

## **Domination 611**

### **Chapter 611: Teaching**

Madam Zi Yan answered: "I have sent a message to the Qing Clan. They will represent the Giant Bamboo Country for this Alchemy Conference. However, we still need other candidates, so you all must find other young alchemists. It doesn't matter whether they are vagabond alchemists or already have a sect; as long as they are capable and willing to contribute to our country, then they will be greatly rewarded. Of course, if your lines have disciples who are willing to participate, then that will be even better."

All the subjects and demons quickly glanced at each other. Madam Zi Yan's command was easier said than done.

Although the Stone Medicine World had the most alchemists, the good ones were highly sought after no matter where they went. Those who were a bit talented would have already been snatched away by the big lineages, especially the young ones. Young alchemists were highly loved and always caused competitions for sects who wanted them to join.

Although the Giant Bamboo Country was a big country, it had no advantage over the leading ones.

Madam Zi Yan spoke: "I know this is not easy, but the conference this time is too important to our country. The Alchemy Kingdom has promised that if we do well this time, then we will have a chance."

A Demon Monarch voiced his opinion: "This is a huge matter to our country, so we monarchs will do our best to support Your Majesty to seize this chance at the conference."

The madam replied: "That would be best. Fellow Monarchs, try your best to recruit talented alchemists. We will begin our recruitment and train a group of alchemists. Even if we don't win anything this time, maybe we will have some improvement for the next one."

With her command, the subjects and monarchs agreed and immediately carried it out.

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Back at the Jadeblood Mountain in Li Qiye's room.

At this time, he sealed the room with the pentagate again and took out one thing — a single stone.

To be more exact, this was the Immortal Stone that he had taken from the pond inside the Prime Ominous Grave's Water Realm. He finally found the time to take it out after so many battles.

He was quite relaxed when cultivating in this place, so he remembered this stone all of a sudden. Since it was in the middle of the pond, it surely was an amazing Immortal Item. Of course, it naturally was not a match for Lan Yunzhu's Night Era Flower.

He had researched this stone recently for a long time and finally figured out its mysteries. Li Qiye held a sharp knife and slowly carved along the runes on the stone. This Immortal Stone was initially very tough, but it became much more brittle when Li Qiye cut along the runic lines.

After going through many layers carefully, the things inside finally saw the light. They were six long swords. Each of them emitted a different color; six swords, six colors. When they hummed, different symbols appeared as well as strange images. Six swords, six different symbols.

Li Qiye was quite surprised to see this as he gently stroked them and murmured: "Although their inherent properties are not equal to the secret among secrets' Night Era Flower, with enough refinement, they are still quite promising."

Li Qiye propped up the six swords to look at them meticulously. After some time, he clearly understood their profundity. He searched inside his sea of memories before reaching a sealed recollection. He looked through it and whispered: "I have a sword art that is very compatible with these six swords; what a coincidence that it is also here in the Stone Medicine World..."

Li Qiye put away the six swords as well as the pentagate before stepping out of the room to take in a breath of fresh air. The moment he went outside, he could smell the medicinal fragrance. He followed this scent to find Shi Hao opening a cauldron in the yard.

Shi Hao quickly reported after seeing Li Qiye: "I gathered enough materials for a fate pill cauldron just in time to increase my proficiency at refinement."

Having said that, he focused on turning on the flame of the cauldron. He was only a Junior Alchemist at the entry level, so he didn't have his own method of pill refinement. His cauldron technique along with flame control were all common, so he wasn't afraid of them being stolen; he had no qualms with Li Qiye watching at the side.

Because his skill was limited, after telling Li Qiye, he didn't dare to become distracted and focused on the pill cauldron.

He was very careful, or rather, nervous to the point of trepidation. He ignited the flame and carefully refined the medicinal ingredients.

It was not that his nature was careful, but rather he had no other choice. It was not easy for him to gather enough materials for a single attempt at fate pills.

One pill cauldron required a huge batch of ingredients. Even the ingredients for a single transformation fate pill was difficult to gather for Shi Hao. Because of this, he didn't want this cauldron to be ruined. He followed a strict order and abided by the guideline step by step.

Li Qiye only shook his head while watching Shi Hao's pill refinement technique. He couldn't help but give some pointers: "Increase the intensity of the flame."

Shi Hao hesitatingly said: "But..." He was afraid that the increase in flame intensity would ruin this pill cauldron.

"Quick, right now, increase the flame intensity three-fold!" Li Qiye raised his tone. His shouting carried a compelling force, causing others to listen without resistance.

Shi Hao palpitated as he increased the flame without much further thought. The smell of medicine began to permeate the air.

Li Qiye continued on: “Very good, do not use this technique when strengthening the fire. Use reverse fire manipulation.”

Shi Hao inquired immediately: “What is reverse fire manipulation?”

Li Qiye personally taught him and passed him the incantation. The incantation was quite short and Shi Hao had some talent for alchemy. After Li Qiye’s explanation, Shi Hao learned it right away and used it to fuel the fire.

Li Qiye pointed out: “Very good, you made a little progress. Pill refinement is not just about fueling the fire; these cauldrons have their own life, even the weakest ones are no exceptions. You need to communicate with your cauldron...”

Shi Hao’s talent at alchemy was not of the peerless level. On top that, he was just a beginner. Teaching him well was not an easy thing.

If it was someone else with the same talents and current ability, Li Qiye wouldn’t give a damn. After all, it would just be a waste of his time.

However, Shi Hao saved Li Qiye and his personality wasn’t bad; he was both hardworking and had a persevering attitude, so Li Qiye decided to teach Shi Hao, leading him onto the path of an alchemist.

Li Qiye didn’t always refine pills like other alchemists, but his pill refinement ability was without flaw. Many alchemy standards were created by him and the Alchemy God, so he possessed the best alchemy art in this world. Moreover, he also had the Alchemy God’s Grand Canon — no other inheritance from lineages could compare to this.

With a great teacher like Li Qiye, as long as Shi Hao was not overly slow-witted and could learn a little bit, his future would be very bright.

“Boom!” Shi Hao finished the cauldron and one fate pill fell into the bottle, prompting him to cheer: “Success!”

Fate pills were the hardest things to refine for alchemists; it was a test of their abilities. Afterward, he took out the fate pill and looked at the single transformation pill’s color with his eyes wide open.

He couldn’t believe it as he exclaimed: “This... this has twenty percent purity!”

One hundred percent was the best possible purity for pills and was signified by a particular color. However, no one was able to reach this level. Single transformation pills needed ten percent purity to take shape and only required one transformation ingredients. These lower level pills had weaker spirits as well as corresponding medicinal effects.

With these ingredients, achieving ten percent purity for single transformation pills was already not bad, but the pill in Shi Hao’s hand had twenty percent purity and also had a great color.

He was extremely emotional and tried to take a calming breath. He didn’t believe that this pill had been personally refined by him: “Such purity can increase a cultivator’s strength at the Provisional Palace level by twenty percent.”

Cultivators below the Inner Longevity realm could use one transformation fate pills. Prior to this, Shi Hao had refined pills before, but he only reached ten percent purity — this was the norm. This type of pill would allow Palace Foundation cultivators to increase their current cultivation by ten percent — a very ordinary effect. This type of fate pill was only at an introductory level and was not worth much.

But now, his new pill with fine coloring could boost a Provisional Palace cultivator's strength by twenty percent. In just a short amount of time, Shi Hao's pill refinement level had increased by two to three levels. He himself couldn't believe it!

Li Qiye looked at the pill and encouraged him: "Not bad for now, keep trying. In the future, even if it is only a one transformation pill, you can still reach thirty percent purity."

Shi Hao calmed down and slightly bowed towards Li Qiye: "Thank you, Brother Li, for teaching me this pill refinement technique."

Li Qiye raised him up and said with a smile: "I only pointed out something by chance, it is nothing. This is the reaping of your own efforts."

Shi Hao looked at him respectfully and asked: "Could Brother Li be a Grand Alchemist?"

Li Qiye chuckled and replied: "What Grand Alchemist, I only occasionally refine pills."

The path of alchemy had several classifications. From lowest to highest, they are Junior Alchemist, Grand Alchemist, Alchemy Master, Alchemy Grandmaster, Profound Alchemist, Alchemy Saint, Legendary Alchemist, and Alchemy Emperor.

## **Chapter 612: Void Imperfection Physique**

Shi Hao couldn't help but scratch his head after hearing this and said: "I guess so, I didn't think you were an alchemist either. In the Stone Medicine World, there are very few humans and human alchemists are even rarer."

Li Qiye smiled in response. It was indeed true that there were very few humans in this place; this was a world of golems and demons.

Li Qiye handed some refined jades over to Shi Hao and said: "Go buy some more training ingredients, it will be good for you."

Shi Hao shivered while holding the refined jades in his hand. At his age, he still hadn't seen jades of such a high level. This prompted his startled response: "But..."

Li Qiye commanded: "Go. If you don't utilize this time well, then I might not have time to teach you later."

Shi Hao understood that Li Qiye wanted to teach him so he gratefully bowed to him. He put away the refined jades and quickly went to the city to buy more ingredients.

Li Qiye grinned while watching Shi Hao leave. He suddenly remembered training talents back then and showing them a path. For millions of years, Li Qiye had done this many times. Many invincible alchemists and array-masters had come from Li Qiye's tutelage.

Li Qiye went back to his room while Shi Hao went to the city to shop. At this time, Li Qiye had opened thirteen palaces and no longer needed to stay in the Ancient Saint realm. This was his time to reach Heavenly Sovereign.

Everyone knew the importance of this realm; this was the grand path towards the golden throne! It was the realm where cultivators from different rivers all came together to the same ocean. At this level, following the dao of someone before them was no longer relevant. This was the time for cultivators to derive and form their own dao to pave their future path.

However, this was only true for other cultivators. For Li Qiye, this realm was no different from the other ones. With thirteen palaces, supreme profundities and grand dao mysteries were simple in his eyes.

The crux of this realm was to communicate with the grand dao and derive their mysteries. When Li Qiye's thirteen palaces emerged with an explosion, layers of divine rings appeared around his body.

For others, each time they derived a dao, it meant the appearance of one divine ring. The more they could derive, the more divine rings they would have which would further increase their cultivation.

However, derivations of the dao and understanding its heavenly mysticisms was not difficult to Li Qiye. He was above the heavens with his palaces, so which heavenly grand dao could challenge him?

Because of this, with a single glance, he could see through all mysteries of any dao. As he carefully focused his mind and saw through the dao, divine rings pulsed around his body.

Anyone would be shocked at this scene since countless cultivators required many years just to understand one grand dao. Even geniuses were not exempt from this rule. But now, Li Qiye was comprehending grand dao as easily as flipping his own palm while divine rings continued to stretch around his body.

How could others not be moved by this speed of comprehension? Even the most supreme genius couldn't exceed Li Qiye. However, this was understandable because the thirteen palaces rendered everything trivial.

He channeled a cycle of releasing and recalling blood energy for a while before putting away his palaces. His Life Wheel then began to create a new Inner Physique.

At this moment, Li Qiye's chest contained two Inner Physiques; one was the Hell Suppressing Inner Physique and the other was the Soaring Inner Physique. Both of them were at minor completion.

In his chest, the Hell Suppressing Inner Physique was as heavy as a mountain and as dark as night; it sat there imposingly as if nothing in this world could move it. Meanwhile, the Soaring Inner Physique emitted a pulsing immortal ray like an undulating ripple on the water's surface. Each time this Inner Physique moved, time itself was affected.

Li Qiye was not in a hurry to push these minor physiques into grand completion because this was not an easy feat. It required the empowerment of a huge amount of blood energy as well as a great cultivation. Otherwise, those who rushed them forward would die from the physique tribulation.

Normally, grand completion Immortal Physique users were all Virtuous Paragons. It would be impossible without this realm's power backing them to surpass the tribulation.

Because of this, many geniuses with incredible natural physiques, such as intrinsic Saint Physiques, were able to cultivate an Immortal Physique extremely quickly. At a young age, they were able to reach a grand completion Saint Physique only to die in the end from the tribulation. The reason was very simple; although they cultivated their physique very quickly, their cultivation couldn't catch up.

At this moment, Li Qiye was creating the third Inner Physique in his chest. With the experience from creating a second one, he was very familiar with adding one more.

This third one already had its initial form created. It emitted an extremely pure light without any stains or mundane flaws. It was transcending as if someone had grown a pair of wings to become an immortal.

Anyone who saw this holy light would have all of their impure thoughts erased. Nothing in this world could taint this light.

Void Imperfection Physique — one of the twelve Immortal Physiques! In the Physique Scripture, the Void Imperfection and Soaring Immortal Physiques had the same origin; both were born from the word "Pure", the purest of pure.

Because they shared the same origin, Li Qiye was able to cultivate the Void Imperfection Physique very quickly and easily.

This extremely pure physique was untouched by myriad dao while myriad laws avoided it. It could be said that, in this world, very few merit laws could hurt this physique.

Prior to this, Li Qiye had already cultivated the Hell Suppressing and Soaring Physiques, allowing his body to become the most terrifying of weapons. Just imagine, when he successfully cultivates the Void Imperfection Physique as well, how formidable would his power be?

With a swing of his hand, three Immortal Physiques would activate all at once with devastating potency. If the opponents counterattacked with a divine saber technique, it would be useless against the untouchable Void Imperfection Physique. The shockwave of the saber wouldn't be able to get close!

If the saber technique and merit laws became useless, then even the strongest cultivator's blade slash would lose the majority of its might. Li Qiye would then unleash an extremely fast and heavy punch to destroy the divine saber and slay his foe.

Defenses were also useless against Li Qiye's three physiques since the most fortified merit law would become useless against the Void Imperfection. Therefore, Li Qiye could swiftly rush through all defenses and use his limitless momentum to kill his cowering enemies in an instant.

The Void Imperfection Physique was a good addition to the Hell Suppressing and Soaring Physiques. He would be able to avoid all merit laws and bypass all defenses and offenses, allowing the destructive power of the other two physiques to reach their maximum potential.

When facing Li Qiye's attacks, any powerful enemy would immediately activate their strongest barrier. However, what if this barrier was useless against Li Qiye? The unsuspecting enemy would then suffer the impact from the physical physiques and suffer terrible consequences!

For all of the reasons above, Li Qiye chose the Void Imperfection Physique after much deliberation to create a perfect system.

After recovering for a period of time, his wounds had nearly healed completely. Only a bit more time was required before he would be able to reach his former state. Meanwhile, he was also teaching Shi Hao how to refine pills. The boy was very hard working and didn't dare to make mistakes during Li Qiye's guidance.

Li Qiye's alchemy dao was peerless, so with only a little bit of teaching, Shi Hao already gained enough for a lifetime. With the combination of Li Qiye's teaching and his own effort, Shi Hao's pill refinement ability soared forward.

Li Qiye was very satisfied with Shi Hao's progress. He was a firm believer of effort being able to make up for insufficient talent; a lazy person would be worthless even if he was the most talented genius in the world.

Time quickly passed. Half a year went by before anyone knew it. It was also time for Shi Hao to harvest his Jadeblood Bamboo stalks.

On this day, he was digging away across the mountain and was jubilated at the sight of his bag full of stalks.

This was the best harvest he ever had since he became a county envoy. In just a short half a year, seventy percent of the bamboo transformed three times, ten percent transformed four times, and the remaining twenty percent transformed twice. This truly astounded him! In fact, even he wouldn't have believed it if he didn't dig them up with his own hands. It was virtually impossible for them to transform four times in just half a year since normally, it would require at least five to ten years!

Four transformation Jadeblood Bamboo stalks were worth a lot of money! It was something he never dared to imagine before. He would have been satisfied with two transformation stalks since it was enough for him to gain some merits. Now, his contribution would skyrocket after this new development.

He rejoiced at the fact that just a few more batches of stalks would make it easy for him to enter the county's government.

Shi Hao gathered all of the stalks then asked Li Qiye: "Brother Li, I am about to go turn in the stalks in the city. Do you want to come along?"

Li Qiye thought about it and coincidentally, he had nothing else to do so he nodded and said: "Very well, I want to take a stroll anyway. I'm about to rust from staying in the house all day."

Before leaving, Li Qiye specifically told Shi Hao: "Never tell a third person about the alchemy formula or refinement method, not even those you are close to. Otherwise, it might get you killed."

### **Chapter 613: Golem Race**

Since Shi Hao was an honest man, Li Qiye was worried that he might accidentally tell the truth, so Li Qiye especially warned him.

Shi Hao answered: "Don't worry, Brother Li. I am an alchemist that had been accepted through an official process. I will use a True Fate Oath to never tell anyone about the formula or the refinement process."

With that, he solemnly vowed using his True Fate. He was a true alchemist who had gone through the official qualification procedure and not a haphazard one. He clearly knew the laws of alchemists, such as not passing on formulas to other parties.

The Jadeblood Mountain was not that far from the Stonetreading County, so Shi Hao walked down. He also wanted to let Li Qiye take a look at the scenery of the town.

The Stonetreading County was not a big one in the country, but it was not particularly remote and rather prosperous.

On a big street, one could see stones rolling and golems of all shapes and sizes. Some stones only started to roll; the majority of them came down from the mountain for the first time and watched the world with curiosity and anticipation.

This was the Stone Medicine World, the world of golems and the demon race, so pedestrians were not surprised at all to see new golems since it was a common sight.

Outside of new stones that had only recently learned how to roll, there were all shapes and types of golems. The best ones were in the shape of humans while the worst had a human head with animal bodies made out of stones. The ones who didn't progress very far were just stone animals.

Those who had part of their bodies made out of flesh and blood were powerful golems or were mixed-race offspring. Those who were completely made of flesh and blood were even rarer, and they were definitely offspring from powerful bloodlines.

In other places, golems were considered part of the demon race, but the golems themselves did not embrace this classification.

In fact, this had some logic to it because the golems naturally had life. These were stones that finally gained intelligence and achieved the dao after millions of years. In this race, the majority of them were just little pebbles that suddenly were able to sense the heaven and earth and gained their own source of life to walk in this world.

It was a common occurrence for random stones to suddenly feel the world and gain life. Of course, some golems required a long time to gain a higher degree of intelligence to the point where they transformed to have flesh and blood — a sign of their strength. There were three different types of golems: celestials, progenies, and mixed-bloods.

In the golem race, celestials were those that were pure golems and gained life from sensing the world then continuously transformed and increased in strength. These were the first generation of golems.

Progenies consisted of the offsprings from the first generation. When a golem reached a particular power level to gain flesh and blood, they were able to reproduce. The first generation needed to reach a particular level to have the physical requirement needed for having offspring.

Progenies were usually born with flesh and blood and also inherited the golem race's powerful strength. They normally were considered nobles and came from great clans or great lineages. Their ancestors were all powerful existences.



Mixed-blood were the product of golems taking a shortcut to reproduce. When golems reached a certain level of strength, they were able to come together with a human or someone from a different race that was capable of reproduction. Of course, the most ideal were humans. Their offspring were called mixed-blood. Mixed-bloods had flesh and blood, but they lost the natural advantages of golems, such as their innate strength.

All three types had their own advantages and disadvantages, but the most advantaged were still second generation progenies. Celestials required a long time to sense the world and transform. There was a chance that they might die before reaching a flesh and blood form.

Because they could sense the heaven and earth, they were very close to its energy. However, this was offset due to their stone bodies; because there are no meridians, their merit laws were both limited and restricted to refining worldly energy for cultivation.

Due to this, it was a long and arduous process from when a celestial was born until they reached a powerful stage.

Progenies were the nobles among celestials, and their ancestors were already extremely powerful existences. The moment they were born, they already possessed a blood and flesh body for the most part. Moreover, they were still golem and had innate spiritual power with superb talents. They also retained natural advantages of golems, such as a strong body.

However, there was one weakness — atavism. If the offspring was not stronger than their ancestor, then atavism will occur and their natural advantages would weaken. If these progenies continued to grow weaker, then ultimately, they would cease the transformation process and revert into stone.

Making mixed-bloods was the shortcut for reproduction, but these offspring lost the natural advantages of the golem race, and their bodies were quite weak in comparison. However, if they had a human bloodline, then their resonation with spirit energy as well as intelligence would be quite high.

All three types had their trade-offs, and no one dared to say which was the most ideal. However, it was undeniable that progenies held the greatest advantages within the golem race. The shortcoming was that these progenies required an extremely powerful ancestor of at least the Virtuous Paragon level. Therefore, among the three types of golems, progenies had the highest starting point but also the most stringent requirements. It made sense for them to be known as the nobles of the golem race.

As they walked along the big road towards the Stonetreading County, most of the pedestrians were mortal golems and some were cultivators. Among the golems, those who had life but hadn't started to cultivate were called mortals. There was another type that consisted of descendants of previous great clans, but they stopped cultivating so they became mortals.

Outside of golems, there were demons as well. The Giant Bamboo Country was a demonic country, but very few demonic cultivators were walking on the streets full of golems. Only mortal demons were walking around in all shapes and forms; some had a bird head and a human body, others had a human head and a snake body, and some maintained their beastly appearance.

The starting point of demons was different from golems. The first step for golems was sensing the heaven and earth, but it was different for demons. Their roots date back to the ancient times.

Some said that demons were the oldest race in the Nine Worlds. This claim required further deliberation and research, but the demon race was indeed very archaic.

As long as the world continued to exist, so would the demon race. The flowers and grasses, the flying birds and swimming fishes, the tall mountains and flowing rivers... All could give birth to the demon race.

A stone could give birth to either a demonic stone or a spirit stone that would be different from the rest of the golem race.

Demons were basked in the essence of the world. While enduring countless years, they eventually obtained intelligence and understood the heavens to finally communicate with the grand dao.

Golems were born by being able to sense the heaven and earth, and demons were born thanks to the incubation of worldly energy or from powerful cultivators' dao preaching and protection.

Due to their different origins, it made sense why the golems refused to be classified as part of the demon race for billions of years. The demons themselves didn't consider golems as part of their group.

At this time, Li Qiye and Shi Hao finally entered the Stonetreading County. This particular town was very crowded and was bustling with people coming and going. Some street hawkers were yelling to attract customers. Some mortals were going shopping with many cultivators walking among them. Weaker cultivators walked on the roads while stronger ones flew in the sky or rode the path underground.

The Stone Medicine World had existed for countless years as demons and golems took root in this place. Stonetreading was not a large county, but it still had several tens of thousands of mortal demons and golems living here.

In this lively city, meeting a human or a demon or golem in full human form that had full flesh and blood bodies was very difficult since very few experts walked by this place. In a bigger location, such as the Giant Bamboo's capital, one could see demons and golems in complete humanoid form.

Because of this, a regular human like Li Qiye appearing in the Stonetreading County attracted a lot of attention. Someone with a human head like Shi Hao was already quite rare, not to mention a human like his companion.

Many mortals and cultivators pointed at them as they gazed with curiosity. One mortal asked: "Is that a golem noble or a demonic expert? Could it be a human?"

One cultivator took a look and answered: "He's surely a human. His blood energy is not showing up and is without any aura; it seems that his cultivation is not strong at all. Having a humanoid form without a strong cultivation would surely make him a human and not a golem noble or demonic master."

#### **Chapter 614: Crimsonwolf Grass**

"Wow, there is a human here at the Stonetreading County!" The crowd looked at Li Qiye as if he was an exotic beast. This scene continued throughout Li Qiye's walk with many passersby staring at him.

Shi Hao was quite embarrassed at being the center of attention of this many gazes, so he told Li Qiye: "Brother Li, don't mind it, very few humans ever come here."

Li Qiye only chuckled in response. He had experienced numerous adventures so such a matter was not worth his concern. He felt that this was very normal; this was the world of golems and demons, so humans were quite a rare sight. They were considered exotic creatures since rare things were considered precious. Meeting a human in this county was surely an uncommon event.

Shi Hao led him to the county's government office. As the envoy and an alchemist, he still had some status in this place. They went all the way to the center of the hall since he wanted to meet the county lord to turn in the bamboo stalks.

At the center, there were also many other envoys who were in a line, waiting to turn in the spirit medicines they had been cultivating. Shi Hao was afraid that Li Qiye would become impatient from waiting, so he spoke: "How about Brother Li take a walk around the government hall? I'm afraid it will be a while before I can finish turning in the medicines."

Li Qiye smiled and nodded his head as he began to walk around the office. Although the county was quite small in size, there were many cultivators in this humble office. Li Qiye's stroll didn't last too long; he leisurely walked into a medicinal garden.

It was a decent sized garden with many soulgrasses, spirit medicines, and lingzhi. Their ages spanned from several decades to a century; the oldest one being several thousand years old.

Such a medicinal garden was not enough to enter Li Qiye's eyes, but it was not a bad stash for a small land like the Stonetreading County. As he walked deeper into the fresh garden, he suddenly heard a voice.

"Oh my Crimsonwolf Grass, what do I have to do to get you to transform one more time? I've waited for you for centuries and done everything I could already. You are going to wither at this rate..."

Li Qiye came closer and saw a jar with a soulgrass inside. It was crimson red with the shape of a wolf's tail. It emitted six different bright colors in a pulsing cycle as if it could go out at any moment. This was a sign that the life of this soulgrass was dwindling and on the verge of death.

An old man stood before this soulgrass. He had normal features with white hair; only his nose was a bit strange. With a quick glance, Li Qiye knew that he was part of the demon race — a bulbul bird with a decent cultivation.

The old man's eyes narrowed and shot out a glint the moment Li Qiye got closer. His attitude was a bit fierce as he said: "Kid, who are you?"

This was understandable since Li Qiye was a stranger who suddenly ran into his medicinal garden. It would be strange if he was acting friendly.

Li Qiye answered with a smile: "I came with Shi Hao to turn in some Jadeblood Bamboo stalks. I got bored so I was taking a look around."

The old man relaxed after hearing this and smiled back at him: "Oh, so a friend of Little Shi Hao."

Li Qiye looked at the fiery soulgrass in front of him and casually asked: "So Grandpa knows Brother Shi Hao?"

The old man replied: "Little Shi Hao has okay talents for alchemy, but he is quite hardworking. It is a shame that I am too old and already have disciples as old as him. Otherwise, I might have taken him in as well."

At this point, the old man looked at Li Qiye and asked: "You are a human? That is quite a rare sight in the Stone Medicine World, let alone this county. Where are you from?"

Li Qiye kept on looking at the soulgrass while answering: "I am only a vagrant cultivator traveling everywhere and coincidentally arrived in this region."

The old man nodded approvingly and said: "It is good for young people to travel. Plus, your human race is very rare in this world, so if you travel a lot, maybe you will meet some noble ladies from the golem race. You should know that humans are very popular here, so you could become the son-in-law of some noble clan, making your status soar!"

The old man was very talkative. He could happily chat it up even though the two were strangers.

Li Qiye didn't know whether to laugh or cry after hearing this. However, the old man was right, both male and female humans were very popular in this place, especially to the golem race since humans were the best mates for reproduction.

Therefore, the old man bore no malicious intent when he said this. After all, this was not a bad proposal.

Li Qiye only smiled while shaking his head while saying: "This Crimsonwolf is about to die. If this continues on, I'm afraid it won't make it for three more months."

The old man suddenly became unhappy and said with a serious expression: "Child, one can eat indiscriminately but cannot speak indiscriminately."

He had spent a lot of effort to cultivate a Crimsonwolf Soulgrass with six transformation that was on the verge of getting the seventh. Now, Li Qiye's unlucky words naturally made him upset.

Li Qiye looked at the old man and said: "I am only speaking the truth. Crimsonwolf is not a bad soulgrass, it's only a bit worse than a Silkworm Dragon Soulgrass. It seems that you have spent a lot of effort taking care of it. If I am not mistaken, after its sixth transformation, it has been stuck like this for a long time. Recently, it was about to transform again but became stuck at this stage."

Li Qiye paused for a moment before continuing on: "You became impatient in the face of this stagnation and fed it more nutrients. My guess is that your fertilizer consisted of Silverwolf's blood mixed with Ash-steel Wood, Holy Ash-radish, and some Sacred Wolf Water."

The old man was startled and took a deep breath after hearing Li Qiye explain his process in such detail: "How did you know?" He was the only one who knew this matter and his fertilizer formula was a secret known only by him, yet Li Qiye was able to state it so smoothly.

Li Qiye answered with a smile: "It's nothing, I can smell the blood so I knew you used Silverwolf's blood, but this blood has to be mixed with Ash-steel Wood and Holy Ash-radish to take effect, and the Sacred Wolf Water is there to increase the potency."

Li Qiye only smiled when he saw the old man be sent into a daze, then he looked back at the Crimsonwolf Soulgrass and lightly said: "It seems that you have laboriously worked on this root so it is

precious to you. One needs to truly put their heart into cultivating it in order to have good soulgrass, so I will give you a solution.”

Li Qiye cleared his throat and said: “Your line of thought was not bad. This would normally work, but that would only be under regular circumstances. I see that the root of this grass is very pale. If I am not mistaken, you dug it out of a wetland, a place that buried many corpses. You moved it to this place and did a good job of caring for it, so why did it stop at six transformations?”

Li Qiye gently went on: “This is because your soil is not suitable. After many years, it finally reached the seventh transformation level, but now, it needs the land where it was born in order to powerfully soar to the next.”

“However, you were impatient and couldn’t wait any longer, thus you chose to use your unique fertilizer formula. Your soulgrass was born in a land of extreme Yin, but your Silverwolf’s blood mix is of the fire affinity. The fertilizer not only failed to help grow the Crimsonwolf Soulgrass to the seventh transformation, it also weakened its medicinal source. At such an important moment, you weakening its medicinal source was the same as taking its life.” Having said all of this, Li Qiye then glanced at the old man who was lost while listening to him.

The old man stood there looking silly since he was completely blown away. Li Qiye could tell his fertilizer and where he obtained the soulgrass with just a quick glance. This ability was too frightening and was indicative of a deep understanding of medicine cultivation. Even an old geezer like him was not a match.

Li Qiye could only smile while shaking his head when he saw the old man standing there in such a state and continued on: “You still have a chance to save it. Neutralize your fertilizer then go back to where you found the grass. Dig out some soil and bring it here, then place it around the soulgrass. Only then will you be able to save it.”

“Really?” The old man finally returned from his shock after slightly shivering.

“Brother Li!” At this time, Shi Hao had finished turning in his stalks and was standing by the door while waving at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye gave the old man one last look. He didn’t say anything else before walking away. The old man was frozen and didn’t hear Shi Hao greeting him.

Shi Hao and Li Qiye left the government hall. Along the way, Shi Hao asked: “What were you talking about with the Alchemy Chief?”

Li Qiye looked at him and asked: “Alchemy Chief?”

Shi Hao answered: “That old man earlier. Grandpa Bai is the Alchemy Chief of the Stonetreading County and also the best alchemist here. He had reached the Alchemy Master level a very long time ago. I also heard that he is about to become an Alchemy Grandmaster.”

An alchemist of this level staying at a small place like the Stonetreading County was quite rare; he was worthy of having a higher position.

“It was just some small talk.” Li Qiye said with a smile, but he then noticed Shi Hao’s uncontainable cheerful expression and asked: “It seems that something good happened to you?”

[spoiler title='614 Teaser']“Wow, there is a human here at the Stonetreading County!” The crowd looked at Li Qiye as if he was an exotic beast. This scene continued on during Li Qiye’s walk with many passersby staring at him.

Shi Hao was quite embarrassed at being the center of attention of this many gazes, so he told Li Qiye: “Brother Li, don’t mind it, very few humans ever come here.

Li Qiye only chuckled in response. He had experienced numerous adventures so such a matter was not worth his concern. He felt that this was very normal; this was the world of golems and demons, so humans were quite a rare sight. They were considered exotic creatures since rare things were considered precious. Meeting a human at this county was surely an uncommon opportunity.

Shi Hao led him to the county’s government office. As the envoy and an alchemist, he still had some status in this place. They went all the way to the center of the hall since he wanted to meet the county lord to turn in the bamboo stalks.

At the center, there were also many other envoys who were in a line, waiting to turn in the spirit medicines they had been cultivating. Shi Hao was afraid that Li Qiye would become impatient from waiting, so he spoke: “How about Brother Li take a walk around the government hall? I’m afraid it will be a while before I can finish turning in the medicines.”

Li Qiye smiled and nodded his head as he began to walk around the office. Although the county was quite small in size, there were many cultivators in this humble office. Li Qiye’s stroll didn’t last too long; he leisurely walked into a medicinal garden.

### **Chapter 615: Aghast**

“The County Lord said that I made a great contribution this time. After two more batches of Jadeblood Bamboo like this, he will recommend me to the prefecture. Even if I can’t become a student for an alchemist below the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch, I will still be able to join under someone else.”

“Just focus on studying alchemy and forget everything else.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “Those alchemists can’t teach you anything. I will be here for some time and will teach you pill refinement; try to learn as much as you can. If you want to go see a bigger world, then the prefecture government is not a bad choice. The Giant Bamboo Country is a country worth staying at.”

“Really?” Shi Hao was taken aback by this suggestion. Although he didn’t know Li Qiye’s alchemy ranking, he understood that Li Qiye’s skill at pill refinement was incredible.

Although they were apprentice and master since Li Qiye taught him, there was no official title. Li Qiye had never promised anything to Shi Hao, but now, Li Qiye himself said that he would teach Shi Hao pill refinement, so the situation had changed.

Li Qiye nonchalantly said: “Don’t worry, I will teach you one or two arts for pill refinement. Even if you can’t study all the different paths of alchemy, it would be enough for you to have a bright future at the Giant Bamboo Country. The only requirement is that you have to work hard; I will not teach someone who wishes to reap without sowing.”

Shi Hao was ecstatic and quickly bowed to say: “Thank you, Brother Li, no, thank you, Master, for teaching me alchemy...”

Li Qiye stopped him and shook his head to say: “I am not a person who accepts disciples so easily. Today, I am teaching you pill refinement because of our fateful meeting. In the future, just call me brother and don’t worry about formalities.”

Shi Hao scratched his head and pondered for a moment before deciding to listen to Li Qiye: “If Brother Li says so, then I’ll do just that.”

They returned to Jadeblood Mountain, and Li Qiye continued to teach Shi Hao while cultivating. He had recovered completely and would have left if it wasn’t for Shi Hao’s alchemy education.

At this time, Li Qiye sealed the room with the pentagate again as he sat in a meditative pose while channeling his merit law and surging Life Wheel. A pearl-like drop of Longevity Blood rolled on a jade plate while his True Fate was up high, turning into different dao foundations.

The thirteen palaces were roaring as he separated each of them. Some contained treasures, some were cultivating spirit medicines, and others were refining Life Treasures...

Inside the master palace, the destiny stone he obtained from the Divine Dragon Mountain back at the Prime Ominous Grave was hovering in the sky. This stone was indeed amazing; it didn’t need Li Qiye’s help since it could refine itself using the fire of life. This self-refining process allowed it to take the initial form of a huge seal; it was about to become a treasure seal!

Li Qiye didn’t interfere with this true fate treasure auto-refining itself and allowed it to do as it pleased.

Meanwhile, in the thirteenth palace, the stone egg took a spot all by itself. The truth was that Li Qiye still hadn’t really researched this stone egg he obtained from the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground.

In fact, this stone egg was unbearably arrogant, even the destiny stone from the Divine Dragon Mountain was not a match for it. It was not until Li Qiye opened the thirteenth palace that the stone egg conceded the palace to the stone and took the thirteenth palace spot all by itself.

Li Qiye was helpless against this arrogant egg. This egg had considered the thirteenth palace as its home, and he couldn’t chase it away even if he wanted to.

Death Soul — this was the thing Li Qiye wanted to cultivate from the Death Scripture taken from the Prime Ominous Grave.

As one of the nine Grand Heavenly Scriptures, it was extremely heaven-defying and terrifying. It had no techniques or merit laws and only allowed Li Qiye to refine his body. This peerless scripture had four different types of cultivation arts: Death Soul, Death Seal, and Death Record.

The Death Soul was the first thing he chose to cultivate since it could be said that it was crucial to him.

He had completely grasped the mysteries of the Death Scripture, so it was not difficult for him to create the Death Soul.

The Death Soul, at the moment, was copying Li Qiye’s three souls inside his True Fate. A person had three souls, and a cultivator’s three souls were part of his True Fate.

After successfully creating a Death Soul, one could divide this into three sections, or three souls, then hide them away.

With these three hidden Death Souls, as long as they were not destroyed, the person would be unkillable.

Even if their body was destroyed along with their True Fate, the Death Souls allowed for one to remain alive to rebuild a new True Fate and body.

This was an impossible thing for cultivators. One could rebuild a body, but it was the ultimate end if the True Fate was destroyed as well.

However, the Death Scripture was just that magical. As long as the Death Souls were still there, there was a chance for rebirth even if one's True Fate was destroyed.

Of course, this did not allow for eternal life since it only helped Li Qiye become unkillable.

Cultivators would live until their lifespan was used up; not even the Death Souls could save them from this rule. It only saved cultivators from unexpected death and not from the natural course of life.

Now, Li Qiye was thinking about where to hide his three Death Souls. It didn't matter where he hid them or if he sealed them in different items. As long as those items remained indestructible, then Li Qiye would always have a chance of revival.

He needed to ponder about the locations and the items — three appropriate places or items for him to seal his souls. He must also separate them and do it with the utmost secrecy. This would allow for him to live on until his lifespan runs out.

Once this task was carried out, there would only be two ways for him to die. The first would be if someone managed to find his three Death Souls and destroyed all three, and the second would be to wait until he died from old age!

Thus, Li Qiye was faced with an extremely crucial matter — to find appropriate locations and items to avoid death in the future. This was no easy task. Only Li Qiye knew that, in the distant future, he would face a terrible situation beyond one's imagination. Before that day comes, he must guarantee that his Death Souls remain untraceable!

Li Qiye was especially cautious about this matter because he understood what he would face in the future. The three locations must be places of utmost secrecy.

He continued to cultivate at Jadeblood Mountain while teaching Shi Hao pill refinement. In the blink of an eye, three more months had passed. Today, an uninvited guest came to Jadeblood Mountain.

"Grandpa Bai!" Shi Hao was surprised to see this guest. In this remote area, an Alchemy Chief like Grandpa Bai was a big character, so his sudden arrival scared the soul out of Shi Hao. He didn't expect to see Grandpa Bai personally walking here since, with just one order, there would be disciples running the errand for him.

Grandpa Bai arrived and ignored Shi Hao's astonishment; he grabbed Shi Hao's hand and asked in a flurry: "Tell me quick, where is your friend?"

Shi Hao was scared out of his wits after seeing Grandpa Bai's tense expression and thought that Li Qiye had caused big trouble. He stuttered and asked: "Grandpa Bai, w-what did Brother Li do?"



Grandpa Bai quickly answered: "Nothing. Take me to him, I need to consult with him!"

Shi Hao heaved a sigh of relief and said: "Brother Li is inside."

Shi Hao found it quite odd. Consultation? Grandpa Bai was a famous chief in this area, so why would a big shot like him need to ask Brother Li questions?

"Take me to see him!" Grandpa Bai hurried into the house. It was more accurate to say that he was dragging Shi Hao along instead of being led by him inside. Grandpa Bai was itching to get on with it.

"What's happening?" Coincidentally, Li Qiye stepped out the moment Grandpa Bai was dragging Shi Hao inside and asked while slightly surprised.

"Brother Li... Grandpa Bai wants to see you." Shi Hao quickly responded then ran forward and whispered in his ear: "Grandpa Bai is a good person, so if there is anything, you can tell Grandpa Bai."

Shi Hao was scared by Grandpa Bai's hasty appearance and thought that Li Qiye had done something wrong.

Grandpa Bai ignored Shi Hao's whispering and bowed towards Li Qiye: "Our last meeting was too abrupt and this old man had eyes but couldn't see Mt. Tai. Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Bai Weng, may I know Young Noble's name?"

"Li Qiye." Li Qiye looked at the old man and responded leisurely.

### **Chapter 616: Bai Weng's Recruitment**

Shi Hao couldn't help but be startled. Grandpa Bai was a great character in the Stonetreading County; even the County Lord treated him with respect. He had been an envoy for a long time and besides the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch, he had never seen Grandpa Bai treat someone with such politeness.

Bai Weng looked at Li Qiye and rubbed his palms together and asked: "May I ask where you are from and which sect you belong to?"

"I'm only a vagrant cultivator with erratic travels." Li Qiye calmly said: "If Grandpa Bai has anything in mind, please say it."

Grandpa Bai quickly waved his hands in response: "Nothing, it's nothing like that at all. Young Noble Li is too courteous, you can just call me Bai Weng. I can't handle being called Grandpa Bai by Young Noble Li."

Shi Hao jumped out of his skin when he saw Bai Weng's attitude and couldn't believe his own ears at such humility.

Li Qiye didn't want to waste time and directly said: "Say your piece."

Bai Weng rubbed his hands again awkwardly and forced a smile to say: "It was thanks to Young Noble's guidance, or else all of my efforts would have been wasted. Really, thank you, your words woke me up from being lost. My Crimsonwolf grass would have been ruined."

“After receiving your pointers, I went to the wetland and put soil from there around the grass. Just like you said, the grass successfully transformed for the seventh time. I can’t express my gratitude enough. Your great knowledge puts this old man to shame.”

Initially, after receiving Li Qiye’s pointers, Bai Weng was very doubtful. However, seeing the grass that was on the verge of death, he had no choice but to take a risk and use Li Qiye’s method.

A miracle happened after he took some soil from the wetland and put it around the grass. Not long after, the grass’ life recovered and in the following days, it successfully transformed.

How could Bai Weng not be shocked? He understood immediately that he had met a wise master. With just a glance, Li Qiye was able to analyze his unique fertilizer, and he even knew where he obtained the grass from. With a casual remark, Li Qiye managed to not only save the grass, he also helped it transform successfully.

Such familiarity with alchemy principles and cultivation meant that he was a wondrous alchemist, one that was far greater than Bai Weng. The alchemy dao didn’t only consist of pill refinement, plant cultivation was another aspect.

Bai Weng knew that he had met a great alchemy genius so he quickly reacted and let go of all his business to run to Jadeblood Mountain to find Li Qiye. Luckily for him, Li Qiye still hadn’t left.

Li Qiye only nodded his head at the influx of praises from Bai Weng and waited to hear more.

Bai Weng cleared his throat and forced a smile again before speaking: “Young Noble Li, there is one matter that might interest you.”

Li Qiye looked at him and waited for him to say more.

Bai Weng didn’t dare to slow down after seeing Li Qiye’s waiting appearance and said: “Our lord adores talent. Recently, Her Majesty started looking for talented young alchemists. I wonder if Young Noble is interested?”

“Looking for alchemists?” Li Qiye’s eyes narrowed as he spoke: “To be an alchemist for Giant Bamboo?”

“As long as Young Noble’s alchemy skill is capable, maybe you will become the Alchemy Chief of the entire country!” Bai Weng quickly added.

Shi Hao was dumbstruck after hearing Bai Weng. Being the Alchemy Chief of an entire country was very amazing; it was a high ranked position that allowed one to be an unreachable existence. Shi Hao never even dared to dream about it, so how could he not be stunned upon hearing Bai Weng’s attempt at recruitment?

“Giant Bamboo Country...” Li Qiye murmured as a figure as gentle as water uncontrollably appeared in Li Qiye’s mind.

Bai Weng quickly added: “Young Noble Li, although our Giant Bamboo is not comparable to imperial lineages, we are a big country that has stood strong in the Alchemy Realm for millions of years. If you stay here, I’m sure your future will be golden.”

Li Qiye's mind returned to the present. He laughed after hearing Bai Weng. He nodded his head and said: "The capital of the Giant Bamboo Country is indeed a place worth remembering; I also want to go there once."

He had thought about visiting the memorable Giant Bamboo's capital after arriving at the Stone Medicine World. After many years, his memories of the place were still there and caused him to become emotional.

Bai Weng quickly answered: "I will go arrange for it immediately and recommend Young Noble to Her Highness!"

Li Qiye only chuckled. He would go to the capital not for a promising future or to see the king, but for a simple sightseeing trip. If he really wanted to go, then even the heavily guarded capital wouldn't be able to stop his advance.

Bai Weng assumed that Li Qiye wanted to be the national Alchemist Chief so he quickly said: "Could Young Noble try to refine one cauldron?"

Li Qiye looked at him and said: "You want me to refine a batch right now?"

Bai Weng smiled awkwardly and said: "This old man isn't implicating anything and trusts your abilities. However, I need to recommend you to the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch and my words alone are not enough. This needs to be verified by the monarch in order for it to go smoothly."

Li Qiye replied with a smile: "I don't need to prove anything, this is no big deal to me."

Bai Weng was a little helpless in the face of this and said: "Young Noble Li... umm..." He knew that Li Qiye was an amazing alchemist, but he needed proof if he was going to recommend Li Qiye to the Demon Monarch. He wouldn't let such a rare, young alchemist slip from him.

Although this left him in a sticky situation, he was not angry or annoyed at all. As an alchemist, he knew that it was normal for a talented alchemist to be arrogant; this type of person was always popular everywhere.

He responded: "Young Noble Li, this old man trusts your skills one hundred percent, but... if I don't have anything as proof, then it would be very hard to recommend you to Her Majesty."

"Brother Li, this is a rare opportunity." Shi Hao also calmed down and whispered to Li Qiye: "The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch is one of the eighteen monarchs of our Giant Bamboo and is held in high esteem in Her Majesty's eyes. With his recommendation, you will surely become a court alchemist."

Li Qiye only chuckled since he wasn't interested in becoming a court alchemist or anything else for that matter. He stared at Bai Weng then back at Shi Hao and smilingly said: "I appreciate Grandpa's enthusiasm, and out of consideration for Shi Hao, I will refine something once for you to see. But right now, I don't have suitable alchemy ingredients."

Li Qiye's proud attitude caused Shi Hao's heart to thump, but to his bewilderment, Bai Weng was not angry at all. After hearing about his lack of ingredients, Bai Weng took a whole bunch out and said: "I have some right here. I coincidentally obtained a batch of materials for a five transformations fate pill; all the things you need are here."

Li Qiye looked at the old man and said: "It seems that you have come prepared."

Bai Weng let out a wry laugh. He spent a lot of time before managing to gather enough ingredients for a five transformations fate pill. Today, he brought them here just to test Li Qiye's abilities.

Fate pills were the hardest to refine for alchemists, and a five transformations pill could show their ability. In order to refine a pill to this level, the pill would need fifty percent purity.

This type of pill was meant for Ancient Saints. There needs to be sufficient five transformations ingredients that could turn into a fate pill successfully in order for it to be suitable for Ancient Saints.

However, this was easier said than done. It was quite a challenge for the majority of alchemists. Because of this, a five transformations fate pill was a crossroads and challenge for alchemists. If successful, then one would be considered an Alchemy Grandmaster. If the quality was good, then maybe that person would qualify to be a Profound Alchemist.

While Bai Weng took out all the ingredients, Li Qiye also took out his Myriad Heavenly Cauldron. At this time, the cauldron's shape had changed. Prior to this, it was a frog, but now, it appeared to be very ordinary looking.

Back at the lost alchemy garden of the immortals in the rich field, the cauldron had undergone a transformation. It should have done so far in the past since it had devoured countless heavenly medicines and immortal grasses throughout the years. The even more incredible part was that it drank some Myriad Star Water. It had been waiting for the right time, but it had never come. It wasn't until it stayed at the lost garden that it seized the chance. After the successful transformation, it turned back into a primal shape and appeared to be no different from an ordinary cauldron.

The truth was that it was the number one Heavenly Cauldron throughout the ages and was peerless. Its usage was not limited to refining pills, it could also defy the heavens by changing fate itself.

A huge cauldron appeared before Shi Hao and Bai Weng, much to their astonishment due to its ordinary looks. Bai Weng assumed that since Li Qiye had great alchemy skills, he would have a good Heavenly Cauldron as well, but this huge cauldron was very ordinary.

Bai Weng spoke at this time: "We should leave for a bit." As an alchemist who had studied the dao of alchemy for a thousand years, he knew the rules of alchemists. Others should leave when an alchemist was about to refine medicine.

"No need." Li Qiye shook his head and said: "This will be a piece of cake. There is no need to leave, I'll be done in a second."

### **Chapter 617: Ancient Pine Demon Monarch**

Having heard this, both Bai Weng and Shi Hao were stunned. Bai Weng felt that Li Qiye was boasting too much. This was a five transformations fate pill; he himself would need to go all out with caution during the process.

It was needless to say for Shi Hao; such a pill was far beyond his reach. At this moment, there was no way he could refine such a pill.

However, amidst their daze, Li Qiye pressed one hand onto the cauldron.

“Pop!” The cauldron’s flame appeared as Li Qiye threw all the ingredients inside.

“Pa, pa, pa!” The popping sounds as if someone was frying soybeans appeared. In just a second, a medicinal fragrance came about.

“Collect!” At this moment, the cauldron opened as the flame disappeared. A five transformations fate pill was refined in an instant.

Bai Weng was completely terrified while Shi Hao was rendered speechless. Both of them stood there silly with their mouths wide open and were unable to calm down for a long time.

Bai Weng’s breath was taken away by this scene. He had become an alchemist for a long time but had never seen this style of pill refinement. How could it be possible for one to refine pills as easily as frying beans? He had never heard of something even remotely similar and couldn’t see Li Qiye’s pill refinement method when he did it so quickly.

Shi Hao, on the other hand, couldn’t gauge anything since he was less knowledgeable than Bai Weng, so he just stood there silly.

Li Qiye handed a box to Bai Weng and said: “Okay, here is the proof that you need. Take it.”

For Li Qiye, this kind of proof or becoming the national Alchemy Chief were not worth thinking about. He only wanted to go take a look at the capital as well as do a favor by paving the way for Shi Hao, allowing him to have a future position in the Giant Bamboo Country.

Bai Weng shook his body to calm down and opened the box to look at the five transformations fate pill. His scream quickly ensued.

“This... this... this is seventy percent purity! How... can this be!?” His knees met the ground as he was scared out of his mind.

Shi Hao was similarly awestruck. Despite being a Junior Alchemist, he still understood the significance behind a seventy percent purity for a five transformations fate pill.

“It is only like that because I wasn’t in the mood. If I was more serious, then eighty percent wouldn’t have been a problem.” Li Qiye leisurely commented.

Bai Weng suddenly felt the urge to kneel down and hit his head on the ground. Seventy percent purity for a five transformations pill was enough to scare all alchemists to death, not to mention the speed and ease that Li Qiye had demonstrated, as if he was just frying beans. All the genius alchemists, Alchemy Saints, and Legendary Alchemists were not enough to reach the apex if this was the norm.

The ingredients for this fate pill had only transformed five times so their potency was limited. It was already considered great to be able to refine a pill with fifty percent purity, and only Alchemy Saints and Legendary Alchemists were able to reach sixty percent.

But now, Li Qiye easily refined one with seventy percent, so his skill should be around the peak of Legendary Alchemists. However, he nonchalantly stated that it was only because he wasn’t in the mood or else even eighty percent would be possible. Any alchemist would have a heart attack upon hearing this.

If anyone else said this, Bai Weng would think that the person didn't know his own capabilities, but he was completely convinced at this moment. With his body kneeling on the ground, he would believe anything Li Qiye said even if the words were even more outrageous.

"Are you... an Alchemy Emperor?" Bai Weng asked with a blank gaze.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't answer.

Shi Hao joined Bai Weng on the ground by squatting straight down. He didn't know how to describe his feelings at the moment.

Alchemy Emperor was the highest title as well as the greatest achievement for an alchemist. Although an Alchemy Emperor was not as powerful as an Immortal Emperor, they were highly respected by all in the Nine Worlds.

An even more illustrious title was Alchemy God. However, only one person across the eons was worthy of this title — the Alchemy God himself!

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The Stonetreading County was a tiny county in the Refreshing Prefecture, a sizable prefecture in the Giant Bamboo Country.

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch was the overseer of this prefecture. He was one of the eighteen demon monarchs beneath Madam Zi Yan, the Giant Bamboo Overlord.

Just like his name, the monarch was a pine tree who succeeded in the dao. Although he was not the strongest out of the eighteen, he was the oldest one among the group.

As the ruler of a big prefecture, he was very busy, especially with the recent task of finding young alchemists for the Demon King.

He had found some young alchemists but was not satisfied with them. Although their innate talents were okay, their current skills were simply too shallow.

While the monarch was deep in work, Bai Weng from the Stonetreading County tried to rush into his office despite being stopped outside.

"Bai Weng, can't you wait a bit before reporting?" The monarch's brows furrowed after seeing Bai Weng's intrusion and said: "Wait until I'm done with work, then you can report what you have discovered."

He was busy deciding between these young alchemists and was already in a foul mood, so Bai Weng's intrusion only made it worse.

If it was anyone else, the monarch would have kicked them out already. However, Bai Weng was an experienced alchemist and was almost at the Grandmaster level. In the future, he could join the court any time as an alchemist, so the monarch viewed him in high regard.

"Demon Monarch, nothing is more important than this!" Bai Weng stated: "I will introduce an alchemist to you, a supreme and matchless alchemist!"

The monarch shook his head in response: "From your Stonetreading County? Outside of you, that county still has more alchemists? Although your disciples aren't bad, the matter this time is very important; those disciples won't do."

"No, no, Demon Monarch misunderstood my intent." Bai Weng quickly replied: "I am not recommending my own disciples. Moreover, my own skills are nothing before the Young Noble I am about to recommend, I'm not even worthy to hold his shoes!"

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch was startled after hearing this. Although Bai Weng had yet to become a Grandmaster, he was already a top Alchemy Master. His self-deprecating praise to this person caught the demon monarch by surprise.

The monarch shook his head and said: "Are you joking right now? In the contemporary times, if any young person was worthy of being called supreme and matchless, then they would be the four alchemy prodigies. No one in the younger generation is comparable to those four."

Bai Weng quickly said: "No, Demon Monarch, the four alchemy prodigies are nothing compared to Young Noble Li!"

The monarch's expression became serious. While squinting his eyes, he deepened his tone: "Bai Weng, you can't joke around like that. As the saying goes, one can eat indiscriminately but cannot speak indiscriminately. If others hear what you said just now, it would cause trouble for us. You should know how strong the backings of the four prodigies are."

The four alchemy prodigies were renowned across the Stone Medicine World. Many people believed that if a new Alchemy Emperor were to appear, then it would be one of these four prodigies.

"Demon Monarch, I know just how much weight my words carried just now." Bai Weng also became serious and answered: "But Young Noble Li, who I am recommending, is worthy for our Giant Bamboo to do everything to keep him here regardless of the price, which is why I spent all night running here. If we miss this chance, then we won't be able to recruit another peerless alchemy genius."

After seeing Bai Weng's austere appearance, the monarch became more solemn as well: "Tell me why this alchemy genius is so amazing."

As the monarch, he knew that characters like Bai Weng were not the frivolous type and wouldn't joke around.

Bai Weng carefully handed the five transformations fate pill that Li Qiye concocted over to the monarch.

After seeing this fate pill, the monarch stood straight up from his seat and exclaimed: "Seventy percent purity! How... is this possible?!"

"Nothing is impossible for Young Noble Li." Bai Weng said in the most earnest manner: "You would be stunned if you saw him refine pills in person." Having said that, Bai Weng described Li Qiye's alchemy process.

The monarch was shocked as he listened, standing there like a statue. After a while, the monarch fell to his seat then looked up at Bai Weng and uttered: "This can't be real!"

Bai Weng replied solemnly: "This is one hundred percent real. This old man guarantees this with my life." Here, his tone became more urgent: "This is a once-in-ten-thousand-years opportunity for the Giant Bamboo Country. Her Majesty wants more talents, right? We need a young alchemist to join the Alchemy Conference, right? If Young Noble Li agrees to represent us, then we'll take first place for sure!"

The monarch calmed down and quickly asked: "This Young Noble Li, where is he from and which sect does he belong to?"

He was very emotional at the moment. If such a young alchemist had such capabilities, then he would surely be the Alchemy Emperor in the future.

Bai Weng answered: "Young Noble Li is a human, a vagrant cultivator that doesn't belong to any sect."

The monarch couldn't help but ponder after hearing this answer: "How could that be? As such a powerful alchemist, if he is not already an Alchemy Emperor, then he would be a Legendary Alchemist. It is one thing to be unknown, but not having any sect trying to recruit him? That is abnormal."

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch's skepticism made a lot of sense. Alchemists have always been popular in the Stone Medicine World, and the high-ranking ones were always in demand and were invited by all the sects.

[spoiler title='617 Teaser']Having heard this, both Bai Weng and Shi Hao were stunned. Bai Weng felt that Li Qiye was boasting too much. This was a five transformations fate pill; he himself would need to go all out with caution during the process.

It was needless to say for Shi Hao; such a pill was far beyond his reach. At this moment, there was no way he could refine such a pill.

However, amidst their daze, Li Qiye pressed one hand onto the cauldron.

"Pop!" The cauldron's flame appeared as Li Qiye threw all the ingredients inside.

"Pa, pa, pa!" The popping sounds as if someone was frying soybeans appeared. In just a second, a medicinal fragrance came about.

"Collect!" At this moment, the cauldron opened as the flame disappeared. A five transformations fate pill was refined in an instant.

Bai Weng was completely terrified while Shi Hao was rendered speechless. Both of them stood there silly with their mouths wide open and were unable to calm down for a long time.

Bai Weng's breath was taken away by this scene. He had become an alchemist for a long time but had never seen this style of pill refinement. It could even be said that this was impossible!

### **Chapter 618: Personally Visiting The Humble Abode**

Alchemists were able to cultivate materials and craft fate pills, longevity medicines, physique pastes, and various ointments. In short, things that any sect would always need, and many of these items were always in short supply.



Thus, one could imagine just how popular alchemists were. This was the case for the other worlds as well since there were less alchemists in those places and their system had yet to be as flourished and developed.

Because of this, the status of alchemists in the Stone Medicine World was much higher than that in the other worlds. Moreover, this world also produced more Alchemy Emperors.

“There are many strange things in this world.” Regarding the monarch’s worries, Bai Weng had such a conjecture: “Extraordinary people have their own train of thought; Young Noble Li’s skill is enough to sweep over this world. Perhaps he considers power and fame to be useless since he can obtain whatever he wants already. With a swing of his hand, countless people would want to offer him gifts and treasures. Maybe because of this, he got tired of rowdy places.”

The Demon Monarch became worried from this: “If this was the case, then what do we have to hold him down? If he has such abilities, then not mentioning the great powers, even imperial lineages would want him as well. The Alchemy Kingdom would also be tempted. We don’t have any advantage compared to those monsters.”

Bai Weng became spirited when this issue was brought up: “We can’t guess how these extraordinary people think. Back in the county, there is an envoy named Shi Hao. This kid is very honest and hardworking and has always wanted to become a powerful alchemist. I think Young Noble Li is staying here because he wants to teach this boy. I heard Shi Hao say that Young Noble Li was teaching him pill refinement. Even if the young noble doesn’t want to take him as a disciple, he is still training the boy.”

Bai Weng paused for a bit and continued: “I have asked Young Noble Li before. He wants to take a trip to the capital once. We can just introduce him to Her Majesty at that time. Whether this endeavor is successful or not, it’ll be up to Her Majesty.”

“Very well, how can we let go of such a powerful alchemist?” The demon monarch solemnly said: “I’ll personally go and pay my respects to him!”

Initially, Bai Weng wanted to recommend a young alchemist to Her Majesty, but he was astonished after seeing Li Qiye’s abilities. He knew that Li Qiye had the qualifications to act arrogantly, and whether he would stay at the Giant Bamboo Country to be an alchemist was dependent on his whims!

Such a great alchemist would have sects scrambling for his attention, so Bai Weng became even more determined to persuade the demon monarch so that he would ask Her Majesty to recruit a supreme alchemist like Li Qiye.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye continued his normal and relaxing life back at Jadeblood Mountain. He wanted to stay at the Giant Bamboo Country for a while as well as to take a look at the capital and the palace.

Under Li Qiye’s guidance, Shi Hao mustered all of his effort into pill refinement. Although he was a simple fellow, he still knew that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; he wouldn’t be able to find another such wise teacher once Li Qiye leaves. As Li Qiye repeatedly demonstrated the methods, Shi Hao didn’t dare to miss a single detail.

Bai Weng returned the next day with a companion.

Bai Weng and the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch both came to Jadeblood Mountain and noticed that the vegetation here along the mountains were full of life. The Jadeblood Bamboo planted here happily swayed back and forth as if they had come to life.

This was not strange at all. The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch was initially a pine tree, so he was very close with the flora. His arrival was naturally sensed by the vegetation on the mountain.

Shi Hao was frightened at the monarch's arrival. He had been an envoy for a long time but had only seen the monarch once. But now, the monarch was actually here at Jadeblood Mountain — this was something Shi Hao wouldn't have dreamt of before.

"You must be County Envoy Shi Hao?" The monarch revealed a friendly smile to Shi Hao.

The monarch ruled an entire prefecture that consisted of countless envoys, so his personal greeting left Shi Hao aghast.

Shi Hao eventually calmed down and quickly answered: "My lord, that is me."

The demon monarch didn't act condescendingly at all as he politely said: "We are here to visit Young Noble Li."

Shi Hao didn't dare to waste time and quickly led the two of them to see Li Qiye.

Inside the room, Li Qiye was still nonchalant after seeing a big shot like the demon monarch. To him, the monarch was not a big shot at all since he had seen too many true grand characters.

"Young Noble Li's visit to the Giant Bamboo Country is our honor." The monarch hastily said upon their meeting.

"The Giant Bamboo Country is indeed a place worth remembering." Li Qiye replied with a smile.

The demon monarch placed an ancient box in front of Li Qiye: "This visit was in a hurry so I couldn't prepare a big present. I have this little thing here and hope that Young Noble Li won't laugh."

Li Qiye looked at the box and didn't move at all. He simply nodded and said: "I accept your goodwill, so I will accept this gift as well."

The demon monarch heaved a sigh of relief after seeing Li Qiye accept the present. It would be quite a bad start if Li Qiye were to reject the gift.

The monarch was old and experienced, thus his dealings were meticulous and well thought out as he said: "County Envoy Shi Hao had contributed a lot to the Stonetreading County; he is dutiful and dedicated. I didn't bring too many things on this trip, but I do have a little gift for you."

Shi Hao was stunned as he accepted the gift from the monarch. He was only a small character, an ordinary envoy, so receiving a gift from the monarch was an impossible matter, something beyond his wildest dreams!

The demon monarch went on to say: "Our Majesty adores talents and I heard that Young Noble Li intends to visit the capital once. How about we go to the capital together so I can take you to see Her Majesty? I wonder if this would be acceptable to you?"

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch was a man of high position; how could he be so deferential to an ordinary young cultivator? His respectful attitude astonished Shi Hao, but he slowly got used to it. He understood that Li Qiye was an extremely amazing alchemist.

Li Qiye didn't refuse and nodded his head: "Very well, we can go take a look at the capital. Shi Hao will come with me."

Prior to this, he intended to stay at Jadeblood Mountain for some time to teach Shi Hao pill refinement, but now Li Qiye had decided to take him to the capital.

"I..." Shi Hao was stunned since he had never been to the capital before.

It was a long journey from the Stonetreading County to the Giant Bamboo Country's capital. How long would it take for someone with Shi Hao's cultivation to get there? It was nearly impossible unless an expert decided to bring him along.

"That's good, that's good. Shi Hao should go take a look at the capital for more experience and broadening his horizons." Bai Weng added. He could tell that Li Qiye wanted to groom Shi Hao.

Li Qiye nodded his head and said: "Then it is decided."

Shi Hao couldn't contain his excitement since he never thought he would have an opportunity to visit the capital. This was one of his aspirations — to visit the heart of the Giant Bamboo Country!

After Li Qiye made his decision, the demon monarch couldn't help but rub his hands together in hesitation: "Young Noble Li..."

Li Qiye raised his brows and said: "Say what you want to say."

The demon monarch wryly laughed and said: "Recently, I have been collecting ingredients for a six transformations fate pill. I've been wanting to refine one to increase my cultivation, but I hadn't met the right alchemist. It is fate that we met today, so I wonder if you can refine a six transformations fate pill for me?"

He quickly added right after: "As for the payment, Young Noble Li can just say it."

Six transformations pills were meant for Heavenly Sovereigns. The demon monarch had cultivated for several thousand years, but his cultivation had been stuck at this bottleneck and couldn't reach the World Sovereign level.

Li Qiye glanced at him and asked: "Is this a test?"

"No, no, please don't misunderstand!" The monarch quickly waved his hands in denial and said: "If you don't want to, then just pretend like I never said anything. That was not my intention at all, it is just that I want the pill badly enough that I couldn't help but ask for your assistance."

Whether the monarch's cautious and respectful attitude were for show or were actually from the bottom of his heart, it was still the same case. At this moment, he didn't want to annoy Li Qiye, a supreme alchemist that the Giant Bamboo Country could only wish for!

“Fine, it doesn’t matter if it is a test or your desire for the pill.” Li Qiye said: “Since you showed respect, I will refine one for free this time. Luckily for you, you only want a six transformations pill. I would have asked for a sky high price for one with seven transformations. A fate pill of that level would bring along a tribulation after all, so I wouldn’t help just anyone.”

Six transformations pills were for Heavenly Sovereigns, and seven transformations pills were for Heavenly Kings. At the latter level, pill refinement would bring along quite a terrifying tribulation for the alchemist.

Because of this, fate pills of seven or more transformations had prohibitive pricing that only Heavenly Kings or Virtuous Paragons could afford.

### **Chapter 619: Refining Pills Like Frying Beans**

“Thank you, Young Noble Li. I am very, very grateful!” The monarch’s mind came back as he quickly took out his ingredients; all of them had transformed six times. All of these were good materials whose medicinal spirits had aged for a long time.

It was clear from a glance at the materials that the monarch did not hastily gather them as an excuse, he had indeed been gathering them for a long time for pill refinement.

“How do you want me to refine it?” Li Qiye looked at the materials then back at the monarch.

The monarch was surprised, but he quickly answered: “I am only a layman so Young Noble Li can decide everything.”

Li Qiye was very pleased with the monarch’s attitude. He had always been a person who prefers soft over hard. He smiled and took out the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron.

“Boom!” The cauldron’s flame erupted, but Li Qiye was too lazy to take a look and casually threw all the ingredients inside. Even in the era of the Alchemy God, very few people could compare to him regarding the dao of alchemy. In this generation, Li Qiye could personally refine pills, so after he got familiar with it, the whole process became a piece of cake to him. This type of fate pill refinement was no challenge unless it was an immortal pill!

“Crakkk—” A sound that resembled beans being fried appeared as the flame that danced like a dragon and phoenix refined the materials inside.

Although the monarch was not an alchemist, he was still thrown into a daze while watching the process.

Bai Weng had previously told him how Li Qiye refined pills so the monarch was mentally prepared. However, seeing it with his own eyes still left him shaking and breathless.

This was the second time Shi Hao and Bai Weng watched, but they were still astounded. Li Qiye’s style was very stimulating and impactful to watch for alchemists. They couldn’t see his process with their current level, but it was the most beautiful scene in the world, at least, for alchemists.

After a series of crackles, Li Qiye shouted quietly and turned off the fire before taking out the pill. In the blink of an eye, a six transformations fate pill flew into a gourd.

Li Qiye threw the gourd towards the monarch and put away his cauldron, then he lightly said: “Okay, take it.”

Li Qiye’s appearance didn’t look like he had just refined pills at all. Refining high level fate pills was a great challenge to alchemists; it was both tough and required full concentration.

The monarch couldn’t calm down as he asked blankly: “It’s done...? Just like that?”

This was the fastest pill refinement speed he had ever seen. No one in the world could be faster than Li Qiye.

Li Qiye drily answered this inquiry: “This is only a six transformations fate pill, one without a tribulation, so how long could it possibly take? This is not an imperial pill or an immortal pill after all; those would take some time.”

Others would think that Li Qiye was insane for saying such things. Even an Alchemy Saint couldn’t guarantee success for refining a six transformations pill in one go. If it was fast, then it would be one or two days; slow would be three to five days. Who could do it like Li Qiye? Refining pills like frying beans?

But of course, this was normal for Li Qiye. He had become proficient after refining pills back at the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect. Moreover, back in the remote times of the Desolate Era — the age of the Alchemy God, Li Qiye himself had developed many guidelines.

Half of the rules of modern alchemy were from the Alchemy God, and the other half were from Li Qiye! They were the standards that had been used for tens of millions of years.

After reclaiming the canon left behind by the Alchemy God, he had trained with the best alchemy dao in this world. He had practiced many times back in the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect, so his pill refinement had reached the zenith.

For him, as long as he put more effort into it, it would not be a problem to reach the Alchemy God’s level in the past. In fact, he was the one who guided the Alchemy God before he achieved his unparalleled success in the dao of alchemy. At the moment, the only pills that could be considered a challenge to Li Qiye were imperial pills, immortal pills, or incomparable items such as imperial medicines and era medicines; common alchemy creations were nothing to him.

At this moment, the three were at a complete loss for words and felt that Li Qiye’s answer was completely natural and without pretension.

Eventually, the demon monarch calmed down and poured the pill out of the gourd to take a look.

“Pop!” The monarch fell straight to the ground. His reaction shocked both Bai Weng and Shi Hao. Bai Weng helped him up then asked: “Demon Monarch, what is wrong?”

“This... this... How is this possible?!” The monarch lost his calm and involuntarily screamed: “This... is ninety percent purity!” His hand was shaking while holding onto this six transformations fate pill.

Bai Weng’s eyes were wide open as he looked at the fate pill in the monarch’s hand. This was more than just excellent; it was a ninety percent pure pill with a near golden color!

“Pop!” Bai Weng’s legs gave out as he also dropped to the ground and muttered in a daze: “No... way! Near golden color with ninety percent purity for a six transformations pill! This color is only something the finest nine transformations pills from the legends should have!”

Shi Hao also gasped as he watched this scene unfold. He was a Junior Alchemist, but he had heard of many legends before. Even a simple-minded fella like him realized how untouchable Li Qiye’s alchemy dao was!

It was no wonder why those two were so affected. A successful refinement was already amazing for a six transformations concoction; this meant that it had sixty percent purity. A bronze color was already of the finest grade. After all, the potency of ingredients that had only transformed six times was limited.

As the saying goes: pills are never naked. For alchemists, especially the high ranking ones, there were two standards for gauging the quality of fate pill: purity and color. [1. The raw is “pills are never barefoot”, so I’m guessing it is never naked and is saying that pills are easily gauged by their colors. This is one expression I do not know, and a google search only... ahem... led to some unsavory images. Just kidding, they were good images, albeit quite distracting.]

For example, a six transformations fate pill with sixty percent purity should help a Heavenly Sovereign increase his cultivation by sixty percent, but this was strictly theoretical.

Normally, in order for a pill to achieve the above, it needed to be of the finest grade with a golden color. Most of the time, fate pills with sixty percent purity could only increase a Heavenly Sovereign’s power by sixty percent in a minor level. Nevertheless, this was already quite precious.

More often than not, the six transformations pills refined by most alchemists might have sixty percent purity, but they would carry a slightly yellow color that resembled copper. These were already considered high grade.

However, Li Qiye was able to refine a ninety percent purity six transformations pill with a golden color, so how could others not be shocked? Even a Legendary Alchemist wouldn’t be able to refine such a pill — this was absolutely impossible!

Normally, only nine transformations pills would have ninety percent purity. It was already heaven-defying for a six transformations pill to have seventy percent purity. Once again, pills are never naked, and only nine transformations pills should have the near golden color.

Despite all of this knowledge, right here and now, this impossibility appeared on the six transformations pill, causing the group of three to lose their minds.

If six transformations pills with a bronze color and sixty percent purity refined by other alchemists were considered high-grade, then Li Qiye’s pill was of an immortal grade. Other pills were merely trash compared to this one!

“I’m... not... dreaming, right?” The monarch was extremely excited as he held the pill with quivering hands.

Such a fate pill wouldn’t only increase his cultivation by sixty percent. This was more than enough to help him break through his bottleneck and directly become a Heavenly King!

The monarch was even a little reluctant to take such a supreme pill. It could be said that this pill was rare even across the eons and was definitely worth keeping as a precious collectible.

“You are not dreaming.” Li Qiye slowly said: “You collected only the good stuff. Not only did all the materials transform six times, they aged well and had enough medicinal strength. If your materials were a bit worse, then it would have only been at eighty percent purity. It seems that you have spent a lot of effort collecting them.”

The monarch composed himself and deeply bowed before speaking with extreme gratitude: “The pill you are granting me is akin to a chance at a new life. This little demon has nothing to repay this debt. In the future, just say a single word and this little demon will not say no!”

The monarch’s gesture was not just for show. At his age, he had no chance of reaching the Heavenly King realm, so Li Qiye’s pill had completely changed the monarch’s fate. Although sovereigns and kings were only one realm apart, there was a huge gap between the two.

More importantly, even if Li Qiye was not an Alchemy Emperor at the moment, he would become one in the future! Although an Alchemy Emperor did not lord over the world like an Immortal Emperor, they were still a high and above existence beseeched for favors by countless Virtuous Paragons. It would be an honor to be of service to an Alchemy Emperor.

Regardless of the Alchemy Emperor’s cultivation, there would be times when Virtuous Paragons or even Immortal Emperors asked them for help!

Ancient Pine was only a Demon Monarch so he knew he was extremely lucky to be in Li Qiye’s presence.

Li Qiye leisurely accepted the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch’s bow and nodded his head to say: “Stand up, get ready to depart for the capital.”

Ancient Pine and Bai Weng voiced their agreement then went and waited outside.

After they left, Li Qiye pushed the box Ancient Pine had given him in front of Shi Hao and said: “You take it.”

“But...” Shi Hao was hesitant and didn’t dare to accept it. No matter what was inside the box, the monarch’s solemn expression earlier showed that it had to be a wonderful item.

## **Chapter 620: Giant Bamboo Country**

Of course, for Li Qiye, who had seen countless treasures, no matter what Ancient Pine’s gift was, it wouldn’t enter his sight. Li Qiye said: “Take it, maybe you will have a use for it.”

Shi Hao calmed down. He obediently listened to Li Qiye and accepted the box.

Li Qiye added: “Take whatever you can with you. Perhaps you will stay there from now on after this trip. As long as you work hard, the Giant Bamboo Country will not mistreat you.”

Shi Hao respectfully replied: “I will remember Brother Li’s words.” He engraved these words into his heart.

Outside of those close to him, Li Qiye wouldn't easily pass down merit laws or his alchemy dao to just anyone. His decision to teach Shi Hao was not only because he held high regards for Shi Hao, he also wanted to train him out of love for the Giant Bamboo Country so that it could have an alchemist with high potential later on.

Shi Hao went to gather his luggage. He was a bit unwilling at first, but in the end, he made up his mind and decided to go with Li Qiye to the capital. He was still young and couldn't contain his excitement.

The group followed the monarch to the capital. Ancient Pine was very attentive and acted respectfully as if he was a servant. This was quite a fascinating scene since the monarch was one of the eighteen demon monarchs of the Giant Bamboo Country, a great character who presided over an entire domain. But now, he was someone else's servant — this was quite difficult to believe.

However, the monarch was clear on the fact that he was allowed to attend to Li Qiye because Li Qiye liked him. Otherwise, he would not even be qualified to act as his attendant.

Meanwhile, Bai Weng played second fiddle to the monarch and took care of the menial tasks.

The Giant Bamboo Country's capital was a big and extremely prosperous city where demons and golems gathered.

The moment one set foot inside, they would see a gigantic tree growing from the depths of the imperial palace, a tree that towered all the way up into the clouds and covered half of the sky.

The capital was enveloped by the shadow of this bamboo tree, creating quite a scenic picture. The lushful green shade of the tree would amaze any new visitor to the city.

The name of the country came from this huge bamboo tree. Rumor has it that the country would remain strong for as long as the tree continued to live; some people believed that the tree was also a lot older than the Giant Bamboo Country.

No one in present times could state the origin of this tree, and there were very few writings about it even in the imperial palace. Another legend dictated that this was the Divine Guardian of the country, that the tree itself was an invincible god that had always protected the country. This was the reason why this country continued to exist for millions of years.

Despite this speculation, no one had ever seen the Divine Guardian take action before. For the past millions of years, the country enjoyed peace free of large-scale wars since no one ever attacked its capital.

It was a haven for demons. Although there were many golems here as well, it was still dominated by the demon race.

However, the progenitor of the country was neither golem nor demon. Those who didn't know about this particular piece of history would be shocked after learning this fact.

The old tales stated that the progenitor was the most amazing goddess or marvelous immortal fairy. It didn't matter whether she was a deity or an immortal, the progenitor was extremely powerful during that era.



Although the written records about the progenitor were scarce, it was a huge event in the entire Nine Worlds when she founded the Giant Bamboo Country.

At its inception, countless sects and tribes from all over the Nine Worlds came to celebrate the occasion, including the monstrous existences in the Stone Medicine World like the Alchemy Kingdom and the Jianlong Clan. The most popular rumor was that even the Immortal Emperor of that generation personally came!

Future generations were very skeptical of this matter. They felt that these records belonging to the Bamboo Country could have been embellished to flatter itself.

However, this was not only limited to the country's records, even the Alchemy Kingdom had the same tales in their historical annals.

These few words were shocking enough. All the races and Godkings and even an Immortal Emperor from all over the worlds came to visit!

The writings about the progenitor herself were very scarce as well. Some wrote that she was an immortal while others believed that she was a goddess.

Her origin and background remained a mystery and was without any records. What kind of existence was worthy of such respect that all the great existences over the Nine Worlds came to celebrate?

There were some debates regarding the personal arrival of an Immortal Emperor. This was written in the Giant Bamboo's records, but other lineages believed that the emperor only sent his congratulations and did not personally attend. Nevertheless, it was clear that even an Immortal Emperor was alerted of the founding of the Giant Bamboo Country.

Such a history was heavily debated in the Giant Bamboo Country and even throughout the Alchemy Realm. All were confused by why the Giant Bamboo Progenitor establishing her own country was such a big deal.

Despite the commotion of its founding, the country had never been powerful enough in the past millions of years to compare to any imperial lineage. In fact, it didn't even belong in the top rankings for great powers, but it had always been at peace. Even until now, no great powers or imperial lineages had dared to attack the Giant Bamboo Country.

This always-peaceful country followed the system where its royal lord position would be passed down to the most capable person. Thus, despite not being a strong country, it was heaven for those desiring a mundane life, especially for ordinary mortals.

Li Qiye and his group entered the capital. The four of them harbored different emotions and thoughts.

Shi Hao, the youngest of the group, was especially excited for his first visiting the capital. He looked around like a country bumpkin visiting a city for the first time and was especially shaken to see the huge bamboo tree that pierced into the clouds.

Of course, the boy was ecstatic since his dream was to visit the capital. Today, it had been fulfilled, so how could he not be overwhelmed with joy?

As for Li Qiye, complex emotions ran rampant as he looked at the huge bamboo tree up in the clouds and the capital below.

After so many years, the Giant Bamboo Country was still here. The bamboo tree was still here, but his old acquaintances were gone. After Yan'er left, Li Qiye still visited the Giant Bamboo Country very often. However, in future generations, every time he came to the Stone Medicine World, he only stayed outside to look at this old city from afar as well as its vast scenery instead of entering the capital.

To Li Qiye, this was a place that contained many memories that would evoke sadness upon remembrance.

In this life, Li Qiye had finally stepped inside the capital. Although the people living here were no longer the same, Li Qiye still wanted to see this country established by Yan'er as well as visit a few places from so many years ago.

Since Li Qiye was silent, Bai Weng and Ancient Pine next to him especially didn't dare to speak. Only the young Shi Hao was excited and found interest in everything within his gaze.

It was already nighttime when they reached the capital. Ancient Pine had his own mansion in the capital so he invited Li Qiye to his place, saying: "Young Noble, you must be tired from the long trip. It is now dark, so how about you stay here and rest?"

Li Qiye wanted to stay at the capital for a while, thus he was not in a hurry and nodded his agreement.

After arranging a place for Li Qiye as well as telling the servants to treat him with the utmost care, Ancient Pine quickly entered the imperial palace to seek an audience with the Demon King.

"Demon Monarch, what matter requires that you need to see me at night?" Madam Zi Yan curiously asked after the monarch asked to see her at this time of day.

Ancient Pine quickly said: "Your Majesty, I want to introduce to you an alchemist. You must get him to stay!"

In addition to being very humble and open-minded, Madam Zi Yan was a wise king and always searched for talents. After hearing this, she shook her head and said: "Elder Pine, recently, all the monarchs have been recommending me alchemists. A few of them aren't bad, but you don't need to be so hasty like this." [1. Pine = Song. I believe the more accurate translation here would be, Elder Song, since Song might actually be his name too, but Pine is okay I suppose.]

"No, Your Majesty, Young Noble Li is peerless. Those other alchemists can't compare to him! I wouldn't be in such a hurry if it was an ordinary alchemist." Ancient Pine quickly added: "It is more apt to say that we need to beseech such a supreme alchemist like Young Noble Li."

Madam Zi Yan was quite surprised and asked: "He is that great? How does he compare to the four alchemy prodigies?"

"Those four are nothing compared to Young Noble Li." Ancient Pine quickly answered: "The future Alchemy Emperor will be Young Noble Li for sure!"

"Elder Pine, you have to consider carefully before saying such words." Madam Zi Yan was stunned and had to speak in a serious tone. All eighteen demon monarchs were experienced and were not the

impetuous type. However, Ancient Pine's words just now were very grave, so Madam Zi Yan had no choice but to act with discretion.

[spoiler title='620 Teaser']Of course, for Li Qiye, who had seen countless treasures, no matter what Ancient Pine's gift was, it wouldn't enter his sight. Li Qiye said: "Take it, maybe you will have a use for it."

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