

Domination 641

Chapter 641: Invitation

And now, his goal was to become a Legendary Alchemist. He was able to dream of this due to Li Qiye.

Shi Hao and Bai Weng then took their leave. Shi Hao was still young and inexperienced, so he needed an older alchemist like Bai Weng to keep watch over him in order to avoid detours on his future path.

After the two left, Madam Zi Yan asked Li Qiye: "Since Young Noble is our representative for the Alchemy Conference, is there anything we can do to help prepare?"

"There's nothing too important." Li Qiye smiled and said: "However, I am used to being alone and doing my own things, so I hope that during the conference, there will be no accompanying alchemists. That would just be a waste of my time."

Madam Zi Yan nodded her head and promised: "Don't worry, Young Noble. As long as you attend the conference, you will be our only participant."

This guarantee caused the Eagle Demon Monarch's expression to dim. Prior to this, the Giant Bamboo Country intended to have the Qing Clan's descendant as a participant, and Eagle was quite familiar with the Qing Clan.

However, he was not unhappy about this at all since it was quite beneficial for the Giant Bamboo Country. It was just that he had yet to see Li Qiye's true abilities, so there was a thorn in his heart.

"I have no other requests then. Wait until the conference, I trust that the Giant Bamboo Country will return triumphantly."

After a moment of silence, Madam Zi Yan asked: "I wonder if Young Noble is interested in accepting an alchemy position at the Giant Bamboo?" She truly wanted to keep Li Qiye since anyone would want to recruit such a supreme alchemist. Moreover, she always had a love for talent, so a wise Demon King like her wouldn't give up on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Her invitation caused him to smile and shake his head: "Madam, I am not trying to be arrogant, but if I wanted to seek power, then I wouldn't choose the Giant Bamboo Country. As long as I say the words, I trust that countless imperial lineages will want me. However, if we take a step back and say that I wanted to stay at the Giant Bamboo Country, then you wouldn't be able to handle my condition."

Others would be unhappy with Li Qiye's arrogant tone, but Madam Zi Yan was a modest person and smiled: "What is your condition? I would like to hear it."

Li Qiye looked at her and couldn't help but smile back. The Giant Bamboo Country didn't have anything for him to desire. He spoke clearly: "If you really want to hear my condition... I am currently missing a driver by my side, are you interested in this position?"

This was met with immediate displeasure from all the Demon Monarchs. One of them stepped out and shouted at Li Qiye: "How presumptuous!"

"Young Noble, you went too far." Even Ancient Pine couldn't help but stand up and speak for his ruler.

All the monarchs glared at Li Qiye. To them, Li Qiye's statement just now was humiliating both to their Royal Lord and country.

Although Giant Bamboo was no imperial lineage, it was still a first-class power. It had a considerable status in the Stone Medicine World. Moreover, not to mention that their Demon King was a Heavenly King, she was also extremely beautiful and without a lack of suitors.

In fact, many young prodigies tried to court her. If she so desired, she could have married into an imperial lineage already. However, she let go of her personal matters and focused on the Giant Bamboo Country.

So now, when Li Qiye requested for her to be his driver, how could the other monarchs stand it? This was clearly insulting their Demon King and country.

They were furious, but Madam Zi Yan waved her hand to calm them. She looked at Li Qiye and suddenly remembered the words he said back in the ancient house.

She noticed his calm and nonchalant appearance devoid of any sign of hubris, but she couldn't tell where he was getting his confidence from.

If a person acting in this manner was not arrogant, it meant that they were strong enough. Others might feel that this type of action was overbearing, but to him, it was natural and not a big deal.

If Li Qiye was the powerful type, then she had failed to see through him — this young man standing in front of her.

Anyone else would instantly be driven insane or would walk away after hearing such humiliating words, but Madam Zi Yan was both humble and understanding as she showed no sign of anger.

She looked at him and slowly spoke: "Young Noble is truly confident."

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head to say: "The truth is, I selected you because I appreciate Giant Bamboo, and I feel that your personality is not bad. This has nothing to do with confidence. To be frank, when it comes to qualifications, even a descendant of an imperial lineage might not enter my sight."

The calm Madam Zi Yan inquired further: "Then so to say, Young Noble believes that I should feel honored for being chosen as your driver?"

"You are correct." Li Qiye flatly replied: "Being a driver for me is indeed an honor. You are a Demon King, a ruler of a country, so what will your future accomplishments be? At best, you will stop at Virtuous Paragon. Will you be able to earn divine bestowment? As for Godking, this is far beyond your reach."

His response stunned her. She was indeed aspiring to become a Virtuous Paragon, but obtaining a divine title was too difficult for her, and the title of Godking was basically impossible.

It was not due to a lack of confidence, but rather, a deep understanding of her capabilities. Since the start of time, which Godking had not been heaven-defying? Those who gave themselves the title are excluded from this, but real Godkings were all apex existences and not far off from Immortal Emperors.

Li Qiye smiled and said: "If you become my driver, then your figure will be there as we hover over myriad races. When my carriage departs, myriad races will prostrate and Immortal Emperors will come

to greet us. If you stay next to my side and accept some of my pointers, you will gain boundless benefits for the future!”

“What a big tone.” The Eagle Demon Monarch unhappily snorted by the side.

Li Qiye still smiled without batting an eye and continued: “It is fine if you don’t believe me. I am only speaking the truth.”

And this was indeed the truth. For tens of millions of years, Li Qiye’s drivers all enjoyed illustrious fame. Even if they were not Godkings, they were still able to sweep through the Nine Worlds. The weak were not eligible to become his driver. Keep in mind that back when Li Qiye’s carriage was on the move, there used to be Immortal Emperors who came to greet him, thus his driver had to be extremely strong to be worthy of this role.

Madam Zi Yan waved her sleeve to prevent the Eagle Demon Monarch from speaking any further. She only sighed and didn’t say anything else.

Li Qiye cheerfully said: “Of course, I won’t force the unwilling. You can go back and think it over.”

Madam Zi Yan didn’t say anything else. This request was indeed too unreasonable for her.

Seeing the tense atmosphere, the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch rubbed his palms and changed the subject: “Hahahaha! There is nothing to worry about since Young Noble Li has agreed to represent us at the conference this time.”

“Young Noble is a supreme alchemist with unprecedented skill at pill refinement.” The Eagle Demon Monarch spoke at this time: “Recently, I’ve been trying to find an alchemist but was unable to find a suitable one. I wonder if you are interested in making me one cauldron? As long as you name the price, I will be able to satisfy your demand.”

Eagle’s words caused all the demon monarchs to stare at Li Qiye, and Madam Zi Yan was no exception.

Although Ancient Pine had recalled Li Qiye’s pill refinement process and they did not doubt him, there would be a sense of unrest looming in their minds until they saw it with their own eyes.

“Is this a test?” Li Qiye smilingly asked.

Ancient Pine stepped in to smooth things over and said: “It is a misunderstanding, Young Noble. The Eagle Demon Monarch had also gathered a lot of ingredients but hasn’t been able to find the right alchemist, so today, when he met such a matchless one such as yourself, he couldn’t help but ask...”

Li Qiye interrupted Ancient Pine. He didn’t look at the Eagle Demon Monarch but straight at Madam Zi Yan to say: “I don’t care for this test or whatever. Since Madam Zi Yan showed sincerity and I quite like her as well, if I don’t show a bit of skill, then she won’t be able to rest easy. Very well, I will demonstrate my ability, but there is no challenge with fate pills. Let us raise the difficulty or else it will be very boring.”

The other monarchs couldn’t help but glance at each other. This fella was too outrageous! Fate pills are no challenge to him? Many alchemists struggled to refine them since they were a benchmark for alchemists.

But now, Li Qiye was saying that fate pill refinement was not enough to reach the apex.

The alchemist among them spoke: "If Young Noble is interested, I have some ingredients here. They are part of my family's ointment powder recipe. Although it is not a supreme recipe or anything, it is still quite famous."

The other monarchs took a deep breath since refining such a thing would be impossible for Li Qiye.

Recipes for physique pastes, longevity medicines, and fate pills were all public for alchemists in the world. However, it was different for ointments. Every ointment, such as this type of powder, all had their unique characteristics and unique process of creation.

Chapter 642: Matchless Dao of Alchemy

Although there were public recipes for ointments circulating in the Nine Worlds, their effects were quite limited. Only the secret and exclusive recipes had powerful effects; some could even revive the dead! [1. More of a common expression meaning extremely potent, or it could be literal in this case. Who knows?]

Outside of the owners, no outsider was able to create these types of ointments. Even if they had the same amount of ingredients, outsiders wouldn't know when to insert a particular ingredient or what the correct level of heat is.

"Brother Sun, this... is a bit unsuitable for this circumstance."

This challenge was too difficult; anyone with a sliver of common sense would know that this was impossible. How could an outsider refine special ointments?

"Bring it here." Li Qiye calmly told the alchemist monarch without batting an eye.

The alchemist didn't dare to believe his own ears. He only said it to make it difficult for Li Qiye and wanted to attack his arrogant attitude earlier. It was quite inappropriate of Li Qiye to ask their Demon King to be his driver, so the alchemist resorted to mentioning this impossible task. Who would have thought that Li Qiye would actually agree?

The alchemist skeptically handed the ingredients over to Li Qiye.

Li Qiye looked at the batch of ingredients before him and laughed. Afterward, he sniffed the medicinal fragrances. There were dozens of types of ingredients, but Li Qiye immediately knew what they were as well as their medicinal properties and method of refinement after a quick whiff.

This task couldn't trouble Li Qiye. For millions of years, Li Qiye had tried many different recipes, especially during the era of the Alchemy God. The two of them had crafted and attempted countless recipes.

Later on through the endless river of time, Li Qiye experimented even more and had taught many alchemists.

Although the alchemist monarch's recipe wasn't his own unique mix, Li Qiye knew how to refine it since he understood the properties of the ingredients.

With regards to alchemy, no one would dare to refute Li Qiye if they knew any better, at least, in the present era.

Madam Zi Yan and the other monarchs watched Li Qiye with bated breaths. Ancient Pine had told them of Li Qiye's pill refinement process and how heaven-defying it was.

They all felt that if he indeed had such marvelous abilities, then he would for sure be above the four current alchemy prodigies of the Stone Medicine World. They held high hopes for him, so if he failed, then they would be very dejected.

After inhaling the medicinal scents, Li Qiye took out the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron.

"Boom!" As it landed, Li Qiye controlled the Fire Source inside the cauldron to spew out its hottest flame. This incomparable flame could melt everything in the world, even divine metals.

When the flame poured out from the cauldron, Madam Zi Yan and the other monarchs couldn't handle the terrifying heat and had to back up.

This hottest flame suddenly turned into a pot that resembled a tea kettle, giving off a very substantial vibe as if it was real. The entire kettle was red from the scorching heat.

Li Qiye threw all the ingredients into the kettle where they instantly melted a second later.

The alchemist monarch was stunned: "What kind of refinement is this?!" He felt that this was going too far.

The other monarchs who weren't alchemists and Madam Zi Yan were shocked as well. As cultivators from the Stone Medicine World, they all knew a thing or two about the common procedures of creating pills and ointments.

These things couldn't be created by just throwing the ingredients inside all at once and refine them together. Most of the time, it had to be in a specific order in order to not diminish the medicinal properties of the ingredients.

But now, Li Qiye was foregoing all of that for his own method, resulting in them becoming dumbfounded.

"Zssh!" Right when the group was stunned, the monstrous fire in the pot suddenly liquefied and submerged the ingredients as if it was boiling water.

Everything happened all too fast. Right when the flame turned into water, it receded as fast as the tide and immediately extracted all the essences from each of the ingredients.

What was even more terrifying was that all of the extracted essences quickly paired together at an incredible speed. Even the Goddess Weaver's dexterous hands would not be able to match this speed. [2. A Goddess Weaver representing the star Vega, a goddess in Chinese ancient mythology. Her job is to weave the clouds and love; protect women and children. She is popular throughout Asia and has many differing versions of her tales. The Jade Emperor has a daughter named Zhinü (simplified Chinese: 织女; traditional Chinese: 織女; pinyin: zhī nǚ or Chih'nü, literally: weaver girl). She is most often represented as responsible for weaving colorful clouds in the heavens. In some versions, she is the Goddess Weaver,

daughter of the Jade Emperor, and the Celestial Queen Mother who weaves the Silver River (known in the West as the Milky Way), which gives light to heaven and earth. In other versions, she is a seamstress who works for the Jade Emperor.]

The quick pairings between ingredients were fearsome, such as the Red Scorpion's venom combining with the liquid extract of Yin Snakegrass. Under the kettle's flame, the two essences intertwined and melted to instantly take shape.

These changes would normally take days, yet all of them were now transformed in an instant.

"Xshh!" The extremely hot flame quickly swept through the liquefied medicinal essences and tempered it into a solid.

"Pop!" The flame disappeared along with the kettle pot, leaving behind only a packet of ointment skillfully wrapped by Li Qiye using alchemy paper. He then put away the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron.

Meanwhile, Madam Zi Yan and the eighteen monarchs stood there, frozen.

In theory, an alchemist would either leave or not allow outsiders to witness them in action, lest their techniques be stolen. However, Li Qiye didn't make this request. Even when the group witnessed — with their own eyes — Li Qiye's method, they were unable to replicate it since they were completely staggered by the process.

From the introduction of the ingredients till the formation of the ointment, it all happened way too fast, lasting only a few seconds. It was much shorter than the time it took to boil a pot of tea.

They had never seen this method of ointment creation before. The alchemist monarch was especially stunned. This was his family's recipe and others definitely didn't have it, so they shouldn't be able to create this ointment.

And even if it was possible to create it, it shouldn't have been this fast.

The monarch was one of the strongest alchemists in his clan, but it would take him at least one day to create this special recipe. Those less skilled in his clan would require at least three days.

But now, Li Qiye did it with just a swing of his hand — this was completely astonishing to them. Both the speed and how he did it without knowing the recipe left them aghast.

Inside the alchemy wrapping, the ointment slowly hardened. Li Qiye then gently covered it with his palm before handing the wrapped up ointment to the alchemist: "Take it."

The alchemist monarch took a deep breath in his attempt to calm down after seeing this. Li Qiye's little action was the last important procedure after wrapping up the special formula. Without this procedure, the effect of the ointment would be greatly affected.

Thus, how could the alchemist not be shocked when Li Qiye knew of this action? If he didn't believe in his own clan, he would have suspected that Li Qiye had stolen the formula even though he knew that this was impossible.

While everyone else slowly calmed down, the alchemist took his time opening the wrapped up ointment.

Everyone looked over to examine the ointment resting on top of his palm. The alchemist quickly became pale after seeing the ointment and had to take several steps back: "How... How... could this be? This... is of the best quality! All the impurities are gone. This ointment, once applied to the wound, would quickly permeate into the body and heal the injury instantly!" The alchemist was frightened to the point where he eventually dropped down to the ground.

Another monarch was also aghast after seeing the ointment. A different monarch praised right away: "What a great ointment, it is several times better than the one Brother Sun gave to me."

"It's not just several times better..." The alchemist sitting on the floor acted as if he had seen a ghost. After a while, he managed to regain his wits and smiled wryly to say: "No one can create this ointment at this quality outside of our progenitor. There is a legend in my clan: if we refine our clan's ointment to the ultimate limit, then it can almost compare to the Soulrending Immortal Powder of the Alchemy Kingdom and would be much better than many of the contemporary ointments."

At this point, the alchemist paused for a second and exclaimed in both excitement and disbelief: "Prior to this, I had always thought that it was impossible, but I can now see that it is indeed true... So, so... amazing."

The others responded with gasps. The Soulrending Immortal Powder was a famous ointment exclusive to the Alchemy Kingdom. Countless big characters didn't mind throwing away their wealth just to ask for a little bit of Soulrending Immortal Powder.

Not only was Li Qiye's ointment of the highest quality, the process was also too frightening.

At this point, everyone was speechless from shock. This was not Ancient Pine's first time watching Li Qiye performing alchemy, but he was still shaken despite being mentally prepared.

Chapter 643: Dao Of The Ointment

At this time, Madam Zi Yan and all the other Demon Monarchs truly understood what Ancient Pine had said before — compared to Li Qiye, the four alchemy prodigies are nothing, as common as the clouds in the sky.

The truth was that it wasn't just the four prodigies, the majority of the contemporary alchemists, including Legendary Alchemists from the previous generation, were not comparable to Li Qiye.

All of them felt that him becoming the Alchemy Emperor was certain since no one could touch him. As long as he remained alive in this world, his alchemy throne would be assured.

Eventually, the alchemist monarch looked at Li Qiye in disbelief and stammered: "How... can this be? Our clan's ointment formula... We definitely didn't expose it to outsiders... so how... did you know?"

He couldn't believe it. He absolutely wouldn't believe this if he had heard it, but alas, he had seen it with his own eyes. Not even in his wildest dreams would he expect his secret formula to be refined by an outsider using a method that even their clan couldn't replicate. Even their progenitor who created this formula couldn't perform his method.

"There is no need for me to know it." Li Qiye answered with a smile.

The alchemist monarch shockingly said: “Im... possible. How could you refine and temper it if you didn’t know the formula?”

The rest of the crowd stared at Li Qiye. They weren’t alchemists, but they knew about the common laws of the alchemy dao since they were cultivators of the Stone Medicine World.

One absolutely wouldn’t be able to refine ointments without the formula — this was the most basic of all rules. Everyone knew about it.

“Is that so? But that only applies to others and not me.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said: “Whether it is purifying Longevity Medicines, refining Fate Pills or tempering ointments, the crux of all these processes is to extract their essences and utilize their effects. As long as you know all the medicinal properties, you would be able to uncover the effects of the individual ingredients once mixed together.

“For example, with your ointment, there is Crimson Scorpion’s venom and Yin Snakegrass, so the venom has to match the grass. The combination of the essences from these two things will be able to stop bleeding and reconnect broken bones. In order to temper these two together, you need a powerful flame. Among the rest of these ingredients, you also have Inner-Cold Stone; this type of stone is best when burned to harmonize the two essences previously stated...” Li Qiye took his time to explain his process.

The most profound and complex alchemy dao became easy to understand as if it was an ordinary matter when it came from Li Qiye’s mouth.

He was able to describe — in detail — each of the reasonings behind the medicinal effects from the ingredients to an unbelievable extent.

The eighteen monarchs and Madam Zi Yan became astonished after listening to his explanation as they stood there, frozen. Even those who weren’t alchemists could understand and realize how frightening Li Qiye was.

He looked at the frozen bunch and lightly said: “For any kind of pills and creations, in principle, we are not the ones who create them, and neither are the recipes. We only manage to recognize the formulas because the alchemy foundation has always existed, it is only that the world had yet to discover its magical effects.”

The group continued to be speechless. It didn’t matter whether they were the arrogant type or not, at this moment, they were truly convinced. They were shaken by Li Qiye’s skill in the dao of alchemy and felt that no one in the world could compete with him in this regard.

In the end, the alchemist monarch said while still slumped: “My life... I’ve wasted my life studying... I didn’t even know the basics...”

This alchemist monarch could be said to be the most skillful among the loyal subjects of the Giant Bamboo Country, and others called him the number one Demon Monarch alchemist. But today, he felt that his knowledge and skill regarding the alchemy dao that he accumulated throughout his entire life was not worth mentioning. The young man before him, Li Qiye, was a vast ocean while he was only a drop of water.

A drop of water was indescribably insignificant compared to the vast sea.

Today, Li Qiye had shattered his confidence since he felt that he didn't even manage to grasp the basics of the alchemy dao. Several other demon monarchs slumped as well and understood how frightening Li Qiye's skill was.

A while later, Madam Zi Yan shuddered and calmed down, then she asked: "Young Noble Li, may I ask how long you have been studying the dao of alchemy for?"

"How long you say?" Li Qiye shook his head and said: "I do not know, but I can say that pill refinement is only a hobby for me to relax in my spare time."

"Hob... by?" Even a Demon King like Madam Zi Yan nearly choked after hearing this. She was not the only one since something similar occurred to the eighteen monarchs.

"Only a hobby?" One monarch even wanted to prostrate out of disbelief. This was not just a literary expression.

Li Qiye's answer sounded awfully pretentious, but since he had such abilities, no one thought that he was just bragging. Unfortunately, it had the effect of causing the alchemist monarch to want to slam his head into a wall to commit suicide. This was only a hobby? A hobby yet he could already become an Alchemy Emperor? Then those other alchemists who spent their whole life on this path should just die already. Could he at least show some mercy to those who couldn't become an Alchemy Emperor despite striving for it throughout their entire life?

At this moment, all of them finally had their doubts erased and no longer felt that Li Qiye was being too arrogant. They decided to leave and, compared to earlier, the monarchs were much more respectful. Alchemists had a great status in the Stone Medicine World, and Li Qiye's ability was comparable to an Alchemy Emperor, so how could they not be respectful?

Before leaving, Madam Zi Yan invited Li Qiye: "How about Young Noble Li come stay at the palace for a couple of days?"

She felt that he was a supreme alchemist and hoped that she could keep him here.

Li Qiye immediately rejected: "No need, I am quite comfortable here."

Madam Zi Yan didn't dwell on the issue after Li Qiye declined. Before leaving, she also told Ancient Pine to take great care of Li Qiye and ensure that nothing happened.

The next day, Madam Zi Yan started another conference in the palace with all eighteen Demon Monarchs.

She commenced the conference: "Today's topic is Young Noble Li. Fellow Monarchs may state your opinions."

The eighteen looked at each other and weren't sure of what to say. One of them began: "Your Highness, we must keep a great alchemist like Young Noble Li at all costs. If we could have an Alchemy Emperor, then who in the Stone Medicine World wouldn't respect us in the future?"

Madam Zi Yan only forced a smile and gently sighed: "What can we do to keep him here? A future Alchemy Emperor — this noble role is beyond words. What do we have to make him stay?"

The eighteen monarchs were silent. Indeed, an Alchemy Emperor, a priceless treasure, would be adored no matter the generation. Even imperial lineages would beg for one to stay.

“It is already quite good that Young Noble Li agreed to participate in the conference for us.” Madam Zi Yan lamented. It was not from a lack of confidence, but an Alchemy Emperor was simply too highly sought after.

“Shi Hao is a good place to start since Young Noble Li seems to value him a lot.” The Eagle Demon Monarch deepened his tone.

Another monarch spoke: “What the Eagle Demon Monarch said makes sense. Even if we can’t keep him here, we can invite him to the Giant Bamboo Country even if it’s only in name. Then, we’ll still greatly benefit.”

“Even if it is only titular, what do we use to tempt him?” Ancient Pine said: “In my opinion, very few things are capable of doing so. It seems that nothing can enter his eyes.”

Ancient Pine’s words were not unreasonable. Back in the Golem Square, Li Qiye threw out Immortal Emperor Refined Jades; a person who could do so would not lack divine weapons or immortal items. And even if these types of items could tempt him, the Giant Bamboo Country did not possess such things.

A Demon Monarch suddenly remembered something and said: “Oh... We do have something. This item might be something all alchemists crave.”

Madam Zi Yan’s eyes became serious and slowly asked: “Demon Monarch is talking about the legendary Immortal Nectar?”

“Yes!” This Demon Monarch replied: “I heard that even Alchemy Emperors from the Alchemy Kingdom wanted our Giant Bamboo’s Immortal Nectar. Maybe this nectar will be able to tempt Young Noble Li.”

[spoiler title='643 Teaser']At this time, Madam Zi Yan and all the other Demon Monarchs truly understood what Ancient Pine had said before — compared to Li Qiye, the four alchemy prodigies are nothing and are as common as the clouds in the sky.

The truth was that it wasn’t just the four prodigies, the majority of the contemporary alchemists, including Legendary Alchemists from the previous generation, were not comparable to Li Qiye.

All of them felt that him becoming the Alchemy Emperor was certain since no one could touch him. As long as he remained alive in this world, his alchemy throne would be assured.

Eventually, the alchemist monarch looked at Li Qiye in disbelief and stammered: “How... can this be? Our clan’s ointment formula... We definitely didn’t expose it to outsiders... so how... did you know?”

He couldn’t believe it. He absolutely wouldn’t believe this if he had heard it, but alas, he had seen it with his own eyes. Not even in his wildest dreams would he expect his secret formula to be refined by an outsider using a method that even their clan couldn’t replicate. Even their progenitor who created this formula couldn’t perform his method.

“There is no need for me to know it.” Li Qiye answered with a smile.

The alchemist monarch shockingly said: “Im... possible. How could you refine and temper it if you didn’t know the formula?”

The rest of the crowd stared at Li Qiye. They weren’t alchemists, but they knew about the common laws of the alchemy dao since they were cultivators of the Stone Medicine World.

One absolutely wouldn’t be able to refine ointments without the formula — this was the most basic of all rules. Everyone knew about it.

“Is that so? But that only applies to others and not me.”

Chapter 644: Legendary Immortal Nectar

“Our Immortal Nectar...” Madam Zi Yan smiled wryly before looking at the eighteen monarchs and asked: “Has any Demon Monarch seen our Immortal Nectar before?”

This was met with silence since they only knew about it as part of a legend, a tale that told about the supreme treasure of the Giant Bamboo Country — the Immortal Nectar. However, this was strictly folklore since none had seen it before.

Generations of Royal Lords did not believe in this legend or the nectar’s existence. This doubt was not surprising at all since seeing was believing.

The monarchs were silent, not knowing what to say, and Madam Zi Yan was no exception. This mythical nectar was rumored to be extremely amazing.

In fact, Madam Zi Yan didn’t know whether to believe in its existence or not since there were formal records in the palace that verified its existence. However, its location and the method to obtain it remained unknown. As the Royal Lord, she had read many records but couldn’t find a clue of its whereabouts.

“This Immortal Nectar...” Another Demon Monarch bitterly laughed: “Who knows if this elixir truly exists or not. Since none of us have seen it before, it would be very difficult to convince Young Noble Li by using such an impalpable item.”

The Eagle Demon Monarch spoke austerely: “Not necessarily. Although people said that many had searched all over our country to no avail, there is still one location that remains untouched.”

All the monarchs glanced at each other upon hearing this. Ancient Pine deepened his tone to say: “Brother Eagle is referring to the Bamboo Garden?”

“Correct! The Bamboo Garden! If our country does indeed have this Immortal Nectar, then it is probably inside the Bamboo Garden.” Eagle answered.

A different monarch shook his head and said: “Only the heavens will know. Who has ever been to the Bamboo Garden before? Take a step back and pretend that it is in there, it would still only be like flowers in the mirror and the moon on the water’s surface.” [1. It is right in front of you, but you cannot seize it.]

All the monarchs nodded their heads in agreement. This was indeed the case; after many generations, no disciple from the country had been to the Bamboo Garden.

It was a sacred and forbidden ground of the country. It was an extremely old garden behind the imperial palace where the huge bamboo took root.

Behind it was also the Elegant Azure Mountains, a very beneficial location. Even to the present day, this huge bamboo was the Giant Bamboo's Divine Guardian, thus the country was named after it. However, no one had ever been able to enter this garden outside of the country's progenitor.

No matter how powerful the future disciples were, they couldn't enter the garden, not even Virtuous Paragons.

There were many rumors about the Bamboo Garden. One of them was that this bamboo came from the Immortal World and was personally planted in this place by a deity. After the deity planted it, he also sealed the surrounding garden of this tree. This immortal bamboo grew bigger and bigger as it became even more powerful. Eventually, it took on its present size and finally became a deity.

The seal of the Bamboo Garden didn't weaken and instead became even more powerful after the bamboo became a deity. No one could approach it and outsiders didn't know of the reason.

"It doesn't matter how hard it is to enter." The Eagle Demon Monarch said: "For tens of millions of years, countless alchemists have been interested in our Immortal Nectar, and even Alchemy Emperors were no exceptions. As an alchemist, maybe Young Noble Li will also be interested in our Immortal Nectar. If we promise him this legendary nectar, then maybe he will agree to stay. Whether he can enter the garden or not is his own business. However, if he is able to do so, then it would still be beneficial for our country."

The monarchs pondered on this matter once more. The Eagle Demon Monarch's method was to pass the ball over to Li Qiye since the country itself didn't know where the nectar was.

Madam Zi Yan pondered for a bit as well and said: "It is not a bad suggestion." However, she shook her head afterward and continued on: "But it is trickery and we of the Giant Bamboo Country shouldn't resort to such a thing."

The Eagle Demon Monarch quickly replied: "Your Majesty, this cannot be considered trickery. We are only promising him the nectar. As long as he can get to it, he can have as much as he wants."

All the other monarchs were moved by this scheme since, if it was successful, the country would gain an Alchemy Emperor!

However, Madam Zi Yan still rejected the idea: "No, we will not carry this out. Whether Young Noble Li stays or not... Let us just leave it up to fate. Once this scheme comes out into the open, our relationship will deteriorate. Even if he doesn't stay in our country as a guest, we shouldn't try to scheme like this."

"But Your Majesty..." The Eagle Demon Monarch quickly uttered.

Madam Zi Yan interrupted him: "I will find time to carefully talk about being a guest alchemist with Young Noble Li, including the matter of the Immortal Nectar. However, we will not use any deceptive words but rather sincerity instead."

The Eagle Demon Monarch could only sigh and didn't say anything else after seeing Madam Zi Yan's firm resolution.

At this time, a confidant came to report: "Your Majesty, First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan seeks an audience."

The eighteen monarchs all stared at the madam. She grimaced and said: "We will not be seeing guests at this moment."

The confidant replied: "First Young Noble said that he must see Your Highness to speak about the Alchemy Conference."

Madam Zi Yan's expression became heavy as she raised her voice: "Tell Young Noble Huangfu that I don't have time to see him right now!"

Over the years, Madam Zi Yan had a good reputation and was known to be both humble and generous to talents. She was keen on recruiting talented people from all over the world, so it was rare to see her act like this.

The confidant couldn't help but lower his voice: "But a Huangfu Ancestor is also accompanying First Young Noble."

After hearing this, Madam Zi Yan's expression suddenly turned cold, and the eighteen monarchs' faces contorted as well. Ancient Pine questioned: "What is Huangfu Hao trying to do? Force this marriage?"

Originally, Madam Zi Yan once said that she was seeking a gifted alchemist to participate in the Alchemy Conference to represent the Giant Bamboo Country. Any qualified alchemist could make any demand.

Huangfu Hao also participated in this. He came to the Giant Bamboo Country not only for the Golem Square's auction but also to see Madam Zi Yan.

He told the madam that he agreed to represent them and would win what they desired.

These were not just mere words since he was dubbed the fifth alchemy prodigy by many others. Although his accomplishments and fame regarding the alchemy dao were not as illustrious as the other four, he came from an alchemy clan so his personal abilities were not bad at all. Very few geniuses could compare to him outside of the other four.

However, he also had one condition if he were to participate in the conference. He desired a marriage between the Giant Bamboo Country and the Huangfu Clan, one between him and Madam Zi Yan.

This was not a strange request at all for she had never lacked suitors and admirers. She was a charming and beautiful Demon King, and her looks, temperament, intelligence, and cultivation left no room for criticism. Moreover, she was the ideal virtuous wife for many men.

However, Madam Zi Yan immediately refused Huangfu Hao's request with a firm resolution.

Her countenance turned cold after hearing the confidant. Normally, she carried a gentle aura, but she was now emitting a cold energy as she was quite enraged.

Huangfu Hao's gesture was not as simple as it seemed. With an ancestor with him, it was clear that he was not just here to talk and was already leaning towards the path of coercion.

“It is rare for a Huangfu Ancestor to come to our country while keeping such a low profile.” The Madam coldly spoke.

The eighteen monarchs were furious as well. It was a different matter if the Huangfu Clan Master was to come for the marriage proposal with Huangfu Hao, but an ancestor was a totally different story.

How could an ancestor from a great power come into being so easily? Such an existence should be sealed underground unless a great matter beckoned their presence. Now, his presence meant that this marriage proposal must be successful, and this showed the determination of Huangfu Hao and the Huangfu Clan.

One Demon Monarch couldn't help but coldly say: “The Huangfu Clan's actions are intolerable. Do they think our Giant Bamboo Country has no one that could stop them? Hmph!”

Huangfu Hao came to their abode with force, so how could the eighteen monarchs not be furious?

At this time, the always-gentle madam emotionlessly declared: “Tell them to leave. I will not grant an audience at this moment!” As a Demon King, she was no pushover!

“Your Majesty, I'm afraid that won't be the wisest course of action.” The Eagle Demon Monarch pondered for a moment. Although he was dissatisfied with the Huangfu Clan's actions, he still had to voice his advice: “Although our Giant Bamboo Country will not become in-laws with the Huangfu Clan, it hasn't come to the point where we need to break all formalities. Your Majesty should still meet Huangfu Hao and tactfully reject him. After all, even visitors such as them are still guests.”

Chapter 645: Laying Bare

“... I will meet Huangfu Hao.” Madam Zi Yan coldly spoke: “But not now. With the presence of their ancestor, it would seem as if we were afraid of them. If their clan wants to threaten me, then I welcome it anytime! The Royal Lord of the Giant Bamboo Country is no coward!”

Having said that, Madam Zi Yan commanded the confidant: “Tell Huangfu Hao that I am not seeing guests today!”

The moment their Royal Lord made her decision, the eighteen monarchs didn't say anything else. The confidant quickly acknowledged the command and left.

Li Qiye was cultivating in Ancient Pine's mansion. Although he came back to the Giant Bamboo Country for a look and he still had a place that he needed to visit, he was not in a rush because he had more important things to do at this moment.

For the past several days, he still hadn't left his room. He trained within the confinement of the pentagate, not allowing anyone to disturb him.

With a solemn expression, Li Qiye sat cross-legged on the ground with his eyes closed while channeling his merit law.

Divine rings pulsed around his body as laws appeared along with a majestic grand dao. His Life Wheel was rotating and continuously refining blood energy. Every drop of Longevity Blood created from these blood energies was rolling around like pearls inside the wheel.

However, Li Qiye was not paying attention to his merit laws. Three souls were hovering about his head as if they had their own life and were engraved with the ultimate profundity of what it meant to live in the world!

Of course, these were not the three souls that belonged to Li Qiye's three souls and seven spirits, they were the three Death Souls that he created using his True Fate with the laws inside the Death Scripture.

Thirteen Fate Palaces floated above his head and poured down the most supreme law in this world and carved them on the three fluttering souls. Meanwhile, the pillars of life were also carving complex dao laws in an attempt to refine these three souls.

Again and again, Li Qiye refined the three souls using a mysterious art so that they would contain the strongest laws in the world.

The Death Soul was one of the four gates of the Death Scripture, and it could even be said to be the most important of the four. As long as one of the three souls remained, he would be unkillable until his lifespan ran out.

He separated the three souls and continued to bombard them with the most abstruse and powerful laws, allowing the ultimate grand dao to reside within them.

This was only the beginning. After he finished his refinement, he would use the strongest seal to store them in three different items and then hide them in three of the most heaven-defying locations.

Only by doing this would Li Qiye be unkillable. In the future, even if someone knew of his secret, it wouldn't be easy for them to find all three souls and destroy them.

Day after day of strengthening and refinement passed, and Li Qiye finally finished the process. He let out a sigh of relief and withdrew the fortified souls before standing up.

He left the room only to find Ancient Pine standing there, waiting. The monarch cheerfully smiled and went up to greet Li Qiye in a respectful manner: "Young Noble is finally done with your isolated cultivation."

There was only Li Qiye here since Shi Hao and Bai Weng had left. Shi Hao was sent to special training since he was going to be a court alchemist, and Bai Weng, as his caretaker, also went along with him.

"Is Young Noble about to take a stroll?" Ancient Pine asked: "How about you take a trip to the palace? Today, Her Majesty also came to see you but didn't want to bother you after seeing that you were in isolated cultivation. Her Majesty told me to ask you to come visit the palace whenever you have time."

"To the palace?" Li Qiye stroked his chin and said: "I also had this thought. I want to visit the back of your palace to broaden my horizons."

"You want to see the back?" Ancient Pine's eyes lit up and said: "What a coincidence! Tomorrow, the alchemy garden behind the palace will have a party with many young alchemists from our country

participating. How about Young Noble come to take a look as well? It would be our country's honor if you could give a few pointers there."

"Is that so." Li Qiye answered nonchalantly. He looked towards the horizon; of course, he was not gazing towards the alchemy garden since the thing that he wanted was not there.

Ancient Pine quickly explained: "Even further back beyond the alchemy garden is the Bamboo Garden, the dwelling of our deity. Our country has the Immortal Nectar desired by countless alchemists in this world, but very few outsiders know that the nectar is inside the Bamboo Garden."

As a pillar of the country, the monarch naturally wanted Li Qiye to stay as a guest alchemist, so he purposely brought up the Immortal Nectar to pique Li Qiye's interest.

Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and looked back at the monarch.

The monarch was secretly ecstatic because, judging by Li Qiye's expression, he thought that Li Qiye was interested in the nectar.

He continued on: "Young Noble, it has to be said that our Immortal Nectar is unique in this world, a divine item craved by all! Even an Alchemy Emperor from the Alchemy Kingdom wished for just one drop, but he couldn't obtain it. If Young Noble is lucky enough to obtain the nectar in the Bamboo Garden, then we will be more than happy to gift it to you."

This phrase was meant to tempt Li Qiye. It was the same as painting a cake on a piece of paper or exchanging a favor with an empty hand. [2. Both of these are idioms that apply to this situation. A cake on a piece of paper looks pretty, but you can't eat it. The empty hand one meant that the country never possessed the nectar in the first place since they don't know how to get it, but they are speaking as if they're doing Li Qiye a solid favor.]

For generations, the experts of the country couldn't enter the garden, let alone an outsider. Ancient Pine's words were akin to them doing Li Qiye a favor.

Li Qiye laughed and said: "Demon Monarch, is this your idea or Madam Zi Yan's?"

"Hahaha!" The monarch busily smiled and said: "This is a little goodwill from our entire country."

Li Qiye shook his head and said: "Demon Monarch's words might be able to fool others, but not me. Let me ask you, do you know the effects of the Immortal Nectar?"

"This..." The monarch was stumped and couldn't give an answer. The rumors that their Immortal Nectar was coveted by all had always existed. However, in the country, especially this generation, there was very little understanding of what the nectar was or how it could be used.

Li Qiye laughed and said: "You are painting a cake for me. Outsiders might not know, but I am aware of a few things, such as the part where outsiders are not allowed into the Bamboo Garden. However, the even more pressing reality is that no one in the country can enter it at all. Moreover, are you sure that the nectar is inside the garden? Perhaps even you guys don't know and are only tricking me."

The monarch became very after embarrassed after Li Qiye revealed everything. He indeed wanted to tempt him and thought that Li Qiye wouldn't know about it, so Li Qiye laying everything bare made it very awkward for him.

Ancient Pine didn't know what to say as he stuttered: "Ummm..." He didn't expect to be caught by Li Qiye.

Li Qiye continued on: "Demon Monarch only wants to tempt me so that I will stay at the Giant Bamboo Country. However, you have picked the wrong person; others might be convinced, but unfortunately, you met me."

The monarch's heart skipped a beat as he quickly prostrated and apologized: "Young Noble, this is my own doing, thinking that I was smart I tried to scheme. I hope that Young Noble..."

Li Qiye saw the monarch's fear and trepidation, so he gently waved his sleeve to say: "Stand up, this matter is over. You bore no malicious intent and only wanted me to stay as a guest of Giant Bamboo."

The monarch heaved a sigh of relief after being forgiven by Li Qiye. He bowed his head and admitted his mistake: "This was all my doing, Her Majesty didn't agree either."

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't say anything else. He stared into the distance and said: "If there is a party at the alchemy garden tomorrow, then I'll come and take a look."

"Your participation will add countless brilliant colors to the party!" After the initial shock of Li Qiye agreeing to go to the party, Ancient Pine happily exclaimed: "I will go tell Her Majesty."

Li Qiye didn't stop Ancient Pine. He looked towards the sky to gaze at the huge bamboo standing proudly among the nine heavens. The rays of sunlight piercing through the gaps of the leaves were quite soothing to the soul. This tree had always protected this area, bringing peace and tranquility.

This was the truth for millions of years. This bamboo tree had always protected the capital.

The next day, the feast began at the alchemy garden. Many promising young alchemists from the sects in Giant Bamboo were present, and some came from the other countries as well.

This was actually a farewell party hosted by Madam Zi Yan. Prior to this, she announced that there would be rewards for young alchemists who participate in the Alchemy Conference.

Many young alchemists didn't mind traveling the long distance to pass this test. However, with Li Qiye's promise to attend the conference, there was no longer a need for other young alchemists, so Madam Zi Yan hosted this party.

She was a wise ruler and invited not only those who passed the initial test but also unknown young alchemists.

The young alchemists who passed the test were slightly unhappy with the farewell party because they initially had a chance of being selected as the conference participant.

Chapter 646: Giant Bamboo Country's Alchemy Garden

However, a person named Li Qiye came out of nowhere and removed the need for the final competition to determine the participant. Despite their unhappiness, the Giant Bamboo Country still compensated them for the long journey.

Moreover, Madam Zi Yan herself hosted this feast, so the alchemists were quite happy to attend. The reason was very simple; regardless of passing or failing the test, this was still a good opportunity for them because the alchemy garden of the Giant Bamboo Country was quite famous. Although Giant Bamboo was not an alchemy country, its garden was huge with large-scale plants of high-level spirit medicines and grasses.

Although it couldn't be compared to the garden of a giant monster such as the Alchemy Kingdom, it carried its own distinguished reputation; it was much better than the gardens from the other great powers. Of course, there were reasons for its prosperity.

For these alchemists, especially the younger ones, this was a rare chance for them to take a look at the alchemy garden, a chance to increase their knowledge by seeing many exceedingly rare herbs and plants.

Poets and scholars loved to gaze at the moon to gain inspiration for new literary works. However, in the Stone Medicine World, the most wondrous thing for alchemists was to gaze at plants.

Because of this, even before the feast had started, many young alchemists came early to the palace and were escorted into the garden by Giant Bamboo disciples.

Meanwhile, Madam Zi Yan was personally presiding over the feast inside the garden. She didn't stay out to greet the arriving guests, but a Demon King like her attending such a feast was already a grand and appreciable gesture to the young alchemists.

She was well known for her hospitality to talents, and today was a clear example of her humble pursuit for talents; clearly, she was not just fishing for compliments and fame.

The alchemists were amazed once they entered the alchemy garden and looked around. Even though many of the youths were from alchemy clans, they still had to admit that Giant Bamboo's alchemy garden was worthy of its prestige.

It was vast and occupied a huge location. Looking ahead, one could see the undulating waves of changes in sceneries, including different batches of fields, mountains, ponds, and even alchemy pools as red as fire.

No matter what type of medicines these fields were cultivating, all of them were encompassed in a thick worldly energy. It could be said that this place was full of it, so it was not only an ideal place for plant cultivation, but also a great location for normal cultivation as well. Such a great place was something to be desired.

After seeing the thick worldly energy, the participating youths finally understood why this alchemy garden was so famous.

All kinds of spirit medicines and grasses of the highest level could be found inside. Such a garden was much better than the gardens from the other great powers.

Why was it that the Giant Bamboo Country had such a good garden? Many alchemists and lineages had secretly debated this matter. Even the country's disciples gossiped about this.

Some believed that this garden was blessed due to the deity tree's protection, that it was groomed by a divine essence so it was able to grow this many alchemy ingredients.

Others stated that its excellence came from being built at the end of the Elegant Azure Mountains where it was empowered by the worldly energy there.

Many people, including experts from the country itself, thought that both of these speculations were logical.

It was situated behind the palace, very close to the Bamboo Garden. One had to cross this alchemy garden before they could reach the Bamboo Garden and then the Elegant Azure Mountains.

Everyone in the Stone Medicine World knew about the giant bamboo tree of this country. Of course this alchemy garden would be blessed when a Divine Guardian was so close to strengthen it.

The second theory was even more accepted. There was a saying in the Stone Medicine World: Three Ancestral Veins, Eight Grand Veins. The three Ancestral Veins were the Alchemy Vein, Stone Vein, and Beast Vein.

These Ancestral Veins were also called the corners of this world since these veins divided it into three great realms. These veins were named the Alchemy Realm, Stone Realm, and Beast Realm, and the inhabitants relied on them to exist.

Inside these three realms were eight Grand Veins. Although these eight Grand Veins were not comparable to the three Ancestral Veins, they occupied this land like eight monstrous dragons.

The Elegant Azure Mountains were one of the eight Grand Veins. The mountain range spanned across several tens of millions of miles of territory. There were many clans and great powers built along this great mountain range.

The Giant Bamboo Country was situated at the tail of the Elegant Azure Mountains, and the imperial palace was at the center of the back. Of course, it was needless to say where the alchemy garden was; it was at the tip of the vein.

The three Ancestral Veins concentrated all the worldly energy in the Stone Medicine World while the eight Grand Veins were able to do the same for their respective realms.

Since the Elegant Azure Mountains were so large, its territory spanned for tens of millions of miles. It could be said that the vein condensed the widest area of worldly energy, causing the energy to be quite thick here. Due to its great location, it was not strange for the alchemy garden to be so fertile.

The astounded young alchemists also learned a lot with the help of the Giant Bamboo disciples introducing them to everything here. They also noticed the Bamboo Garden very close to the alchemy garden: "That must be the Bamboo Garden where the Giant Bamboo Divine Guardian resides?"

They couldn't enter the Bamboo Garden, but they were still able to see it. There were flickering tree shadows with rich vegetation, indicative of its great vitality. The giant bamboo tree was very famous in the Stone Medicine World, and the country was even named after it. Some people referred to it as an invincible deity.

The party became very lively due to the high number of young participants. Many alchemists conversed with each other or were just gazing at the plants.

At this time, there was a small uproar as one young alchemist spoke in a low voice: "The main descendant of the Qing Clan is here."

A young man followed a Giant Bamboo disciple inside. He was dressed in an alchemist's style as his body emitted a green light as well as an aroma of herbs. Anyone could smell these fragrances coming from his body.

Several young alchemists who were familiar with him came to give their greetings: "Brother Qing Yu, you finally made it!"

This young alchemist was the Qing Clan's descendant, Qing Yu. The Qing Clan was an alchemy clan. Although it had never produced an Alchemy Emperor, it had several Legendary Alchemists.

Of course, its attainments in alchemy were not comparable to a monster like the Alchemy Kingdom or other Alchemy Emperor's lineages, but at the Giant Bamboo Country, it was the number one alchemy clan.

Qing Yu did not shame his noble upbringing since he was quite talented in the dao of alchemy. Despite his young age, he was already an Alchemy Grandmaster. A previous generation alchemist assessed that, in less than two years, he would become a Profound Alchemist.

It was quite brilliant to be a grandmaster at such a young age, so this was why Qing Yu was called the number one young alchemist in the Giant Bamboo Country.

His attendance at the party was overshadowed by an exasperated expression, but due to having to maintain cordiality with Madam Zi Yan, he didn't dare to miss it.

One young alchemist whispered after noticing the apparent dissatisfaction: "It seems that Qing Yu is very unhappy?"

Another responded: "How could he be happy? He has now lost his position. He was going to attend the conference and represent Giant Bamboo, but now he has nothing to do."

Some other alchemists who passed the preliminary tests felt relieved after seeing Qing Yu lose his position as well. Even the number one in the country was eliminated, so there was nothing else that they could do.

One person asked: "Just who is the alchemist that will represent Giant Bamboo? If Qing Yu was eliminated as well, then could the country have found a superior alchemist to him?"

A well-informed young alchemist said: "It is a person named Li Qiye. His background is unknown, but I heard that he is very generous and throws money around like trash."

Many of them had never heard of Li Qiye so they curiously asked: "Just who is this Li Qiye? Could he be a lot better than Qing Yu?"

Outsiders knew neither Li Qiye's origin nor why the Giant Bamboo Country thought so highly of him. After selecting Li Qiye, they kicked Qing Yu out of the list without even giving him the chance to be a backup.

[spoiler title='646 Teaser']However, a person named Li Qiye came out of nowhere and removed the need for the final competition to determine the participant. Despite their unhappiness, the Giant Bamboo Country still compensated them for the long journey.

Moreover, Madam Zi Yan herself hosted this feast, so the alchemists were quite happy to attend. The reason was very simple; regardless of passing or failing the test, this was still a good opportunity for them because the alchemy garden of the Giant Bamboo Country was quite famous. Although Giant Bamboo was not an alchemy country, its garden was huge with large-scale plants of high-level spirit medicines and grasses.

Although it couldn't be compared to the garden of a giant monster such as the Alchemy Kingdom, it carried its own distinguished reputation; it was much better than the gardens from the other great powers. Of course, there were reasons for its prosperity.

For these alchemists, especially the younger ones, this was a rare chance for them to take a look at the alchemy garden, a chance to increase their knowledge by seeing many exceedingly rare herbs and plants.

Chapter 647: Huangfu Hao

Although he received a grand reception from the Giant Bamboo Country after entering the alchemy garden, he was still feeling very upset. He should have attended the conference for this country — this was already a done deal. He was full of ambition and wanted to show his alchemy skills at the conference to become renowned in the world.

However, this set-in-stone matter suddenly changed as a saboteur jumped out of nowhere to steal his seat. He even lost his chance to be part of the reserve!

If his spot was stolen by a renowned alchemist like the four prodigies, then Qing Yu would have no grievances. However, Li Qiye, who stole his spot, was an alchemist no one had heard of before.

How could Qing Yu, who people referred to as the number one alchemist in Giant Bamboo, be happy when a nobody stole his spot?

He didn't dare to reveal his anger in front of Demon King Zi Yan, but his expression said it all.

"Young Noble Huangfu has arrived!" A message came from outside of the door and rang across the alchemy garden.

After hearing this message, many alchemists shuddered and turned around to look at the entrance. Some of them whispered: "Even the First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan is here."

Many of their hearts thumped once. Even the more arrogant alchemists had to hang their heads low at the moment and let go of their pride.

"We are extremely lucky to attend a party with Huangfu Hao." A group of alchemists cheerfully said.

Huangfu Hao was very famous in the Alchemy Realm and even the entire Stone Medicine World. He was not only a genius at cultivation but a prodigy in the dao of alchemy as well.

As the First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan, he did not let his upbringing down since he was already a Heavenly King at his young age. Although the Difficult Dao Era had already ended, it was still quite amazing for him to reach this realm and was indicative of his commendable talents.

However, the accomplishment that was talked about the most was not his cultivation, but his skill at the dao of alchemy. In this world, some people once said that if Huangfu Hao didn't spend so much effort on cultivation, then he would have had the chance to be part of the four alchemy prodigies.

Even though his alchemy skills were vastly inferior to the four prodigies, people in the Stone Medicine World still called him the fifth prodigy.

Many thought that he was only second to the four prodigies and others couldn't compare with him among the younger generation regarding alchemy.

He was a golem, so as he stepped into the alchemy garden, his stout stature seemed impressive. This would be the case no matter the location.

The divine rings pulsing around his body were even more shocking. At this time, he didn't try to hide his presence and seemed to want to suppress everyone. The divine rings made his already-tall figure seem as omnipotent as a deity.

Many young alchemists palpitated since they could feel the Heavenly King aura coming from his approach. They all took a deep breath and didn't dare to compete with him.

As the host, Madam Zi Yan came to greet him: "Your presence brightens this party."

"It seems that Your Majesty has been particularly busy, it has been a struggle to see you." Huangfu Hao was secretly annoyed. Recently, Madam Zi Yan had denied all of his requests to meet. Although the Giant Bamboo Country didn't show a lack of formality with Demon Monarchs entertaining him, that was not what he wanted.

Madam Zi Yan calmly replied: "A few trifling matters in the country had been a bit onerous, please excuse me."

Huangfu Hao took a deep breath to calm his dissatisfaction and slowly spoke: "I have heard of your country's famous alchemy garden before. I wonder if I could have the honor of Your Majesty taking a walk around the garden with me?"

Madam Zi Yan looked at him and nodded her head: "If you are interested, then I do not mind."

She led Huangfu Hao to look at the different plants in the garden. The truth was that Huangfu Hao was like a drunkard whose heart was not tempted by wine at the moment. He simply wanted to have a chance to be together, so he asked Madam Zi Yan to lead the way. [1. A comparison between an alchemist who doesn't actually want to see plants versus a drunkard who doesn't want to drink.]

During their viewing, Huangfu Hao had mentioned the matter of marriage several times, but they were all rejected tactfully by Madam Zi Yan, causing him to be quite helpless.

He liked her very much and wanted to marry her. Unfortunately, Madam Zi Yan was not interested and had no desire to have a marriage alliance with the Huangfu Clan.

The young alchemists were envious at this scene of the two walking together. She was renowned; not only was she a wise ruler, she was also a beautiful and smart woman. Despite her numerous suitors in the Alchemy Realm, no one had earned her attention.

Although many were quite envious, what could they do? A Demon King like Madam Zi Yan... Perhaps only a Heavenly King like Huangfu Hao from a prestigious clan would be a good match for her.

A young alchemist couldn't help but ask: "I heard that the Huangfu Clan had married into the Alchemy Kingdom for several generations. Don't tell me that Huangfu Hao doesn't want to marry a disciple from the Alchemy Kingdom and instead wants to form a marriage alliance with the Giant Bamboo Country?"

Another alchemist's blood boiled as he quickly answered: "Yeah! I also heard that the current descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom is an incredible woman — unmatched in this generation."

Many became excited and overwhelmed with admiration once the descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom was brought up. This was because, in any generation, the Alchemy Kingdom's descendant was always a hot topic, not to mention that it was a female disciple this time. It was rumored that she was a supreme goddess, someone exceptional throughout the ages.

Such a person would naturally become the focus of discussions for many alchemists and cultivators.

A young alchemist from the outskirts of the Alchemy Kingdom opened his mouth: "Yeah! The current Alchemy Kingdom's descendant, Fairy Ming, is the number one beauty of the Stone Medicine World. No one in the Stone Medicine World can compare to her in this generation."

"Hmm, yeah. Many people said that she is the number one beauty. It is a shame that I've never been able to see her. Have you, Fellow Daoist? Just how pretty is Fairy Ming?"

Even those who had never seen her before would be excited when they talked about the number one beauty.

The young alchemist from the outskirts said: "How could I have? She is a goddess up in the nine heavens, far from my reach. How could ordinary people like us see her? Not to mention that she keeps a very low profile and rarely goes out in public. It is too difficult for outsiders to see her."

One yearning alchemist couldn't help but say: "Fairy Ming is the number one beauty, so if I could just see her face once, I don't mind losing a decade of my life." [2. When people live for much more than 100 years, this guy can straight up be considered a swindler.]

He wasn't the only alchemist who was a big fan of Fairy Ming. All the other alchemists inevitably longed to see the number one beauty.

Ming Yexue, the descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom, was very famous throughout the Stone Medicine World. Although very few people had seen her and she kept a very low profile, her fame didn't diminish one bit.

An innocent alchemist from a smaller sect asked: "Didn't the Huangfu Clan have a marriage alliance with the Alchemy Kingdom for several generations? How come Huangfu Hao isn't marrying Fairy Ming?"

This naive comment annoyed the other alchemists. In the Stone Medicine World, cultivators and alchemists, especially the younger ones, all considered Ming Yexue to be a goddess amidst the clouds. Thus, they all snorted at this comment and then glanced at Huangfu Hao standing in the distance with a contemptuous smile.

They didn't dare to answer this question in front of Huangfu Hao. They waited for him to go far away, of course, before showing their disdain.

One of them sneered in a low voice: "How could that be possible? The Huangfu Clan isn't worthy of the Alchemy Kingdom."

"It is indeed impossible. Although the Huangfu Clan had a marriage alliance with the kingdom for several generations, this was limited to the regional level. As for the main branch or the imperial family of the Alchemy Kingdom, it didn't need a marriage alliance to consolidate their position." One alchemist who was knowledgeable about the kingdom answered: "The Huangfu Clan has no chance of a marriage with the kingdom's direct branch. Not to mention a male from the Huangfu Clan wanting to marry a direct female disciple from the kingdom, it is already exceedingly difficult for their main daughter to marry a direct male disciple."

"This makes sense." The other young alchemists nodded their heads after hearing this explanation.

There were very few existences comparable to the monster that is the Alchemy Kingdom in this world, so its descendant had no need for a marriage alliance.

"Then Young Noble Huangfu wants to marry Her Majesty Zi Yan." Another alchemist was annoyed to see Huangfu Hao standing next to Madam Zi Yan, but he had to admit that only someone like Huangfu Hao was worthy of a Demon King like her.

A young fan of hers coldly countered: "Hmph! Not necessarily. The Giant Bamboo Country is not weaker than the Huangfu Clan. Plus, she is the ruler of a country, so she absolutely won't marry into the Huangfu Clan."

Another alchemist interjected: "But that is not certain. I heard that Fairy Ming and Huangfu Hao are relatives, and she is actually his little cousin. If this relationship is real, then maybe the Giant Bamboo Country will use this to earn the kingdom's favor."

Chapter 648: Qing Yu

The knowledgeable alchemist spoke again: "Not necessarily. The rumors are right, Fairy Ming and Huangfu Clan are indeed related, but it is a very distant relationship that has a gap of many generations. If Fairy Ming was Huangfu Hao's first cousin, then the Huangfu Clan would have wagged its tail everywhere already."

At this point, many alchemists were staring at Huangfu Hao, especially after Madam Zi Yan had left his side. With his impressive aura, he was like a crane among a flock of chickens. Alchemists with humble upbringings didn't dare to start a conversation with him. Only an excellent talent like Qing Yu would strike up a conversation.

At this time, a disciple ran over in a hurry and reported to Madam Zi Yan: "Your Majesty, Young Noble Li is here."

After hearing this news, Madam Zi Yan's spirit suddenly became better and went out herself to greet him without the slightest delay. Even Huangfu Hao didn't enjoy such treatment.

All the alchemists were glancing at each other after hearing about Li Qiye's arrival. They became even more curious when they saw Madam Zi Yan personally going to greet him.

They all knew that the Giant Bamboo Country erased all the alchemists from the list, even Qing Yu, just because of this unknown Li Qiye.

They were very interested while simultaneously shocked to see what kind of god Li Qiye might be in order to be so highly regarded by the Giant Bamboo Country.

Qing Yu's expression sank after hearing about Li Qiye. It would be strange if he was fine with it. Li Qiye was the reason why Qing Yu lost the chance to show himself and become renowned throughout the world. If given the chance, he wouldn't mind killing this nobody, Li Qiye.

At the same time, Huangfu Hao's glare became cold with flashing glints akin to needles. He had this expression because even his treatment had been inferior.

As the First Young Noble from the Huangfu Clan, his nobility was without question, yet Madam Zi Yan didn't go to the door to greet him. Alas, this was still reasonable because Madam Zi Yan was at the highest position as the ruler of a country and a Heavenly King. It was normal for her not to personally greet Huangfu Hao.

But now, this nobody Li Qiye was enjoying this grand gesture, causing Huangfu Hao to hate Li Qiye even more.

More important, there had already been a brewing feud between these two. Back at the Golem Square, Huangfu Hao had wanted to buy the heavenly cauldron from the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor. With great difficulty, he managed to convince Jian Wushuang and had to pay an exorbitant price. He thought that he would be able to own the cauldron, but who would have thought that Li Qiye would bid even higher and paid several times the price, drowning out his beautiful dream of owning the cauldron?

He wanted to kill Li Qiye due to this hatred since that cauldron was extremely rare. It was an opportunity for him to get closer to the imperial family of the Alchemy Kingdom as well as suck up to his little cousin, Ming Yexue. However, Li Qiye's unexpected interference made him lose all hope of this.

Li Qiye entered the garden with Madam Zi Yan as his escort. He took a deep breath to feel the pure worldly energy from the alchemy garden.

He couldn't help but become a bit sentimental once he stepped on this familiar land as he felt an intimate connection with it. It was as if this place had a beating heart and remained the same since the last time he had visited.

Madam Zi Yan, playing the role of escort, was very attentive: "This is our Giant Bamboo's medicinal garden that contains a few spirit medicines. Our alchemists' skills are limited, so I hope that Young Noble Li can teach us a thing or two."

She didn't only lead him to see each plant, she also introduced them very carefully. Her goal was to take him throughout the entire garden and hope that he could give them some pointers. As long as he was willing to depart with a bit of his knowledge, the country would greatly benefit from it.

Her care, patience, consideration, and enthusiasm as a guide made all the onlookers jealous. Huangfu Hao didn't get nearly the same level of treatment.

People realized now that earlier, Madam Zi Yan was only fulfilling her duty as the host when she took Huangfu Hao around. Her demeanor was completely different as she took Li Qiye around; it was clear that she was entirely driven by a sincere passion.

However, the young alchemists were greatly disappointed after seeing Li Qiye. Everyone here knew that they were removed from the list because of Li Qiye. Prior to them seeing his face, they all thought that he was a grand and untouchable character.

But now, it turned out that Li Qiye was only an ordinary human, an inconspicuous junior.

They secretly looked at him with scorn: "Why does the Giant Bamboo Country value this Li Qiye? Could it be that he is very gifted at pill refinement?"

This doubt was understandable because any alchemist with some achievements would have a different appearance. It could be due to the sweet aroma of herbs or something special about them. However, there was nothing special about Li Qiye outside of his origin — the human race.

An alchemist had heard of a certain rumor and spoke: "I heard that he threw around enough money to scare people to death."

An unconvinced young alchemist snorted and said: "What does being rich have to do with this matter? The Giant Bamboo Country is looking for an alchemist, not a financial backing."

Some of them had the urge to challenge Li Qiye. They didn't believe that this ordinary human brat was better than them. However, out of fear of Madam Zi Yan's imperial aura, they didn't dare to go forward.

Others might be scared, but this didn't mean that Qing Yu was afraid. He snorted after seeing the madam accompanying Li Qiye the entire time.

He had been annoyed this whole time after being replaced by Li Qiye even though he was the number one young alchemist of the country. He felt especially snubbed after seeing Madam Zi Yan treating this nobody with the highest level of courtesy.

This difference in treatment greatly exasperated him, so he wanted to take it out on Li Qiye. He walked closer then bowed towards Madam Zi Yan before directly asking Li Qiye: "You are Li Qiye, correct?"

It was apparent to everyone that Qing Yu wanted to cause trouble with his aggressive demeanor. Madam Zi Yan couldn't help but grimace.

Meanwhile, the other alchemists were becoming more excited. Many of them were already displeased with Li Qiye, but out of fear for Madam Zi Yan, no one wanted to do anything. So now, they were more than happy to watch Qing Yu provoking him.

However, Li Qiye didn't bother looking at Qing Yu who wanted to cause trouble and continued to nonchalantly gaze at the spirit medicines.

This attitude enraged Qing Yu even further. Who was he? Although he was not as famous as Huangfu Hao, he was quite popular in the Giant Bamboo Country and was referred to as its number one young alchemist. Furthermore, his skill showed that this title was well-deserved.

Qing Yu coldly spoke: "Oh? You don't have the courage to admit who you are?"

Madam Zi Yan's brows furrowed as she said: "Qing Yu, halt your impudence. Everyone in the alchemy garden is a respected guest of the Giant Bamboo Country, do not overstep your bounds."

Madam Zi Yan's words were an explicit warning to Qing Yu. Although the Qing Clan was quite large in the country, and sometimes, even the imperial palace required its existence, Madam Zi Yan knew very clearly who was more important between Li Qiye and Qing Yu. Even the entire Qing Clan was not comparable to Li Qiye.

The madam was the Demon King of an entire country, so she commanded respect even when displaying signs of anger. Everyone's hearts thumped after hearing her; her imperial aura was unstoppable.

Others who wanted to challenge Li Qiye as well didn't have the same confidence as Qing Yu, so they stood to the side to watch. Huangfu Hao smirked on the sideline as well since he wanted to see what Li Qiye could do. He was going to test Li Qiye, but he was more than happy to watch Qing Yu try him first.

At the same time, Madam Zi Yan, who was emitting her imperial aura, caused Qing Yu to become nervous. Her clear partiality to Li Qiye made him even more annoyed.

He took a deep breath and calmed his mind before biting his teeth and decided to take a risk. He didn't believe that the Qing Clan's position in the Giant Bamboo Country was not as great as this nobody!

Although he knew that his actions were impinging on Madam Zi Yan's prestige, he had great confidence in the Qing Clan's influence. He trusted that this matter would eventually become no big deal.

He prepared himself and placed his hands together to bow towards the madam before speaking in a stern manner: "Your Majesty, you are the ruler of our country and I did not intend on offending you. However, I am also an alchemist who follows the rules of alchemy. If Li Qiye is to participate and represent our country at the conference, this means that he is the most excellent young alchemist in Giant Bamboo and only he alone is qualified to participate..."

"I am not questioning Your Majesty's decision. Your Majesty is wise and brilliant, so this choice will naturally not be wrong. However, as an alchemist, if Li Qiye is the number one, then I wish to challenge him to see if he is qualified to be our candidate or not!"

Chapter 649: Ominous Star Flower

Madam Zi Yan grimaced and deepened her tone: "Young Noble Li's skill of alchemy is flawless; all of the monarchs had witnessed his supreme pill refinement ability."

Qing Yu quickly said: "I trust Your Majesty and all the Demon Monarchs. However, as an alchemist speaking on behalf of alchemy, discussing and exchanging alchemy arts is how it should be. Moreover, Li

Qiye is here to represent our country, so everyone should see his alchemy dao with their own eyes. What do you think, Your Majesty?"

The other alchemists all clamored: "Yes, Your Majesty. If Li Qiye's alchemy dao is peerless, then let him broaden our horizons!"

It was only natural for the dissatisfied crowd to support Qing Yu. This was their chance to let out their dissatisfaction without truly offending Madam Zi Yan's imperial prestige.

Madam Zi Yan's eyes became serious after seeing Qing Yu's refusal to yield. It was not difficult for her to chase him away, but she still wanted to see how Li Qiye wanted to deal with this situation.

Li Qiye stopped looking at the spirit plants and glanced at Qing Yu. He smiled and said: "Ah? You want to challenge my alchemy dao?"

A flame lit up in Qing Yu's heart after seeing Li Qiye's attitude. He tried his best to contain his anger and coldly said: "That's right! I want to challenge your alchemy dao to see if you are qualified to participate in the conference or not!"

He was very confident since he didn't believe a nobody like Li Qiye was better than him. After all, the number one alchemist of the Giant Bamboo Country should be confident in his own abilities.

Madam Zi Yan was not happy with Qing Yu's aggressiveness, so she furrowed her brows and said: "Qing Yu, how do you want to challenge Young Noble Li?"

"Pill refinement!" Qing Yu replied, full of confidence: "We'll bet on our pill refinement skills, and the victor can do whatever he wants. I will accept any bet you make, so if you are confident enough and want to bet your life, I will take that on too. The losers will have to fuel their cauldron's Fire Source."

These words shocked everyone. Alchemists might settle grievances with alchemy, but betting their lives and fueling their own Fire Source was too grave.

Generally, unless if it was an irreconcilable feud, no one would make such a bet since it was too serious. Not only would the bet take the opponent's life, it would also humiliate them. A cauldron was a lifelong friend to an alchemist, so killing oneself using their own Fire Source was an extreme means of humiliation and much more brutal than a simple death.

Madam Zi Yan's expression sank as well after hearing this. She could understand Qing Yu's desire to challenge Li Qiye. After all, he suddenly lost his qualification to represent them, so his dissatisfaction was justified.

A simple challenge was tolerable, but now, it was not just a challenge since Qing Yu's aim was to humiliate Li Qiye.

"Qing Yu, do not act rashly!" Madam Zi Yan raised her tone: "Do not mention this again lest you wish for a severe punishment!" Even without any trace of anger in her voice, she still carried a mighty prestige worthy of a Demon King. However, the moment her anger was ignited, her noble and powerful aura would be unstoppable and suppress all directions, rendering people breathless.

Qing Yu's expression greatly changed as the imperial aura caused him to take several steps back. Although he was the number one young alchemist of the country, he still couldn't withstand the madam's aura that caused him to turn pale.

She didn't purposely want to suppress Qing Yu, but her anger was enough to deter him.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't bother caring about him as he walked forward. A person like Qing Yu was not worthy of consideration, so it was enough that Madam Zi Yan chased him away. Li Qiye didn't want to make a move against such a trivial character unless Qing Yu ignorantly continued to jump and shout in front of him. Then, Li Qiye wouldn't mind personally taking care of him.

The other young alchemists didn't dare to say anything else since Madam Zi Yan's imperial aura was indubitable. They were not as strong as Qing Yu, so how could they challenge her aura?

Huangfu Hao became disappointed since he wanted to see Li Qiye's abilities. Who would have thought that Qing Yu would be swiftly dealt with by Madam Zi Yan?

Back in the Golem Square, he saw — with his own eyes — Li Qiye's generous spending and extremely arrogant attitude. He wanted to see just what type of person this human junior named Li Qiye was.

As the First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan, Huangfu Hao had never been afraid of anyone. He still wanted to learn more about Li Qiye. If Li Qiye had no backing, then he was only a fish on a cutting board in Huangfu Hao's eyes!

Li Qiye went to another field and was surprised to see a particular spirit medicine here: "Ominous Star Flower."

This field only had one large flower around the size of a table surface. It had the appearance of stars with its flashing petals akin to starlight.

The huge flower had so many layers of petals that one couldn't see its pistil. In the center was a darkness that resembled a black hole.

The flower was very bright and beautiful, but do not be fooled by the appearance of this flower.

Its name was the Ominous Star Flower. Outside of its star-like appearance, the most important word in its name was "Ominous".

It was certainly vicious and would capture all existences close to it; not only animals, even other spirit plants would be devoured!

Because of this, the plot where this flower grew was devoid of other plants. The older it was, the stronger it became. Once it reached a particular level, it could then even fly around.

This flower was extremely malefic but also exceeding rare and precious with a sky-high price.

Madam Zi Yan explained after seeing Li Qiye's interest in the flower: "We bought it several years ago from an auction. At that time, it was only a seedling, but it was quite vicious already."

Li Qiye only gave a passing glance at the flower and nodded his head approvingly: "It is growing well, it seems that your alchemists have a bit of skill."

Others would think that Li Qiye was arrogant without peer after hearing this. The imperial palace had many alchemists, but Li Qiye said it as if they were not worth mentioning.

Madam Zi Yan didn't think anything of it. Since she had seen his pill refinement skill personally, she knew he was qualified to make such a statement.

However, the other alchemists were very unhappy, especially Qing Yu who responded with a scowl.

Madam Zi Yan smiled and said: "Young Noble is too kind. This is only a display of insignificant skill and is not worthy of your approval. Moreover, the palace can't take all the credit for this. It was really difficult to grow this Ominous Star Flower. After planting it, it would prey on the other spirit medicines, never settling down..."

"Luckily, an elder alchemist from the Qing Clan and Qing Yu researched and created a new fertilizing water meant for this flower. With it, we were able to calm it down and the flower was able to grow much better."

Qing Yu's actions caused her displeasure, but she was a wise ruler and didn't want to bury a good talent, so she asserted his contributions to this matter.

Qing Yu couldn't help but reveal a smug look after being praised by Madam Zi Yan. This was one of his greatest achievements since mixing fertilizer was a test of skill. Even though it was not mixed by him alone, he indeed contributed greatly to its creation.

Li Qiye looked at the flower and shook his head to say: "This is only treating the symptoms and not addressing the root cause; it's only an illusion of wellness. This strain of fertilizing water can only hold on for two to three more years. Afterward, the flower will become even fiercer."

Madam Zi Yan's heart thumped upon hearing this, so she quickly inquired: "Does Young Noble have a way to save it?" Although she didn't understand the inner workings of this matter, she was very confident in Li Qiye's alchemy skill.

The smug Qing Yu's expression quickly changed after hearing Li Qiye's critique. Li Qiye belittling the unique recipe was the same as provoking him!

"Hmph! How arrogant!" Qing Yu coldly said: "Anyone can see that this Ominous Star Flower is growing well, don't comment haphazardly and delude people with lies!"

This unique fertilizing strand was one of his proudest achievements, so he became furious when Li Qiye put it down. He had previously viewed Li Qiye as an enemy, but he became even more aggressive now.

Initially, Li Qiye was too lazy to bother with a little character like Qing Yu, but this ant jumped in front of him once again so he had to teach him a lesson. He didn't bother to give a glimpse at the guy as he slowly spoke: "This fertilizing formula only has Corruption Ward Sacred Water, the other ingredients are not worth mentioning. The flower is calm because of this water."

Chapter 650: The Dao Of Cultivating Flower

Qing Yu was astounded when Li Qiye quickly revealed the crux of his secret formula, but he recovered very quickly. Perhaps Li Qiye was only lucky and guessed correctly.

Qing Yu coldly spoke: "So what? The Ominous Star Flower is vicious by nature, but this is due to its environment. It usually grows up in nether and dangerous lands so it has vicious tendencies. Coincidentally, the Corruption Ward Sacred Water is able to dispel the evil aura from these spirit plants.

"By dispelling the evil impulses from the flower as well as nurturing it with this fertilizer so that it could have a better growing environment, this would allow for it to calm down. Through time, its vicious nature will be erased, and one day, it will become a divine flower."

Although Qing Yu and Li Qiye were enemies, it had to be said that Qing Yu was indeed slightly capable with some knowledge regarding the dao of alchemy.

"Young Noble Qing, you definitely deserve to be called the number one alchemist of the Giant Bamboo Country! This solution truly is wonderful." After hearing what Qing Yu said, many of the surrounding alchemists couldn't help but voice their praise.

"It really is amazing, to be able to use this fertilizer to change the vicious habits of this flower... As long as we continue to use it, with the passage of time, this fierce flower will turn into a divine flower!" Another young alchemist couldn't help but admire Qing Yu's method.

Madam Zi Yan was not an alchemist, but prior to this, she also appreciated Qing Yu's solution. She told Li Qiye: "Qing Yu's fertilizer was indeed effective. Ever since the Ominous Star Flower was treated with it, it changed a lot and became very docile while exhibiting great growth."

Li Qiye looked at Qing Yu and smiled: "This is only an illusion. The Corruption Ward Sacred Water has the effect of removing evil from ordinary spirit medicines, but what is an Ominous Star Flower? It is an extremely precious and rare strand that has its own awareness. The water won't be able to remove the evil from it. In fact, it would only act as supreme nutrients for the flower."

Li Qiye nonchalantly continued on: "A young Ominous Star Flower would grow very quickly with the sacred water, so why would it need to catch other prey when this super nutritious water was being handed to it directly? It is only pretending to be docile since there is no reason for it not to."

"Hmph! How can an alchemist speak such nonsense." Qing Yu coldly smiled: "Everyone knows of the evil deterring effect of the sacred water, so where is this nutrient nonsense? If it was extremely nutritious, then it would have been used by many alchemists as fertilizer."

Huangfu Hao added: "Brother Qing makes a lot of sense. I haven't heard of such a thing before. The usage of Corruption Ward Sacred Water is common knowledge to all alchemists. In my opinion, Brother Qing's special mix has great effects. When the flower's evil properties disappear, it will turn into a divine flower."

Qing Yu became a lot more lively and proud and arched his chest after hearing Huangfu Hao. He stared intensely at Li Qiye with a pressing momentum.

Huangfu Hao was called the fifth young alchemy prodigy in the current generation, so no one dared to question his alchemy skills as his words carried a lot of weight.

Thus, when Huangfu Hao voiced his support for Qing Yu, all the spectating alchemists looked towards Li Qiye.

Many of them were already unhappy with him, so a barrage of attacks came right after Huangfu Hao's comment: "Being good at pill refinement doesn't mean you know how to plant. The alchemy dao is separated into these things for a reason. If you are no good at plant cultivation, then don't spout nonsense and try to destroy someone else's reputation."

Another alchemist sneered: "That's right, everyone knows that the sacred water is meant for dispelling evil, so Young Noble Qing Yu's application of it to grow the Ominous Star Flower is perfect. It is an incredible formula!"

One more verbally assaulted Li Qiye: "It is not enough just knowing the basics... Haha, it would be completely humiliating to let someone like this participate in the alchemy conference."

"Complete garbage!" At this time, Qing Yu was emboldened and coldly stared at Li Qiye: "If you don't have any evidence, then don't speak nonsense. Li Qiye, your earlier words are blatant defamation towards my Qing Clan's reputation! It is not too late for you to apologize. Otherwise, my clan will not go easy on someone who tried to maliciously stain our reputation!"

Earlier, Qing Yu was suppressed by Madam Zi Yan's imperial aura and couldn't do anything about it, but now, he became much more aggressive after latching onto Li Qiye's weakness. He would never let go of this rare chance and would take advantage of this opportunity for his counterattack! He would never let go until he completely defeated Li Qiye. If the situation allowed it, he would even kill Li Qiye!

At this time, Huangfu Hao spoke: "The dao of alchemy is a serious study, so one should conduct themselves carefully. Do not utter words carelessly without thought."

Huangfu Hao's status and prestige were great. His showing of solidarity not only made Qing Yu bolder, it even caused the other alchemists who were initially unhappy with Li Qiye to want to challenge him.

Li Qiye was now under attack by the crowd, causing Madam Zi Yan's brows to furrow. How could she not understand what Qing Yu, Huangfu Hao, and the other young alchemists were trying to do?

She wanted to back Li Qiye up, but he waved his sleeve to signal her not to. He smiled and said: "My words are proof."

"Your words are proof?" Qing Yu sneered and said: "Your irresponsible defamation is proof? Hmph, this Ominous Star Flower is now harmless thanks to the Qing Clan's unique fertilizing strand. It has been growing here for several years! And not only has it been growing at an incredible speed, it hasn't even harmed a fly!"

"All of this is proof that the Ominous Star Flower has been dispelled of its evil affinity and is slowly growing into a divine flower. So now, how can you say that the flower is still the same? You are jealous of our Qing Clan's unique mix and want to destroy our reputation. If you do not make this clear, our Qing Clan will not let you off so easily!" At this point, Qing Yu drew closer to Li Qiye with a frightening momentum, wanting to push him to the very edge.

"This is true!" With Huangfu Hao's support, all the other alchemists quickly rode the wave as well. One of them said: "Lacking even the most common of knowledge yet you still dare to spew arrogant drivel and defame the Qing Clan. A treacherous man like this should be punished!"

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't mind the brigade branding against him. He asked: "Then you must be very confident with the Qing Clan's unique mix?"

Qing Yu smirked in response: "Hmph! Actions speak louder than words. No matter how sly you might be with words, you cannot deny the truth that our Qing Clan's mix has cured the flower of its vicious nature."

Li Qiye slowly replied: "If you want the truth, then I shall give it to you. In my knowledge, the Ominous Star Flower is very sensitive to loud screams. Whether it has changed or not, you can give it a shot."

Qing Yu's pupils narrowed while looking at Li Qiye. He drily said: "Really now?"

Li Qiye smiled and waved his palm in the air back and forth to say: "This is the case as far as I know, but I suggest that you do not try it since it won't end well."

"Is that so?" Qing Yu coldly sneered while gazing at Li Qiye: "Since you put it that way, I want to try it even more. What would you do if your method fails?"

Qing Yu clearly didn't want to let this go until Li Qiye accepted defeat.

"What do you want me to do?" Li Qiye replied with a grin.

Qing Yu suggested with a smirk: "Very simple, it'll be the same as before. If you are right about it being an act, then I deserve death from being attacked by the flower; it would be because my dao of alchemy was insufficient. However, if you are wrong... Not only did you stain our reputation, you also caused trouble and unfounded defamation, so you have to feed yourself to your cauldron's Fire Source."

Madam Zi Yan's expression sank after hearing this. Qing Yu's approach was taking things too far; it was apparent that he wanted to kill Li Qiye.

All the other alchemists held their breaths in anticipation. This was a life or death gamble and not something to be laughed about. Although many of them didn't like Li Qiye, it wasn't to the extent where they would wish death upon him.

They didn't say anything else to fuel the fire now that Qing Yu voiced his desire to kill Li Qiye.

Meanwhile, after voicing his support, Huangfu Hao only smiled while calmly watching things play out by the side. If necessary, he would interfere again to fan the flames.

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and smiled in the face of the repeated attempts of Qing Yu wanting to kill him.

People who were familiar with Li Qiye would shudder with fear since this expression meant that Li Qiye intended to kill.

Li Qiye smiled and waved his hands to say: "I'm afraid that's no good. In my opinion, this Ominous Star Flower has flourished very well and it might take your life if this goes sour."

"Hahaha, I should thank you for your concern." Qing Yu sneered: "But there is no need, I trust my Qing Clan's unique mix. If you are afraid to die, then just say it. It is not too late to kneel and beg for forgiveness. This would still be much better than losing your life."

[spoiler title='650 Teaser']Qing Yu was astounded when Li Qiye quickly revealed the crux of his secret formula, but he recovered very quickly. Perhaps Li Qiye was only lucky and guessed correctly.

Qing Yu coldly spoke: "So what? The Ominous Star Flower is vicious by nature, but this is due to its environment. It usually grows up in nether and dangerous lands so it has vicious tendencies. Coincidentally, the Corruption Ward Sacred Water is able to dispel the evil aura from these spirit plants.

"By dispelling the evil habit from the flower as well as nurturing it with this fertilizer so that it could have a better growing environment, this would allow for it to calm down. Through time, its vicious nature will be erased, and one day, it will become a divine flower."

Although Qing Yu and Li Qiye were enemies, it had to be said that Qing Yu was indeed slightly capable with some knowledge regarding the dao of alchemy.