Qiye said without a care in the world after the origin flame devoured the lightning.

Good Heavenly Cauldrons all have experienced lightning tribulations from the heaven and earth. As for the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron, needless to say, it had undergone an uncountable amount of lightning tribulations, even far stronger ones. To this divine cauldron, such a minor lightning tribulation like this one was only an unfilling breakfast.

“It is done.” Li Qiye withdrew his cauldron contraption and released Chi Xiaodao, then he calmly said while the Chi duo was still in shock.

Chi Xiaodie was absent-mindedly standing there in a daze. It took her a long time to regain her wits for this scene was simply too shocking. Fate changing was such a profound alchemy art and was something that countless alchemists aspired towards throughout their whole life, yet they still were unable to reach its boundary. Even Legendary Alchemists would have an extremely difficult time to perform such a task.

Even though her little brother’s case was only Fate advancement and couldn’t be considered a True Fate change, it was still layered with arduous challenges. It required an extremely powerful alchemy dao and a strong grasp on a profound Fate changing technique. There could not be a single mistake during the

process. This was a chance that only appeared like a shooting star; once the opportunity was lost, it would delay the Fate changing process and could even result in death.

A matter such as this was extremely difficult for even Legendary Alchemists, yet it was nothing in the hands of Li Qiye.

At this point, Chi Xiaodao's entire body was shaking like soybeans being roasted. The moment he opened his eyes, it revealed a pair of bright and spirited pupils. His blood energy became even more formidable and others could even hear the sound of it flowing like a storm.

"This is amazing. I can feel my blood energy flowing like ten thousand stampeding horses." Chi Xiaodao was ecstatic. Before, his blood energy came to a halt and his cultivation was stuck in the Soul Creation realm. But at this moment, he felt the magnificence and vastness in his tyrannical blood energy.

"This is the advantage of the Tyrannical Lion Physique. Your blood energy is great, and at this moment, your True Fate can control your Physique. It is not a problem to reach the Royal Noble realm." Li Qiye looked at Chi Xiaodao's current state and approvingly nodded his head.

The finally composed Chi Xiaodao took a deep breath and then bowed down with much gratitude: "I will never forget Brother Li's life-altering favor. If you ever need this little brother in the future, just say one word and I will not refuse walking through a sea of fire or a mountain of blades for you."

Li Qiye accepted Chi Xiaodao's respectful gesture and nodded his head to say: "Stand up. Enjoy your new talents from having the Tyrannical Lion Physique along with the Heavenly Turtle Fate."

Chi Xiaodao bowed three times again as the worries in his heart were swept away. Even though he was a cheerful person, being stuck at the Soul Creation realm with nowhere to go rendered his inner heart completely different from his external demeanor. But today, this nightmare has finally been dealt with. To him, the path was now bright and clear with an easy path to travel.

Chi Xiaodie silently stood at the side. Prior to this, she once thought that Li Qiye was a swindler. When Li Qiye was talking about Fate changing, she believed that Li Qiye was only speaking nonsense and didn't know the immensity of the heaven and earth. However, this impossible matter, in her eyes, and in the eyes of many others, happened in the hands of Li Qiye. It was as if all things were trivial under his doing — as if nothing was difficult at all.

An uproar immediately shook the Lion's Roar Gate's upper echelon after the successful Fate changing. All the elders found it to be impossible, but after examining Chi Xiaodao, the shocked elders knew that it was really successful.

Having heard this, an elder who was studying the alchemy dao immediately came out from his secluded meditation and didn't mind losing some face to ask a junior, Li Qiye, about Fate changing.

"It is only a minor technique." Li Qiye only answered dismissively with this sentence to chase this elder away.

Such a nonchalant phrase left the elder with a wry smile as he stood there silently for a long time. This was Fate changing ah; how many alchemists spent their whole lives to never touch such a magical boundary! Only Legendary Alchemists could do such a thing.

Even though these words might have sounded arrogant, this elder couldn't deny the fact that Li Qiye had the qualifications to do so. He was at such a young age yet he was able to perform Fate changing, this was indicative of his unlimited future potential; he was absolutely capable of becoming an Alchemy Emperor!

He didn't dare to say much even when Li Qiye wasn't willing to teach him the Fate changing art. Such a secret art would not be passed on to outsiders by any alchemist or sect.

However, he still had the gall to ask Li Qiye about the alchemy dao. Keep in mind that this elder could be considered as a big character. He had some accomplishments regarding the alchemy dao; however, in front of Li Qiye, he acted like a respectful student with complete devotion as he came again and again beseeching for Li Qiye's teaching.

"Fine, taking your ancestor into account, I will teach you one or two things." In the end, Li Qiye agreed to teach this elder the alchemy dao.

Li Qiye was not interested in teaching the alchemy dao to outsiders. However, this elder was indeed full of sincerity, and Li Qiye — out of love for the absolute loyalty of the Lion's Roar Gate's ancestors to him — made an exception to teach him once.

Having heard Li Qiye's agreement, this elder bowed in extreme excitement. He was even willing to become Li Qiye's student.

During these lessons, the elder was very astonished. Li Qiye's teachings immediately enlightened him; all of his previous unanswered questions were solved in an instant.

What stunned him even further was that Li Qiye continuously taught him an alchemy dao that brought him to the true orthodox path. At this time, this alchemist finally understood what the true alchemy dao was; what he learned before was simply a minor dao.