

Merchant 91

Chapter 91: Apex Battle Between the Youth Generations

After Long Tao and Cheng Rui received instructions from their elders, they stepped forward and walked toward the platform.

As soon as they stood on the platform, one of the four female attendants that stood in the four corners of the palace hall stepped forward as well. The attendant arrived on the platform with a flash.

The female attendant looked around 30 years old, but she gave off a tender and delicate feeling.

"I am one of the Radiant Moon Palace's tea attendants. My name is Cai Cha, and I am here to inform you that the treasure in the golden box is superior to the one in the gray box." After speaking, she bowed to Cold Moon. Once Cold Moon nodded, Cai Cha withdrew to the platform's side instead of the corner of the palace hall.

The platform had two boxes, one was gold, and the other was gray. Lin Yuan immediately saw Long Tao and Cheng Rui's hands reaching toward the gold box.

At that moment, Long Tao's spirit qi burst out and caused Cheng Rui to take a few steps back, allowing Long Tao to open the gold brocade box.

Once the gold box was opened, Lin Yuan could smell a refreshingly sweet smell. There was a light purple pearl within the box, and it was the size of a thumb.

It might be a light purple pearl, but it was emitting a mild purple light. The refreshingly sweet smell felt like it didn't come from the pearl itself but from the mild light.

Next to the light purple pearl was an exquisite wooden token, and apart from these two things, there was nothing else.

Cai Cha, who was standing at the side, said, "This treasure is a pearl produced by the Diamond Purple Coral Shellfish. It is greatly beneficial for water-type feys, and there is a chance to help a water-type fey evolve."

Cai Cha's words caused Long Tao's indifferent face to turn grave, and his breaths were heavier. His eyes were filled with extreme delight.

Lin Yuan looked at the light purple pearl, and involuntarily clicked his tongue. This wasn't just a Diamond spiritual ingredient, but it was also a Diamond spiritual ingredient from the deep sea. Shellfish feys had another name—deep-sea treasure. It was because shellfish feys could produce pearls and only formidable individuals were qualified to explore the deep sea.

Just because of the danger level, the pearl produced by the Purple Coral Shellfish was considered a priceless treasure, let alone the astonishing effects of the Purple Coral Shellfish's pearl.

Lin Yuan wasn't able to estimate the price of the Purple Coral Shellfish's pearl. However, just by looking at Ling Xiao's envious eyes, he knew that the Purple Coral Shellfish's pearl was very rare.

Long Tao held the Purple Coral Shellfish's pearl in his hand and picked up the wooden token beside the pearl. The wooden token was carved with a small sword.

Cai Cha continued talking. "The wooden token is carved with a small sword and is the Radiant Moon Palace's sword tablet. You can carry out a contest with those who possess a sword token. The sword token possessor would have strength that is equivalent to yours. If you win, you can use this sword token to exchange for another treasure. It is fine if you lose too as it is only a contest."

Long Tao turned around to look at Elder Meng and saw the latter nodding at him. Long Tao then asked Cai Cha, "I wonder if the contest is referring to a contest between combat-class spirit qi professionals or between Creation Masters?"

Cai Cha smiled and said, "Since it is a sword token, it is naturally a contest between combat-class spirit qi professionals. If the token is carved with a tool, then it is a contest between Creation Masters."

Long Tao gripped the token in his hand and said loudly, "I am willing to accept the contest."

Since Long Tao took the Purple Coral Shellfish's pearl, Cheng Rui was looking at Long Tao with such gloomy eyes that a tear might drip out. However, no one was paying any attention to Cheng Rui's expressions as all the attention was gathered on Long Tao, especially Lin Yuan, who didn't think that he would actually be able to see a match fought by Sequence #3 of the Radiance Hundred.

After watching this match, Lin Yuan would be able to understand the standard of combat strength for Sequence members at the top of the Radiance Hundred.

Lin Yuan had watched the match between the White Devil and the Unknown Flame. At the end of the battle, White Devil's Revival Swallowtail Butterfly had been released from the cage and transformed into a Disaster Swallowtail Butterfly. It had allowed the White Devil to end the battle with overwhelming dominance.

In addition, White Devil might be Sequence #18 of the Radiance Hundred, but she was a healing-type spirit qi professional, and she was more proficient in tactics rather than actual combat.

However, Long Tao was Sequence #3 of the Radiance Hundred and had the Overflowing Sea title. He was a true combat-class spirit qi professional.

Cai Cha waved the sword token in her hand, and all the female attendants with similar attire came out of the palace hall's corner and stood on the platform.

Lin Yuan looked over and noticed that all four female attendants actually looked exactly the same. The only difference would be the hair accessories on their heads.

Cold Moon looked at Lin Yuan's reaction and gave an explanation. "Cai Cha, Xi Cha, Peng Cha, and Yin Cha¹ are the Radiant Moon Palace's tea attendants. They are quadruplets, and the Moon Empress found them when they were babies 30 years ago. They have been serving the Radiant Moon Palace ever since."

Lin Yuan nodded. However, he didn't understand why Cold Moon would give him such a detailed explanation of the Radiant Moon Palace's members, as though he would need to know them later on.

“All four of us share this sword token. I am the strongest among all of us, while the three of them have similar strength. You can choose any of us as your opponent,” Cai Cha said to Long Tao.

Long Tao didn't have any trace of hesitation as he chose Cai Cha, who was speaking and also the strongest.

After seeing this scene, Lin Yuan felt that Cai Cha's thoughts weren't simple as her simple statement was actually an open conspiracy.

Cai Cha might have stated who was strong and weak, but in this situation and with Long Tao's temperament and pride, he would definitely pick the strongest among the four.

When Elder Meng saw that Long Tao and Cai Cha adopted their fighting postures, Elder Meng quickly asked Cold Moon, who was standing beside Lin Yuan, “Envoy Cold Moon, would a fight in the Radiant Moon Palace cause damage to the items here? What if Long Tao doesn't reserve himself and severely injures the tea attendant?”

This wasn't Elder Meng's first time at the Radiant Moon Palace, and he naturally knew about the four tea attendants. Every time he visited the Moon Empress, he would be able to drink the spirit tea brewed by the four tea attendants. However, Elder Meng had never heard that the four weak-looking tea attendants could actually fight.

Cold Moon responded with a cold voice, “The palace hall is constantly supported with the ability, Harden of a Fantasy V, Resolute Diamond Resplendent Tortoise. If a junior could easily destroy it, then the Radiant Moon Palace would have been destroyed a long time ago. As for the contest, it was specified by the Moon Empress.”

After Cold Moon finished speaking, she circulated the spiritual power within her body and enveloped herself and Lin Yuan in a qi barrier.

Since Cold Moon had already said so, Elder Meng naturally didn't dare to go against the Moon Empress' intention.

Elder Du pulled Cheng Rui over and reserved the space for Long Tao and Cai Cha.

Lin Yuan heard Cold Moon's words clearly. She wasn't polite at all when speaking with Elder Meng. Since the Moon Empress had specified it, Elder Meng didn't even dare to make an additional statement.

Elder Meng was the Dean of the Creation Master Academy in the Royal Capital Advanced Spirit Qi University. But he didn't dare to showcase any of the authority he possessed in the Royal Capital.

After thanking Cold Moon for using her qi to protect him, Lin Yuan put all his attention into this apex battle between the youths.

Chapter 92: In the Name of Cretaceous

Lin Yuan noticed that Cai Cha and Long Tao were both circulating their spirit qi.

Long Tao summoned a shark-like fey that was around two to three meters long but had dragon patterns on its body.

Using True Data, Lin Yuan recognized that this was a Platinum VI/Epic Reef Sturgeon.

As for Cai Cha, there was a tea tree that bloomed with white camellia.

Lin Yuan took a glance and noticed that both the feys were Platinum ones, but Cai Cha's fey was a Fantasy Breed. Furthermore, the tea tree was a Fantasy II.

Cai Cha commanded the tea tree, "Dark Dream Fragrant Tea, Tool Transformation!"

After receiving Cai Cha's command, Lin Yuan watched as the Platinum/Fantasy II tea tree turned into a five-string pipa and landed in Cai Cha's hands.

Cai Cha used her delicate hands to strum the strings. The large strings were clamoring, while the small strings were distinctive.

The sounds of the strings were like an army of thousands of troops and horses. They broke through the air and blasted at Long Tao.

Long Tao quickly jumped onto the Reef Sturgeon's back, but the sound of strings sliced it. Bone-deep wounds appeared on the Reef Sturgeon. The Reef Sturgeon was in so much pain that it let out a roar.

Long Tao's eyes immediately turned sharp and serious. By experiencing the burst of sound damage, Long Tao knew that this woman might look weak, but she was dangerous.

Cai Cha let out a gentle smile and continued to strum the pipa.

Long Tao quickly commanded the Reef Sturgeon to bring up a wave to block the string sounds' damage. At the same time, Long Tao circulated his spiritual power again, and two figures appeared. One was blue, and the other red, and they were half a meter in size.

The blue and red feys were actually two Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish.

The Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish might possess dragon-species bloodline, but they weren't considered dragon-species feys. These two Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish were actually two Deep Blue Jellyfish that were nurtured from young with dragon blood. When they turned into Fantasy Breed feys, they would undergo a transformation.

The two different-colored Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish were Platinum/Fantasy I. When Long Tao summoned the two Fantasy I feys, an immediate downpour of rain followed.

The rain formed lines, which were filled with the grim and murderous intent of the deep sea. The raindrops were sharp like needles and felt as though they could pierce through all life that they came in contact with.

When enveloped by the murderous intent, Lin Yuan only saw Cai Cha changing her stance. She raised the pipa over her shoulder and strummed it. The string sounds formed a barrier around Cai Cha, which bloomed with camellias. They rapidly restored the spirit qi within Cai Cha's body.

Cai Cha's eyes turned stern as she formed a claw and grabbed the strings before forcefully twirling them. The mild and reserved string sound was scattered out with a flick of her fingers.

The string sound carried an unstoppable force and broke through the boundary formed by the heavy rain. It then smashed into the two Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish and the Reef Sturgeon.

The two Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish and Reef Sturgeon had created a water boundary, but it was still smashed open by the unstoppable and murderous string sound. It caused minor injuries to the two Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish. The Reef Sturgeon also received severe injuries and lost its ability to fight.

Cai Cha turned the pipa around and sat on the back of it while she smiled and said, "Radiance Hundred Sequence #3. You might be known as the Overflowing Sea, but you are also known as the Son of Dragon. Your contracted feys are mostly dragon-species ones. But if you don't use your trump card in this battle, then you will never be able to obtain the sword token and redeem another treasure."

Long Tao's aura suddenly changed, and his violent spirit qi suddenly burst to the peak.

A massive figure appeared behind Long Tao while he said, "If this is your only capability, then I shall be taking the sword token for sure. As Sequence #3, I naturally have the strength to protect my spot as Sequence #3!"

Once Long Tao finished talking, the massive figure behind him finally revealed its full appearance. It was a giant sea dragon that was close to 30 meters in length. It was the size of those prehistoric sea dinosaurs, and it was rather similar to a Tylosaurus.

When Lin Yuan was looking at this dragon-species fey, he felt his blood was boiling. This was the dragon-species fey that had allowed Long Tao to rise up to fame and also the reason for his title, Overflowing Sea.

Lin Yuan had read about the information on the Radiance Hundred on the Star Web previously, but now that he saw this massive fey's full appearance, he felt as though he was looking at a scene of the prehistoric times.

Lin Yuan used True Data to check on this sea dragon fey's name.

[Fey Name]: Sea King Cretaceous Dragon

[Fey Species]: Mosasaurus species/Emperor Dragon genus

[Spirit-Lifeform Grade]: Platinum (10/10)

[Fey Type]: Water

[Fey Quality]: Fantasy III

Abilities:

[Whirl Flow]: Stir up the water region and cause extreme suction flow in the water.

[Eight Dragon Shadows]: The dragon shadow moves and transforms into eight dragon shadows. Each dragon shadow possesses 60% of the original body's attributes.

[Sea Bite]: Control the flow of the sea to form a bite. The biting force is equivalent to the biting force of the original body.

[Sea Emperor's Dragon Breath]: Shoot out a destructive breath that belongs to the emperor dragons.

[Wrath of the Ocean]: Utilize all of the innate energy within the ocean to conduct a devastating tremor. The extreme tremor within the water has the power to destroy everything within the sea region.

Exclusive Skill:

[Water Overseer]: Delicate control when using the power of water and can control the flow of water.

[Extremity of Sea]: Gather water elements and form rivers. Allow the rivers to flow into the sea and control a portion of the sea region.

Sea King Cretaceous Dragon... What kind of name was this? Having the title of Sea King meant that it ruled during the Cretaceous period. It was indeed worthy of being the most respected Emperor Dragon genus among the dragon-species feys!

Cold Moon looked at Lin Yuan and nodded with satisfaction when she noticed that he was carefully observing the match.

Once the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon appeared, it let out a deafening roar. Water elements from the surrounding rapidly gathered and formed a massive sea region.

Cai Cha strummed the pipa swiftly and opened up a boundary within the sea region so as not to be engulfed by the seawater.

However, a whirlpool formed within the sea region. The originally unpredictable whirlpool was like a pair of devil's hands at the bottom of the sea—it pulled everything at the water's surface back into the bottom of the sea.

Lin Yuan's pupils contracted as the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon's attack was a flawless combination of the exclusive skills, Water Overseer, Extremity of Sea, and the ability, Whirl Flow.

It took just a split moment to control the state of battle. Cai Cha's forehead perspired a little as she was already exhausted from dealing with the suction flow. Cai Cha thought to herself, If this carries on, I will lose my ability to resist and will be engulfed by the seawater.

Cai Cha circulated her spirit qi, and a small black beast immediately appeared within her self-created boundary.

It was a small deer without horns and had big eyes. The moment it appeared, it spat out a bundle of white mist. When the white mist reached Cai Cha's fingertips, they fused into the pipa through her fingers.

Cai Cha then strummed the pipa thrice, sending out a pipa sound that felt like it could explode a silver bottle.

At this moment, Long Tao yelled out, “White, use Sea Bite!”

In an instant, the water around Cai Cha looked as though it turned into sharp fangs. With the biting force of the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon, which was at least 10,000 tons, it bit down at the boundary that Cai Cha created.

Chapter 93: The Result is Evident

Water was always this world’s softest thing, however, when the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon activated the Sea Bite ability, sharp fangs formed with seawater appeared outside of the boundary Cai Cha had created.

The sharp claw might be formless, but the stirred up water flow allowed for a rough view of the fangs’ shape.

The size of the fangs was almost the same as the mouth of the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon. The intense pressure caused an ear-piercing boom as though metal plates were clashing.

At the crucial moment, Cai Cha quickly scattered the white mist produced by the small black deer that was fused into the pipa strings and fused it into the strings by the neck, causing it to suddenly tighten.

The devastating pressure from the sharp fangs nearly deformed Cai Cha’s boundary.

Lin Yuan was obviously able to see seawater leaking into Cai Cha’s boundary. There were clear bite marks on the boundary, and the seawater was seeping inside from the bitemarks.

However, as Cai Cha was using all her strength to strum, the boundary was able to withstand the pressure and rapidly mend the cracks.

Lin Yuan was astonished. The Sea Bite ability was truly a divine ability within the water region. If the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon wanted to rip its prey, it didn’t even need to fight at close range. Any place in the water region with a flow of water could be turned into the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon’s sharp fangs.

The Sea Bite ability could be executed formlessly, and the enemy could only endure the attack. In addition, the strength of the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon’s bite didn’t come from the pressure—it was the penetrative power of the sharp fangs. It was the sharp fangs that made an opening in Cai Cha’s boundary.

Long Tao stood on the back of the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon and said to Cai Cha, “Shall we end it here? Your boundary is already broken, and I am not adept at controlling my power in combat.”

Long Tao didn’t try to cover the meaning in his words and immediately stated that he had already controlled his attack power earlier and didn’t wish to injure Cai Cha.

Cai Cha’s face turned grave in response, but she smiled and said, “It is rather boring to settle the match like this. You might not be adept at controlling your power, but I am.”

After speaking, that small black deer lit up with a luster was like the dark night. It quickly swallowed all of the visible light in the sea region before letting out a clear cry.

All of the light gathered toward Cai Cha's fingers, and in a split moment, the water within the violent sea region was forcefully isolated by Cai Cha's pipa sound. Everywhere the pipa sound passed through, the water elements vanished.

"Rain Cutting Zither Sound."

The seemingly gentle and night mist-like pipa sound made Long Tao feel as though the surroundings were bizarre.

The two lightly injured Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish that were floating beside Long Tao and the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon had produced a water barrier. When the pipa sound smashed into the water barrier, the night mist scattered.

The pipa sound was like a light drizzle that entered through all gaps. The pipa sound fused into the water but was able to slice the water barrier.

Long Tao responded decisively and commanded the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon, "White, Eight Dragon Shadows!"

All of a sudden, the eight illusory dragon shadows appeared in front of the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon. Eight dragon shadows rushed at the pipa sound, and the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon executed the Sea Bite simultaneously.

The pipa sound still managed to shatter the eight dragon shadows. The residual force damaged the Deep Blue Dragon Jellyfish and left them in a severely injured state. Long Tao then withdrew them into his spiritual spatial zone.

Long Tao said in a cold tone, "Since there isn't a need to reserve anymore, then I shall not hold back anymore."

Three of his Long Tao's feys were severely injured, so he was truly enraged.

Elder Meng knew it wasn't good and circulated the spiritual power within his body. If Cai Cha wasn't able to resist the attack, he would immediately rescue her. Elder Meng knew clearly how powerful Long Tao's attack was. Even if he was to receive this attack, he wouldn't end up good.

The water elements gathered again, and the sea region instantly expanded by over two times.

The Sea King Cretaceous Dragon's exclusive skills, Water Overseer, and Extremity of Sea were now utilized fully. The sea was moving violently, and such violent movements weren't possible with just the use of Whirl Flow. When the sea moved violently, Cai Cha's boundary shrunk down until it was only one meter.

Cai Cha suddenly yelled, "Last move!"

In an instant, Cai Cha threw the pipa, which was transformed from Dark Dream Fragrant Tea using Tool Transformation, into the sky. The pipa reverted into the Dark Dream Fragrant Tea's original state.

The moment the Dark Dream Fragrant Tea appeared, its body lit up with green radiance. The boundary that was originally shrunk down to one meter was instantly expanded to ten meters. It was just like a clean land in the midst of the ocean.

As the seawater was shaking more intensively, the boundary that Dark Dream Fragrant Tea expanded was shrinking again.

Cai Cha circulated all the spirit qi in her body.

“Dark Dream Fragrant Tea, Dream Transformation.”

“Dream Beast of Night, Dream Consume.”

With a burst of spiritual power from Cai Cha’s body, the Dark Dream Fragrant Tea’s entire tree body suddenly shrunk down into the size of a tea leaf. The small black beast jumped up and consumed the tea leaf into its body. All of a sudden, an aura of nature descended and shrunk the sea region, emptying out a piece of land that contested with the sea region.

After the small black deer consumed the tea leaf, its hornless head suddenly grew out giant deer horns.

The deer horns were like branches that were blooming with white flowers. The black pelt of the deer turned white instantly, and its size increased by several times. It was now a white stag that was over four meters in height. Wherever the hoofs stepped on, green grass would grow.

The Dream Beast looked at Cai Cha, and the latter said gently, “Go on.”

The Dream Beast’s horn lit up with green radiance and great power as it smashed at the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon.

Long Tao didn’t let the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon gather the surrounding water anymore and gave the command. “White, Wrath of the Ocean! Sea Emperor’s Dragon Breath!”

At that moment, the sea finally stirred up. As compared to this moment, the sea was just playing around previously. The sea movements were so violent and loud that Lin Yuan could easily hear the sounds even when he was inside Cold Moon’s spirit qi barrier.

Lin Yuan watched as the wrath of the ocean, along with the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon’s white dragon breath, collided with the pure white stag.

Elder Meng, who had been standing by, suddenly rushed out, used his spirit qi to protect Cai Cha, and stood beside her.

When the stag smashed toward the seawater, the clash was even, but the white dragon breath shattered the deer horn and was rushing at Cai Cha.

The white dragon breath finally vanished after smashing into Elder Meng’s protective barrier.

Elder Meng’s face looked very unpleasant right now. Not because Long Tao’s attack was powerful, but he was rather upset as to why this Long Tao didn’t hold back at all.

This battle allowed Lin Yuan to finally know why the Radiance Hundred of the Radiance Federation was the federation's glory.

The prowess of Sequence #3, Overflowing Sea, allowed Lin Yuan to find out the standard of the young generation that stood at the apex.

Lin Yuan knew deeply that he was indeed still far inferior. However, he wasn't in a hurry to diminish his worth. After all, it had only been two months since he had changed from an ordinary person into a person who could sense spirit qi. The road ahead was still long, and no matter how high a mountain was, one would always start from the bottom.

Chapter 94: Cold Moon's Style of Protection

Cai Cha withdrew the injured feys into her spiritual spatial zone before bowing to Elder Meng as thanks. She then said to Long Tao, "I lost. I am nearly ten years older than you, but I cannot even block your full-powered attack. No wonder you are Sequence #3."

Long Tao's attack nearly wiped out all of his spiritual power, and he wasn't able to stand for a moment. Long Tao put his hand on the Sea King Cretaceous Dragon to support himself while he panted loudly. He didn't even have the strength to speak. Long Tao's current state was the symptom of spirit qi exhaustion.

Upon seeing his state, Lin Yuan immediately used the Spirit-Gather Goldfish's ability, Spirit Injection, and released a portion of pure spirit qi toward Long Tao's body. It immediately helped Long Tao's exhausted spirit qi to recover a little. It might not be able to recover half the spirit qi, but it recovered enough for Long Tao to move normally.

Long Tao cupped his fist toward Lin Yuan as an expression of thanks. When Lin Yuan's eyes met with Long Tao's eyes, Lin Yuan realized that Long Tao was looking at him with a scrutinizing gaze.

Lin Yuan smiled and cupped his fist in return.

Long Tao then turned to look at Cai Cha again. "If I didn't use the last move, I would not be able to defeat you either."

Long Tao's statement might seem unreserved, but it was also his approval toward Cai Cha's strength.

Apart from this, Lin Yuan realized that Cold Moon, Elder Meng, Elder Du, and Ling Xiao's eyes were all fixed on him. Lin Yuan silently thought whether it was rude to replenish Long Tao's spiritual power when all these experts were around.

However, Lin Yuan didn't know that these people were actually surprised at Lin Yuan's ability to replenish spiritual power in an instant.

Lin Yuan hadn't summoned his fey when using the Spirit Injection ability, but instead, Lin Yuan just executed it casually.

When healing-type and support-type spirit qi professionals were using healing-type and recovery-type abilities, they didn't have to summon feys and could use the abilities directly. But it would definitely cause the ability effect to receive a huge decline.

Despite that, it was still enough for Long Tao to recover from a spirit qi exhaustion state.

Before this, everyone only knew that Lin Yuan was a young prodigy that had directly passed the Class 2 Creation Master exam. They didn't expect that Lin Yuan would actually have such impressive support abilities.

There were only a few rare abilities that could directly increase spiritual power, and the most common fey with the ability would be the Spirit-Siphon Goldfish. However, the Spirit-Siphon Goldfish's trait was a reason why basically no one would choose it as their contracted fey.

Therefore, when Lin Yuan revealed this ability, even these experts were rather surprised.

Cold Moon's normally icy cold face had a trace of joy as she said to Lin Yuan, "An ability to replenish spiritual power is able to significantly increase your capability to fight and survive in the wild. Very good."

After being praised by Cold Moon, Lin Yuan felt a little embarrassed.

Cheng Rui was now the one that had been neglected. Elder Du, who stood behind Cheng Rui, had much gloomier eyes when he looked at Long Tao and had this additional trace of fear.

If someone else possessed Long Tao's combat capabilities, Cheng Rui might not feel anything. Nevertheless, Long Tao's Creation Master capability was even better than Cheng Rui's right now. This made Cheng Rui know that he couldn't seek trouble with Long Tao.

However, when Cheng Rui looked at Lin Yuan, his eyes weren't just filled with jealousy. They were also filled with gloom, like when he looked at Long Tao.

Lin Yuan felt Cheng Rui's eyes. Given his two lives' experiences, Lin Yuan didn't have a youth's mentality anymore, and after encountering eyes like Cheng Rui's, he roughly understood that someone was jealous of him. Such eyes made Lin Yuan frown a little.

Cold Moon witnessed everything.

Originally, Cai Cha should hand over the sword token to Long Tao for him to exchange a treasure, but Cold Moon stepped up and said, "Originally, the treasure you can exchange with the sword token is some high-grade spiritual ingredient, and it is similarly precious to the pearl you've obtained previously. Since Cai Cha injured three of your feys, I shall change the reward to ten drops of Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia's nectar."

Cold Moon's words caused Long Tao's face to involuntarily light up with delight, and even Elder Meng's face was smiling with radiance.

When Lin Yuan saw this scene, he immediately understood how precious the Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia's nectar was. Lin Yuan still remembered that the silver-robed man had even said that he wanted to give Lin Yuan an entire bowl to drink. Back then, Lin Yuan didn't feel anything and thought it was only a part of the reception. But now, Lin Yuan knew that he couldn't accept such precious things so casually.

After speaking, Cold Moon changed the topic and looked at Cheng Rui. "There is only the gray box left. It is your turn to open the box."

Cheng Rui had a delighted expression as he quickly went up to open the box. After opening the box, he saw a bottle of blood that had a trace of purple and a token.

Just as Cheng Rui was preparing to pick up the bottle of blood, Cold Moon's words made him withdraw his hand. "The blood in the bottle belongs to a Diamond snake-species fey. But there is a rule to obtain this gray box. If you don't win the contest, you will not only be unable to obtain a new treasure, but you will also not be able to obtain the Diamond snake blood."

After speaking, Cold Moon gave an eye signal to one of the tea attendants, while the three others, including Cai Cha, returned to their corners.

When Cold Moon returned to Lin Yuan's side, the remaining tea attendant said, "I am Xi Cha. I will be the one to have a contest with you."

Cheng Rui had already picked up the token and saw an exquisite tool drawn on it. It meant that this was a contest between Creation Masters, which gave Cheng Rui a boost of confidence.

Despite that, Cheng Rui didn't understand why the gray box's treasure could only be obtained after he won the contest, while Long Tao didn't have to. He couldn't help but ask, "I wonder why my contest rule is different from the other box?"

Xi Cha was a person with a hot temperament, so when Cheng Rui asked like this, she immediately replied, "Because this is the Leaning Moon Mountain's Radiant Moon Palace."

Xi Cha's temperament was simply like a chili pepper, and her words were truly stinging.

Lin Yuan immediately saw Elder Du step forward and say to Xi Cha, "Cheng Rui doesn't know the rules. Will the tea attendant please forgive him!"

Cheng Rui was originally filled with confidence, but after hearing Xi Cha's response, his mental state became a little unstable.

Lin Yuan didn't understand what was happening either, but Cold Moon was looking at Cheng Rui with eyes of contempt.

Back when Cheng Rui looked at Lin Yuan with those jealous eyes, Cold Moon was already unhappy.

The Moon Empress might not have officially accepted Lin Yuan as a disciple, but Mystic Moon wasn't the only person who understood the Moon Empress. Cold Moon was the same too.

Lin Yuan becoming the Moon Empress' disciple was something that was already determined, so Cold Moon was a little protective.

Even if Cheng Rui was just a junior, Cold Moon didn't ignore him. Cold Moon had an icy cold demeanor, and she didn't have a protective personality. However, after following the Moon Empress for a long time, she was slightly affected by the Moon Empress' personality.

Therefore, her protective behavior might not be obvious, but she had already arranged all the difficulties for Cheng Rui.

It was also because of Cheng Rui that caused Cold Moon to look at Elder Du with unfriendly eyes.

Lin Yuan, who was standing by the side, didn't know of Cold Moon's thoughts. Instead, he was looking at the contest that was considered an apex contest between the young Creation Masters.

Chapter 95: Source-Type Lifeform, Spine Gu

Lin Yuan never knew what the standard of his Creation Master's capabilities was. After all, Lin Yuan had never made contact with any proper Creation Master before. Take Elder Ning, for example. Lin Yuan only knew that Elder Ning was a Class 4 Creation Master, but never saw him at work.

Lin Yuan knew that a regular Creation Master would be using the concoction of spiritual ingredients to enhance a fey and upgrade its quality. As for the proper method of concoction, it was something that Lin Yuan had never seen before. Even a Class 1 Creation Master's method was something that Lin Yuan had never witnessed before.

Since there was an opportunity now, Lin Yuan was watching in a particularly serious manner.

Cold Moon didn't have much reaction as she felt that it was rather boring, so she shifted most of her attention to Lin Yuan.

Cai Cha, who was standing at one of the four corners, was looking at Cheng Rui with rather interested eyes. I wonder what this Cheng Rui did to offend Cold Moon and caused her to choose Xi Cha to conduct the contest.

Among the four sisters, Xi Cha was the one with the best Creation Master talent. Even if she hadn't gone through any Creation Master exam, she was definitely at the standard of a Class 3 Creation Master. This contest should have a rather obvious result.

Xi Cha used her hand to knock on the platform and asked with a fiery tone, "For the Creation Master contest, do you want to evolve a fey, upgrade the fey's quality, or to heal a fey with damaged roots? You can choose the method of contest."

Cheng Rui's face was instantly overjoyed after hearing the question. His nervous and affected mental state was now finally reverted to normal. He quickly said, "Let's compete by healing a fey's damaged roots."

Cheng Rui's extremely fast response made Lin Yuan involuntarily raise his brows. It seems like this Cheng Rui is very adept at healing a fey's damaged roots. He actually believes that his chances of winning are higher. Otherwise, he wouldn't be in such a hurry to make a decision.

Xi Cha clapped thrice before she said indifferently, "As you wish."

Soon enough, two black hound-like feys were brought over. The two hound-like feys were both half a meter in size. They had pointed ears, but they had plenty of teeth that were jutting out, making them abnormally sharp.

Lin Yuan could recognize that these were Violent Blood Terror Wolf pups and were considered extremely rare feys.

The Violent Blood Terror Wolf was a mighty Platinum fey, and the pups that were produced were already Silver.

These two Violent Blood Terror Wolf pups were only born for a few months and already had damaged roots.

Upon noticing their dying state, Lin Yuan carefully observed the two Violent Blood Terror Wolf pups. He might be rather far away, but Lin Yuan could still see that the two Violent Blood Terror Wolf pups' eyes were already so swollen that they nearly couldn't open. Their sharp-pointed ears also had large amounts of black blood scabs.

All these symptoms clearly indicated that the two pups had suffered trauma, and the injury was in the head. Their brains might have been damaged even with their tough skulls' protection. The brain was where wisdom came from, and beast-type feys with damaged brains were extremely hard to heal.

Before becoming a C-rank spirit qi professional, if Lin Yuan used the Pure Land of Bliss within the Spirit Lock spatial zone, he would need to use several days in order to rescue these pups. To be reserved, he would need at least two full days.

After becoming a C-rank spirit qi professional, Lin Yuan still didn't know his capability to enhance feys yet. However, he could imagine that he would definitely spend less time than before.

At that moment, Lin Yuan saw that Cheng Rui and Xi Cha had started to move. Both of them used a specific proportion and made a concoction with the spiritual ingredients within the crystal tool.

Both of them had proficient skills, but there were subtle differences.

Lin Yuan could obviously feel that Xi Cha's spiritual ingredients preparation was faster than Cheng Rui's, but it wasn't significantly faster.

Different types of spiritual ingredients were steadily added to the crystal bottle. Every time a new spiritual ingredient was added inside, the medicinal fluid within the crystal bottle would undergo a different transformation.

As they concocted, Lin Yuan could see that although Cheng Rui and Xi Cha possessed the same spiritual ingredients, their recipes weren't really the same. One could see the difference just from the color and texture.

Xi Cha's concoction was a medicinal fluid that was amber in color and viscous like honey. Cheng Rui's concoction was dark green, and it was constantly bubbling with opaque spirit fluid.

The duo took a concoction time of around three to four hours.

As Lin Yuan watched carefully, he had a rough idea of how Creation Masters worked. As compared to the concoction of spiritual ingredients, his method was still more direct and simple. However, the efficiency of Lin Yuan's simple and direct method would depend on his spirit qi rank.

Therefore, Lin Yuan only required to increase his spirit qi professional rank to enhance his Creation Master's capability. For Lin Yuan to increase his spirit qi professional rank, he could only do so by evolving more feys. As a result, Lin Yuan's objectives to increase his spirit qi professional rank and Creation Master's capability would become the same matter.

Cheng Rui was steadily concocting the spiritual ingredients. During the concoction, Cheng Rui suddenly placed the crystal tool on the platform, and he let out a deep smile when he looked up to see Xi Cha still concocting the spiritual ingredients.

Lin Yuan could see the Cheng Rui was circulating the spiritual power within his body. When circulating the spiritual power, Cheng Rui's face appeared to be in pain as it nearly distorted.

After a moment, Cheng Rui's skin under his sleeve appeared with a rather big bump, and it was moving toward Cheng Rui's hukou acupoint¹. At the hukou acupoint, the bump was getting increasingly bigger as though something was bursting out.

Cheng Rui let out a grunt, and a five- or six-centimeter figure emerged, and it was like a small spine. It was an insect with dozens of legs.

Cold Moon frowned and asked Elder Du in a cold voice, "This is the source-type lifeform, Spine Gu¹?"

Elder Du nodded in response.

Lin Yuan never expected the thing that emerged from the flesh was actually Cheng Rui's contracted source-type lifeform.

This source-type lifeform lived in the contractor's body, and when called upon, it would bring extreme pain to the contractor. Even with such a source-type lifeform, Cheng Rui still chose to summon it during the contest. It meant that he was striving his best to win this contest.

But from the looks of things now, Xi Cha was only left with a few spiritual ingredients she had yet to use, meaning that Xi Cha's concocted spirit fluid was about to be completed.

On the contrary, Cheng Rui still had half the spiritual ingredients he had yet to use.

Elder Du didn't think that Cheng Rui would actually summon the source-type lifeform, Spine Gu. He sighed and said, "Cheng Rui's grandfather is Cheng Wu, and this Spine Gu is separated out from Master Cheng Wu's Gold Ring Spine Gu."

When mentioning Cheng Wu's name, Elder Du didn't look good. After hearing Elder Du's words, Lin Yuan might not know who Cheng Wu was, but Elder Du was a Class 4 Creation Master, and if he addressed Cheng Wu as a master, it meant that Cheng Wu was one of those pinnacle Class 4 Creation Masters just a step away from reaching the Class 5 Creation Master.

It seemed like Cheng Rui was a rather powerful third-generation descendant.

Chapter 96: Doesn't Dare to Be Presumptuous, but It Still Happened

Cold Moon responded by looking at Elder Du with her deep eyes and said, "It seems like Cheng Wu has really taken up a role in your Royal Capital's Creation Master Association. It is such a huge matter, but why didn't you announce it?"

Elder Du quickly replied, "Elder Cheng has only arrived at the Royal Capital's Creation Master Association recently. For the recent period of time, he doesn't have any plans of becoming a Vice President. When Elder Cheng makes the decision, we will announce it."

Cold Moon was rather surprised that Cheng Wu, a pinnacle Class 4 Creation Master, would actually choose to take the role as a Vice President in the Royal Capital's Creation Master Association, instead of being an honorary elder. But after slight contemplation, Cold Moon understood.

"That is true. Since he already knows that he doesn't have a chance of becoming a Class 5 Creation Master, he should plan for the Cheng Family's younger generation. But if this Cheng Rui is really talented, why would Cheng Wu allow Cheng Rui to form a contract with the source-type lifeform, Spine Gu?"

Cold Moon's words were clear and cold, but when Elder Du heard them, he revealed an awkward expression and didn't know what to say for a moment.

Lin Yuan didn't really understand the conversation between Cold Moon and Elder Du, but he knew that it would be extremely inappropriate for him to suddenly seek clarification.

Who would have expected for Cold Moon to look at Lin Yuan and ask, "Lin Yuan, do you know what is the source-type lifeform, Spine Gu?"

Lin Yuan shook his head. Cold Moon could see the desire for an answer in Lin Yuan's eyes, so she explained, "The Spine Gu is a source-type lifeform, and after forming a contract with it, it won't be stored within the spiritual spatial zone like other feys. The Spine Gu will reside within the contractor's spinal column and empty out one of the spine segments as its nest. Those who form contracts with the Spine Gu will damage their innate vitality. Therefore, Creation Masters who form contracts with the Spine Gu will never reach Class 5."

Lin Yuan was flabbergasted and didn't know that the Spine Gu was such a source-type lifeform. But it was rather understandable too, as his Red Thorn was also very special. However, Red Thorn's special trait was its need for fresh blood when forming the contract, and that it didn't follow a specific model, requiring the contractor to specify the evolution.

Red Thorn's peculiarity allowed Lin Yuan to quickly accept the existence of a special source-type lifeform like the Spine Gu.

Seeing that Lin Yuan had already digested her information, Cold Moon continued talking, "The Spine Gu might damage the contractor's innate vitality to a certain extent, but to Creation Masters, they are supreme treasures. The Spine Gu can rapidly synthesize massive amounts of spiritual ingredients that the contractor consumes and form a concentrated spirit fluid within the body. When concocting spiritual ingredients, the Spine Gu can devour and catalyze all the spiritual ingredients accumulated in the body, allowing the effects of the spiritual ingredients to be pushed to the greatest extent.

“However, there is also a disadvantage... By fusing spiritual ingredients in this way, it will use up the Spine Gu’s bodily fluids. After the concoction, the contractor will need to consume a great number of spiritual ingredients. Otherwise, the Spine Gu will not have sufficient spirit fluids and will consume the spinal cord within the spine.”

Cold Moon got rid of her cold and indifferent personality as she explained all the information to Lin Yuan with details.

Finally, Lin Yuan learned what Spine Gu’s use was. However, after knowing, Lin Yuan’s impression of the Spine Gu became bad.

When contracting a fey, the fey should be a partner, unlike the Spine Gu, which would use the contractor’s spine as a residence. Slicing off flesh to feed to the eagle might be good, but it was to slice the flesh of a lamb. If one was slicing their own flesh to feed the eagle, Lin Yuan felt it would be very foolish.

At that moment, Cheng Rui commanded the Spine Gu to rapidly devour the spiritual ingredients, and it suddenly increased the efficiency. In just a few short minutes, Cheng Rui was already catching up to Xi Cha’s pace.

When Cheng Rui had summoned the Spine Gu earlier and grunted, Xi Cha had already been looking at Cheng Rui with dissatisfaction. It was a huge taboo to disturb a Creation Master when they concocted spiritual ingredients. When the contest had started, Cold Moon had already used her spiritual power to isolate the platform from the outside world as she had been afraid something or someone might affect the contest.

Unexpectedly, Cheng Rui had publicly affected his opponent during the spiritual ingredient concoction.

Just as Xi Cha was about to complain, she saw Cheng Rui summoning the Spine Gu. She then said helplessly, “I didn’t actually plan to use a fey’s support, but since you have done so, I shall do it too.”

Xi Cha had also circulated her spiritual power and summoned a pitcher plant-like fey. Xi Cha then grabbed the concocted but not purified spirit fluid and poured it into the pitcher plant-like fey. She then constantly poured spiritual power into the fey.

After a sequence of actions, Cheng Rui and Xi Cha had finished the spirit fluid’s concoction at almost the same timing. However, Cheng Rui’s concocted spirit fluid was produced from the Spine Gu’s abdomen, while Xi Cha’s spirit fluid was produced from the pitcher plant’s body.

The duo then fed their respective spirit fluids to the Violent Blood Terror Wolf pups that had severely injured heads.

In just a few short minutes, the two Violent Blood Terror Wolf pups were treated simultaneously. They immediately turned better and started to move. From time to time, they would be using their fangs to bite at the cage.

The Violent Blood Terror Wolves were extremely violent even as pups.

After the contest, it seemed like an evenly matched outcome, but Cheng Rui spoke first. "I won because my Violent Blood Terror Wolf upgraded from Silver III to Silver IV."

Cheng Rui then immediately reached out for the Diamond snake-species fey's purple-red blood. But before he could touch the bottle of snake blood, a mocking voice echoed. "Do you think you have won just because you upgraded the Violent Blood Terror Wolf from Silver III to Silver IV and also treated it? Why? Didn't you see that my Violent Blood Terror Wolf's quality has also been upgraded from Elite to Flawless?"

After speaking, Xi Cha bowed to Cold Moon before returning to her corner. Xi Cha's words had stunned Cheng Rui, whose face was as red as a pig's liver.

Elder Du wanted to go up and console Cheng Rui, but Long Tao unexpectedly gave a big applause and laughed heartily. "Truly exciting!"

Cheng Rui's eyes turned blood-red after getting agitated by the applause, and he glared at Long Tao. Long Tao didn't think anything of it and raised his leg to pat off the inexistent dust on his boots. It felt as though Long Tao had casually swept off Cheng Rui's glare.

"Long Tao, I swear that we will always be in hostile terms!"

Long Tao didn't even bother about the enraged Cheng Rui and ignored those harsh words.

As Cheng Rui flipped out, a bone-chilling pressure nearly froze Cheng Rui in place. It caused Cheng Rui to stagger, and he was about to kneel on the ground.

Elder Du quickly went forward to help Cheng Rui and said to Cold Moon, "Envoy Cold Moon, Cheng Rui isn't intentionally being presumptuous in the Radiant Moon Palace. This is Cheng Rui's first visit, and he doesn't know the rules. Will Envoy Cold Moon please forgive him?"

Cold Moon's aura instantly burst out as she said with a chilly voice, "He doesn't dare to be presumptuous, but it still happened. To speak of such threatening words in the Radiant Moon Palace, are you the one that asked him to do it? Or did you not teach him the rules of the Radiant Moon Palace before bringing him here?"

Cold sweat was dripping off Elder Du's head.

During this decade, the Moon Empress had been in seclusion, and the two Moon Envoys had been quietly cultivating in the Leaning Moon Mountain. Thus, they rarely ventured into the world.

How could Elder Du have forgotten about Envoy Cold Moon's temperament?

One of the aristocrats in the Royal Capital, Marquis Jing Shi, had been insufferably arrogant 15 years ago and had been disrespectful to Envoy Cold Moon. She had simply broken his legs, and he had been sitting in the wheelchair ever since.

On that night, Marquis Jing Shi's residence had been completely frozen. The marquis residence hall had been cleaved into two, and no one knew what had happened.

Given Marquis Jing Shi's strength as a high-ranked king-class expert, his legs should have already recovered by now, but he didn't dare to stand back up from the wheelchair until now. He had been sitting in the wheelchair for 15 years, and there wasn't a need to explain why.

Chapter 97: Ironman Triathlon

Marquis Jing Shi had been truly influential in the Royal Capital back then. Plenty of king-class experts had met with setbacks from Marquis Jing Shi. With a Diamond X/Fantasy III, Desert Mad Lion, along with the old marquis backing him up, few of the same age dared to confront him.

Nonetheless, when the intolerably arrogant Marquis Jing Shi had had a few drinks in a banquet and spoken disrespectfully to Envoy Cold Moon, he had even started to provoke her in public. The result was having both his legs frozen to the bones, nearly shattering. It was truly pitiful.

Elder Du quickly replied, "Envoy Cold Moon, how would I dare to not teach him the rules of the Radiant Moon Palace? It is Cheng Rui who is slow-witted and didn't learn them well. I will bring Cheng Rui back to give him a harsh lesson and teach him well on the rules of the Radiant Moon Palace."

When Elder Du was speaking, his back was already drenched with cold sweat. As a Class 4 Creation Master, Elder Du believed that he was considered outstanding among the other Class 4 Creation Masters, however, he still had a very long way before he could reach the pinnacle of Class 4 Creation Master. As for Class 5 Creation Master, Elder Du didn't even dare to think about that level from a Class 4 Creation Master's perspective.

Even among king-class experts, his combat capability was far inferior to his own Creation Master capability. He was only barely a king-class expert, and his status was simply negligible in the Radiant Moon Palace. If he said something wrong, he might be crippled, and there was a chance that he might not even be thrown off the Leaning Moon Mountain.

Cold Moon seldom ventured out for the past dozen years, but her title as 'Ironman Triathlon' was still etched in many people's memories due to the Marquis Jing Shi's incident.

Ironman Triathlon didn't refer to Cold Moon's sports capability. It was her style of handling matters—iron wrist, iron fist, and an iron heart.

Cold Moon's bone-chilling aura didn't reduce, and all of a sudden, her eyes looked as though they appeared with a pair of whirling frost. Within a split moment, Elder Du felt as though he was being buried under a giant glacier. Elder Du was able to support Cheng Rui earlier, but now, even Elder Du was getting unsteady.

The blood color in Cheng Rui's eyes had already scattered, and after sensing Elder Du shivering, he suddenly felt that he was at his wits' end and lost all reliance. When Cheng Rui panicked, he yelled out with a sobbing tone, "My grandfather is Cheng Wu, a pinnacle Class 4 Creation Master!"

Cheng Rui yelled out very loudly as though he was trying to use his yells to give himself some courage.

When Cold Moon heard the statement, her emotionless face suddenly revealed a smile, and brilliance of frost immediately burst out.

As soon as Cheng Rui yelled out that his grandfather was Cheng Wu, Elder Du knew things weren't going to end well.

In the Radiant Moon Palace, let alone your grandfather is a pinnacle Class 4 Creation Master. Even if the Class 5 Creation Masters, Bamboo Monarch, and Chef Supreme were here, Cold Moon wouldn't let this matter rest so easily.

The Moon Empress had always been dominant, and the two Moon Envoys represented the Moon Empress' will. Pinnacle Class 4 Creation Masters were still Class 4 Creation Masters, after all. The gap between Class 4 and Class 5 Creation Masters was like a chasm between heaven and earth.

A Class 4 Creation Master's limit was to nurture a fey to Fantasy V, while Class 5 Creation Masters were qualified to ascend into myths.

Looking at the tense situation, Lin Yuan felt as though his heart was getting suspended too. Cold Moon's aura might not be targeted at him, but he could still feel a pressure within his soul. It was a pressure as though someone was looking down at you from the clouds. It was a feeling that couldn't be resisted.

Cheng Rui's Creation Master capabilities were considered exceptional, especially on his usage of the Spine Gu. He was basically at the standard of a Class 3 Creation Master. For the current Lin Yuan, Cheng Rui was considered a formidable foe. But after seeing Cheng Rui's earlier performance, Lin Yuan didn't treat Cheng Rui as a formidable foe anymore.

All of a sudden, Cold Moon turned to look at Lin Yuan and asked, "Tell me, how should rude individuals be punished?"

Lin Yuan looked at Elder Du, who was perspiring with cold sweat, first. It was unknown why Lin Yuan felt as though he could see Elder Ning's shadows behind Elder Du. They were all Creation Masters that were helping the Radiance Federation to enhance and rescue feys, to help spirit qi professionals with the breakthrough of their feys' limits.

From the looks of Cold Moon's expression, if Elder Du and Cheng Rui didn't pay a certain price, they wouldn't be able to leave unscathed.

When Lin Yuan looked at Cold Moon, he realized that Cold Moon was very seriously looking at him. As of now, Lin Yuan still didn't know what to say. However, he didn't wish for Elder Du to perish in this place just because of a few statements. Since Cold Moon asked him, Lin Yuan followed his heart and said, "A rude individual should naturally be punished, but there is a reason for the rude words. Elder Du did so to protect Cheng Rui, therefore, his intention is to protect the young generation."

Cold Moon's aura suddenly pressed harder, allowing Lin Yuan to feel the pressure that Elder Du and Cheng Rui were feeling earlier. Lin Yuan's forehead was already starting to sweat. However, due to his three Willpower Runes—they didn't just enhance his spiritual energy, but they also toughened Lin Yuan's spiritual defense to a certain extent—he didn't look miserable.

When Cold Moon saw it, she was rather surprised.

Cold Moon spoke. "Do you mean that all of this is Cheng Rui's fault and punishing him alone is enough?"

Since Lin Yuan had already spoken, he shook his head in response to Cold Moon's question. "When judging a person, I will never see how high their capability can bring them. Instead, I will see how low their mistakes can drop them. Cheng Rui's words have implicated the person beside him and the elders in his family. After returning, he will have plenty of punishments waiting for him. As such, why don't you allow Elder Du to bring Cheng Rui back for some teachings and also to tell Cheng Rui's elders about his wrongdoings today?"

Lin Yuan remained silent for three seconds before speaking again. "Creation Masters are precious resources in the Radiance Federation. Even if they should be punished, they should be punished by asking them to heal more feys."

After Lin Yuan finished speaking, he felt Cold Moon's aura suddenly being withdrawn. When he looked at Cold Moon again, he noticed that Cold Moon's eyes had already changed. She was now looking at him with approval and compassion.

Cold Moon looked at Lin Yuan. I didn't expect this young prodigy to actually be rather kind. He is finding all sorts of reasons and hoping that I will not be too harsh. In the end, Lin Yuan's reasons are all in consideration of the Radiance Federation.

From Lin Yuan's information, Cold Moon felt that Lin Yuan should be a young man who had basically received zero benefits from the Radiance Federation. His ability to look for the light even when he was in desperate straits was truly a quality that was very rare and precious.

When Cold Moon asked Lin Yuan the question, she wanted to test him and see what Lin Yuan answered. This question didn't have a model answer. Nonetheless, Lin Yuan's answer gave Cold Moon a pleasant surprise.

When Cold Moon withdrew her aura, Elder Du pulled Cheng Rui and thanked Lin Yuan. But when Cheng Rui bowed to give his thanks, the fear in his eyes had already scattered, and they were now even redder than before. His eyes concealed a bitter tinge of resentment that was slowly accumulating.

Chapter 98: The Perturbed Moon Empress

Cold Moon didn't bother about Elder Du, who bowed to thank Lin Yuan, and immediately walked to the platform. She then said to Elder Meng, who was watching the show, "You may return after receiving the gift from the Moon Empress. Three days later, I will deliver another 20 drops of Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar to Elder Meng. After all, Elder Meng has been forced to watch a charade at the Radiant Moon Palace."

Elder Meng quickly bowed to Cold Moon. The earlier situation with Elder Du had really shocked Elder Meng, and if he were to speak out of turn, he might suffer the same fate. However, the additional 20 drops of Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar made Elder Meng so overjoyed that he couldn't cover his mouth.

"Envoy Cold Moon, then I shall bring Long Tao back." Elder Meng could see what was happening.

Just by looking at Cold Moon's attitude toward Lin Yuan, he already knew that Long Tao and Cheng Rui were just here to put on a show. However, this trip's gifts were already enough to compensate for Elder Meng's disappointment.

As Elder Meng was preparing to lead Long Tao back, he turned to see Long Tao standing with Lin Yuan.

"Thank you for helping me to recover my spiritual power. Otherwise, I would have made a joke of myself."

Lin Yuan laughed heartily and said, "It is just a small matter."

After hearing and seeing Lin Yuan's smile, Long Tao didn't know why he started laughing too. "If Brother Yuan is going to have a meal in the Royal Capital, remember to look for me for a drink."

Elder Meng then departed with Long Tao from the Leaning Moon Mountain.

Elder Du quickly apologized to Cold Moon again before he dragged Cheng Rui away from the Leaning Moon Mountain in an unpleasant mood.

When going down the mountain, Elder Du especially stopped midway the mountain before he continued on his way down again. Elder Du didn't have the face to meet with Elder Meng, who had received great rewards, right now.

Apart from Cold Moon and Lin Yuan in the Radiant Moon Palace, only the four tea attendants that were looking at Lin Yuan curiously and Ling Xiao were left.

Ling Xiao might be standing there and looking at Lin Yuan with calm eyes, but her heart was filled with joy. She could naturally see how Cold Moon and Mystic Moon treated Lin Yuan. She could also see how protective Cold Moon was toward Lin Yuan. Therefore, the chance of Lin Yuan getting picked as the Moon Empress' disciple was already 70%.

Cold Moon walked toward Lin Yuan and said, "The two contests today were arranged by the Moon Empress. She wanted you to witness the Radiance Generation's young generation's pinnacle standard, be it in Creation Master capability or spirit qi professional capability. Walk toward the inner palace yourself. After walking through the hallway, you will reach the inner palace. The Moon Empress is waiting for you there."

Lin Yuan never expected that these two exciting contests had actually been prepared for him. At first, Lin Yuan had been wondering why he hadn't needed to go through any contest. But after watching the two contests and understanding their standards, Lin Yuan knew that his strength was still not competent enough.

While walking in the hallway, Lin Yuan was feeling apprehensive. He was about to meet one of the three Class 5 Creation Masters of the Radiance Federation, the Moon Empress. In the past, Lin Yuan would have never imagined that he could make such close contact with a pinnacle expert of this era.

Lin Yuan was very smart. When he had been ascending the Leaning Moon Mountain with Mystic Moon, he had been paying attention to the conversation between Elder Meng, Elder Du, and Ling Xiao. He had found out that the purpose of coming to this place might be to become the Moon Empress' disciple, and it was the great benefit that Elder Ning had been envious of.

At that thought, Lin Yuan became even more nervous. Unbeknownst to Lin Yuan, another person was more perturbed than him.

In the inner palace was a lady that was arranging brocade boxes on a rack by the side of the lotus lake while muttering something, "...96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 100 gifts should be enough! I don't know how to be a Master either. Will it be too stingy to only give 100 gifts to a precious disciple on the first meeting?"

The lady in the moon robes was holding her chin and looking at the brocade boxes on the rack. She was uncertain whether she should bring out more precious treasures.

If someone else was watching from the side, even Cold Moon and Mystic Moon would be shocked. Was this the Moon Empress who was always calm like the lonely moon? 100 boxes of treasures were enough to shock the entire Radiance Federation, so who would actually feel it was stingy?

The Moon Empress looked at the brocade boxes and couldn't help but recall the scene when she was young and with her master. While reminiscing, the Moon Empress was so angry that the roots of her teeth started to ache.

Apart from teaching me knowledge on the Creation Master profession, that old bastard would bring me to all sorts of treacherous places and was always so fierce. But when I became a Class 3 Creation Master, that old bastard actually passed away.

It was a painful memory that was etched in the Moon Empress' heart. After so many years, she had removed the pain, and it had now turned into yearning.

The Moon Empress never had any disciple, so now that she was going to accept one, she was a little out of place. However, after recalling her late master's way of teaching, she decided that she would pamper her disciple.

Since the moment the Moon Empress had decided to accept a disciple, she had already been prepared to give herself another status as a master. Therefore, when Lin Yuan had appeared, and she found out about Lin Yuan's history, she might not have mentioned it, but she had already had plans in her heart.

With this thought, and since Lin Yuan had arrived at the Leaning Moon Mountain, the Moon Empress used her spiritual energy to sense everything Lin Yuan said and did. She had been very satisfied until the moment Cold Moon tested Lin Yuan. When Lin Yuan spoke in defense of Elder Du and Cheng Rui, the Moon Empress had a deeper impression of Lin Yuan. It allowed the Moon Empress to have a more solid impression of Lin Yuan.

Originally, the Moon Empress had been planning to test Lin Yuan, but she was now busy considering how to pamper her disciple.

When Lin Yuan's footsteps got nearer, the Moon Empress could already hear them clearly. She took a deep breath and reverted to her regular attitude.

When Lin Yuan arrived at the inner palace, he was shocked by the scenery. It couldn't be just described as luxurious, as it wasn't due to the precious decorations. It was the number of powerful and rare feys within this place.

The inner palace was just like an immortal realm. The massive lotus lake had dozens of species of lotus flowers that he didn't know the names of. But after using True Data to check, none of the lotus feys were lower than diamond-grade.

However, before Lin Yuan could notice the information, he was attracted by a figure in a moon-colored robe. Lin Yuan didn't know how he should address her, but the Moon Empress walked forward and asked, "Do you have any request to become my disciple?"

The Moon Empress was thinking of how to be more amiable on her approach, but she immediately asked for any request when she spoke.

After speaking, the Moon Empress was rather regretful. Does it seem too obvious that I want to accept him as a disciple?

Lin Yuan didn't think that the Moon Empress, a Class 5 Creation Master, would actually ask such a question for her first statement. However, while Lin Yuan had been on his way there, he had already thought about it. Even if he were to become the Moon Empress' disciple, he had to tread on the path of becoming an expert on his own and with determination.

"Moon Empress, I don't have any request to become your disciple. However, I wish that I can rely on my own diligence to walk on my own path."

These words instantly threw off the Moon Empress.

If that's the case, didn't I prepare these 100 precious treasures for nothing? Why is my disciple so considerate!?

Chapter 99: Master and Disciple

Lin Yuan sat on the chair, feeling rather dizzy. However, he quickly sorted out the thoughts in his mind.

When speaking with the Moon Empress, Lin Yuan was originally very nervous, but he had a subtle feeling that she was even more nervous than him. After some idle conversation, the Moon Empress didn't mention the matter of accepting a disciple.

It was already rather late, so the Moon Empress arranged for Lin Yuan to stay in the pavilion inside of the Radiant Moon Palace's inner palace.

When Lin Yuan was looking at this room's furnishing, an orchid started emitting a faint fragrance. The orchid's leaves were lush green, and the stalk was straight. Within the lush leaves was a spotlessly white flower that bloomed. Just by watching, it would invigorate a person.

If the Moon Empress said that she wanted to take Lin Yuan as a disciple, he felt that it was rather sudden, and he wasn't mentally prepared at all. If the Moon Empress was really accepting a disciple, no one would refuse. But Lin Yuan was different.

Since young, Lin Yuan had a pitiful number of constraints. As of now, apart from Chu Ci, Lin Yuan's only constraint was Liu Jie, who he had recently accepted as a retainer.

Since ancient times, once a Master, always a father. The term 'Master' carried a deep constraint. It was a relationship that could be considered as close as kinship.

The affection between Master and disciple was very important, but now, Lin Yuan didn't have much affection toward the Moon Empress. At best, it would be respect. Therefore, if Lin Yuan had to call the Moon Empress his Master, he really didn't know how to deal with it.

While Lin Yuan was in contemplation, the Moon Empress was gently swirling the water within the lotus lake.

At that moment, large fish that were half a meter in length emerged from underneath the lotus leaf. They looked like peonies that were blooming in the water. Their tails were like dresses that were layered and filled with grace and grandeur.

If Lin Yuan saw these fish, he would certainly be astonished as they were all Spirit-Siphon Goldfish. These Spirit-Siphon Goldfish in the lotus lake had already evolved to platinum-grade.

The Moon Empress was currently using her fingers to swirl in the water and causing ripples. The Spirit-Siphon Goldfish had all come closer to the Moon Empress. When she was swirling the water, she was thinking about her first meeting with Lin Yuan.

The Moon Empress was very satisfied with Lin Yuan and admired him. After knowing about Lin Yuan's experiences when growing up, she was actually filled with tender affection toward him. However, she too knew that she had treated the acceptance of a disciple too simply.

The Moon Empress was always dominant and dealt with matters with extreme simplicity, but after today's conversation, she suddenly realized that the acceptance of a disciple wasn't as easy as how a Creation Master evolved a fey.

The Moon Empress recalled her casual question to Lin Yuan. "What is most important between a Master and disciple?"

"Affection is the most important between a Master and disciple."

Lin Yuan's answer caused the Moon Empress to ponder carefully.

Originally, the Moon Empress had been planning to accept Lin Yuan as a disciple today, but now, she didn't think it was that urgent anymore. Since the most important thing between a Master and disciple was affection, it was something that had to be accumulated through time and slowly formed.

At that moment, the Moon Empress heard footsteps.

Cold Moon walked into the inner palace and saw the Moon Empress, who was swirling the lotus lake's water and seemed to be considering something. At the same time, she didn't see Lin Yuan.

Cold Moon silently thought, Is the Moon Empress not satisfied with Lin Yuan?

Just as Cold Moon was trying to guess the Moon Empress' thoughts, she heard the Moon Empress asking softly, "Cold Moon, do you think that after standing in a high place for a long time, we should learn to consider problems from the angle of an ordinary person?"

Surprise replaced Cold Moon's regularly cold expression due to the Moon Empress' question. Cold Moon thought deeply and replied, "I feel that after a person becomes formidable, they should consider problems from the angle of an expert."

Cold Moon's answer was what the Moon Empress was thinking.

For a person to become an expert, they had to go through hardships and overcome obstacles, as well as toil for long hours and experience difficulties, along with outstanding talent.

In this world, experts represented special rights. Why would they lower their statuses to consider matters as an ordinary person? Wasn't it better to consider matters in a simpler and more direct manner as an expert?

The Moon Empress stood up, and all the water from the lotus lake slid off her white jade hands before returning back to the lake.

Cold Moon saw the Moon Empress shaking her head and smiling. "Your ideals are right and also wrong. Cold Moon, bring a spiritual ingredient recipe book for me. Since affection is needed to accept a disciple, then I shall start with the simplest action!"

Cold Moon's mouth opened so wide that she could actually swallow an egg. What? Did I hear wrongly!? The Moon Empress is actually going to cook a meal, and it is to nurture the affection of the master-disciple relationship between her and Lin Yuan!? When has the Moon Empress made a meal before? This is simply too surreal!

It was impossible that the Moon Empress was unsatisfied with Lin Yuan—she was simply too satisfied with Lin Yuan. However, Cold Moon didn't understand why it was so complicated to accept a disciple. Wasn't just a single statement from the Moon Empress enough?

When Lin Yuan was getting extremely bored by being so reserved in the room, he heard two clear and distinct voices from outside his pavilion. "Lord Lin Yuan, we are here on the Moon Empress' orders to deliver a change of clothes for you and also to prepare the hot water in the pavilion's bath."

After hearing the voices outside the door, Lin Yuan allowed the duo to enter. It was two young girls, who were of similar age to him, with bright eyes and white teeth. They were both wearing light yellow robes.

However, it was obvious that one of them had exquisite makeup while the other didn't have much makeup. The pavilion's bath was connected to an underground hot spring. During normal times, the spring's mouth would be sealed up. When it was time to use it, the spring's mouth would be opened up, and spring water of a perfect 40°C would flow out.

After the preparations, the young girl with the exquisite makeup looked at Lin Yuan with glittering eyes and handed him the spirit qi clothes. "Lord Lin Yuan, do you need me to help you bathe and change your clothes?" she asked softly.

Lin Yuan quickly shook his head and said, "I can do it myself."

The young girl with the exquisite makeup looked rather disappointed. "Then we shall dismiss ourselves for now, Lord Lin Yuan."

The two young girls headed to the pavilion and did some simple cleanup.

Lin Yuan observed and noticed that the young girl with the exquisite makeup had been standing beside him and trying to open up a conversation topic. On the other hand, the young girl without much makeup was doing all the work, and she was obviously exhausted after unsealing the restriction on the spring's mouth.

These two young girls were wearing robes that were light yellow in color. Earlier on, the Moon Empress had given Lin Yuan a simple introduction to the Leaning Moon Mountain departments.

These young girls with light yellow robes should be part of the Radiant Moon Palace's spirit attendants. These spirit attendants were all rather talented individuals among the young generation of Creation Masters, and they were all young females.

These spirit attendants should have equivalent status, but it was obvious that one was bullying the other. Even if this was the cause, Lin Yuan couldn't interfere. After all, any place with humans would be a harsh world.

Chapter 100: Cleansing All the Impurities and Transforming

When in the harsh world, it was hard to say that one didn't have any choice, but being able to excel would be dependent on one's own capability. It was naturally easy to do well if one was capable, but if one wasn't capable, it was natural to do badly.

However, those that could be chosen as spirit attendants were definitely people with great talents. Nonetheless, this situation was truly something that Lin Yuan didn't expect.

Lin Yuan didn't wish to bathe in the hot spring yet, so he stood by the window at the pavilion. The pavilion window was opened, and the sky was already turning dark as a new moon was gradually rising up.

Lin Yuan never expected to actually see such a scene by the window. The two spirit attendants that were helping to tidy up the pavilion were standing near the pavilion and talking about something.

They were rather far, and Lin Yuan couldn't really see their expressions clearly, however, the wind blowing in the pavilion carried their conversation into Lin Yuan's ears.

"Wen Yu, if you spread the things that I said to Lord Lin Yuan today, I shall let you pay the price if I get punished!" The young girl was speaking with a threatening voice, and it was unlike the pleasant voice within the pavilion earlier.

"Jin Qi, the words you said earlier clearly aren't part of the Moon Empress' intentions. When has the Moon Empress asked you to help with the bathing and changing of clothes? What are you planning with such intentions!"

Lin Yuan could vaguely see Jin Qi pushing Wen Yu. "You don't have to bother about what plans I have. If I can get myself involved with the lord in this pavilion, my status will be better than a spirit attendant. If you don't wish to progress, it is your problem!"

"I do wish to progress, but I know what I can do and what I cannot do!"

After hearing the statement, an angered voice echoed. “You know what you can do and what you cannot do? Then why did your fey’s roots get injured when you were rescuing others? You spent half a year just to recover, and during this half a year, we are all becoming Class 2 Creation Masters. You are just an intermediate Class 1 Creation Master and far behind us. Half a year later, it will be the spirit attendant test, and you shall be eliminated. You will not even fit to stay on the Leaning Moon Mountain.”

The voice was dying down, but the wind carried all the words into Lin Yuan’s ears. After hearing the voice, Lin Yuan had a subtle feeling that there was an unknown personality hidden in darkness.

If the personality was hidden in the heart, how could anyone open up the heart to see if the person was kind- or evil-hearted?

Lin Yuan closed the window and turned to walk toward the hot spring.

The hot spring washed off all the dirt and fatigue, but it couldn’t cleanse off the impurities that filled the body.

At that moment, Lin Yuan saw Cold Moon walking inside and holding a massive green jade bowl. “This is the Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar prepared by the Moon Empress. This huge bowl contains the quantity of two portions. You just have to finish half of it. Drinking more would just be a waste.”

After speaking, Cold Moon left. Until now, Cold Moon was still in a rather shocked state as she couldn’t understand why the Moon Empress treated Lin Yuan so well.

It was extremely common to give precious treasures. Cold Moon wouldn’t have such a feeling even if the Moon Empress gave the most precious treasure. But the Moon Empress was spending time and effort to make a meal for Lin Yuan. What did such an action prove? It was already evident.

It proved that the Moon Empress was really treating Lin Yuan as a big deal and was already treating him as her disciple.

When this huge bowl of amber-colored Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar was placed in front of Lin Yuan, it didn’t have any smell. The more precious an item was, it would always be more reserved. The Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar might not have any smell, but it was because all the essence was locked within the nectar.

After seeing this huge bowl of nectar meant for two portions, Lin Yuan’s heart felt a sudden warmth. He felt as though he could feel the Moon Empress’ intention. Since only one portion of the nectar was going to be useful, then the other portion could be saved up to help a person that was closest to Lin Yuan. That person was none other than Chu Ci.

For such a precious treasure that could eliminate the body’s impurities and enhance a person’s foundation, Lin Yuan would probably reserve half the bowl for Chu Ci, even if it was a small bowl. It was obvious that the Moon Empress had actually thought of this possibility.

All of a sudden, Lin Yuan’s mind popped out with a saying, “Love me, love my dog.”

However, Lin Yuan quickly shook his head. The Moon Empress doesn’t know Chu Ci, so it isn’t suitable for the saying of ‘Love me, love my dog.’ As such, the Moon Empress is just being considerate to me.

Lin Yuan discerned the feeling of being cared for by a senior, and it was a little bittersweet as Lin Yuan recalled about his parents, Auntie Zhang, and Uncle Li. These people had always helped Lin Yuan without asking for anything in return, and they were genuinely helping out. It was similar for the Moon Empress.

Lin Yuan believed that he didn't have anything he could use to repay the Moon Empress. The Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar was a precious treasure, and the reactions from Elder Du and Elder Meng were enough to know of its value. Such a big bowl of Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar would definitely be worth 500 drops.

Lin Yuan could work hard for several years and still wouldn't be able to afford this bowl of Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar. In addition, there were only two Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassias in the world, and they were exclusive to the Moon Empress.

It meant that the Moon Empress was doing all these as a Master. Although she might not have officially accepted Lin Yuan as a disciple, she was already doing what a Master should do.

As such, an indescribable feeling bloomed in Lin Yuan. Was it warmth or being touched? Or was it something else?

In any case, in Lin Yuan's opinion, the Moon Empress wasn't just a Class 5 Creation Master who stood at the top. She was a senior that gave a trace of warmth.

The Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar could cleanse the body's impurities and raise the body's constitution. Thus, Lin Yuan simply drank down half the bowl of nectar.

When the Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar entered the throat, it had a concentrated sweetness that was refreshing, and it also contained the fragrance from an osmanthus. When the nectar that wasn't very viscous entered the belly, the base of the tongue produced this unique bitterness from herbs.

When the bitterness faded, an immediate sweet aftertaste replaced it. It allowed his mouth to relive the refreshing sweetness of the Silver Stamen Gold Luster Cassia nectar.

Soon enough, Lin Yuan felt his body getting hot.

His skin started to secrete massive amounts of oil. The oil wasn't the color of the regular yellow oil, but it was dark red with spots of black. Once these oils emerged, Lin Yuan could smell an unbearable stench.

Lin Yuan immediately entered the hot spring again to rub and wash off the impurities.

It was fortunate that the mouth of the spring was unsealed, and the water was constantly flowing. Otherwise, the massive amount of impurities would have turned the spring water into foul-smelling water.

After washing for more than two hours, Lin Yuan finally realized that his body had stopped secreting the nauseating impurities.

These impurities were in the body from the moment a person was born. When a person ate more grains, the impurities would accumulate. For ordinary people, having too many impurities would cause incurable diseases. For spirit qi professionals, these impurities would affect their foundation and their cultivation speed.

Lin Yuan circulated his spiritual power and realized that his spiritual power circulation was faster by 30%. This was truly a pleasant surprise for Lin Yuan.

Immediately after, Lin Yuan suddenly noticed his hand, and he got an instant shock.