

EMPEROR 221

Chapter 221 Hadian and Mulia

Elder Norbert was confused. He knew Hadian wouldn't lie to him but then why would Hadian have that kind of reaction?

'Could it be...?' Elder Norbert glanced at Mulia before narrowing his eyes.

Suddenly, numerous lines lit up near the blasted stone, illuminating the entire place they were in!

"Quick! Use your life-saving talismans!" Elder Walter shouted and at the same instant, activated a paper talisman that had inscriptions etched on it.

The paper talisman transformed into a ball of light as it extended, covering Elder Walter, providing protection.

Near the blasted stone, the inscription etched on the ground which had lit up into dazzling light, turned into a cage.

The illusory cage looked ordinary to the extreme, yet when they looked at it, chills crept up to their spines.

Hsss

Evidently, the top dogs had figured out what kind of formation they're facing right now and quickly unleashed the power of the protective talisman.

Bzzz

The cage suddenly exhibited a gust of terrifying suction energy directed at them.

Teckk!

The protective light on them burst apart and to their fear, they realized that instead of their bodies being pulled, it was their souls that were being sucked into the formation.

The ones who were the first ones to be sucked were the Fifth Stage Experts, whereupon their souls were immediately imprisoned. They screamed in agony before blowing off into a puff!

Their souls truly puffed off like a smoke mixing in together with the air.

The Six Stage Experts who had their protective lights just broken felt their souls being tucked at to their horror!

But the cage slowly dimmed off and disappeared into nothingness as if it wasn't there in the first place.

The only ones to survive this ordeal were the three elders, the secret couple, Mulia's uncle and the remaining Six Stage Experts.

The Six Stage Experts shut their mouths and looked at the place where the cage disappeared, their hearts still swallowed by horror.

Even the elders felt their hearts palpitating in fear.

Hadian and Mulia looked at each other, their faces incredibly pale.

They were only Fifth Stage Experts but because their statuses were special, they possessed Peak Sky Grade Protective Talisman which helped them to survive!

Yet even then it wasn't enough to protect them entirely as it broke as soon as the protective light from the Sixth Stage Experts broke!

At that time, they had their souls being absorbed halfway to the cage when suddenly the cage disappeared after having lost its energy.

Those two were the only people who had survived after having their souls extracted out of their body, leaving only a slight injury to their souls which caused their faces to turn pale.

After their souls returned to their bodies, the first actions they did was to look at each other to confirm each other's safety.

This went unnoticed as the frightened survivors were cautiously watching out for another attack.

"We need to leave..." It was unknown who said that but when they heard it, thoughts about escaping encroached their minds.

Elder Walter and Elder Norbert didn't hesitate to quickly tear open space using another two life-saving spatial talismans to quickly leave.

These talismans were supplied from their respective headquarters, and only significant personnel like them could get it.

Elder Severin who had his own thoughts about escaping had already fled halfway even before he heard the voice.

When he looked back at the sight behind him, he grew increasingly furious.

"You two dare plot to leave us behind!"

His own group also shouted as they quickly tried to catch up.

Elder Severin didn't even bother to glance at Mulia, yet before he could even catch up to them, the two groups had already left through the spatial tunnel.

The spatial tunnel quickly closed after the last person on their side left.

Elder Severin's face turned incredibly ugly. He knew that they could have held the spatial tunnel for a few more seconds, yet they didn't.

Unfortunately, he was young and a newly appointed elder compared to the other two and this worked against him because he hadn't gained achievements where inturn he could procure life-saving talismans, even spatial ones.

As for the other two groups, it was obvious that they had decided to bare their fangs on him at this moment!

In the Tripartite Alliance, between the three factions, unity and diversity changes in a matter of seconds and this was just one instance of thousands of others.

Even Elder Severin had tried to run away sneakily, even leaving his own group behind. This action of his was what first resulted in him being stranded in this place.

When all things considered, those two elders were way better than him or at least that was Mulia thought when she saw his ugly expression.

Her eyes flashing with pure disgust.

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Outside the tomb, a spatial

tear opened, followed by many people exiting it in haste.

Terror could be seen in their eyes as they escaped to this place with the help of the two elders.

In the grasp of Elder Norbert was Hadian, his face looking incredibly pale.

He didn't even have time to open his mouth before he got grasped by Elder Norbert on the neck, transported outside.

Quickly, he stood up and shook, removing his elder's grasp as he ran towards the spatial tear.

But before he could even reach it, the spatial tear closed, causing him to fall as he stretched his hands mid-way!

"No!!!" A low muffled escaped from his mouth while gritting his teeth.

It didn't go unescaped from Elder Norbert's ears who was close to him.

"Elder Norbert, please open the spatial tunnel again..."

"I can't, I can no longer sense that place..." Elder Norbert replied calmly.

Hadian's expression was livid! He immediately glanced at the entrance and approached it with the fastest speed he could muster.

Elder Norbert suddenly appeared to the front of him, causing him to stop in his tracks.

Even in his haste, Hadian realized that he was being viewed with suspicious eyes.

"Where are you going? Can't you see that this is too much for us to handle? I don't even know how we got out of that place alive..." Elder Norbert berated him with a disciplining tone.

Hadian could see that there was no way for him to defeat Elder Norbert, so he could only plead with his eyes, "Move aside..."

Elder Norbert sighed as he clenched his fists, "I'm sorry, I'm afraid that I can't let you go to die in vain..."

Chapter 222 No Regrets

Davis looked at her silhouette which involuntarily radiated such loneliness to an extent that he could even feel it behind a projection from the mirror.

That woman had saved him and protected him all this while, yet, on purpose or not, choose to shove his blade on her back for his own survival.

For the second time in his life, he felt disgusted by his actions, but his expression still didn't change as he kept watching the projection.

"Leave that woman alone..." Davis uttered while pointing at Mulia.

Garvin chuckled, "Do you favor her?"

"No, I owe her one." Davis casually replied as he retracted his hand but mused, 'Maybe a lot...'

"What about the others?" Garvin shrugged and questioned.

Davis looked at Garvin as he narrowed his eyes. He understood that he was helping him take care of his enemies now that he had signed the Blood Soul Contract.

In other words, they were on the same boat and can be seen as equals regardless of the difference between their cultivation bases.

"Leave her uncle too, the person who is guarding her and as for the others, you can kill them as you please..." Davis thought for a second before his eyes glinted over with sharpness, "No, don't ever let them escape alive..."

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"We have to escape..." Elder Severin's expression turned even more ugly when he discovered that he couldn't open the huge door that led outside of the hall they were in currently.

His expression turned malevolent when he glanced at the blasted stone, "Whoever you are, don't go thinking you can get away after offending the Tripartite Alliance!"

Gritting his teeth, he glanced at his group and his gaze finally landed on Mulia.

Mulia was still half-kneeling as her soul was injured. In terms of Soul Forging Cultivation, she was nowhere near Hadian or the other Sixth Stage Experts.

Elder Severin furrowed his brows.

When he realized that her uncle was glancing at him, he moved his gaze away and started checking out the hall for any clues that might help him to escape.

While he was checking and inspecting cautiously, a silhouette silently crept up behind him which he even failed to notice.

In fact, even if one were to look behind Severin, they wouldn't be able to find that silhouette.

It was just a moment, but Severin realized that he had a transparent sword sticking out of his Dantian! As if it was suddenly conjured out from his own body!

His eyes in his sockets bulged out slightly, his whole body trembled as he tried to look back, yet he couldn't even find one silhouette behind his back!

"Elder!" A Sixth Stage Expert suddenly saw Elder Severin falling to his knees as blood dripped down from his abdomen.

He shouted but didn't dare to go near as his eyes displayed pure horror!

The others also noticed how their strongest member was brutally injured even without having a noise made. When they realized this, all of them didn't even move one step front but moved backward, away from their master, Elder Severin.

Mulia and her uncle also glanced at the fallen Elder Severin.

A mocking smile crept upon her pale face before she heaved a sigh relief, "Uncle Erik..."

She turned to look at her uncle while the other did the same, "I have no regrets..."

Right now, the existence known as Davis wasn't even in her mind but was replaced by Hadian.

Uncle Erik blinked and sighed. He checked his surroundings only to discover the Sixth Stage Experts around him running like dogs, fearing for their lives as they were mysteriously killed.

Bodies fell on the ground from having their dantians ripped apart like a kite cut from its string.

He shook his head, "We certainly have run out of luck this time! I'm sorry, I don't see how we can get out of this alive..."

"You don't need to be sorry, uncle. Fate didn't allow me to share my life with him. I'm just happy that he made it out alive..."

"Silly lass, you're not even worried about my life and death. I have lost my life in vain!" Uncle Erik had an angry expression on his face, except the other knew that it was fake.

Mulia's cold face blossomed into a smile, "I can't thank you enough uncle! Without you there for me my whole life, I would've turned out to be a woman I never wanted to be!"

Uncle Erik turned solemn but then laughed, "Stop that, haha. It's actually good that we're not returning back alive, otherwise, I wouldn't know how to answer your parents about you losing your womanhood to him."

"You knew!?" Mulia's face turned beet red!

Her uncle had actually known about her ambiguous yet pure relationship with Hadian but didn't interfere in any way.

"What? You thought I wouldn't know? Despite all my urging you chose to leave in the guise of being lost! If I couldn't even guess this then I would've failed to be in the position of guarding you!"

Mulia put her face down in shame and remorse, "I'm sorry..."

She suddenly thought of her parents who had no choice but to agree to Elder Severin's demands. They had done their best but still couldn't protect from that fiend in the end.

"Leave it, leave it... We're going to die anyway so it doesn't matter. Besides, that Severin brat is half-dead so you don't need to worry about him bothering you or your little sister ever again."

"Hmm, I can die in peace..." Mulia nodded her head as she took a deep breath. All the pent up emotions inside her went away and what replaced her field of vision was the brutal scenery.

She turned to look at that miserably screaming asshole who was currently grasping thin air, trying to stop his cultivation from leaking in vain.

"That bastard even set his sights upon my little sister, serves him right..." Mulia's eyes turned cold as she coldly laughed.

"Little lass..." Uncle Erik furrowed his brows, his fingers touching his chin.

"Mhm?" Mulia perked up her ears.

"Why aren't we getting killed?"

Silence... echoed in between the two of them except it wasn't as miserable screams were resounding all over the place.

Both suddenly realized something was wrong. They looked around but didn't see anyone close to them. It was as if they were at one corner, safely away from the impending danger.

Chapter 223 Garvin's Teachings

"Are you just letting them leave?" Davis asked in a doubtful tone, not sure if the old man will really leave them alive or would just hoodwink him and kill them later.

"Of course, why not? Since you told me to leave them alone, I do not need for them to be here..."

Davis asked with an incredulous expression on his face, "Aren't you afraid that your hidden location will be found out by your enemies or the Tripartite Alliance by letting them leave alive?"

Garvin shook his head, "It doesn't matter, and even if they do, by the time they get here, I will long be dead, and you will be somewhere else."

Davis tried to probe more, "What if they were just nearby?"

Garvin grinned, "Then they're just asking to die!"

Davis furrowed his brows and turned confused. Wasn't his enemies supposed to be powerful?

"Come with me..." Garvin prodded and dropped his feet to the ground.

His transparent soul body suddenly morphed into a body that had flesh and meat. To be more precise, it looked like a body that had flesh and meat but in truth, it was just a real soul body that had materialized.

Davis blinked at this marvel and subconsciously followed behind him.

Going through the closed door, which Davis tried to probe before when wanting to escape, they arrived in front of an underground water body, inside a cave-like structure.

"What is this place?" Davis questioned, his eyes wide open.

He couldn't see anything or sense anything in this place but when Garvin waved his hands, he was able to see an underground lake in front of him.

"This is the underground cave below the West End Valley, and the source of the fog which perpetually exists throughout the valley."

"..."

"Down here, this lake was just a damn normal lake, yet the body of an unknown Eighth Stage Beast decomposed into every part of this lake, causing the property of the lake to change and generate this kind of fog over time as far as I know."

Davis was astonished and finally understood the source of the fog, but even so, he couldn't understand, "What has this got to do with them wanting to die by coming here?"

"As long as they are here, their souls will be temporarily suppressed to a huge degree. This will grant me enough time to kill them even if they were powerful than I was at my peak!" Garvin boasted as if he was confident.

Davis raised his brows, "Then, can't you just bait them here and save me the trouble..."

"Idiot! This is just my last resort! Listen here brat, things will not always progress as planned. You got to take a step back before planning to move ahead. Doing so will help you see the big picture."

Once Garvin said that he turned to look at Davis in a meaningful light, "You get it?"

Davis nodded in agreement but quickly realized something.

"Wait, why isn't your soul suppressed? You don't even have a fleshy body to protect you!"

Garvin gave off a derisive sneer, "Hmph! What do you know? I had to spend thousand years tempering my soul body in this lake to gain resistance, and in the process, I had to make sure I wouldn't die halfway."

"Can I temper my soul body in that lake?" Hearing that, Davis's eyes lit up in greed.

"Don't even think about it! You won't even last a second with your soul forging cultivation base..." Saying so, Garvin turned back to leave.

Davis, who couldn't see anything to his front without Garvin's help, followed him back into the room.

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First day...

"Out of the three cultivation systems, Soul Forging Cultivation is the hardest to cultivate! I assume you know the first five stages of Soul Forging Cultivation System."

"I'll start explaining the first one, Nascent Soul Stage. This stage is where your existent, yet non-existent soul, takes form..."

Garvin started to explain. He vocalized his thoughts and made Davis understand his teachings to a great degree, even taking the time to explain the first five stages in Soul Forging Cultivation to stabilize the latter's foundation.

"Understanding the soul through heaven and earth energy is the mysterious element. What kind of law do you practice with your soul?"

"Light?" Davis said doubtfully. After all, he also used Fallen Heaven's dark-like energy as well.

"Light, is it? Most of us tend to subconsciously stick to Light for our Soul Cultivation. In truth, it doesn't matter if you practice light or dark. Understanding the mysteriousness behind the soul law is what's important."

"What is soul law?" Davis turned confused as it was the first time he heard of the term.

"I thought of explaining that when I get to explain about the Fifth Stage but whatever... Laws are of the embodiment of the universe. It is boundless."

"Since it is boundless, you won't be able to even understand completely. Not even I do, nor do Ninth Stage Experts!"

"People since ancient times decided to come together to compile their comprehension and doing so resulted in laws being divided into three major types in accordance with the cultivation systems created for humanity."

"Energy Laws, Body Laws, and Soul Laws."

"But in truth, all are one and the same, belonging to the same major law."

"For example, let's say you practice fire laws. Using fire body laws to temper your body is effective but to train your soul and energy with fire body laws will result in no progress at all."

"You're simply using the wrong source of energy and comprehension to feed your power."

Davis's eyes widened as he understood, "Then how do I differentiate between the laws I comprehend?"

"Heh, that depends entirely on your comprehension and the ability to understand laws. This is entirely innate and there are no records of one being able to improve their innate talent of comprehension as far as I know." Garvin shook his head.

Chapter 224 It's You!

Garvin laughed slightly, "I bet if you were one of my descendants, you would have no problem being able to comprehend and understand soul laws without any bottlenecks till the Fifth Stage."

Davis nodded his head and understood that it was related to being a descendant of a powerful expert. Even so, he looked incredibly downcast, thinking that he wouldn't be able to comprehend laws that easily.

'Would I have to rely on Fallen Heaven eternally?' When his thoughts traveled in this direction, he didn't feel one bit good about any of this!

"This is the natural law of the universe. Otherwise, with infinite resources, wouldn't we humans be able to dominate the entire fifty-two territories?" Garvin laughed loudly, not intending to stop anytime sooner.

After a while, Davis stood up and uttered, "How do I learn light soul laws?"

"There is a lot of ways to comprehend, but before that, I want to see your Soul Forging Cultivation Manual."

Davis didn't have a copy of it but he recited his Soul Forging Cultivation Manual, Sacred Luminance Mist.

As he kept reciting, Garvin's eyes glowed as a surprised expression emerged on his face.

"What is this? Who would be so stupid as to include the soul laws in the cultivation manual itself!?"

"Why, is it wrong?" Davis was confused. The layers that he would comprehend automatically in the manual were precisely those laws which were recorded.

"It isn't wrong by itself, but no one here creates cultivation manuals with laws, fearing for their secrets and safety. Besides, each law is so vast that not everyone will be able to comprehend the same laws as the author of the manual."

"So, what's recorded in here is pretty much useless to others other than the method to cultivate itself!"

Davis suddenly understood! 'So that's why I kept feeling that I didn't understand much when it comes to soul comprehension!'

It was the same as how one memorizes the answer and writes it on the answer sheet without understanding it.

It was all the comprehension of others, not his!

"Well, since this manual is a Sky Grade Cultivation Manual and you have only reached the Adult Soul Stage, it is still fine as one doesn't need to understand deep about laws before the Fifth Stage."

"Only after reaching the Fifth Stage will you know how vast the laws are, so before that there is a saying that all law comprehensions before Fifth Stage amounts to nothing but a child's comprehension; mere elementary laws."

Davis's eyes twitched as he heard Garvin's mocking voice, 'Child's Comprehension...'

Garvin then proceeded to explain the division of laws systematically.

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Second day...

Garvin finished explaining the intricacies about the first three stages. He even took the time to teach light laws; albeit vaguely.

Davis felt his knowledge had increased by leaps and bounds in a single day.

He even felt his soul comprehension strengthening his Soul Sea slightly though the effects outside were negligible since his soul was already powered by Fallen Heaven.

To this, he was deflated. This and future insights would be only useful to him if one day Fallen Heaven proves to be useless which would be highly unlikely any time sooner.

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Third day...

"... is unlikely to be the case. Before reaching the Fifth Stage in Soul Forging Cultivation, if your soul body is exterminated, you will die but once you reach the Fifth Stage, even if your soul body is extinguished in any case, you are unlikely to die instantly as your Soul Essence lies in your soul sea, not your soul body."

Davis questioned, "Do you mean that my soul body can act independently and even if it dies, I won't need to worry if it will result in my death?"

"Yes, as long as you can keep your Soul Essence intact, but your soul will be severely injured. Only by using equal grade herbs or pills specializing in soul healing will you be able to recover from the injuries to the soul."

"..."

"Any questions?" Garvin asked with a sigh.

Davis blinked, "... How much of a distance can my soul body exist independently without me being close to it?"

"That depends on how long your Soul Sense can extend. If your soul body leaves that range then it will slowly lose soul force and wane away into the endless void."

"What else?" Garvin asked as he sighed again.

"Nothing..."

"Well, that concludes your lesson on Adult Soul Stage." A smile lit up on Garvin's face.

He had been teaching and pounding the basics of the Adult Soul Stage into Davis but the latter just seemed to come up with thousands of questions, annoying him to a great extent.

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Fourth Day...

"What is this?" Davis asked as he looked at the weird vial in Garvin's hands.

"This is the soul of a Fifth Stage Soul Cultivator..." Garvin laughed and removed the cap sealing the vial.

"Sev... Severin!!!" Davis uttered as he froze.

A soul body in a shackled form came out and looked at Davis with an ugly expression on its face.

"Bastard! It's you!!!"

Davis's face slowly turned into one of joy, yet the other party knew that it wasn't something out of pure concern but malice, "Surprisingly, you're still alive!"

He then turned to look at Garvin Woller.

"Brat, don't look at me like that. I figured that instead of me doing the explaining, it would be better if you observe an intact Elder Soul Stage Soul."

Davis was taken aback but nodded his head. He then turned his head and placed his gaze on Severin, "I can do whatever I want with this?"

"You can, but make sure you some gain insights into the next stage before doing something nasty with it."

Davis grinned, "Alright..."

Severin was ticked off and scared at the same time. They were talking about him like he was an object and not a living soul anymore.

But since he was scared, he didn't dare to open his mouth.

Chapter 225 Three Years

Fifth day...

Sixth day...

...

...

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Nine months later.

A silhouette could be seen walking to and fro, "Where did that old fart go?"

This figure was Davis who was waiting anxiously for Garvin to teach him something or let him out.

It had been nine months since he started observing and experimenting with Severin's Soul.

With a live resource such as a Mid-Level Elder Soul Stage Soul, his insights into Soul Cultivation increased and he could now tell that his comprehension caught up to his current Soul Forging Cultivation Base!

Of course, Garvin also stopped by him in these nine months, explaining whatever Davis didn't understand.

With an apt and competent teacher plus resources such as a live soul, if he didn't make any progress then he knew that he would've received a blow to his confidence.

This might've caused a heart demon; a limitation to form in his heart. Thankfully, nothing of that sort happened.

A week ago, Garvin suddenly stopped appearing. Davis didn't mind and continued to do what he was doing; gaining comprehensions and pondering on light elementary laws from time to time.

Now, just a few hours ago, Severin's soul couldn't endure the experiments done by Davis, finally causing his soul to dissipate.

But just before his soul could fully dissipate, Fallen Heaven suddenly excitedly echoed in his mind that he could absorb his soul now!

So without further delay, he quickly extracted Severin's Soul Essence.

He still didn't refine it but chose to keep it in his Soul Sea so that he could absorb it later at an appropriate time. Besides, he had to stay low since he can't show his breakthrough methods to Old Man Garvin.

At this moment, Davis walked and stood in front of a door. He took a deep breath and opened it.

He stepped forward and entered the underground cave where there were dense fog and zero visibility. His Soul Sense couldn't even move an inch out of his body but he also felt a sense of eeriness to the extreme.

"Old Man Garvin!!!" Davis shouted.

His voice echoed throughout the underground cave. Silence reigned and he could hear that there was no reply.

Davis narrowed his brows but he didn't take a single step forward, afraid that he might fall into the lake; the source of the fog.

"Garvin!!!!" Davis shouted again, unwilling to step forward.

Only his voice echoed for a second or two before it died out. The eerie silence didn't sit well with him.

Davis couldn't take the silence anymore, "Old fart!!!!"

Splash~

Davis heard a sound that indicated something flew out of the lake, so he immediately moved back and closed the door shut.

Bang!!

"Who are you calling old fart?" Came the voice that sounded scary to the extreme.

"Oh crap!!" Davis was given a scare as he flew forward a little.

Garvin stood beside the door and kept the door open, and behind him was a background full of dense fog forming an eerie sight.

To tell the truth, Davis's heart went stiff for a second from witnessing the scenery.

He quelled his beating heart and said, "Because you won't answer me when I called you, and what exactly were you doing down the lake?"

Garvin formed a fist and knocked Davis's head.

"Ouch! Watch it, old man!"

Garvin did it again and uttered, "You need to learn to respect your elders!"

Davis watched grievously as he kept his mouth shut.

This wasn't the first time that he was getting knocked on the head, it had happened many times before in these two months.

Other than that, Garvin didn't threaten or beat him much, so he didn't hold it against him.

"Now, kid. Go rest for today, I'll see you tomorrow." Saying so, Garvin turned back to leave.

"Are you going to die soon?" Davis abruptly asked.

Garvin turned to look at him and smiled, "Anytime..."

Davis's heart shook but a different thought formed in his mind.

Will he be able to say that while looking old and cool at the same time? He didn't possess an answer to that.

After Garvin left, Davis faintly chuckled and looked at his palm, 'Weird, if it was the previous me before coming to this cultivation world, then I wouldn't have cared if I had died anytime, but now I'm starting to get scared for my life?'

"Maybe it's because I have people to protect?" Davis confusedly uttered but sarcastically laughed, "Yeah, right..."

He exactly knew that even if it isn't for his loved ones, he didn't want to lose the life he had gained now.

It had been exactly a year since he came to the First Layer.

From leaving the Desolate Plains, getting his ass whopped by the Grand Beast Stage Vulture, with ulterior motives killing an innocent woman who wanted to die because of her husband's death, joining the Cloud Spring Mercenaries, teaming up with Lucas and Lucia, completing missions with them before separating and finally getting stuck in this hell hole which actually turned out to be a personal school for him.

Davis deeply sighed.

'Well, the one year challenge period is going to expire soon and it seems like I'm not gonna obtain the Peak-Level Sky Grade Scythe.'

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Two years later...

Garvin taught Davis more about the Sixth Stage and Seventh Stage of Soul Forging Cultivation, namely the Mature Soul Stage and Supreme Soul Stage!

When Davis heard his teachings, he felt as if he had an outlook on an entirely new world and possibilities, and yet couldn't unveil the curtain to reach new heights.

But he could understand that it was because his Soul Forging Cultivation was too low.

Even though his Soul Forging Cultivation wasn't on par with even Severin, he was able to lightly understand the concepts and insights taught by Garvin, so he was able to retain it in his mind.

With this, he was confident that he could enter Elder Soul Stage even without Fallen Heaven but, this proved quite insufficient for him to enter Sixth and Seventh Stage in the future without pondering on the teachings for a long time.

Chapter 226 Difference

Even so, he knew that when his Soul Forging Cultivation increases, he will be able to comprehend more from the insights taught to him by Old Man Garvin.

At that time, entering the Sixth and Seventh Stage won't be far from him anymore, even without the help of Fallen Heaven.

But with Fallen Heaven, this process might be increased in speed by the level and amount of soul essences he devours.

Ultimately, everything still ended up on Fallen Heaven to take care of him. To this, Davis was not at all amused as he wanted to have his own power surpassing that of Fallen Heaven's.

It was the third year from the time he was taken as a 'disciple' by Garvin and Davis was quite proud to say that he was adept at Soul Forging Cultivation.

After all, if he weren't adept, then it would've taken a long time for him to build a foundation in Soul Forging Cultivation for stepping into the latter stages.

In the same unchanged dimly lit room, Garvin sighed to Davis's boasting, "If only I had your potential and a teacher who would impart everything without reserve during my youth, sigh..."

Garvin Woller had realized that Davis being this talented and strong in his age was no accident.

If he were Davis, he imagined that he would break through to the Immortal Stage within a thousand years; minimum.

A state which he wouldn't even have to worry about dying of aging anymore! Or at least, that's what the world knew about the so-called Immortals.

"If only I had your cultivation base right now..." Davis sighed, lying on the bed with one of his hands placed on his chin.

Garvin turned to look at him, "Greedy bastard! Your strength at your age is already envious enough!"

'Clearly, this little bastard doesn't know what asking for an inch, yet taking a yard means!' Garvin thought hatefully as he stared daggers at Davis.

Davis chuckled and realized something, "Oh... Since you have seen the wide part of the world, then how would I compare to those geniuses from the major powers?"

His eyes flashed.

He was truly interested in knowing where he stood among the younger generation geniuses. Of course, he held no competitive feelings, it was just pure curiosity!

Garvin narrowed his eyes and replied in a solemn tone yet dissatisfied tone, "Any old fart would want you to be their disciple. In terms of Soul Forging Cultivation, you alone can wipe the floor with these so-called geniuses."

Davis half-believing glanced at Garvin's eyes. He couldn't detect any change of expression on his face either.

'His evaluation of me must be appropriate...' Davis thought and was quite satisfied.

Then, he suddenly remembered something, "What about in terms of Body Tempering Cultivation and Essence Gathering Cultivation? How do I compare?"

Garvin lifted up his chin and thought for a moment, he then answered, "Though your Body Tempering Cultivation is on par with most geniuses, your Essence Gathering Cultivation is lagging way behind..."

Davis nodded his head calmly. To this, he wasn't surprised. He was already 15 years old and was nearing 16.

Even though it meant there were sixteen-year-old Body Transformation Stage Cultivators, Davis wasn't fazed at all because he knew that humans were more compatible with Essence Gathering Cultivation.

'But to think there was strong Body Tempering Cultivators at my age... What kind of monsters are they?' Davis thought.

After all, he had experienced a previous life and was quite used to pain, and as a result, could train Body Tempering Cultivation with a forbearing will.

'Do the major powers have a secret method to cultivate the body at such a young age?' Davis developed some kind of strange thoughts in his head.

Meanwhile, Garvin looked at Davis and chuckled as he interpreted Davis's question in a different way, 'This brat is surprisingly competitive and clever, good!'

The more Davis was like this, the more he had his chances of getting his revenge fulfilled!

"You are both a prodigy and a genius!" Garvin smiled, 'No matter what! I must use my remaining life to teach this boy to the fullest of my extent!'

His almost dead eyes were filled with deep emotions!

"What exactly does a prodigy mean?" Davis confusedly asked as he heard a new term.

Garvin furrowed his brows, silently cursing his fate. He never would've thought that one day, he would have to explain so much to a brat who wasn't even his disciple; in a formal sense.

But since he had decided long ago not to hold back anything when teaching him, he spoke, "A prodigy is a person who has achieved great cultivation results despite their young age."

Old Man Garvin grinned, "For example, you."

"Your age is merely 15, and generally speaking, that is when children your age start cultivating their soul as they completed their breakthrough into the Revolving Core Stage."

"When even they are considered prodigies, much less is needed to be said about you."

"Huh? Then what about geniuses? Aren't they both the same thing then?" Davis confusedly asked.

"No, it's different. A genius is an individual who can jump levels to fight other people of the same cultivation stage, not the same cultivation base."

"Common people like to either designate one as a common cultivator or a genius/prodigy cultivator. They don't know that for us top powerhouses, there's a huge difference between being a prodigy and a genius."

"Almost everyone with ample resources could be a prodigy, but not every prodigy can be a genius. The gap separating a genius and a prodigy is very large."

"Of course, if one could cultivate to the highest stage possible in all three cultivation systems within 1,000 years, then it doesn't matter if that person is a genius or not since that person's potential would be boundless when compared to other geniuses."

"Unfortunately, there are no such great beings in the 52 Territories." Old Man Garvin slowly replied as he revealed a pitiful expression for the state of the geniuses.

Chapter 227 Tyrant Physique?

"What about me? Am I a genius too? You said so yourself just a while ago..." Davis raised his brows.

"Hmm, I have checked you enough. Since you can fight across levels using your Soul Forging Cultivation, you are definitely a genius and there's no doubt about it."

"Hehe, I think my soul is about 5 times stronger..." Davis smirked as he rubbed his nose, quite proud.

Garvin turned smug, "I inspected and found out that you have no special physique except other than your soul being stronger."

"It doesn't matter..." Davis shrugged but was confused. Didn't he possess the Tyrant Physique?

"Heh, sooner or later, you would lose your advantage of being able to fight across levels and reduced to be merely a common cultivator."

"What!? Why?" Davis was shocked! His face expressed worry.

Old Man Garvin shook his head, "As I said before, you'll lose your advantage as you advance through stages."

"Once you get to the Fifth Stage, it is not easy anymore to fight across stages. You must've realized this at some point."

"It's because the rift and the power gap increases by a large margin at every stage, even in the levels of the latter stages."

Davis's expression turned aghast but his eyes told that he had already expected this to be the outcome.

Davis calmed down and thought to the time he tried to fight a Fifth Stage Soul Forging Cultivator, Elder Severin.

But since he was caught by his neck at that time, he assumed that he lost with Essence Gathering Cultivation and not Soul Forging Cultivation.

Now, it seemed like that wasn't the case.

Old Man Garvin shook his head, "Theoretically, once you get to the Fifth Stage, you will need 5 times the strength to fight across a person of one level above you, meaning that, if you are at the Low-Level Elder Soul Stage, you can fight people who are at the Mid-Level Elder Soul Stage."

No wonder... It seemed like his Soul was likely three times stronger now, only capable of dealing with Low-Level Elder Stage Cultivators.

He understood that his previous assumption of being able to fight High-Level Elder Soul Stage Cultivators should be entirely wrong.

Davis nodded and voiced out his opinion, "So the only way I can increase my battle prowess is that if I somehow manage to increase the quality of my soul force and essence by a few times, right?"

"Yes, and seeing that you have no special physique and no capable pills, you can forget about that for the time being."

"Eh... Are you kidding me!? I have the Tyrant Body Physique! How can you say that I have no physique!?" Davis snapped thinking that this old fart must have a screw loose in his head.

"Heh! Tyrant Body Physique? Don't make me laugh, there is no such a thing as that..." Garvin laughed heartily.

"Hmph! I'm not lying! You can go ahead and check my body..."

"Kid, was your Tyrant Body innate from birth? Who said to you that it was the Tyrant Body Physique? I haven't even heard of such a physique..."

Davis shook his head, "No, I didn't have that when I was born. I managed to cultivate it when I ate the Tyrant Fruit, and it was written on the cultivation manual that one would gain a Tyrant Body Physique when done so..."

"Then the answer is simple, your cultivation method simply included body-type laws in it. To even complement that, the author of that cultivation manual must have thought of a method, and that must've been the Tyrant Fruit. It probably helped your body become compatible with the laws which were in the Tyrant Fruit, increasing your prowess in the process."

Old Man Garvin sneered, "You don't believe me? Try activating your battle aura..."

Davis activated his battle aura and silver gaseous aura came out, enveloping him.

"See..." Garvin shrugged, "Your battle aura is tinged with a faint amount of elementary Earth Laws..."

When pointed out by Garvin, Davis also realized it as he concentrated. There was really a thread of elementary Earth Laws floating in his battle aura.

What can he say? He shut his mouth thinking that he was truly frog in a well.

'How come I didn't notice it before?' Davis thought for a moment before another thought popped upon his mind, "That's right! My revolving core has mutated! You think that can make me possibly evolve it into a physique!?"

"Hmm... I noticed it but it is hard to say. The people who have cultivated their physiques are all physiques innately granted through their birth."

"Those who have cultivated physiques artificially are people who are either myths and legends... Not much is known about them as they have all chosen to not spread their secrets."

Davis turned sad, maybe his cultivation might turn out to be weak when compared to these people who possess a physique.

'Then I wonder if Clara has a physique?' He contemplated but ultimately wouldn't know if it was a physique in the first place.

He could only go to the Alstreim Family Territory to check about Clara's Physique.

Even so, Davis still didn't believe in Old Man Garvin's words. It could just be a misguidance or misunderstanding on his part.

"Here, take look at this..." Davis handed over the Tyrant Body Secrets, Body Tempering Cultivation Manual to Old Man Garvin. He possessed a copy of it since he needed to be sure about cultivating to the Gold Stage, after all, it required tempering bone marrow including other parts of the body.

Old Man Garvin sighed and read the cultivation manual with a scrutinizing gaze.

As he read, he muttered from time to time, nodding to the author's viewpoint in the method but then suddenly, his gaze turned solemn and even his face slowly followed suit.

It was quite a while before Old Man Garvin took his eyes off the manual, he turned to Davis as he asked, "Who wrote this?"

Chapter 228 Old Man Garvin's Past

"I don't know." Davis shook his head.

Old Man Garvin slightly nodded his head, "The way written in this manual to cultivate an artificial physique seems to be... the truth!"

Davis turned jubilant, "Then that means I have a physique, right?"

"I guess you do but the effects of the physique are mediocre in the latter part of the stages and it's grade could only reach to a maximum of Earth. That's the limitation that I could perceive from reading this manual in a single glance." Old Man Garvin shook his head.

Davis blinked but he did understand Old Man Garvin's words, "You mean to say that this physique turns useless when I enter the Fifth Stage in Body Tempering Cultivation?"

Old Man Garvin nodded, "I believe so..."

Davis laughed inwardly, 'No wonder at the end of the cultivation method, it mentioned that I would automatically gain the Tyrant Physique... It just mean that it is negligible, clever author...'

"Even so, a cultivation method to cultivate an artificial physique to the Earth Grade? This can create storms and earthquakes if released to the peak powers since it could create a lot of low-level cultivators proficient than their counterpart competitive powers."

"Alright, you said that there's no lesson today, can I go and cultivate?" Davis asked as he shook his head, quickly moving the matter to the back of his mind.

He understood that there was no use worrying about things like that right now. As for revealing this cultivation method to peak powers, uhh, nope.

Besides, he was impatient to increase his cultivation now that he heard that he was lagging behind in terms of Essence Gathering Cultivation.

It had been three years since Davis cultivated, only pondering about the laws and gaining insights to complement his Soul Forging Cultivation.

"Don't be so hasty. Today, I will tell you about my past and why I was reduced into this state..." Old Man Garvin uttered with a downcast expression on his face, his eyes glinting with sadness.

Davis pretended to not notice and said, "Oh! A story? I like stories! Let me hear that tragic tale of yours!"

Garvin nodded as he finally saw a semblance of a child in Davis but his expression turned ugly when he heard him mention 'tragic tale'.

Davis shut his mouth upon receiving the evil glare from Old Man Garvin. He didn't dare to go too far when insulting Old Man Garvin either!

"Whatever..." Old Man Garvin waved his hands and uttered, "In the latter part of my life, I lived in the territory named Emperor Sword Sect which has more than a single Ninth Stage Powerhouse at the helm."

"Wait!" Davis interrupted before Garvin could even finish his words.

"This Emperor Sword Sect you mentioned... How far is it?" Davis's eyes twitched. He had asked the question three years ago but still hadn't received an answer.

Even the Desolate Plains caused him a long time to traverse, and to this Emperor Sword Sect, he didn't get a good feeling about it one bit.

"You're telling me that you don't know who are all the major powers of the 52 territories?" Garvin didn't even need to guess as he could tell from his previous interactions that Davis hadn't left the Tripartite Alliance Territory, not even once.

In fact, he even realized that Davis didn't seem to not come from a prominent established power as he had initially thought him to be.

"Yes..." Davis smiled sheepishly.

His mother Claire was only a rising genius and the information she knew was greatly limited to Alstreim Family Territory and Tripartite Alliance Territory.

And from the information she provided to him about Tripartite Alliance Territory, he could tell that she never toured around Tripartite Alliance before, only coming to participate in the secret entrance to gain access to the Immortal Inheritance.

"Sigh, let me explain to you from the start then..." Garvin shook his head.

"The Territory we are in right now can be considered a small territory. This territory belongs to the Tripartite Alliance... which is made up of three major powers."

"In Tripartite Alliance's Territory, there are three Territory Gates which lead to the Alstreim Family's Territory, Towering Cloud Hall's Territory and Falling Snow Sect's Territory."

"Those three territories are also considered to be small territories but when there's a piece of jade in the middle, everyone wants a piece of it, right?"

"So after thousands of years of war, fighting for this territory, they lost a large number of eighth state experts, finally forming an alliance named the Tripartite Alliance while also sealing their vulnerability and conquered this territory exactly a thousand years ago."

Davis was appalled. He didn't know that Tripartite Alliance had a thousand-year-long history while his mother was only around 30 years almost two decades ago. Even his mother didn't know that much except that they ruled over for a period of time.

"If you want to go to the Emperor Sword Sect Territory, then you should enter the Falling Snow Sect Territory, cross the gates of Dual Lotus Manor Territory and from there, make your way to the Emperor Sword Sect Territory!"

'Wait, Dual Lotus Manor Territory? This sounds like...' Davis furrowed his brows as his thoughts wandered to a place of culture.

Garvin noticed Davis's strange expression but continued, "When I was a youth, I was a rogue cultivator, not belonging to any major power."

"When I reached the Seventh Stage in Essence Gathering Cultivation, I was already 1500 years old. At that time, my soul cultivation was extremely mediocre. I didn't even reach Adult Soul Stage, only managing to remain at the peak of Young Soul Stage."

"During one day, I realized that making progress in Energy Condensation Cultivation became incredibly difficult, so I became obsessed with increasing my Soul Forging Cultivation."

"I spent incredible time researching, digging up mysteries, tombs and anything that could help me increase my Soul Forging Cultivation."

"Another thousand years passed just like that... but I only managed to break through the Adult Soul Stage." Old Man Garvin let out a sigh as he shook his head wryly.

Chapter 229 Suspicion

"I am not a prodigy or a genius like you. By that time, I realized I have only 500 years left for me to live, so I put aside my research and Soul Forging Cultivation, choosing to cultivate Body Tempering Cultivation."

"500 years later, I reached the Seventh Stage from the Fourth Stage in Body Tempering Cultivation.

"Do you comprehend? I took 500 years to cultivate to the Seventh Stage from the Fourth Stage of Body Cultivation. I had to use all my accumulated resources and sacrifice various things to enter the Martial Master Stage!"

"As a result, it increased my life-span to ten thousand years!" Old Man Garvin's eyes widened as he exclaimed.

"Wait! Sacrifice? Did you lose your family or something like that?" Davis interjected.

"No, at that time, I had no family nor did I have any wives for that matter. By sacrifices, I meant that I had simply lost my property, place, respect as I had to beg everyone for resources... in a sense."

"Oh..." Davis nodded.

"Heh, it was all worth it since 800 years later, I managed to find an inheritance belonging to a Peak-Level King Soul Cultivator, which finally let me become a strong King Soul Cultivator after 2000 years!"

"I came back to the Emperor Sword Sect Territory! Entered the Emperor Sword Sect as a Guest Elder! Created my own palace, married hundreds of women, starting my own Woller Family!" Old Man Garvin uttered with a proud expression on his face.

"Interesting..." Davis commented as his mouth slightly hung low and his eyes twitched. At the same time, he was astonished to hear how difficult it was for him to cultivate without anyone's help.

Seems like Old Man Garvin did everything he could to survive but finally, wasn't he still chased to this place by his enemies, finally making him wait for his death.

"So till coming into power, you were afraid to have a wife, weren't you?" Davis was amazed at his story but he still had to knock him down while he was up.

"Don't tell me you never touched a woman before you reached King Soul Stage!?" Davis smirked deviously, like how a kid would ask an adult if the latter was a virgin.

"Don't be stupid, there are simply many places to let out your lust, especially in the Dual Lotus Manor Territory..." Garvin got annoyed and casually dropped an information, causing Davis's eyes to lit up in understanding.

"But that still doesn't explain why you didn't take a wife before you reached King Soul Stage..." Davis grinned smugly, still intending to put him down.

"Hmph, everyone knows that women are the downfall of many male geniuses and prodigies. I wouldn't make such a blunder until I am sure that I can take care of myself in any event of betrayal."

"Then where exactly did you go wrong? Who did you offend exactly to be in this state?" Davis held his chin as he couldn't understand the enemy's intent to kill Old Man Garvin.

"I didn't, I myself didn't bother about people as long as they didn't bother about me... Some people... another faction of the Emperor Sword Sect didn't like my cultivation that has been nearing Peak-Level King Soul Stage."

"When I was about to reach the Peak-Level Soul King Stage, they were simply afraid that I would enter the Soul Emperor Stage in a few thousand years!"

"Those jealous bastards hid from the shadows and poisoned one of the resources that I procured and was going to use to enter the Peak-Level King Soul Stage!"

"They simply didn't leave any path left for me! But with me being still alive somehow, I managed to inform my trusted descendants of the devious plot secretly and told them to not act without giving birth to a descendant who had reached the Eighth Stage!"

"When they finally caught my tail, they managed to destroy my body. In a pitiful state, I managed to escape with my Soul Body and hid in this place for two thousand years before finally managing to meet you..."

"At that time, this territory was not under the control of the Tripartite Alliance, so they don't know that an existence such as I have hidden in this place."

"I only managed to heal my soul through this lake. Actually, healing is the wrong word, instead, I should've used the word poison, a poison to keep myself alive through tempering."

"Honestly, I was on the brink of death and even with a soul lifespan of 8,000 years, I was still going to die from the injuries."

"In the end, my suicidal actions didn't end in vain as I managed to temper my soul through poison, increasing my chances to live for 2,000 years."

Old Man Garvin sighed as he waved his hands.

"The people who plotted against me, they look like this..."

He projected their images with his Soul Force.

Davis silently listened all this while and memorized their appearances as he nodded his head, indicating that he will keep his end of the contract.

Davis gazed at him with a scrutinizing gaze, "I don't understand."

"What?" Old Man Garvin looked at Davis's expression, which had suspicion written all over the face.

"You said that they feared you becoming a Soul Emperor... isn't that advantageous to the Emperor Sword Sect as it would mean that they would gain another Ninth Stage Expert?"

Old Man Garvin sighed, "You don't know the terror of Emperor Soul Stage Cultivators. You see, as the name implies, if they release their Soul Force to pressure anyone under Ninth Stage, then the latter has no choice but to bow their heads down."

Davis blinked as he imagined a scenario but the next words Old Man Garvin said made him realize its significance.

"There are only 9 Emperor Soul Stage Experts in the entire 52 Territories, including all the races." Old Man Garvin slowly added.

Davis's eyes widened in excitement as he thought that he would be the 10th without a doubt.

Chapter 230 Goodbye

Even so, he didn't daydream and forgot to ask about another doubt in his mind.

"How did they poison you exactly?"

Old Man Garvin lifted up his chin, "The poison was colorless and odorless, it simply didn't give off any scent. I only caught on to it as soon as I realized that something was wrong within my Dantian."

"But by the time as soon as I evacuated my family away from the place, they mounted their sneak attack, managing to destroy my fleshy body. Heh, now that I think about it, the fact that I managed to escape with purely my soul body is a miracle in itself..."

Davis narrowed his eyes, "Did you find out how you were poisoned?"

"I had prepared many resources to consume and refine at that time, so I simply couldn't find out which one of the resources poisoned me. Now, it's not important since I managed to find the ones who were behind it..."

Davis clicked his tongue before hesitating a little bit, thinking if he should pose this question or not.

"Sigh, you want to ask whether if it were my wife or concubines who had poisoned me, right?" Old Man Garvin slowly said.

Davis blinked, then nodded his head.

"That is simply impossible because they have no means to betray me since they have signed a Blood Soul Contract with me just like you."

"What!? You forced them to marry you?" Davis's expression turned incredulous.

Old Man Garvin merely chuckled and shook his head, "Forced?! I don't think so... Since they wanted to marry me through various means, I merely presented them with an opportunity to do so. Those who accepted became my woman, and those who didn't, carried on with their lives."

"Still, you don't need to sign a Blood Soul Contract, right?" Davis half-heartedly asked.

"Kid, don't tell me... Ah, right. You're still a child, how would you know?" Old Man Garvin nodded as if he understood.

"Listen, people with high statuses such as me can use blood soul contracts to marry and reproduce offsprings. As for the contents of the contract, it will depend on the persons involved in it, just like how we were able to negotiate our terms."

"Blood Soul Contracts are highly used in marriages because you don't need to worry about the other party betraying you for any reasons unless they are tired of living their lives."

Davis blinked again as his expression turned a little bit curious, "How are these Blood Soul Contracts made? It seems fascinating..."

Old Man Garvin laughed but didn't hide anything, "Kid, you need to hire a Vow Master to make one for you, or cultivate your soul to King Soul Stage and make one for yourself after learning Level One Karma Intent."

"Karma? Is that one of the Greater Laws you mentioned before?" Davis asked with an excited expression on his face.

Karma, Space and Time. All three of them were Greater Laws.

Old Man Garvin did explain to him about the classification of laws, even explaining many miscellaneous topics along in these three years.

"Yes... However..."

Garvin trembled slightly and froze, his transparent body flickered as if it was a fading beacon.

"What's wrong?" Davis narrowed his brows as he turned solemn.

A gentle smile appeared on Old Man Garvin's face as he shook his head, "Regrettably, it's time. Thank you young Davis, for accompanying this old man in his last moments..."

The next moment, Old Man Garvin slowly and silently disappeared out of existence.

Davis was startled for a few seconds before he finally realized what had happened, 'He's dead...'

It was as if his brain stopped working for a short moment because it was the first time the Old Man called him Davis.

Old Man Garvin's death was not so impactful to him but still, a complicated expression appeared on his face.

'No wonder he was talkative. He knew he was going to die today...'

Old Man Garvin mostly spent his time in the underground lake, probably intent on extending his waning lifespan.

But sadly, his end still came. Davis felt pity and sadness.

Sad that he wouldn't be able to see this old man again and pity that the old man didn't teach him about King Soul Stage or even more things.

'Guess I'm asking for a little too much...' Old man Garvin simply didn't have much time left and was like a moth attracted to a flame, with death imminent, hanging above his head any time.

In fact, he was surprised that Old Man managed to last two more years but he knew that it was thanks to the underground lake which Old Man Garvin visited all the time when he wasn't around to teach him.

"Fallen Heaven, think you can absorb his Soul Essence?"

"We've been here for long... Can't you see that he burned his Soul Essence to maintain his life till now?"

"I just wanted to confirm..." Davis nodded his head. He thought of absorbing Garvin Woller's Soul Essence but it really seemed that he wouldn't gain anything out of it since the other party seemed to have consumed their own Soul Essence.

"Do you want to absorb his spiritual soul essence? If so, he would not be able to reincarnate..."

Davis chuckled as he shook his head, "Let that poor chap reincarnate..."

His gaze simultaneously fell upon the Peak-Level Sky Grade Spatial Ring that was on Old Man Garvin's hands when was alive.

He bent down and took it as he checked. He then stored it into his spatial ring.

Inside it was numerous Pill Recipes at the Sky and King Grade. There were also some incomplete notes that had the comprehensions and the method to enter the Eighth Stage of Soul Forging Cultivation.

Other than the above two, there was Spirit Formation Scrolls which Old Man Garvin taught the basics for a few days before simply saying that he would prepare Spirit Formation Scrolls for him.

'Well, thanks for the pill recipes, spirit formation scrolls, and the incomplete comprehensions of King Soul Stage, Old Man Garvin...' He shook his head as he smiled, his gaze moving to the door which Old Man Garvin always disappeared into.

He stood up and took a deep breath before slowly tuning up his emotions, 'Well, time to move on... Goodbye, Old Man Garvin.'