

Domination 721

Chapter 721: Alpine Treefather's Turn

There were no dragon claws, no dragon horns, and there also weren't any dragon scales. The body revealed by this divine light was an extremely huge tree root that was completely black as if it was made of metal. This huge tree root flying in the sky seemed to be a coiling dragon!

Many guests were surprised to see that this black dragon was not a real dragon and instead only a huge root. Some inadvertently glanced over at the treefather; their first thought was that the treefather was helping Li Qiye!

The Alpine Treefather was originally a pine tree, so now when a tree root turned into a dragon to attack the Second Ancestor, many people couldn't help but think that the treefather was protecting Li Qiye.

Of course, the treefather was being wrongfully suspected. No one knew that Li Qiye was only using the Death Chapter to summon the most powerful dead creature from underground. However, this root truly had a big relation to the treefather; it was the main root that he slashed off. He had wanted to break away from the Alpine Grand Vein, so he cut off his own root.

Although the separated root had lost its life, it was already in the deepest parts of the mountain. When Li Qiye came to the mountain, he had tried to search for it.

At this time, he used the Death Chapter to summon it and turned it into a black dragon to injure the Second Ancestor.

Keep in mind that this root was the strongest root that belonged to the treefather when he was at his peak. Despite being dead for countless years, it was still extremely strong after being summoned by the Death Chapter. Killing a Virtuous Paragon like the Second Ancestor was absolutely no problem!

"Pop!" The ancestor was blown away by the root. One could hear the sounds of bones breaking and blood spurting. Even a paragon like the ancestor was no match for this root.

"Alpine Treefather, what are you trying to do, secretly attacking us like this?!" The wounded ancestor couldn't help but cry out. [1. This "you" is no longer formal/respectful.]

These words caused the treefather to blink, then his gaze immediately turned cold. He told Li Qiye: "Young Noble, leave this to me."

Li Qiye smiled and stomped down with his foot, causing the Death Chapter to emerge once more. The huge root had lost its source of power, so it fell back into the ground like a hidden dragon diving into water, quickly disappearing altogether.

In the sky, the Second Ancestor heaved a sigh of relief after seeing the main root disappear into the ground.

However, at this very moment, the treefather's palm reached for him. Just imagine how frightening the treefather's attack was! This encroaching palm was able to seal the nine heavens above and the scorching hell below. Even a paragon wouldn't be able to escape this palm.

“Allpine Treefather, what are you trying to do?!” The ancestor was aghast at the sight of the approaching palm. He turned around to run while screaming: “You should know that if I don’t return, our Huangfu Sacred Ancestor—”

However, before he could finish, a snapping sound resounded as if all the bones in his body were crushed. His pitiful cry bellowed across the entire plain.

Before anyone could calm down, the blood-soaked Second Ancestor was thrown into the ground by the treefather.

He struggled to get up. At this time, his appearance changed completely; with completely white hair, he seemed to have aged several thousand years in a split second. He trembled as he climbed up and was no longer able to stand straight.

“You... You crippled my cultivation!” He let out a miserable scream!

“The Huangfu Clan actually dares to come to my Allpine Mountain and act so presumptuously!” The treefather glanced at the ancestor and slowly uttered: “You think you can come here and posture with just your Sacred Ancestor? Even if he becomes a God-Monarch, I still wouldn’t look at him straight!”

All of a sudden, the whole scene went silent. Many people were quivering on the inside. Everyone knew that the treefather was an apex existence since everyone said so, but for millions of years, very few people had seen him take action.

Today, he finally attacked and destroyed a Virtuous Paragon’s cultivation with one palm. How heaven-defying and powerful must that strike have been? Perhaps only Immortal Emperors could suppress an apex existence like him!

No matter which sect or lineage they came from, the big shots present all felt a cold chill run down their spines. They swore to never act arrogantly at Allpine Mountain from now on!

It was just as the treefather had said, he wouldn’t care even if a God-Monarch was about to come, let alone an ordinary paragon!

At this moment, the Second Ancestor squatted on the ground. It wasn’t easy for him to reach the paragon level, but the treefather destroyed his cultivation so easily. His life was done for and was nearing its end.

The treefather calmly declared: “Go back and tell your Sacred Ancestor. From now on, if anyone else from your Huangfu Clan dares to take another step into my Allpine Mountain, I will destroy your clan!”

Everyone held their breaths the moment this declaration came out. No one dared to make a single sound. They all knew that with his power, destroying the Huangfu Clan was not difficult at all!

Eventually, the ancestor was taken out of Allpine Mountain by its disciples. A Virtuous Paragon was ended in this fashion.

Afterward, the Maple King quickly lightened the atmosphere and said to the guests: “Come, let us continue.”

“We wish for the demon forefather’s life to be endless...!” The majority of the guests immediately raised their cups and gave their blessings to the treefather.

The treefather smiled and returned the gesture with his own cup...

The banquet continued with joyous laughter, creating a lively atmosphere.

After the Huangfu Clan Master met Fairy Ming, he didn’t go back to the Huangfu Clan and had been waiting in the Alchemy Kingdom for any news from the imperial family.

However, days passed and the imperial family didn’t give any response. Fairy Ming also didn’t send him any messages, causing him to be quite annoyed. By now, he realized that the imperial family essentially didn’t care for this matter. Although he didn’t place high hopes in this endeavor, he was still quite displeased when the imperial family didn’t even bother showing that they cared.

However, what could he do? It wasn’t easy for him to meet the imperial family.

“Father-in-law, there is no reason for you to be so anxious.” While the clan master was anxiously pacing back and forth in his room, the words of a handsome young man could be heard. He had an oppressive aura and was seated in the room.

This young man was the renowned World-Pillar Monarch, Xian Miao. He was especially popular among the younger generation, gifted at politics, and was a capable regional monarch in the Alchemy Kingdom. Moreover, his personal cultivation was not shabby either, so he had quite an influence on his fellow monarchs.

Most importantly, he came from the Xian Clan, a separate division from the Alchemy Kingdom’s main branch. In a very distant generation, their oldest ancestor used to have a high position in the imperial family.

Later on, this ancestor separated from the imperial family to become a monarch in his own region and started his own branch.

Although the World-Pillar Monarch’s position was great, it couldn’t compare to the direct imperial family. However, their oldest ancestor was still left behind in the imperial family and buried underground.

The Huangfu Clan Master stopped and softly sighed before speaking: “How could I not be anxious? Hao’er died a terrible death, and a little junior is now stepping over my Huangfu Clan’s head!”

“Those who dare to oppose the Alchemy Kingdom will not have a good end!” The World-Pillar Monarch’s eyes became fierce with a frightening murderous intent.

The clan master deepened his voice: “We will absolutely not forgive this human junior. No matter what, I will offer his head to Hao’er!”

At this time, a disciple came in and quickly said: “My lord, the ancestor has arrived.”

“Ancestor? Which ancestor?” The clan master was slightly stunned after hearing this. He didn’t know which ancestor had come into being.

An aura as vast as an endless sea swept into the room. This invincible aura belonged to a God-Monarch and permeated the air. No one could oppose this monstrous force.

Neither the clan master nor the World-Pillar Monarch could withstand this aura, immediately prostrating on the ground!

“Sacred Ancestor...” The clan master couldn’t stop trembling and found it difficult to believe his own eyes. He stuttered: “Ancestor, y-you also came out?”

“Yes.” The recent arrival had a cold expression and emitted an especially frightening aura. He said: “The Second Ancestor’s cultivation was ruined, and he doesn’t have much time left.”

“What...” This news scared the soul out of the clan master. To him, this was no different from a thunderbolt sent down by the heavens.

“How could that be...?” The clan master was in dismay. Not long before this, their youngest ancestor had died in the Giant Bamboo Country. And now, the second-ranked ancestor had also lost his cultivation. This was a great blow to their clan.

“It is that Junior Li again!” The arrival coldly said: “The treefather backed him up, killed the other elders, and crippled the Second Ancestor’s cultivation!”

“Allpine Treefather!” The clan master couldn’t help himself from falling down to the ground. He was unable to compose himself after hearing this news.

In the Stone Medicine World, who didn’t know about the Allpine Treefather’s might? As an apex existence, who didn’t know how frightening he was? This was not just flattery, even a behemoth like the Alchemy Kingdom had to be relatively respectful towards the treefather.

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Chapter 722: Xian Clan

The absent-minded clan master sat on the ground, unable to think for a moment. After a while, he calmed down and asked: "Then, then, what should we do?"

The Huangfu Clan couldn't take revenge with the treefather backing Li Qiye. Allpine Mountain had always produced many talents while the treefather had students everywhere in this world. Countless Demon Kings and Stone Saints had come under his tutelage! And this was before talking about his own invincible strength.

Although their Huangfu Clan was strong, there was still a huge gap between them and Allpine Mountain that had the treefather.

The World-Pillar Monarch calmed down and said with a deep tone: "Although this Li Qiye has the treefather as his backing, the treefather cannot leave Allpine Mountain — this is common knowledge! Unless Li Qiye never leaves the mountain, we will still have a chance."

"Virtuous Son-in-law, it is true that the treefather cannot leave Allpine Mountain, but he has countless followers, and some of his disciples even became Virtuous Paragons! Maybe he will order some of his disciples to protect Li Qiye. The treefather isn't someone to mess with. If he knows that we are attacking someone under his protection, it will bring about a terrible disaster!" Although the clan master wanted nothing more than to eat Li Qiye's flesh and drink his blood, he still had some sense left in him. The treefather was not to be provoked — this was something known by many people. [1. I don't like Virtuous Son-in-law too much either, but it shows the relationship between the two characters.]

At this time, the Sacred Ancestor added: "Which is why we need the help from the Alchemy Kingdom."

The Huangfu Clan Master was excited after hearing this. He immediately sat up and said: "Ancestor is trying to say..."

At this time, the Sacred Ancestor's eyes fell upon the monarch as he slowly uttered: "We need the help of your Xian Clan's Alchemy Ancestor!"

The World-Pillar Monarch hesitantly responded after hearing this: "This... I'm afraid it isn't possible."

The Xian Alchemy Ancestor was their oldest ancestor. He had always been buried under the ancestral ground of the Alchemy Kingdom. He had not come into being for countless long years. For many generations, their main descendants had been unable to meet this legendary ancestor.

The Sacred Ancestor looked at the monarch and raised his voice: "Can you meet your Alchemy Ancestor?"

The hesitating monarch pondered for a while before answering: "The Xian Clan is divided into several branches. Although my branch is not the main branch, the Xian Clan has a tradition. If the circumstances allow for it, then the main descendant of each branch may meet the Alchemy Ancestor. I have inherited my branch at the moment, so theoretically, I should be able to see the ancestor."

"Virtuous Son-in-law, go meet your Alchemy Ancestor once!" The clan master happily advised.

The monarch pondered for a moment before replying: "Hmm, meeting the Alchemy Ancestor is not easy... I..."

This matter would be a huge event for their Xian Clan, so his hesitation was understandable.

The Sacred Ancestor declared in a booming voice: "As long as you can accomplish this, the Huangfu Clan will not mistreat you. I shall accept you as a disciple."

These words shook the monarch! He had heard about the Huangfu Sacred Ancestor before. Rumor has it that he was already a God-Monarch. Worshiping a God-Monarch as a master was an opportunity that one could only come across serendipitously, not something that could be sought.

The monarch composed himself with a deep breath before responding in a serious manner: "This junior can go meet the Alchemy Ancestor, but I'm afraid that I won't be able to convince him to come into being! Maybe the Alchemy Kingdom will not allow it either."

For any lineage, an existence buried underground was a priceless treasure!

"You don't have to worry about that." The Sacred Ancestor said in a deep tone: "After meeting your ancestor, tell him that there is a human capable of refining pills like cooking. This junior's alchemy is unprecedented in this world, this I can guarantee. Also, I am willing to work together with him! If we capture this Li Qiye, the alchemy technique will go to the Alchemy Ancestor!"

The monarch thought about it then took a deep breath before making his decision and solemnly responded: "Very well, I will go meet the Alchemy Ancestor. However, I cannot guarantee whether His Venerable will come out or not."

"Go." The Sacred Ancestor gently nodded and said: "As long as you can meet the ancestor, everything will be fine!"

After the monarch left, the clan master pondered: "Ancestor, you and the Alchemy Ancestor working together... Will you be able to fight against the Allpine Treefather?"

The Sacred Ancestor sat down and calmly replied: "No, we can't."

In fact, acknowledging this was not shameful at all. How many people across the entire world could say that they could fight against the treefather?!

The clan master was startled and quickly inquired: "If that's the case, then doesn't that mean we have no chance of winning?"

The Sacred Ancestor responded without haste: "That doesn't matter. The only crucial point is if the Xian's Alchemist Ancestor will be willing to take action. After that, everything will be easy. Allpine Mountain and the treefather... If they kill the Alchemy Ancestor, then that is the same as declaring war against the Alchemy Kingdom!"

"Dragging the kingdom into these muddy waters..." The clan master quickly reacted: "Wise Ancestor, if we could do so, then everything will indeed be easy!"

The Sacred Ancestor slowly said: "If the Allpine Treefather is sensible, then he should know the result of opposing the Alchemy Kingdom. Even if he was stronger than he is now, he alone is unable to shake the entire kingdom!"

The clan master composed himself and felt that this scheme was indeed amazing. "Opposing a behemoth like the kingdom just for a human junior is probably something Allpine Mountain doesn't want to do, even if the treefather was stronger than he is now. At that point, the treefather will either

hand over the brat or refuse to get involved in this matter... and then the brat will be a bird trapped in a cage!"

"That's right! Capturing this Li fella is only a matter of time. If the Alchemy Kingdom is willing to take action, then it is best if they are willing to trample over the Giant Bamboo Country as well. Nothing could be better." Having said this, the Sacred Ancestor's eyes became fierce with a terrifying murderous glint.

As a sealed undying, he was not willing to come into being. However, the Huangfu Clan had suffered greatly, so he couldn't endure it any longer. He rose to the surface and was committed to fight to the very end against his enemies!

The ancestral ground of the Alchemy Kingdom. Ming Yexue summoned an expert that was present at the treefather's birthday celebration into the palace.

The celebration was over, so the representative of the Alchemy Kingdom returned and was immediately summoned.

Ming Yexue looked at this expert and asked: "Elder Shi, how was the birthday party?"

The expert answered: "Princess, something happened at the party and I'm sure Princess has heard about it already, so I won't go into details. However, there is one thing that I must report."

"Do tell, Elder Shi." Ming Yexue said: "Your keen insight has always been welcomed by the other elders."

The expert pondered for a moment before speaking with a solemn expression: "In my personal opinion, the treefather has recovered. His problem has been dealt with."

"That can't be." Before Ming Yexue could respond, an old woman next to her said in shock: "From what I know about the treefather's tribulation, it is an extremely arduous one. The treefather had endured it for a long period of time and still couldn't deal with it, so why has it been dealt with so suddenly now?"

Ming Yexue added: "Elder Shi, you should know that the treefather also asked us for help regarding this matter. Our Ancestor Wushuang couldn't solve the problem. He had said that the treefather's problem was very difficult. Unless the treefather breaks through the last chain to become an existence of the Emperor Assailant level, he wouldn't be able to suppress this tribulation completely."

At this point, even she became emotional and said: "Does that mean that the treefather has broken through and became an Emperor Assailant?"

An Emperor Assailant was a terrifying existence that couldn't be stopped unless by an Immortal Emperor. This was true invincibility below emperors!

"I'm afraid not." This expert hesitated for a moment before continuing: "Although I was unable to see through the treefather's true level, in my opinion, he still hasn't returned to his peak condition just yet. The issue lies with Li Qiye. If I am not mistaken, then he was the one who solved the treefather's problem."

“Li Qiye again!” The old woman next to Ming Yexue had to speak: “He was actually able to solve the treefather’s tribulation! This is too demonic. Even our Ancestor Wushuang was unable to do so!”

“Li Qiye dealt with the treefather’s tribulation...” After hearing this news, Ming Yexue’s eyes also became serious.

The expert contemplated for a bit before speaking: “Princess, this is just my personal guess. Although I am not completely certain, he should indeed be the person who solved the problem. However, I believe that it is far from just this. I’m afraid the treefather didn’t only deal with his tribulation, he can now also leave Allpine Mountain. He is free now!”

The old woman next to Ming Yexue’s expression became dim as she asked: “Can the treefather truly leave the mountain?”

An existence that had lived for so long and was capable of being bestowed the title of Godking, like the treefather, would bring dread to just about anyone.

Many lineages felt lucky that he was not able to leave the mountain; otherwise, he could sweep through all his opponents in the Stone Medicine World!

The treefather’s freedom was not something everyone wanted to hear. It was definitely not a good thing for many lineages.

Just imagine, a contemporary Godking with flourishing vitality being able to travel in this world — just how terrifying was this?

“I’m afraid that is the case. I suspect that it is virtually guaranteed.” The expert solemnly responded.

With a serious gaze, Ming Yexue slowly said: “This might not necessarily be a bad thing. A few existences will be able to meet their match.”

“There is another thing.” The expert hesitated for a moment before speaking: “I believe the treefather is willing to be Li Qiye’s dao protector. Otherwise, he wouldn’t be willing to back Li Qiye to the point of destroying the Second Ancestor’s cultivation.”

“This Li Qiye is truly capable.” The old woman said: “In the past, Ye Qingcheng personally went to Allpine Mountain and tried to persuade the treefather to point out his mistakes and to become his dao protector. However, the treefather rejected this request. Now, Li Qiye actually managed to convince the treefather — this is quite unbelievable.”

“This generation will definitely be very exciting.” Ming Yexue revealed a faint smile capable of charming all existences and said: “Ye Qingcheng and Mei Aonan... They will meet a very powerful opponent.”

This expert held his breath and didn’t dare to comment because both of the people mentioned by the princess were the most likely candidates to become the Immortal Emperor of the current generation.

“Elder Shi, keep an eye out for the World-Pillar Monarch.” Eventually, Ming Yexue gave a command to this expert.

“The World-Pillar Monarch...?” The expert was slightly taken aback after hearing the command.

Ming Yexue explained: "The Huangfu Sacred Ancestor has arrived. It seems that they will not give up."
"I understand." The expert immediately said: "If there is any movement, I will report back to Princess right away."

Chapter 723: Black Fox

After the birthday banquet ended and they finalized the pact with the treefather, Li Qiye and Madam Zi Yan left Allpine Mountain for the Alchemy Kingdom. Old Demon Tie Yi also accompanied them. Of course, he was anxious the whole time on this journey. If it wasn't for Li Qiye dragging him along, perhaps he would have fled long ago.

After entering the kingdom's territory, Tie Yi became even more cowardly. He was willing to drill underground along the way instead of showing his face.

Even the madam couldn't help but ask after seeing Tie Yi's demeanor: "Did you do something wrong? Why are you so scared? Don't tell me you stole the kingdom's defining treasures?"

"No, absolutely not." Tie Yi immediately vowed: "I am a good person, a law-abiding cultivator, how could I possibly commit an evil act like stealing?"

Li Qiye leisurely glanced at him and said: "If you are a good person, then I am a saint."

"Haha, Young Noble's words are too hurtful." Tie Yi laughed drily. Perhaps he could fool others, but not Li Qiye.

"Okay, stop skulking. Properly lead the way for me since we will need to go to many places for the materials you require." Li Qiye told Tie Yi.

Tie Yi didn't quip this time and immediately went to the front. This material gathering trip was extremely important to him, so he even put aside his fear of the Alchemy Kingdom.

The group traveled and gathered herbs along the way. Tie Yi required a few extremely rare ingredients, so eventually, Li Qiye released the Alchemy Fowl in order to hasten the process.

The Alchemy Fowl was a spiritual creature adept at finding medicines. It didn't matter if the medicines were tens of thousands of miles away, the fowl could still pick up the fragrance of the medicines and instinctively find where they grew!

The Alchemy Kingdom was vast and situated above the Alchemy Vein, one of the three ancestral veins of the Stone Medicine World. With the help of the fowl, finding medicines became very easy. This gave the group ample time to make it to the alchemy conference.

It was more appropriate to call the Alchemy Kingdom an ancient lineage than an old country. Although it was named a kingdom, it had not ruled over this vast land for a very long time.

This was not to say that it lacked the ability to govern this territory, the kingdom simply didn't try. The core of the kingdom was essentially focused in its ancestral ground.

Legend states that during the Desolate Expansion Era, the Alchemy Kingdom had ruled over all of this land and created an unparalleled kingdom that greatly prospered.

However, for some unknown reason, the Alchemy Kingdom gave up on governing this vast land during a particular generation of the Emperors Era. From then on, its imperial family became reclusive and rarely showed themselves.

The outside world was not privy to the cause, and neither were future generations! To sum it all up, from that point on, the Alchemy Kingdom became very mysterious, and its disciples rarely left their ancestral ground.

Though its direct branch, or the imperial family, gave up on ruling over this vast kingdom, the kingdom still belonged to them historically. No matter how many lineages and sects there were, they all pledged allegiance to the Alchemy Kingdom. Moreover, many of them were branches from the imperial family as their ancestors were inextricably linked together.

Despite the imperial family not ruling over the lands, the monarchs chosen by the Alchemy Kingdom still managed the various regions. After many years, no one had ever heard of a king daring to seize the land to form an independent country!

This was the formidable aspect of the kingdom, as well as its charm. One sect with three Immortal Emperors and four Alchemy Emperors — who in this world actually knew their true strength?

It was also built on the Alchemy Vein, one of three grand ancestral veins in this world! The legendary Alchemy Vein left behind many legends. One of them told that True Immortal Medicines were grown near it. Another told that there was a race with the bloodline of a True God living on it. One more told that there were secrets of True Immortals in that area...

Just this one grand vein was full of secrets. It spanned for millions of miles, so it was difficult to calculate all of its territories; after all, it spanned more than half of the Alchemy Realm! Thus, half of this realm belonged to the territory of the kingdom. On top of all of this, the kingdom's extremely vast ancestral ground was built in a mountain pass that could reach the source of the grand vein.

Keep in mind that the Alchemy Vein was not just in name. Among this land of rolling hills were countless spirit medicines, and this was especially true for the mountain pass being used as the ancestral ground. Many people heard that many King Medicines grew there.

This vein was the sacred ground of spirit medicines. Someone had even calculated a statistic stating that seventy to eighty percent of all the spirit medicines in the Stone Medicine World had come from the Alchemy Vein. Just from this alone, one could easily understand just how many spirit medicines there were.

Because of all of this, the Alchemy Kingdom had the most precious of resources in the form of the grand vein. Both the vein and its vast territory left countless lineages and cultivators salivating with greed. However, despite their covetous intent, no one in the recent millions of years had dared to actually maneuver against the kingdom.

Without even mentioning territorial disputes, not many dared to steal spirit medicines from the kingdom unless they felt extremely bold.

Normally, due to its vast territory, the imperial family did not mind those who plucked medicines above the Alchemy Vein. As long as one was capable, then they were allowed to do so. However, spirit

medicines on their ancestral ground were off limits. Moreover, one couldn't even step inside this mountain pass!

Of course, many powerful cultivators — for generations — had been interested in the sceneries inside the mountain pass. They tried to sneak into the ancestral ground to steal King Medicines and Immortal Medicines.

However, for millions of years, very few were successful. The majority of these people couldn't even take a step inside the mountain pass before they were killed. There was even a story about a God-Monarch dying miserably at the entrance!

It was precisely because of the imperial family's strength that in later generations, fewer and fewer people dared to peep into this ancestral ground or had thoughts of stealing from it.

Naturally, there were always daredevils. In recent years, there was a person whose courage was as vast as the heavens known as Black Fox!

Black Fox appeared several thousand years ago. No one knew where this person came from or what his race was. Outsiders didn't even know whether the person was male or female.

In the beginning, Black Fox did not attract much attention. Although this person stole the treasures of several countries and sects, it did not cause a big commotion. It wasn't until one year later that the fox actually infiltrated the Crystallized Sea Sect and stole several treasures. This news caused quite a shock after it was spread!

At that time, the Crystallized Sea Sect even had a sky-high bounty for Black Fox. Many experts pursued Black Fox for the reward, but none of them had seen their true face.

After the successful heist, Black Fox rested for long periods of time before carrying out another heist, focusing their attention on the most powerful sects for their next move! The State of Cao, the Stone Insect Ravine, the Stony Edge Kingdom... All of these powerful lineages were robbed by him. The most sensational victim was the Heavenhoof Ravine, a sect with two emperors; one of their divine grasses was stolen by Black Fox!

The Beast Realm was nearly flipped over after this incident. The ravine released a heaven-shattering price for Black Fox's head! However, no one ever succeeded.

Rumor has it that Black Fox tried to sneak into the Jianlong Clan as well. However, then came news that although the infiltration was successful, the fox couldn't steal any treasures since they were found out by the clan. Nevertheless, the person still escaped unscathed. [1. This whole passage is really frustrating when the sex is unknown. Chinese has a singular gender-neutral pronoun, but we don't have that in English.]

After this failure on top of having made so many enemies, people thought that Black Fox would stop here.

In fact, the fox did not appear before the world again for another long period of time! However, an earth-shattering event happened later on.

Black Fox had snuck into the Alchemy Kingdom's ancestral ground and stole a supreme immortal treasure from the imperial family. However, the fox was detected and surrounded by many ancestors of the kingdom!

The legend stated that Black Fox wanted to escape from the ancestral ground by using a peerless art, but this ended in failure. After being detained, the fox was eventually killed by the elders!

Afterward, there was even a rumor stating that the elders ground the fox's bones to dust and spread it around the Alchemy Kingdom as a warning to those who had malicious intentions against them.

Regardless of whether this was true or not, one thing was certain — Black Fox never appeared again.

The fox became a cautionary tale for many experts who coveted the kingdom's ancestral ground. If the person who could escape from the Jianlong Clan and also stole a treasure from the ravine died in the Alchemy Kingdom, then those who wanted to try better reflect on their own abilities first.

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Chapter 724: White Cloud Master

After they entered the kingdom, Li Qiye released the Alchemy Fowl to find the herbs that Tie Yi required. The kingdom was the biggest natural garden in the Stone Medicine World, so it could be said that the whole process was quite easy with the chicken's help.

However, the chicken did cause trouble for Li Qiye. It was a supreme species and a priceless treasure, especially to alchemists. A chicken like this would cause countless alchemists to drool.

And so, on a particular day, the Alchemy Fowl climbed up Mysterious Mountain to pluck a Serpent Spirit Root. The moment it flew back to stand on Li Qiye's shoulder, a team could be found chasing after it from the mountain.

This team had around one hundred people; all of them were experts with surging blood energies like rivers. All of them wore daoist robes, and among them were golems and demons in all kinds of shapes and sizes. The leader was a demon with round eyes and a tiger's forehead. It was clear that he was a

demon tiger. He was adorned with a golden daoist robe and had a whisk in his hand. The tiger image behind his robes emitted a howl as if it could destroy all things.

This Demon Monarch had reached the Era Sovereign realm. This was the apex of the Heavenly Sovereign realm, and he could step into the Heavenly King realm at any moment.

The tiger daoist, with his hundred disciples, quickly descended the mountain. The moment he saw the Alchemy Fowl standing on Li Qiye's shoulder, his eyes became fierce. Although they didn't surround Li Qiye's group, a formation was already formed so they could entrap them at any time.

"Infinite blessings to you..." This tiger daoist cupped his hands and greeted Li Qiye with a daoist phrase. While approaching, he added: "Fellow Daoist, I am the master of the White Cloud Temple. This Alchemy Fowl was found by us first so Fellow Daoist, please return it to us. We will surely repay you."

"Return it to you?" Li Qiye smiled and said: "This chicken is my pet. Me not bickering with you all for chasing my chicken is already considered a blessing."

"What proof do you have that it is your pet? This chicken was first tamed by us, but due to our carelessness, it managed to escape. As a result, you happened to pick it up just now." An expert behind the White Cloud Master sneered.

Without a doubt, the experts from this temple wanted to take the chicken. This was not strange at all. Anyone would salivate over a supreme bird like the Alchemy Fowl.

The master looked at Li Qiye. In his eyes, Li Qiye was ordinary without anything special. He then looked at the madam and noticed that she was hiding her blood energy. He predicted that this woman ahead was not necessarily stronger than him.

Next was the carriage that Li Qiye was on; it couldn't be any more shabby. The master became confident and felt that Li Qiye's group must have come from a little sect and wouldn't be powerful at all.

Since the master was not as strong as the madam, it was not surprising that he couldn't see through her cultivation when she was hiding her energy.

"Fellow Daoist, whether this chicken is your pet or not, our White Cloud Temple will not take advantage of others. As long as you are willing to part with this chicken, the price is negotiable." The White Cloud Master said slowly.

It wasn't easy to meet an Alchemy Fowl, so the White Cloud Temple would not give up. Because of this, the master wanted to force this transaction regardless of whether Li Qiye wanted to or not.

However, Li Qiye didn't bat an eye and dismissively said: "Not for sale."

The master's expression immediately darkened after hearing this response. At this time, the disciples of the temple quickly encircled the group. Their actions made it very clear that if Li Qiye didn't sell, they would resort to violence.

Such a threatening stance would cause a cultivator from a small sect to tremble and most likely hand over the Alchemy Fowl.

The master's intimidation tactic was far from just this. He deepened his tone: "Fellow Daoist, you should know that the Alchemy Fowl is a spirit bird and should only be owned by a virtuous master. I am not trying to benefit from buying the chicken, I am simply obeying the orders of Celestial Being Ye Qingcheng. Under his orders, our temple is here to pick herbs from the Alchemy Kingdom..."

"... Today, we saw your Alchemy Fowl and remembered Young Noble Ye's orders; he had once told all the heroes in this world to help find him one! This old daoist is buying it as a tribute for Young Noble Ye, so please let it go. When you visit the Stone Realm in the future, Young Noble Ye will surely repay you." The master finished in an aggressive tone.

The message was very clear. One could afford to not give him face, but not Ye Qingcheng.

Even the most uninformed person in the Stone Medicine World knew that Ye Qingcheng could become the future Immortal Emperor. Many people in this world held him in high regard, and countless powerful cultivators and lineages pledged allegiance to him!

Just bringing up the name "Ye Qingcheng" was enough to scare others into giving face! Someone described Ye Qingcheng as having one hundred great generals under his banner. Although this type of claim was a bit exaggerated, from it, one could see just how irresistible Ye Qingcheng was to have so many big shots from the previous generation working for him!

The White Cloud Temple was also a first-rate sect in the Stone Realm, yet it was still willing to work for Ye Qingcheng and travel the world to find him medicines.

"None of my business." Li Qiye met the master's threat unperturbed.

"This thing does not know life from death!" An expert from the temple shouted and said: "Young Noble Ye is the supreme celestial being. Many people want to seek his favor but failed! Today, Young Noble Ye values your Alchemy Fowl — this is your honor. Obediently hand it over or else there will be no place in the Stone Medicine World for you!"

At this point, the temple was ready to let go of the facade. If Li Qiye didn't sell, they would just rob him.

Li Qiye was too lazy to look at them. He gently waved his sleeve and told the madam: "Zi Yan, get them to scram. If not, slay them all!" He didn't have the patience to tangle with the White Cloud Temple.

The madam got off from the carriage, focused her gaze on the group, and told them: "Do you all want to leave on your own volition, or do you want to be carried away?" [1. It means that they will be too injured to walk or might even die.]

Another expert from the temple shouted: "Such a big tone, ignorant fool—"

"Pa!" However, before this expert could finish his words, he was blown away by a slap, causing his blood to crazily spurt everywhere. In the blink of an eye, the madam's blood energy soared to the sky along with her Heavenly King aura. This was a great Demon King capable of looking down on the crowd. With an ethereal bamboo image behind her, she caused others to feel as if they were lost in a bamboo forest.

"Heavenly King..." The experts of the temple were shocked after the madam's aura erupted. All of them took several thumping steps back, especially the White Cloud Master. His face paled and knew that he was mistaken, a frog at the bottom of a well. However, he was still the lord of a temple, so he quickly

regained his composure and cupped his hands together towards the madam to say: "So it turns out that this lady is the legendary Giant Bamboo Country's Demon King Zi Yan. I have eyes but could not see and have offended you. Please forgive our transgression, let us make amends!" With that, he bowed deeply.

"It is a small world, so may we meet another day. Goodbye, Your Majesty Zi Yan." After the bow, he immediately turned around to leave with his disciples.

The master was indeed a sly fox and was able to discern the situation very quickly. The moment he met someone stronger, he immediately gave up and accepted his defeat to withdraw. This was a person capable of bending if necessary.

However, Li Qiye coldly shouted: "Stop!"

The group who wanted to escape had to halt their steps, not daring to run. After all, there was a Heavenly King here, so they were very afraid.

"Young Noble, we were frogs at the bottom of a well and couldn't see someone great, so we apologize. I hope that even if Young Noble doesn't care for the monk, please show consideration for Buddha, consideration for Young Noble Ye..." The master said apologetically.

Li Qiye waved his sleeve and dismissively said: "I don't know this Ye Qingcheng. However, since you all want to bring him up, shut up and I will spare your lives so that you can send a message to him. Tell him that wherever I, Li Qiye, am located, scam as far away as possible! If he or his hounds dare to provoke me, sooner or later, I will personally visit the Stony Edge Kingdom and trample it!"

Li Qiye's words caused the master's expression to greatly change. However, he was an adaptive sly fox, so he cupped his hands and said: "I will remember Young Noble's words and personally inform Young Noble Ye." Having said that, he didn't dare to linger any longer and left with his disciples.

"What an old fox. He fled so quickly after seeing the situation taking a turn for the worse. With no need for face or honor, such thick-skin really puts others to shame." At this time, Tie Yi crawled out from the ground and commented.

"Knowing when to advance and when to retreat is not necessarily a bad thing. At the very least, he will be able to preserve his life." Li Qiye responded with a smirk.

Tie Yi asked Li Qiye: "Does Young Noble really want to oppose Ye Qingcheng?"

Li Qiye looked at him and responded: "Why not? Those who block my path shall be killed without mercy, regardless of who they may be."

"I heard that Ye Qingcheng's dao protector is an extremely unfathomable monster. Rumor has it that he is an invincible giant that's even more frightening than the Allpine Treefather." Tie Yi contemplated for a moment before telling this very important news to Li Qiye.

Chapter 725: Ambushed

"An existence more powerful than the Allpine Treefather? Who could it be in the Stone Medicine World?" After hearing this, the madam couldn't help but be moved.

In this world, everyone knew of the treefather's prestige. Although he didn't claim to be a Godking, many people in this world respected him as one. For many generations, it was common knowledge that outside of Immortal Emperors, it would be hard to find someone stronger than him.

The madam had heard that there were a few existences even stronger than the treefather, but she had never met them or even heard of them showing themselves.

Tie Yi shook his head and said: "I don't know the details, I only heard that Supreme Celestial Being Ye Qingcheng is unbelievable and actually managed to convince a few old undyings to come out. An old undying that had slept for millions of years also emerged to be his dao protector."

"Invincible giant?" Li Qiye grinned and said: "So what? Those who block my path, no matter who they are, shall be killed without mercy!"

Having said that, he glanced at Tie Yi and said indifferently: "It seems that your news is quite up to date, you really know many things."

"Haha, thank you for your praise. This little one has only heard rumors, that's all." Tie Yi rubbed his palms together and wryly smiled in a very humble manner.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't delve deeper. He said: "Let us go. Once we settle down and prepare the ingredients, I will start the cauldron for you."

Tie Yi became excited and immediately responded: "Thank you, Young Noble. As long as Young Noble gives the order, I will obey it even at the risk of my life."

Li Qiye didn't say anything else and got on his carriage to continue the journey. However, they didn't get far when suddenly, a buzzing sound rang in the distance. A dao rune appeared above them and turned into an ancient formation at an unbelievable speed.

"Whoosh—!" The ancient formation suddenly rained down countless arrows that quickly sealed the surrounding thousand mile radius.

"We're being ambushed!" The madam shouted with a shocked expression. The moment she wanted to protect Li Qiye, she found that the rain of arrows from the sky was not aiming at them.

"Clank!" The sound of a series of chains clanking together appeared. In the blink of an eye while the madam was startled, the entire space here was sealed by the arrows that turned into a giant lock.

This ancient lock could seal the heavens above and suppress hell below. It suddenly appeared with the intention of sealing the entire group.

"This is..." In this split second, both the madam and Tie Yi were astounded since they couldn't move; it was as if their bodies were chained by something.

Even Li Qiye was no exception. A gigantic lock capable of sealing even time itself trapped him despite his incredible power.

However, Li Qiye remained calm unlike the frightened madam and Tie Yi. Only his eyes narrowed as he gazed at the formation in the sky.

“Moo—” During this perilous moment, the Imperial Draco-Bull used an unbelievable might to escape the lock. It roared and pulled the carriage into the sky! It traversed thousands of miles in just the blink of an eye with astonishing speed.

Right when it escaped the border, the formation in the sky emitted a bright light. Countless arrows — once again — shot over the earth to create a new lock to seal the bull once more.

However, as the bull traversed the sky, it was like a dragon soaring in the nine heavens and seemed to be able to escape the shackles of the world’s laws. It seemed to have eluded the fabric of space and time. No matter what the lock tried to do, it was unable to stop the bull.

With continuous detonations, the bull was able to pull the carriage away from the thousand mile radius that the formation encompassed and crossed the earth. In the blink of an eye, it traveled over one million miles. Such speed would stun just about anyone! Of course, its great name was not just for show.

By the time the bull stopped, it had thoroughly escaped from the formation; the locks around Madam Zi Yan and company all disappeared. The madam finally calmed down, but she was still quite shaken despite being a Heavenly King. She took a deep break and said: “Who ambushed us? I’m afraid that that formation was either of the emperor or Godking level!”

She was quite powerful, but the seal from the lock in the sky had rendered her immobile without any opportunity to resist. Such a powerful suppression astounded her!

“Is it that group from the White Cloud Temple?” The madam asked with doubt. Earlier, they had a fight with the temple, and now, someone suddenly ambushed them. This was quite a coincidence.

Tie Yi shuddered and exclaimed while aghast: “The person who ambushed us must be a legendary master at the very least. Even if they aren’t a God-Monarch, they would still be an incredible Virtuous Paragon!”

Li Qiye glanced at Tie Yi before speaking nonchalantly: “We’ll find out right away if we go back and take a look.”

“Go back?” The madam shuddered and said: “The enemy might still be there. If we go back now, isn’t it the same as walking back into their trap?!”

“Into their trap?” Li Qiye smiled and said: “If they have left already, then it is their fortune. After all, there would be no leaving otherwise.” His eyes became fierce after finishing these words.

In this instant, both the madam and Tie Yi couldn’t help but feel a chill. Li Qiye’s fierce eyes made them think that he was an awakened beast from prehistoric eras, capable of devouring the heaven and earth. The madam had an illusion that Li Qiye was grinding his white fangs, ready to sink his teeth in.

He emitted an aura that would instill chills in just about anyone! He let the bull pull the carriage back. The madam and Tie Yi didn’t dare to underestimate their opponents, so they acted cautiously with frayed nerves, paying attention to every single detail.

The moment they made it back to where they used to be, the ancient arrows locking the area had disappeared. The formation was gone as well, let alone the lock that could suppress the world.

In its place was another ordinary looking carriage. It seemed that this carriage had just got here as well. The driver was an old woman. At this time, she jumped down from the carriage and was looking around.

“Who are you?” After seeing this old woman, the madam immediately stood up and went to the front as if she was about to face a great enemy.

The old woman looked at the madam and said: “Madam Zi Yan, I am not your enemy.” Having said that, her eyes fell upon Li Qiye sitting in the carriage.

The old woman was able to reveal the madam’s identity, yet she herself knew nothing about the old woman’s origin, leaving her anxious. She didn’t know whether the old woman was friend or foe.

She couldn’t help but look back at her Young Master, wanting to leave it up to him. Li Qiye took a look at the old woman, then at the carriage stopped at the side.

Li Qiye couldn’t be more familiar with this carriage. Back when he was traveling towards Celestial Peak Mountain, it had appeared before! At that time, this old woman was the driver as well.

Li Qiye dismissively said: “I don’t know whether we are enemies or not, but first, come out of your carriage to talk, stop hiding inside.”

These words made the old woman change her expression. In the blink of an eye, she seemed to have turned into a completely different person. Her old eyes sucked in and expelled starry glimmers as an entire galaxy emerged from within!

“What do you want to do?!” The madam also felt how terrifying this woman before her was. With an alarmed look, she continued to stand before Li Qiye, ready to protect her Young Master!

The old woman didn’t take action and instead only spoke coldly towards Li Qiye: “Young Noble Li, please speak with a little respect. We mean you no harm.”

“Is that so?” Li Qiye said: “Whether you are malicious or not doesn’t matter to me. Not long before this, you had followed me, and back at the Celestial Peak, you also spied on me! At that time, I didn’t do anything because I was in a good mood. But right now, that is no longer the case. Since you happen to be here, you must comply to my whim!”

“Young Noble Li, you are being way too overbearing. This world is vast, who says that we cannot appear at the location that you are already at?” The old woman asked coldly.

She was now angry. They had an earth-shattering origin. Those who knew them would tremble in fear, so who would dare to provoke them? But now, Li Qiye was acting extremely aggressively.

“I don’t want to mince words.” Li Qiye didn’t bat an eye and spoke with a cold demeanor: “Right now, get out of your carriage or I’ll smash it apart!”

The old woman’s expression greatly soured. At this time, her blood energy erupted to the sky like a True Dragon soaring into the air. She coldly uttered: “Young Noble Li, do you really think you are invincible in this world?!”

The eruption of her blood energy astonished both the madam and Tie Yi. They clearly knew that this old woman was a frightening and absolutely amazing Virtuous Paragon!

[spoiler title='725 Teaser']“An existence more powerful than the Allpine Treefather? Who could it be in the Stone Medicine World?” After hearing this, the madam couldn't help but become moved.

In this world, everyone knew of the treefather's prestige. Although he didn't claim to be a Godking, many people in this world respected him as one. For many generations, it was common knowledge that outside of Immortal Emperors, it would be hard to find someone stronger than him.

The madam had heard that there were a few existences even stronger than the treefather, but she had never met them or heard of them.

Tie Yi shook his head and said: “I don't know the details, I only heard that Supreme Celestial Being Ye Qingcheng is unbelievable and actually managed to convince a few old undyings to come out. An old undying that had been sleeping for millions of years had also come out to be his dao protector.”

Chapter 726: Kingdom-toppling Beauty

Li Qiye remained unperturbed despite the old woman's True Dragon-like blood energy. He said dismissively: “I don't know whether I am invincible in this world or not, I only know that I will smash this carriage apart if the person inside does not come out! My patience is limited, I do not wish to repeat myself a second time.”

“You!” The old woman was shaking with anger. Even Supreme Celestial Being Ye Qingcheng whom others called the number one genius of the Stone Medicine World wouldn't dare to talk to them like this. But now, Li Qiye dared to utter such arrogant words!

“Grandma, it is fine. It is about time for me to meet Young Noble Li.” Right when the old woman was about to unleash her fury, a girl's voice came from the carriage.

This voice was completely charming and pleasant. Anyone who heard this voice would imagine that this girl had supreme beauty.

After hearing her young miss, the old woman had to swallow her anger. However, she still angrily glared at Li Qiye since she was especially annoyed at him.

The old woman opened the carriage's door, letting out a girl. The moment she appeared, the sun and moon were eclipsed and myriad existences were shamed!

Even the words “supreme beauty” were not enough to describe her. With a willowy and pretty figure, her perfect features couldn't be described with the pen. Calling such a peerless girl the number one beauty in the Stone Medicine World was still not enough.

She wore a light yellow dress that accentuated her kingdom-toppling beauty! She was so stunning that anyone who met her would immediately think that she was a celestial with an air of calmness. Her pretty eyes with spirited glimmers were even more radiant than the stars.

A celestial with great intelligence and confidence that was prepared to face anything. She didn't have an oppressive and arrogant aura either, but humility was not the right way to put it. Her temperament gave the sensation of perfection, like ink coming together with paper; it was too difficult to describe.

Madam Zi Yan's beauty could also be described as kingdom-toppling. Although her beauty was not the reason why she was renowned around the world, many people would agree that she was absolutely gorgeous. However, before this girl, even the madam's beauty dimmed; she simply couldn't compare!

"She is..." Tie Yi was shocked after seeing this girl ahead and immediately drilled into the ground, no longer daring to show his face.

Li Qiye was as calm as ever as he gauged the girl from top to bottom without missing any details. In the eyes of others, his current appearance was one of a womanizer, causing the old woman to snort in great disapproval.

However, the peerless beauty ahead was very graceful and free. Despite Li Qiye's enjoyment, she was neither angry nor embarrassed.

Prior to this, Li Qiye had also met stunning beauties, such as Jian Wushuang. However, although Jian Wushuang had astonishing features, she didn't have the same aura as the girl in front of him. This girl held a noble air with formidable wisdom as if she would be unperturbed by anything! Based on just temperaments alone, Jian Wushuang couldn't compare to her.

The peerless beauty spoke slowly towards Li Qiye as if she was unstained by this mundane world: "I rarely meet people, but I can understand why Young Noble Li was unhappy."

Li Qiye looked at her and said: "Today, my mood was quite sour, but it's much improved after seeing you!"

His words were obviously teasing her. Other women would not give Li Qiye a good reaction even if they didn't get angry. However, this girl didn't show her attitude and gently nodded to say: "It is a kind of honor to be able to improve Young Noble Li's mood."

"Not bad, not bad at all." Li Qiye smiled and said: "I appreciate girls like you! It is indeed difficult for others to not like such a smart girl. A supreme beauty needs more than just a good bag of skin; one needs a sense of self-awareness and wisdom."

Li Qiye's frank teasing would cause any beauty to be offended, but not this peerless girl ahead. However, the old woman next to her was angry enough for both of them as she maintained her cold glare on Li Qiye.

Even the madam standing by his side couldn't help but wryly smile. Only her Young Master would openly flirt with this peerless beauty like this.

"I am honored at Young Noble's praises." The girl chuckled, but this chuckle alone was so kingdom-toppling that it could steal the souls from others, causing them to be forever enchanted.

"A pearl in the night!" Li Qiye looked at the peerless beauty and praised: "Little girl, you have tempted me, so follow me."

"Ah..." The madam next to him was at a loss for words. This was rather too domineering. He actually wanted a peerless beauty to follow him on their first meeting!

However, the madam thought about it some more; wasn't it the same when she met her Young Master for the first time?

“Such a big tone, do you know who our Young Miss is?” The girl didn’t answer, but the old woman couldn’t help but say: “In this entire world, there are very few men worthy of our Young Miss!”

Li Qiye smirked and said: “In the nine worlds and ten realms, there are very few women worthy of marrying me! Either way, I want her, but not to marry her!”

“You!” The old woman was now shivering with rage. Anyone in this world would lose their mind when they met her Young Miss. Even the supreme celestial being, Ye Qingcheng, was no exception.

But now, this Li Qiye pushed it even further. He wanted her Young Miss to follow him, and he even dared to arrogantly say that he wouldn’t marry her? She had truly never seen such an arrogant and egotistical man.

“Does Young Noble Li want me to become your concubine?” The peerless girl revealed a wonderful smile and shook her head: “I’m afraid I’m not used to being someone’s concubine.”

Despite the teasing, she remained unruffled and managed to display her amazing temperament. Such a look would captivate the heart of others.

“The more I look at you, the more I like you.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “However, little girl, don’t misunderstand. I only need you to be by my side! In the future, there will be a spot for you among my supreme generals!”

“Supreme general?” The old woman interjected and said: “My Young Miss will be the one to bear this generation’s Heaven’s Will!”

“With me here, who else is qualified to shoulder the Heaven’s Will?” Li Qiye chuckled and said: “However, I like you. If you follow me, then in the future when we are at the apex, the master of the order of generals, the controller of the decree to the nine worlds will be none other than you.”

The madam was moved after hearing this. Her Young Master’s words clearly showed how much he valued the peerless girl before them. However, this was not surprising at all considering her origin.

The initially angry old woman was stumped and couldn’t say anything. If she didn’t know Li Qiye’s abilities, she would definitely say that he was ignorant, but she knew the situation so she couldn’t refute him.

The peerless girl looked at Li Qiye, revealing a smile that would cause all the flowers to lose their colors and said: “It is our first meeting, yet Young Noble Li is already entrusting me with such a great task, are you not afraid that I will decline due to the difficulty?”

Anyone else would think that Li Qiye was insane, but this girl with an amazing background answered in such a manner.

Li Qiye casually batted his eyes and said: “I am rarely wrong when it comes to judging people. Moreover, if you weren’t capable, then the old geezer buried beneath the Star Cliff wouldn’t pass his legacy onto you.”

This revelation greatly shocked the old woman. She immediately stepped forward with an aura as fierce as an unsheathed divine sword, completely different from before.

It was clear that she intended to harm Li Qiye, even to the point of killing him in order to keep this secret!

Meanwhile, the confident girl was still calm. Her expression shifted a little after hearing him, but she didn't overreact. She shook her head gently at the old woman and said: "Grandma, we can't."

The old woman gazed at Li Qiye for a long time before snorting and went back behind the peerless girl. However, her old eyes remained fixated on Li Qiye as if she would attack at any moment.

Li Qiye only smiled leisurely against such hostility and said: "It is wise not to attack me. A Virtuous Paragon is no big deal for me."

The old woman felt extremely aggravated after being provoked by a junior like Li Qiye. If it wasn't for her Young Miss, she would have already tried to teach Li Qiye a lesson.

The peerless girl gently sighed and said: "Young Noble's conduct is impossible to predict. Very few people know this secret. Where did Young Noble learn of it?"

She was secretly shaken after Li Qiye's revelation because very few people knew about this matter, including even the sect she came from. And yet, an outsider like Li Qiye actually knew this secret!

"Don't be surprised." Li Qiye said: "Others might not know why the old geezer below the Star Cliff passed his legacy down to you, but I can tell you an old tale. A very long time ago, a rock fell down from the Bi'an Beastworld. However, the truth that the world didn't know was that it wasn't just one rock that fell down that year, but three!" [1. The bi'an / 狴犴, (Hybrid of tiger and dragon) a creature that likes litigation, are placed over prison gates (in order to keep guard).]

"I cannot permit you to live any longer!" The old woman suddenly became horrified and no longer hid her murderous intent. She instantly wanted to take action.

However, before she could get close to Li Qiye, the Imperial Draco-Bull raised its front hooves and kicked heavily. With a loud bang, the old woman was forced to take several steps back from the blow. It didn't matter that she was an amazing Virtuous Paragon!

[spoiler title='726 Teaser']Li Qiye remained unperturbed despite the old woman's True Dragon-like blood energy. He said dismissively: "I don't know whether I am invincible in this world or not, I only know that I will smash this carriage apart if the person inside does not come out! My patience is limited, I do not wish to repeat myself a second time."

"You!" The old woman was shaking with anger. Even Supreme Celestial Being Ye Qingcheng whom others called the number one genius of the Stone Medicine World wouldn't dare to talk to them like this. But now, Li Qiye dared to utter such arrogant words!

"Grandma, it is fine. It is about time for me to meet Young Noble Li."

Chapter 727: Ming Yexue

The old woman was astounded after being kicked back by the beast. She was a paragon yet was still blown back like this. One could easily imagine just how heaven-defying this seemingly inconspicuous buffalo was.

“Out of consideration for this little girl, I won’t kill you. However, don’t try to provoke me. Even a lineage like yours is not worthy to be in my sight!” Li Qiye slowly uttered.

The old woman’s expression became a bit unsightly. No one had ever dared to speak in such a bold manner or look down on their lineage, but these words came out from Li Qiye’s mouth today.

“Grandma, it’s fine.” The peerless girl gently waved her sleeve and shook her head again after seeing the old woman wanting to give them another shot.

The old woman finally stopped after receiving the command from her Young Miss. However, she was still cautious towards Li Qiye because he knew too much. If necessary, their lineage would use absolutely any means necessary to silence him.

Li Qiye stared at the girl ahead, then he walked from his carriage to her. The two of them stood face to face. It could even be said that they could feel each other’s breaths.

They peered into each other’s eyes as if they wanted to read something within that they didn’t want outsiders to know.

After a while, Li Qiye began to gently caress the peerless girl’s beautiful face. Such an action was completely out of line and would be intolerable to any other girl! The old woman’s murderous intent rose once again. Her Young Miss was not for anyone to shame!

The peerless girl gently waved her sleeve again to stop the old woman. Meanwhile, Madam Zi Yan was in disbelief. She had guessed the girl’s background, but her Young Master actually still dared to flirt with her like this on their first meeting.

What was even more astonishing was that this peerless girl didn’t reject his advance. One must know that countless men in this world immediately fell in love with her at first sight. Even the most incomparable genius would instantly fall for her!

Li Qiye continued to gently caress her face with a very delicate motion as if she was his lover. At the same time, the peerless girl closed her eyes to feel his tender touch. It seemed that at this second, she was sensing his stroke while he was able to feel her heartbeat.

This scene became eternal, as if time had stopped. Both the madam and the old woman were stunned while looking at the two.

The old woman knew her Young Miss all too well. She had never been close to people, but today, she accepted this gesture of affection from a stranger during the first meeting.

“This is... unbelievable.” Tie Yi emerged from the ground to witness this scene unfold and was moved as well since he knew a thing or two!

No one knew how long this affectionate scene lasted, but Li Qiye eventually withdrew his hand. He gazed at the peerless girl inches away from him and gently shook his head to say: “You are not a descendant of the Ming Clan.”

“Nonsense!” The old woman cried out in shock after hearing this: “Young Noble Li, one can eat carelessly but cannot speak without thinking!”

This had something to do with a great secret that their lineage would absolutely not want outsiders to find out.

The peerless girl gestured and said: "Grandma, it's fine. Young Noble Li is not an outsider."

"Young Miss..." The old woman was dumbstruck after hearing this because that word had many implications and secrets within.

The peerless girl stopped there and looked at Li Qiye to introduce herself: "I am Ming Yexue of the Alchemy Kingdom, it is my pleasure to meet Young Noble Li."

Ming Yexue! The main descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom, the number one beauty of the Stone Medicine World, a mysterious person who had always kept a low profile. Although very few people had seen her true appearance, her reputation was widespread in the entire world!

Who in this world didn't know the name Fairy Ming Yexue? Who didn't know about the descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom?!

Li Qiye smiled and gently shook his head to say: "No, little girl. To be more exact, welcome back. Stay by my side from now on."

Prior to this, he was uncertain whether they had met before. However, this familiar sensation and the unforgettable heartbeat that he knew so well...

To him, it didn't matter if this peerless girl was Ming Yexue, the descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom, she was still her!

"I still don't understand." The contemporary number one beauty with unfathomable strength couldn't grasp Li Qiye's intentions. He gave her a very familiar feeling, one of dependence and closeness.

"It is fine not to understand. The past is not important, you will understand in the future." Li Qiye smiled. At this moment, he was in a particularly good mood.

Li Qiye stretched out his hand, and although Ming Yexue was dazed for a moment, she gently touched his arm in a natural and relaxed manner as if this was how things should be.

While looking at this scene, the madam, the old woman, and Tie Yi were all astonished. This scene was so natural that people simply wouldn't want to destroy it.

This was the number one beauty of this world! Countless geniuses and imperial descendants wanted to court her but were unable to do so. At this very minute, she intimately held Li Qiye's hand like lovers. This action was as affectionate as it could be. Any spectator would be jealous at such a scene. The younger generation would be driven crazy by this since Ming Yexue was the goddess in many of their minds!

At this point, the old woman noticed her Young Miss following Li Qiye to his carriage. She was taken aback and hesitantly said: "Young Miss, I'm afraid this won't be good."

Li Qiye looked at the old woman who was nervous from wanting to protect her Young Miss. He only smiled and said: "Hundred-Life definitely didn't reveal many secrets to you."

“You, you are...” The old woman was astounded because just these words alone revealed a monumental secret. Even ordinary ancestors in their kingdom didn’t know this. She was only able to become privy to it since she was the one who accompanied Ming Yexue during her childhood!

“Your Alchemy Kingdom has no notable secrets to me.” Li Qiye sat on the carriage and said: “Besides, you don’t need to be so paranoid. I will cherish this little girl more than anyone else. My protection for her will far exceed the likes of what your Alchemy Kingdom can provide!” Having said that, he gently stroked Ming Yexue’s hair.

At this time, Ming Yexue was sitting next to him while Madam Zi Yan took the other side. Both of them were great beauties, especially Ming Yexue who was especially peerless. Such a scene was incredibly enviable and jealousy-inducing.

The old woman stared at Li Qiye for a while before choosing to be quiet. It was just as he said, there were many secrets that she did not know. For example, her Young Miss was said to be the descendant of the Ming Clan, however, very few people in the kingdom knew that this was not the truth!

Tie Yi looked at Ming Yexue following Li Qiye and couldn’t help but wet his dry lips and murmur: “Damn, so amazing, is this actually happening?” He knew a particular secret, but he was still in disbelief after seeing this scene since it was just too shocking for him.

Ming Yexue’s eyes fell upon Tie Yi who still had half of his body underground. She revealed a faint, charming smile and asked: “This Fellow Daoist... Have we met before?”

Tie Yi’s expression greatly changed after hearing this; it was as if he had seen a ghost. He immediately waved his palms in denial and said: “No, no, no, Fairy Ming is thinking too highly of this lowly one. This lowly one is only a small, insignificant ant demon that has only heard of Fairy’s great name; this lowly one has never seen Fairy’s face before. Our meeting today is this lowly one’s blessing that had been accumulated for three lifetimes.” With that, he immediately drilled into the ground and escaped without a trace as if he was very afraid.

Li Qiye understood Tie Yi’s action very clearly, but he didn’t point it out. He simply stroked Ming Yexue’s jade-like hand while closing his eyes, seemingly caught in old memories.

“I have some questions.” After a while, Ming Yexue softly spoke to him. She was so calm and elegant that it would cause others to become intoxicated.

Even a beauty like Madam Zi Yan had to admit that calling her the number one beauty in the Stone Medicine World was not enough.

“I know, but none of that matters.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “You will understand later. However, I have something to remind you of right now. Your Alchemy Kingdom has someone using the Heaven Suppression Formation, aiming to capture me! Out of consideration for you, I will not pursue this matter. However, if there is ever a second time, I will overturn the Alchemy Kingdom.”

“Overturn the Alchemy Kingdom!” The old woman was upset at such words. She was from the kingdom and its direct branch at that. How could she be happy when Li Qiye said such things in front of her?

“I know you are annoyed with me.” Li Qiye chuckled and said: “If you can meet Hundred-Life, let him know that your Alchemy Kingdom shouldn’t forget your past mistakes. Don’t forget the aftermath of the Divine Beast Realm!”

Such words rendered her breathless because she had heard a few legends that were known by fewer than few people. Even the kingdom’s big shots didn’t know about them!

“Young Noble Li shouldn’t blame Grandma, she is just very protective towards me.” Ming Yexue slowly said.

Li Qiye looked at the old woman and said: “I’m not mad at her. If I was, then the Imperial Draco-Bull wouldn’t have simply kicked her away earlier!”

Chapter 728: Ye Qingcheng’s Origin

The old woman became very dejected, but she couldn’t truly become angry. The bull’s strength far exceeded her imagination. She couldn’t help but feel powerless; she didn’t even have the means to resist!

Li Qiye’s arrogance was particularly upsetting. As a great character from the kingdom, she wanted to teach him a lesson about his disrespectful attitude, but she couldn’t do anything when such a powerful existence like the bull was present.

Ming Yexue slightly frowned and said: “I also came because of this. We have many experts at the kingdom, but one that can utilize such a great formation must be at the ancestor level. At this moment, whether it’s the direct branch or the side branches, no ancestors have come into being. At least, not on record.”

Li Qiye chuckled and said: “Then go look into it. This time, I will not take action because of you, but this won’t necessarily be the case next time.”

Ming Yexue gently nodded and said: “Whether it is the direct or side branches, the elders will investigate this matter to see if an ancestor had personally taken action.”

She was a decisive person, so after making her choice, she immediately wanted to go back. She told Li Qiye: “Does Young Noble Li want to go with me? If you are willing to enter our ancestral ground, I will introduce you to our elders.”

To the younger generation of the Stone Medicine World, such an invitation was definitely an honor and a great compliment. Anyone would happily accept it.

Whether it was for her beauty or to see the ancestral ground of the Alchemy Kingdom, both were irresistible to the younger generation.

However, Li Qiye only smiled and said: “You go back first. I will take a look later.”

Anyone would go mad if they knew that even an invitation from the number one beauty was refused.

Ming Yexue didn’t push the subject. After saying farewell, she went back to her carriage and quickly left in order to investigate this matter.

After watching Ming Yexue's carriage leave, Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and sat back down.

The madam couldn't help but ask after Li Qiye settled down: "Young Master knew Fairy Ming before this?"

Li Qiye looked back at the departing direction of Ming Yexue and smilingly said: "How should I put this... Prior to this, I have never met or known anything about Ming Yexue, the descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom."

However, he left out a sentence. A very long time ago, he once possessed an item that he painstakingly cultivated!

Tie Yi crawled out from the ground at this time with a slightly changed expression and said: "This Fairy Ming, she's unfathomable, very unfathomable, and scary on top of that."

The madam nodded in agreement to this evaluation: "This is true. Although Fairy Ming's fame is not as prominent as Ye Qingcheng's notoriety because of her mysterious and low profile conduct, many people still consider her as an existence capable of opposing Ye Qingcheng."

"Your Majesty Zi Yan misunderstood what I meant." Tie Yi shook his head and said: "I'm not only referring to her unfathomable cultivation or her unparalleled talents! I am talking about her frightening origin! It is definitely monstrous!"

After listening to the ant, the madam shuddered and replied: "Many big shots in this world know about Ye Qingcheng's origin. He might be from the golem race, but it is far from being that simple since he was initially a divine stone! An unmatched stone!"

"I have heard of this speculation as well." Tie Yi nodded and added: "Ye Qingcheng's past life was the Stony Edge Kingdom's defining stone. Legend states that this stone was obtained by their progenitor, Immortal Emperor Shi Feng. However, its exact origin couldn't be pinpointed by future generations. In short, this was the greatest stone in their kingdom..."

"It was hidden in the location with the richest amount of worldly energy at the Stony Edge Kingdom. For generations, the wise sages of the kingdom preached dao scriptures to this stone and used their blood energy to cultivate it. A few decades ago, this stone suddenly felt the heaven and earth and obtained life! It was completely unbelievable. At the moment of its inception, it immediately had flesh and blood and could be considered supreme!" Tie Yi couldn't help but lick his lips at this moment after reciting this long passage.

The madam also nodded and said: "Ye Qingcheng is indeed incredible. After experiencing so many wise sages expounding on the dao along with long years of cultivation, some even said that he will be the second Immortal Emperor Bi Shi. Any sect or lineage, even ones with two emperors like the Heavenhoof Ravine, hold him in high esteem and believe that he can become an emperor."

The madam was shocked after thinking through what she just said. She recalled what her Young Master said earlier, as did Tie Yi. If Ye Qingcheng's origin was unmatched but Ming Yexue's origin was even more monstrous, then just what was her origin?

The madam was able to connect some dots at this moment. Until now, outsiders had always thought that Ming Yexue was the descendant of the Ming Clan — the imperial family. However, after today's events, it appeared that she had a different origin.

"Let's go, it is pointless to speculate these things." Li Qiye said with a faint smile: "The alchemy conference will begin soon, so we should enter Alchemy City."

"Well..." Tie Yi's neck involuntarily shrank into his body after hearing this. While trying to hide, he apprehensively said: "Going to Alchemy City... might be very dangerous."

Li Qiye glanced at him and said: "You did some immoral things that are unforgivable, so you don't dare to enter Alchemy City, right?"

Tie Yi awkwardly smiled and said: "Young Noble is misunderstanding me. This lowly one is only worried for you. As Young Noble can see from earlier, the Alchemy Kingdom has people with malicious intentions towards us. Young Noble's alchemy is peerless, so maybe someone is coveting it; maybe even an ancestor wants to capture you alive."

After hearing this, Li Qiye lifted his head and gazed towards the direction of Alchemy City while revealing a gentle smile. "I'm more afraid that the Alchemy Kingdom will not take action. If they maneuver against me, then everything will be easy. However, if they are friendly and treat me as a guest, then I would truly feel bad about taking Ming Yexue away. If they want to kill me, then it would be even better."

The madam revealed a smile and asked: "Young Master likes Fairy Ming?"

Li Qiye chuckled and responded: "How can this be called liking? I only want that girl to stay by my side in the future! If the Alchemy Kingdom wants to do this peacefully, then I can satisfy all of their demands. If they want it the hard way, then it will be even easier!"

"Is Fairy Ming that important to Young Master?" Madam Zi Yan was moved. At this moment, she realized that her Young Master was not in love with Ming Yexue, and that he had a different reason for wanting her to stay with him.

Li Qiye didn't answer her question. Instead, he only looked towards the far distance while reminiscing.

After a while, Li Qiye's mind returned. He looked at Tie Yi and said: "Whether we go to Alchemy City or not is not up to you to decide. At that time, I will need to be there to refine some medicine, so if you escape and lose this good opportunity, don't blame me for not reminding you."

Tie Yi shuddered after this reminder. He immediately patted his chest like a drum and put on a courageous act as if he was willing to walk through fire. "Young Master, don't worry. Wherever you go, I shall be there as well! I will definitely not embarrass you!"

Li Qiye smiled and said: "Okay, don't speak such nauseating words, do you think I don't know what's on your mind?"

Tie Yi dryly coughed with an awkward look. Even the madam looked at Tie Yi one more time. She knew that he was a coward, at least in appearance. He clearly didn't want to go to Alchemy City, but after listening to her Young Master, he lost all reservations. This really raised the madam's curiosity about his injury!

The group traveled towards the city with the bull pulling the carriage at great speeds. It was not long before they arrived.

Alchemy City was located in an extremely strategic location. It was the first outpost before the entrance to the Alchemy Vein and only one step away from the ancestral ground of the imperial family.

Alchemy City in the Stone Medicine World was also known as Imperial City or Alchemy Capital!

Although it was called a city, it wasn't actually a city! In the nine worlds, when big sects form their own countries, the majority of their capitals would be very huge, ancient cities.

Alchemy City, on the other hand, had no semblance to a city. There were neither towering walls nor patrolling experts at this place despite being called Imperial City.

[spoiler title='728 Teaser']The old woman became very dejected, but she couldn't truly become angry. The bull's strength far exceeded her imagination. She couldn't help but feel powerless; she didn't even have the means to resist!

Li Qiye's arrogance was particularly upsetting. As a great character from the kingdom, she wanted to teach him a lesson about his disrespectful attitude, but she couldn't do anything when such a powerful existence like the bull was present.

Ming Yexue slightly frowned and said: "I also came because of this. We have many experts at the kingdom, but one that can utilize such a great formation must be at the ancestor level. At this moment, whether if it's the direct branch or the side branches, no ancestors have come into being. At least, not on record."

Li Qiye chuckled and said: "Then go look into it. This time, I will not take action because of you, but this won't necessarily be the case next time."

Chapter 729: Alchemy City

When one's gaze is set upon the Alchemy City, they would see endless rolling hills and majestic mountains. There were large rivers that resembled silver serpents. Everything here was full of life, and the worldly energy even permeated the air. Spirit grasses and shining alchemy materials could be seen as far as the eye could see.

The entire Alchemy City was just a huge landscape with no walls or boundaries. Inside the mountains were huge pavilions that reached into the sky. Among the straight precipices were suspended temples. Inside the valleys were floating ancient shrines...

Hidden buildings were everywhere in this place, and divine bridges spanned across thousands of miles. Rainbows connected one mountain to another, making spectators think that this was a land of the immortals.

An older legend said that this city was not named Alchemy City in the past, others referred to it as Phoenix City. As for the reason, very few people — later on — could say why. Even the imperial family didn't know the exact details.

There were many speculations regarding the name "Phoenix City." However, these speculations themselves were just hearsay and were without concrete evidence.

However, one of them was more reliable. In ancient times, there were no human inhabitants in this place. There were no golems or demons either since they couldn't take half a step into this location.

This was because a divine tree took root and protected this great landscape. Later on, a phoenix came to this area and chose the divine tree as its nest. From then on, the phoenix lived on top of this divine tree, looking down on the nine heavens. Not a single cultivator could come close to this amazing land.

However, both the phoenix and the divine tree, despite their invincible and mystical strength, would still have their lifespans wither until the eventual day of their demise.

The legend went on to say that during that period, both of these creatures were unwilling to die and wanted to be reborn. Thus, the phoenix burned the divine tree and used its supreme divine flame to bathe itself, hoping to obtain the nirvana of rebirth.

Unfortunately, both of them were unsuccessful in the end. This supreme divine flame burned for ten thousand years before leaving only ashes behind! Of course, these were still divine creatures, especially the tree. Although they were burnt to ashes, they still left behind an extremely fertile land.

From then on, in just a short thousand years, countless spirit medicines and treasure trees appeared in this land. Countless auspicious beasts came to this place. There was even a rumor stating that in the deepest areas, the phoenix bones and the tree root were still burning!

After so many years, very few people in this world could remember that Alchemy City was once Phoenix City. However, this land remained full of life and energy.

Li Qiye's group didn't directly go to the reception of the kingdom. He chose a remote mountain within the city and stayed there.

There were many buildings and temples in the city, but there were even more mountains and peaks; many of them were unoccupied.

It could even be said that anyone who came to this place could pick a mountain to stay at. However, it would only be for a short period of time and not something permanent.

Those who could erect a foundation and create their own sects here had to earn the approval of the imperial family. Moreover, this crowd consisted of either subjects of the kingdom or were part of the side branches of the imperial family. Such a good opportunity was not available to outsiders!

Outsiders only came and stayed at these mountains and valleys for a short amount of time. No one dared to stay long since it would be akin to challenging the kingdom's autonomy.

Li Qiye picked a great mountain that reached all the way into the clouds. This mountain seemed to be quite old and tattered as if someone had crushed it or it had been scorched by flames.

No vegetation grew at this place since it was very dry. Standing on this mountain, a dry heat assaulted their faces. Anyone, at this time, would feel very annoyed.

Despite its towering size, this desolate mountain was out of place among these rich lands.

The madam couldn't help but say while standing on top of this place: "The worldly energy of this mountain seems to have been drained."

Li Qiye stood on the highest point to look at the four directions, but he didn't say anything.

Tie Yi also looked around to the distant lands. He noticed that the vegetation around here was not flourishing and the worldly energy was quite lacking. He immediately said: "It's not just the mountain's energy, it seems that all the locations around it are affected as well."

Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and revealed a faint smile to say: "We'll stay here for the time being."

The madam was confused and asked: "Young Master, the Alchemy Kingdom prepared a main hall to receive all the alchemists from their respective sects for this conference. Why are we not going there?"

"It is more convenient to kill while outside." Li Qiye responded with a grin.

The madam couldn't help but chuckle at this reasoning. Compared to this reasoning, nothing else could be more silence-inducing.

She said: "If Young Master wants to kill people, you should pick a prettier location. This place only agitates people. Perhaps this is an ominous place and would cause people to be flustered."

"You're right." Li Qiye commented: "This is not a good location, but it is a very decent place to kill. We'll stay here, there will be a good show later on."

The madam stopped talking and immediately summoned a treasure pavilion. In the blink of an eye, a square courtyard fell down to the mountain. The sound of flowing water could be heard from the garden. Otherwise, this dry mountain would drive people crazy.

While the madam was preparing the rooms, Li Qiye ordered Tie Yi: "Take a stroll around the city to see if there is any good news or not."

Tie Yi quickly became spirited and asked: "What kind of news does Young Noble require?"

Li Qiye gave him a glance and said: "Aren't you really good at guessing people's thoughts? What kind of news do you think I want to hear?"

Tie Yi answered: "Okay, you can rest assured. With my service, you'll hear exactly what you want." Having said that, he immediately took his leave.

Li Qiye smirked and asked the ant: "Wait, are you not drilling into the ground?" Until now, Tie Yi had always been traveling underground.

"Young Master, you must be joking." Tie Yi coughed and said: "The lands beneath the Alchemy Kingdom are very dangerous — this is known to all past dwellers. Moreover, Young Master picked a location like this, so how could I easily just dive underground? At best, I can only dive a couple meters below the surface and not any deeper. What if there is something down there that will devour me? I would be finished! What's even more frightening would be if I touched the forbidden magic beneath the kingdom. At that point, wouldn't I truly be done for?"

"So, it appears that you've been down there before?" Li Qiye remarked cheerfully.

Tie Yi awkwardly smiled and didn't dare to say anything else. He quickly left as if he was running away.

After the madam prepared Li Qiye's living quarters, she went into the garden and saw her Young Master playing around with some pots and bowls as well as sprinkling some powder onto the ground. He left a lot of strange things on the mountain.

After seeing all the pots and bowls as well as the small pool of water that emitted a very pungent smell, the madam curiously asked: "Young Master, what are these things?"

Li Qiye kept himself busy while answering: "Just preparing a few things. One always needs to prepare before killing. My hands have been itching lately, and I have a few methods that I haven't played with in a while. Constantly killing people instantly is very boring."

"Is this the method Young Master is talking about?" The madam looked at the pots. There were many things she had never seen before.

Li Qiye said with a smile: "To be more exact, this is a part of alchemy. Alchemy is not only about refining pills or curing wounds. It is a very rich art that incorporates beast mastery, changing of tribulations, and stealing from the heavens..."

He narrowed his eyes and continued on: "Since people say that the Alchemy Kingdom is the model for alchemy, we have to play with alchemy to be tasteful, right? Always using force can be quite tiring."

The madam couldn't see through what her Young Master was planning. After a while, he was finally finished with these pots. They all had strange shapes and seemed very bizarre, leaving the madam completely confused.

After a while, Li Qiye finished and brushed off his palms while saying: "It has been a long time since I last played with these items, so I was a bit rusty. The treefather's inventory was truly amazing; it had exactly what I needed. Otherwise, it would have been troublesome to collect them one by one."

Before coming to the kingdom, the madam knew that her Young Master had taken a trip to the treefather's treasury. So it was to take these materials.

"What purposes do these things serve, Young Master?" The confused madam didn't try to guess and directly asked Li Qiye.

"You'll find out very soon." Li Qiye responded with a grin. He focused his gaze and said: "I hope the enemies will not disappoint me, or else this game will be very boring."

Chapter 730: The Prelude To The Conference

The alchemy conference was one of the biggest events in the Stone Medicine World. It took place once every few decades. Moreover, it was jointly held by many imperial lineages, and the venue would change each time.

This time, the conference was being held in the Alchemy Kingdom. This place was even more grand compared to other lineages. All the alchemists here were especially enthusiastic.

This was understandable because the Alchemy Kingdom was praised as the lineage with the best and richest alchemy arts in this world! To be able to participate in this conference was a great honor.

Only youths could participate since if the previous generation could join in as well, the youths wouldn't be able to shine. There were not too many restrictions and rules. Even a capable vagabond on the dao of alchemy would be invited for the event.

Of course, there were many lineages that would invite young alchemists if they didn't have anyone to represent them for this conference.

For these young participants, if they were capable enough, then they wouldn't only win the prizes of the conference, they would also be able to win great fame.

Those with high potential that came from small sects, if they were from one in the first place, could win the love of even imperial lineage with a great showing at the conference. Perhaps in just one day, they would be able to jump the dragon gate and join an imperial lineage.

Because of this reason, young alchemists would come running for each conference. They would do their best, hoping to earn the spotlight in this event.

This particular conference was much more exciting than the previous ones because the competition was much fiercer. In these last several days, Alchemy City became very lively since alchemists from all over the world entered the perimeter and received the kingdom's reception.

Most of them were very young; some were extremely famous as well. There were a few of them who were dubbed as genius alchemists.

It created a very majestic spectacle, causing the normally serene city to become very lively. Usually, even the small amounts of cultivators traveling to the city would not dare to break the serene atmosphere or disturb the imperial family.

But now, people came and went with all kinds of forms of travel. Some rode their horses, others their big flying tree branches. One even sat on a huge flying leaf...

All types of people came, including humans. However, humans were very rare in the Stone Medicine World. The majority of the arrivals were demons and golems.

Within these last couple of days, both the residents and new alchemists talked about the alchemy conference. Some talked about the young participants, especially those with great fame.

The four alchemy prodigies garnered the most attention. They were the role models of the younger generation. Some even called them candidates for the next Alchemy Emperor!

The four prodigies were the Serene Garden's Yuan Caihe, the Bailian Clan's White Hair Alchemy God, the State of Cao's Cao Guoyao, and the Alchemy Kingdom's Mu Qiao!

They were the hottest topics in town as many people talked about the four of them.

The first among them to come was Yuan Caihe! Although she kept a very low profile during her stay, the more informed people still found out right away, causing quite a stir.

"Fairy Yuan is also here to participate in the conference?" People loudly discussed after the news of her presence was spread.

“I heard that Fairy Yuan didn’t come to participate this time, she was invited by the Observant Monarch to cure one of his divine roots.” A well-informed person immediately revealed why Yuan Caihe came to the city.

“Ah, the fairy not participating in the conference is truly a big loss. It will be less colorful now.” Many sighed with regret.

Yuan Caihe’s dao of alchemy was well-known in this world. Her cultivation of grasses was peerless in this world. Some even said that she had surpassed the current master of the Serene Garden.

Her gentle and kind nature was famous as well. As one of the four prodigies, she was the humblest and most respected of the bunch.

Numerous lineages in this world invited her to cure their divine trees and great medicines. Moreover, she assisted quite a few sects. Because of this, her absence at the conference was duly missed by many alchemists, especially the younger crowd.

“I heard the Alchemy Kingdom’s Mu Qiao will not be participating in this conference either. Among the four, only White Hair Alchemy God and Cao Guoyao are participating.” A cultivator found out some news and told his friends.

Mu Qiao was the alchemy prodigy of the kingdom, but since the kingdom was the host of this conference, he was not participating to avoid arousing suspicions.

In fact, since the kingdom’s prestige regarding the dao of alchemy was already renowned, the honor of winning this conference didn’t really matter to them.

“Since Fairy Yuan and Mu Qian are not participating this time, it seems that our Alchemy Realm has no hopes of winning the title. Hmm, maybe even entering the top three will be difficult.” A cultivator from the Alchemy Realm couldn’t help but lament.

The younger crowd from the Alchemy Realm was quite sad since Yuan Caihe and Mu Qiao were not participating. Until now, the dao of alchemy of the Alchemy Realm far exceeded the Beast Realm and the Stone Realm.

It could even be said that the Alchemy Realm produced many more alchemists — including Alchemy Emperors — compared to the other two realms. But now, their two strongest young alchemists were not participating. This meant that the Alchemy Realm had no chance of claiming number one this time. There was a chance that they wouldn’t even place in the top three.

“Maybe the Crystallized Sea Sect’s Cauldron Marquis has a chance of getting into the top three.” The alchemists from this realm couldn’t help but bring up another genius.

“Indeed, I heard the Cauldron Marquis is already very formidable with his alchemy dao and is only a bit weaker than the four prodigies. More importantly, his cauldron control skill is superb. His physique paste, ointment, longevity medicine, and fate pill creation skills are very balanced unlike the four prodigies who are more versed in one particular area.” Another alchemist agreed.

Despite the Alchemy Realm having many powerful young alchemists, they were still the underdogs compared to the White Hair Alchemist and Cao Guoyao!

Day after day passed, but Alchemy City only became even more lively. It didn't matter if some sects were very far away from the Alchemy Realm, they still came running with their disciples to participate in the conference.

"The White Hair Alchemy God is about to arrive. The Bailian Clan's Devil Hand Sacred Doctor is opening the path for him." Someone sent out this news on this day.

"The Devil Hand Sacred Doctor is here as well? Does the Bailian Clan want to take two of the top three spots?" Many participating alchemists felt pressured after hearing that the sacred doctor had come as well.

"Devil Hand Sacred Doctor... Hmph!" Many people felt very indignant after hearing this name, but they couldn't do anything about it.

The sacred doctor was another genius from the Bailian Clan; he was the junior brother of the White Hair Alchemy God. The main difference was that the doctor was more focused on the dao of healing.

Although healing was a part of the dao of alchemy, most alchemists were not willing to put so much effort into this aspect. Healing was not as important to cultivators since it couldn't improve one's cultivation.

The sacred doctor was well-known as well, with his own accomplishments. Although he was not as great as his senior brother, the White Hair Alchemy God, his curing abilities were matchless.

Some even called him One Needle to Seize Life. This meant that no matter how grave one's injuries might be, he could still bring them back from the god of death by using just one needle.

Saving life should be a very respectable profession, but many people were very resentful of his name. This was not only due to his arrogance, but also because of his absurd conditions when he saved others!

However, they were helpless since he truly did have heaven-defying abilities as a doctor; he was able to bring someone back from the verge of death.

Although many alchemists had arrived at the city, Li Qiye ignored it completely. He only brought the madam around on that dried and withered mountain. He didn't want to only participate in the alchemy conference, he was also preparing a supreme scheme to catch those conspiring against him in one fell swoop.

Ever since the ambush with the grand sealing of the Alchemy Kingdom, Li Qiye understood very well that there was a big shot in the kingdom that wanted to capture him alive!

Others would immediately flee since they didn't want to oppose the kingdom, but Li Qiye had no such thoughts. On the contrary, he was preparing for the grandest event. The moment his enemies dared to take action, he would flip this entire land over!