

Nine Star Hegemon Body Arts

- Chapter 21 Assessment -

Chapter 21 Assessment

Translator: BornToBe

Within a refining room, over a dozen alchemists were sitting in a circle and staring at a youth.

These alchemists were no longer young. Most of them were already over forty years old, and even the youngest was in his thirties.

For a fifteen-year-old youngster to now claim that he wanted to refine pills, all of them were stunned and had trouble believing it. Some of them were even shaking their heads in ridicule inside.

But they were all smart people and had all long since heard that grandmaster Yun Qi had made an exception and given a youth a Pill Apprentice tablet. Although they didn't know if that rumor was true, none of them were foolish enough to display their contempt.

"Long Chen, although I am the chairman of the guild, even I cannot break the customs. If you want to get medicinal ingredients on credit, you have to refine a pill in front of all these alchemists. We will then use the refined pill's quality to decide how much you can take on credit," explained grandmaster Yun Qi solemnly.

"This little one understands." Long Chen understood that this was the alchemist guild and wasn't owned by anyone. Moreover, with grandmaster Yun Qi's manner of doing things, there was no way he would give him preferential treatment that went against the rules.

"There are 187 types of first tier medicinal pill formulas here. You can randomly pick one." One of the alchemists brought over a paper. Within his eyes was some hidden anticipation for Long Chen's failure.

All the pill formulas on the page he had brought over were not just ordinary first tier pills. Their difficulties were all above average, and ordinary Pill Apprentices would not have a high success rate with them.

Moreover, in a situation where all the alchemists were there watching you, in addition to grandmaster Yun Qi himself, it wouldn't be strange for someone to become nervous. In such an atmosphere, trying to refine a successful medicinal pill was extremely difficult.

The person who handed Long Chen that page was also just a Pill Apprentice. He was already over forty years old now; back when he had been attempting to pass the alchemist test, he had failed seventeen times before passing.

Everyone else present was all on the same level as him. All of them had used over ten attempts before passing.

It could be seen that to be able to get medicinal ingredients in advance from the guild was not an easy task. But if you succeeded, it would become much more convenient for you in the future.

Long Chen read through the entire page and pointed to the last pill formula. "That one."

"What? You're sure?"

That person's expression became a bit strange. That pill formula was for the Qi Eruption Pill; it was an exceptionally domineering pill formula.

For a short time, it allowed someone to explode with almost three times the amount of battle power.

The Qi Eruption Pill was something which adventurers were very fond of. Although using it would cause someone to enter a weak state after its effect wore off, it didn't leave behind a permanent sequela.

To people who spent all their days fighting Magical Beasts, the Qi Eruption Pill was definitely a life-saving treasure.

But refining it was extremely difficult. There were several ingredients which possessed tyrannical medicinal energy. Even amongst experienced Pill Apprentices, there were extremely few who would refine it.

After all, refining pills were not without risk. Although medicinal pills could be sold for high prices, their ingredients were not nothing. Medicinal ingredients also cost money.

The ingredients for the Qi Eruption Pill were extremely expensive. If you were unable to successfully refine it within three attempts, you would end up losing money.

Therefore, there were few people who refined this pill. Too high of a price was also something adventurers were unable to afford. After all, if they had so much money, who would risk their life adventuring into dangerous places for treasures?

"Yes, I pick that one," calmly said Long Chen. He didn't seem to bother at all with the anticipation in that person's eyes.

Grandmaster Yun Qi smiled slightly. He got a child messenger to go and get three sets of medicinal ingredients. This was the rule; you would only have three portions and as long as you succeeded once, it would be considered passing.

Once all the ingredients were placed neatly in front of Long Chen, he didn't have any hesitation. Taking out his pill furnace, a weak yellow flame arose from his hand.

In one breath's time, Long Chen gently brought his Pill Flame's energy over to the medicinal cauldron, slowly starting to heat it up. The next step was starting the cauldron; after heating it up, he had to use Spiritual Strength to urge the Pill Flame to enter into the cauldron.

The benefits from doing this were that it allowed for the entire cauldron to enter the correct state and reduced the chance of a cauldron explosion.

Long Chen actually had higher quality methods, but he had no choice but to use the alchemist guild's most basic techniques.

He didn't want himself to appear too shocking to others. That would not be of benefit to him in the future. If someone were to secretly turn against him, that person could cause a lot of trouble for him.

The people present originally considered Long Chen to be beneath them, but seeing his very practiced and skilled movements, the contempt on everyone's faces faded by quite a bit.

Once all the preparations were complete, Long Chen didn't hesitate before throwing in an Iron Thread Grass to refine.

This action of his caused everyone, who had just started to become interested in him, to immediately think he was stupid.

The Iron Thread Grass required an extremely long time to refine. It was usually done later when the medicinal cauldron had completely heated up.

Only grandmaster Yun Qi's eyes flashed with a strange light as he secretly nodded.

What astonished everyone was that as soon as the Iron Thread Grass entered the refinement, before it even turned to powder, it was ejected from Long Chen's cauldron and placed to the side as he started refining a different medicinal ingredient.

Once he finished with the sixth ingredient, Long Chen started refining the Iron Thread Grass once more, but he didn't complete its refinement before starting to refine a different herb.

This action was something none of them understood, but seeing grandmaster Yun Qi's eyes filled with admiration, they all couldn't help being startled. Could this youth's techniques really have some kind of secret behind them?

Long Chen refined the Iron Thread Grass a total of thirteen times before completely refining it. At this stage, all of the twenty-something medicinal ingredients had been refined.

Under normal circumstances, a Pill Apprentice would normally take this chance to take a breath and calm their nerves.

But Long Chen didn't waste even that slightest bit of time. After refining all of them into powders, he directly started refining the pill. He started throwing in powder after powder into the pill furnace.

What none of them could understand was why Long Chen waited until the end to put the Iron Thread Grass' essence powder into the cauldron.

With the circulation of his Spiritual Strength, the Pill Flame quickly shot up, and ripples from the heat appeared as Long Chen truly began his pill refinement.

"What a powerful Spiritual Strength!"

Everyone couldn't help but feel shocked. But at the same time, they also shook their heads. If he started wasting his Spiritual Strength to increase the flame's strength now, how could he condense the pill later? It appeared that young people really were too impatient.

Grandmaster Yun Qi was completely engrossed with his actions. In this place, only he understood what Long Chen's intention was. At the same time, he also started to like Long Chen more and more; with such a powerful soul and the ability to work hard, it was definitely possible for him to have great achievements in life.

What caused disbelief in everyone was that even after an hour, Long Chen's Spiritual Strength didn't show any signs of weakening, but was actually becoming stronger and stronger.

Bang!

The medicinal cauldron started to gently shake, and a powerful undulation came from it. Everyone's gaze focused; they all knew that this was the most critical moment.

With the medicinal cauldron continuously shaking, most alchemists would lower the Pill Flame's power to stabilize the cauldron.

But Long Chen didn't do that at all; on the contrary, he fed in even more Spiritual Strength and the Pill Flame became even hotter. The sounds and shaking from the cauldron became even more intense.

"What is he doing?"

All of their expressions changed. This wasn't refining pills; this was causing a cauldron explosion! He was clearly doing it on purpose!

BOOM!

The medicinal cauldron jumped and Long Chen suddenly used one hand to tightly press down on the cauldron's lid. A sudden burst of powerful Spiritual Strength completely exploded out.

BANG!

The near-exploding pill furnace immediately stopped and returned to calm.

What a messy method! It's such a waste of energy. Long Chen wiped away his sweat. Using this method to refine pills really was exhausting. But it was important that he didn't reveal his true strength. He could only display this basic, bitter method.

Gently lifting the cauldron lid, a dense pill fragrance immediately filled the air. Everyone was completely shocked.

"He actually succeeded!"

Everyone present could be considered experts, so without even needing to look inside the cauldron and relying just on the pill fragrance, they knew that he had succeeded. Most of their expressions were filled with astonishment.

"Excellent. At the very least it should be a middle grade medicinal pill."

Grandmaster Yun Qi was looking at Long Chen in admiration. Long Chen had definitely far surpassed his expectations.

He had known that with Long Chen's Spiritual Strength, it would not be difficult to successfully refine a pill. But he had wanted to see how good Long Chen's foundation was.

But today he saw that Long Chen's foundational techniques were incomparably sturdy and not at all inferior to Pill Apprentices who had trained for many years.

The most remarkable thing was Long Chen's deep understanding of medicinal essence. He knew that the Iron Thread Grass was extremely fierce in nature and required

multiple refinements to curb that violent nature. Doing so would allow the pill's energy to increase and at the same time, increase the chance of a successful refinement.

Such a refining method was something no one within the alchemist guild knew about. But within the guild was a secret warehouse of rare tomes. A couple seniors had made recordings there.

The writings were unfortunately very vague, but it did have this theory: by refining the Iron Thread Grass multiple times, it should be possible to reduce its violent nature.

But those recordings only mentioned extremely ordinary techniques or incomplete ideas. When it came to alchemists, who would be so kind as to just give away their blood, sweat, and tears?

Let alone the others, even grandmaster Yun Qi, who knew about this recording, had never mentioned this method of refining the Iron Thread Grass.

One reason was that he had no obligation to go and teach others, and the other was that alchemists who weren't capable of innovation would not have any great achievements anyways.

When the others heard grandmaster Yun Qi say that it was a middle grade medicinal pill, they were all in complete disbelief.

Looking at the gazes all focused on him, Long Chen smiled slightly. With a wave of his hand, his spiritual energy pulled out five fully round medicinal pills.

Along two of the pills were some shocking eye-attracting veins—pill lines. This was a characteristic of middle grade pills.

For a moment, the entire room was silent. Other than grandmaster Yun Qi, everyone's eyes were filled with shock, admiration, and of course, a trace of jealousy.

Seeing the five pills in his hands, Long Chen finally relaxed. Grandmaster Yun Qi took this moment to announce, "Long Chen has succeeded in refining a pill. I reward him a second class credit."

Everyone's expressions changed at that. A second class credit was a privilege that allowed you to buy second-tier medicinal pill ingredients. This caused everyone's eyes to turn red with envy.

In front of everyone's complicated gazes, Long Chen followed grandmaster Yun Qi out of the room. However, once they were out, Yun Qi suddenly turned to Long Chen and gravely said the following:

“Long Chen, be wary of that woman.”

Chapter 22 Wilde

Translator: BornToBe

Long Chen was surprised and confused. Which woman did he mean?

“That girl that fought with you at the beginning,” Yun Qi said solemnly.

“What? Does she have a problem?” asked Long Chen in confusion.

Grandmaster Yun Qi hesitated for a moment before saying, “Come with me.”

Long Chen followed grandmaster Yun Qi to the cultivation room they had gone to before. He couldn't help being curious; she was just at the peak of Qi Condensation, so there was no reason for grandmaster Yun Qi to specifically warn him about her.

They entered the room and closed the door before grandmaster Yun Qi touched his spatial ring and took out a drawing.

Opening the drawing, Long Chen was started to see that it depicted a beautiful, delicate woman refining pills in front of an ancient medicinal cauldron.

What shocked him was that that woman in the drawing was almost exactly like that crazy woman he had encountered.

The only difference was that the woman in the painting was serene and full of peace, giving people a gentle feeling. The feeling which that crazy woman gave off was completely different.

“This is...?” Long Chen probingly asked. That drawing was extremely old. Just why had Yun Qi taken it out?

“The person in this drawing is my wife.” A rarely seen warmth appeared on grandmaster Yun Qi's solemn face when he looked at the person in the drawing.

Long Chen's mouth dropped. That was something he had never expected. For a moment he didn't know what to say.

After a moment, Yun Qi gently put away the drawing and sighed, “My wife passed away a long time ago. When I first saw that woman, I thought I was hallucinating. It took me a long time before I calmed myself down. But as soon as that woman said she wanted to be my apprentice, I immediately felt my guard go up.”

“What? Does she have some kind of secret goal?” asked Long Chen.

Yun Qi smiled slightly and didn't reply to that. "She is also a Pill Apprentice and has an excellent talent. She might even be better than you, so you have to be careful around her."

Long Chen was somewhat mystified by this, but grandmaster Yun Qi no longer said anything about it. He took Long Chen's jade tablet and carved his own special engraving on it.

That engraving had a trace of his Spiritual Strength. With it, Long Chen would be able to get quite a few precious medicinal ingredients from the alchemist guild's medicinal room on credit.

He sent Long Chen out as soon as he finished that engraving. Countless questions bounced around in Long Chen's head.

Perhaps the arrival of that crazy woman wasn't a coincidence. If she had done it on purpose, then what was her goal?

Was she there to seduce grandmaster Yun Qi? But with his age, that didn't seem too likely.

And if that had been the goal, shouldn't she be a bit more docile? Who would fall in love with such a wild crazy woman?

Did grandmaster Yun Qi have some other secrets? Was it possible that she was some illegitimate daughter of his?

But that also didn't sound right. If he had had an illegitimate daughter, she wouldn't have anything to do with his wife, yet they looked so similar.

He got a headache from thinking about it, yet he still couldn't figure it out. But in any case, grandmaster Yun Qi wouldn't harm him, so he should just do as he said and be more careful of her.

He went directly to the medicinal ingredient room with his jade tablet. When he showed it off, the assistant's expression immediately became extremely respectful.

Long Chen asked about the credit procedure. He learned that the first class credit users could borrow five million gold coins worth of medicinal ingredients that were limited to the first tier.

But Long Chen's second class credit allowed him to borrow thirty million gold coins of first tier medicinal ingredients, as well as five sets of second tier medicinal ingredients.

This kind of result made this trip well worth it. With such a credit limit he would no longer need to be worried about not being able to afford medicinal ingredients.

Normally, if an alchemist could succeed in refining one out of five times, then he would end up breaking even. If he could succeed an extra time then he would make a great profit.

As for Long Chen with his Pill God memories, his chance of failure when refining a first tier medicinal pill was zero percent. If his Pill Flame wasn't so weak, his efficiency in the number of pills per furnace would increase even more.

But when he thought about refining second tier medicinal pills, Long Chen decided not to try it. With his current Pill Flame's strength, refining a second tier pill would tire him to death.

For the moment, he should continue focusing on condensing his FengFu Star. The current initial success of his FengFu Star still had an extremely great room for improvement. He wanted to condense his FengFu Star to its perfect state.

Long Chen wanted to spend all of his money to buy the FengFu Pill's ingredients, but he was disappointed to find that the guild didn't have that kind of quantity in stock.

Without any other choice, he bought fifty sets of the ingredients as well as a couple of other first tier medicinal ingredients. Once he refined them into medicinal pills, he could sell them to the guild and make money that way.

Martial arts were prevalent within the Phoenix Cry Empire, and with so many people and adventurers, medicinal pills were always in high demand and were in a situation where the supply could never meet the demand.

Fortunately, the alchemist guild had a conscience and didn't evilly increase the price; otherwise, the guild would definitely start making money hand over fist.

Long Chen was planning on going straight to his room after leaving the guild. But before he got home, he suddenly heard a bunch of shouts and curses, so he hastily walked over to look.

He saw ten servants were currently beating someone. There was a very round, fat, middle-aged man pointing at that person while cursing.

"What's going on here?" he asked of a man watching the chaos.

"Hehe, you'll laugh to death once you hear it. Do you see that chimney that's over two hundred meters tall? It was built by that kid. The boss came to do an inspection today, and when he saw it, he almost died of anger. That idiot read the blueprints upside down. He was actually supposed to be building a well, hahaha..."

Long Chen also choked on his laughter when he heard that. Did people like that really exist in this world? Seeing that person being beaten on the ground, his heart shook slightly.

That person didn't seem to be that old; he probably wasn't even older than Long Chen. But his body was exceptionally long and strong. He was just lying on the ground and letting those people hit him without retaliating.

What shocked Long Chen was that whenever those people's punches or kicks landed on his body, an indescribable energy came out of his body and deflected them away.

Without Long Chen's shocking Spiritual Strength, it would be impossible to notice that faint ripple. But as for that youth, there were no spiritual energy fluctuations from him and so he definitely wasn't a cultivator.

That youth simply lay there for a long time without reaction, and the result was that the people beating him eventually got tired, their hands and feet starting to ache.

"Damn, he really angers me to death. Just how much money is this idiot going to cost me? Beat him to death!"

That fat boss became angrier whenever he looked at the huge chimney in front of him. He repeatedly cursed and went over to kick him a couple of times.

"Stop."

"Damnit, who do you think you are?" That boss was so angry he didn't even look at who was speaking before cursing. Only then did he look for the speaker.

As soon as he did, he immediately started to sweat and stuttered, "Young... master..."

"Just stop. Here are a hundred gold coins, enough to tear down the chimney and build a new well." Long Chen was too lazy to argue or haggle with such a person, so he just directly threw a bag of gold coins to him. If he could resolve a problem with just a little money, then he was disinclined to take further action.

The others all saw this and quickly stopped. The fat boss quickly said, "Young master, this..."

"Take it and get out of here." Long Chen frowned and his voice became cold.

When he looked at that man's face, Long Chen knew that he was an idiot who would try to form some kind of good relation with him. So he directly ordered him away; this kind of person would make him lose face.

"Yes, yes, I'll leave right away."

He quickly brought everyone away dejectedly.

“Little brother, please get up,” said Long Chen to the youth who was still just lying on the ground.

The youth seemed as if he was sleeping. Only when Long Chen called out did he blankly raise his head and realize that the people beating him had gone.

“Are you the person who saved me?” he asked confusedly.

“Get up and then we’ll talk,” smiled Long Chen. That youth seemed to be one hundred percent honest and kind, giving people a good impression.

When he stood up, the people who had been watching the fuss all let out shocked cries. While he had been lying on the ground, they had only realized that he was a bit big, but now that he stood up, he completely shocked everyone.

He was approximately three meters tall. He was practically a giant, and he gave people an extremely pressuring feeling.

“How tall.” Long Chen was also surprised. In front of him, everyone else there had become children in comparison.

“Why didn’t you fight back when they were beating you?” Seeing how strong-bodied he was and the fact that the people attacking him weren’t martial artists, Long Chen believed he could have easily knocked them all down.

“They said I did something bad, so I couldn’t fight back when they hit me,” he simple-mindedly replied.

Long Chen shook his head. This huge fellow might be strong, but it seemed his intelligence was still at the level of a child. No wonder he was so honest and naive. But to mistake a well in the blueprints and end up building a huge chimney, that kind of intelligence was definitely worrying.

“Where’s your house?”

“I have no house. Does your house need any hard labor? I’m very big, and I don’t need a salary as long I get some food. I’m very hungry,” he implored.

Just as he was about to reply, someone reminded him, “Young master, don’t be fooled. This fellow can easily eat a whole bull in an instant. Taking him in isn’t profitable.”

“No, as long as there’s rice it’s fine. I don’t need meat,” he somewhat urgently said.

“Fine, come with me. What’s your name?” asked Long Chen.

"I'm called Wild Bull. Thank you, big bro," Wild Bull happily said.

"Hm, I'll call you Wilde in the future. You can just call me brother Long." Long Chen nodded.[1]

"Okay brother Long." Wilde straightforwardly nodded his head.

The people in the crowd left behind by Long Chen and Wilde all became jealous. They were jealous of that idiot who had become favored by a noble heir. Stupid people really did have stupid luck.

On the road, Long Chen asked Wilde about his past. Wilde said that he had been picked up by some nice people, but once he turned five, an epidemic took the lives of everyone in his village except for him.

He had managed to roam around all the way to the imperial capital. He was able to get food from people by trading labor, but because his appetite was too big, he was quickly turned away, so his everyday life was extremely bitter.

"Wilde, you can follow me in the future. I won't let you be hungry again." Sympathy arose in Long Chen's heart.

As the saying went, arrogant people end up with arrogant people, while sufferers end up with other sufferers. Although the two of them had different statuses, they had both gone through much pain. They weren't that different except that Long Chen had managed to turn his luck around just recently.

As they walked, they ended up in a wide road when suddenly startled shouts rang out and a massive silhouette shot past them.

That was a luxurious carriage being pulled by a Scarlet Yak, a first rank Magical Beast. Its wild pulling took over half the entire road, not taking the surrounding people into any consideration.

A five-year-old girl was playing on the road when she suddenly saw the giant Scarlet Yak and was immediately scared stiff. She was petrified, unable to even dodge. At any second, it would run her over.

Long Chen coldly snorted, stepping forward explosively, causing several of the sturdy floor tiles beneath his feet to shatter. He was like a bolt of lightning, immediately reaching and grabbing the girl, hastily pulling her to the side.

The carriage shot past the two of them just as he stabilized himself. Long Chen thought that that would be it, but an angry cry rang out.

“What lowly slave dares block my path? You’re asking for death!”

Along with this cold shout, a long whip whistled through the air, shooting towards Long Chen.

Chapter 23 How Bold

Translator: BornToBe

“What lowly slave dares block my path? You’re asking for death!”

Along with this cold shout, a long whip whistled through the air as it shot towards Long Chen.

That whip moved extremely quickly and craftily. The person attacking him was surprisingly a whip master. Long Chen should have been able to dodge, but it was more difficult with him holding the little girl.

Fury arose within him; it was now already too late for him to dodge. Protecting the little girl, he used his spiritual energy to protect his body and prepared to forcibly take the blow on his arm.

Just at that moment, a huge figure arrived in front of Long Chen.

Bang!

Wilde grinned at Long Chen. It was he who took the blow on his back for Long Chen.

Long Chen’s eyes darkened. He wanted to see exactly who it was that had attacked, but that carriage was already speeding away.

A surprised sound came from it, as that person clearly was startled by Wilde’s arrival. However, the carriage still didn’t stop.

“Are you okay Wilde?” asked Long Chen, suppressing his anger.

“Brother Long, I’m fine. I’ve been hit so many times since I was a child that I’m already used to it,” grinned Wilde.

But the clothing on his back was torn, exposing his skin. A line of blood was slowly flowing out.

A woman suddenly came by and grabbed the girl. She wept inconsolably as she thanked Long Chen and Wilde.

Wilde smiled goofily, and Long Chen consoled her with a couple of words before leaving.

But Long Chen was stifling a stomach of anger. To barge down such a busy and crowded road and actually hit someone with a whip... Long Chen was planning on having a good look into the person who dared be so bold.

Although Wilde's wound that was dripping with blood appeared frightening, it was just a flesh wound.

This amazed Long Chen; just how powerful was Wilde's physical body? That person, who had attacked viciously, was extremely powerful, but his attack only broke Wilde's skin.

As the two of them walked, Wilde's stomach suddenly let out a growl that was as loud as thunder. Long Chen stopped distractedly, suddenly realizing that there was a bun store right beside them from which the smell of meat was wafting out of.

Wilde embarrassingly said, "Brother Long, I'm not hungry."

"Don't worry about it. I'm hungry, so let's go have a snack." Long Chen brought Wilde into the bun store and found a table for the two of them to sit at. Directly handing a gold coin to the owner, he said, "Bring out all the buns in your store."

"Brother Long, I'm really not hungry. I only need some rice," Wilde hastily said.

That was because he had had countless experiences of people seeing him eat and immediately breaking off relations with him. Wilde was afraid of this calamity repeating itself again.

"Wilde, you blocked a whip for me. From now on, you're like a brother to me, and I, Long Chen, would also block a whip for you. Therefore, you shouldn't say anything to me that you wouldn't say to a brother, okay?" Long Chen seriously said.

Wilde was someone who had blocked a whip for him after only just meeting him. Such a person was worthy of being called brother by Long Chen.

"Brother Long... I..."

Wilde suddenly began to cry loudly. In all his years of homeless wandering, this was the first time he felt this warmth and the first time someone ever treated him this well.

"Good bro, don't cry. Between us brothers, we don't cry, we sweat. Tears are for cowards." Long Chen patted Wilde's shoulder.

“Okay brother Long. I’ll listen to you. Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do.” Wilde wiped away his tears.

Long Chen considered telling him that he should have some more confidence, but when he thought about how he had mistakenly built a chimney instead of a well, he decided against it.

At this time, the owner of the bun shop brought over a basket. Long Chen smiled, “Wilde, eat as much as you want. Brother Long has plenty of money, so don’t hold back for me.”

Wilde nodded and no longer stood on courtesy. The fist-sized buns were swallowed each with one bite, one after another.

Although he had long since prepared himself, Long Chen was still shocked by Wilde’s appetite. Even after all of the over three hundred meat buns had been eaten, Wilde still seemed to want more.

By now, the owner was extremely anxious. All his buns were gone now, and there was no way for him to make more in such a short time.

Three hundred buns were only about six silver coins. But when he went to give Long Chen the change, the two of them had already left.

When the two of them returned to Long Chen’s home, he first brought Wilde to see his mother. Mrs. Long was quite frightened at first due to how large Wilde was.

But after seeing Wilde was so easy-going and childlike, she quickly calmed down. When Long Chen told her what Wilde had been through, Mrs. Long immediately agreed to let him stay with them.

Once Wilde was settled down, Long Chen went to go refine pills. While refining in his own home, he didn’t need to be worried so much as in the alchemist guild, so he unleashed his powerful Spiritual Strength fully, quickly increasing his pill refining speed to its peak.

Three full days passed before Long Chen once more came out of his room. He had unceasingly refined for three days and three nights. He now held almost a hundred FengFu Pills, and all of them were middle grade.

Other than the FengFu Pill, Long Chen had also refined the very popular Blood Condensing Pill, Qi Condensing Pill, the Poison Cure Pill, etc. These were all to be sold to the guild to pay back his credit loan.

Just as Long Chen exited his room, Bao-er walked over with an embarrassed expression. Long Chen couldn’t help distractedly asking, “Bao-er, what’s going on?”

“Young master... uh...” Bao-er was a bit flustered.

“Whatever it is, just tell me,” laughed Long Chen.

“Well uh... in the house... there’s... no more food,” she uneasily said.

Wilde’s appetite really was just too great. Knowing how pitiful Wilde’s life had been, Mrs. Long had specifically told the kitchen to make more food.

But the result was that just three days later, over a month’s supply of the Long family’s food had been eaten. Mrs. Long had secretly taken out a piece of jewelry for Bao-er to go sell.

Bao-er had felt that this kind of thing should first be consulted with Long Chen, so she had come to find him.

Long Chen laughed and patted her head. “Little girl, you really have become smart. I’ll handle this matter.”

Bao-er was Long Chen’s personal maid, and despite how poor the Long family had been, Bao-er was unwilling to leave. Long Chen had long since begun to see her as a little sister.

“Young master, there’s also not even enough food for dinner tonight,” she reminded. At this point, she was practically the manager of the entire household. The bookkeeper had felt that there was no opportunity for advancement at the Long household, so he had long since left.

“Okay, I’ll handle it right now.” Long Chen still had a few gold coins on him, but that was just chump change. He called over Wilde and the two of them left to go to the alchemist guild.

There was no real reason why he had brought Wilde along. Long Chen just wanted to develop his thinking some more. Wisdom was related with experience after all.

Arriving at the guild, Long Chen went directly to the medicinal ingredient room and handed over dozens of round medicinal pills to the youth in charge.

This youth was scared witless; he clearly remembered that Long Chen had only come three days ago for these medicinal ingredients. How did he manage to come back with these medicinal pills in just three days? On average, it was around half a year before people came back with enough pills to pay off their credit.

Putting aside his shock, he dutifully took them and professionally examined each one.

Seventeen middle grade and thirty-six low grade medicinal pills. Even though he had the utmost confidence in his tools, he was still in disbelief.

When he confirmed that there was no mistake, he deducted the debt Long Chen had on credit. In the end, there were still some pills left over.

“Master Long Chen, for these remaining medicinal pills, do you plan on using them to exchange for medicinal ingredients or should I exchange them for gold coins?” the youth respectfully asked.

“Convert them all to gold coins.”

“Alright, please wait a moment.” That youth hastily flipped through a book with the most recent market prices for the medicinal pills. He had to calculate the price in accordance to that criterion.

“Master Long, in total, it’s 8,170,000 gold coins.”

Long Chen nodded. The alchemist guild wasn’t for-profit, so this price was very fair. It was only a tenth less than the market price, and being able to enjoy so many special treatments in exchange was definitely extremely worth it.

“Give it to me on two crystal cards. Two million on one card, and the rest on the other,” said Long Chen.

When he returned home, Bao-er was already waiting at the gates. She handed Long Chen a red invitation card. “Young master Shi Feng sent over an invitation to you.”

Long Chen opened it and smiled. Shi Feng had exited his seclusion after breaking into the Blood Condensation realm. He had prepared a feast in the Heroic Assembly House and invited everyone to celebrate with him. When he calculated how many days had passed, it seemed about right.

“Bao-er, here. Do good work as the housekeeper and this young master will purchase you a generous dowry in the future, letting you marry in style,” laughed Long Chen as he handed a crystal card to Bao-er.

Bao-er’s face was completely red, but when she saw the number on the card, her expression changed to complete disbelief.

“Little rich girl, the Long household’s future work will be handled by you. Oh right, go and buy back all of my mom’s jewelry. Even if it costs you ten times as much, it’s not a problem,” said Long Chen.

“Yes, don’t worry young master, Bao-er will handle it properly.” Bao-er patted her chest several times and stood completely straight with confidence.

Long Chen nodded and brought Wilde along to the Heroic Assembly House.

The Heroic Assembly House was a famous restaurant in the capital. The people who ate there were extremely rich. The main attraction was, of course, the imposing name, and adding on the good food, it became a favorite place for the royalty and nobility to party.

At its top floor was a large round table. At this time, it was packed with all kinds of delicacies. However, at the moment, everyone was just idly chatting, and no one picked up their chopsticks.

When they saw a certain figure walk in, everyone hastily stood up.

“Brother Long“

“Brother Long“

“Lord Long“

Shi Feng, Fatty Yu, and the others all called out to him, but when they saw Wilde behind them they all jumped.

Shi Feng was already considered very large, but he was still small in front of Wilde.

“Let me introduce you to my brother, Wilde.”

When they heard his introduction, everyone hastily greeted Wilde, but all Wilde did was nod and foolishly laugh.

Only when Long Chen arrived did they all sit down to eat. Shi Feng raised his glass. “Brother Long, I won’t say any unnecessary words. I, Shi Feng, toast to you!”

Shi Feng deeply engraved his gratefulness to Long Chen in his heart. He would have needed several years before reaching the Blood Condensation realm, but now that he reached it so early, it would definitely be a huge help to him in the future, allowing him to reach even higher heights.

“We all toast to you as well, brother Long!”

Fatty Yu took the lead and everyone stood up. With the medicinal liquid Long Chen had given them, they had quickly begun sensing the spiritual qi of heaven and earth. Shou Hou from the Daybreak Marquis and fatty Yu had already reached the first Heavenstage of Qi Condensation.

All this had only been possible due to Long Chen’s support. Everyone was filled with gratitude to him.

“Cheers!”

Long Chen laughed. No matter what, these people had all helped each other in troubled times. They were his good friends.

After a couple of drinks, everyone started to chat. Only Wilde was completely focused on eating.

Long Chen had intentionally asked Shi Feng to order some extra food. Luckily, Wilde had already eaten a lot before coming; otherwise, he might have scared fatty Yu and the others to death.

Everyone was talking about their current situations. Not only were they full of vigor, but now that they could cultivate, their fortunes within their families had also risen in accord.

The most important thing was the news that Long Chen had become a Pill Apprentice had passed throughout practically the entire imperial capital. Long Chen’s relationship with fatty Yu and the others was something everyone knew about.

Therefore, each of their families had secretly told them to make some good relations with him. This relieved them of the constant pressure they were under.

Just as everyone was conversing, footsteps suddenly came from below. Shi Feng frowned. “I definitely told the owner to keep an eye out. I already reserved the entire restaurant, so how is there still someone coming up?”

“Whatever, having more people is also fun.” Fatty Yu had clearly become a bit tipsy and his tongue had become loose.

A voice rang out at this moment. “Everyone in here get out. I don’t want to have to eat with a bunch of lowly degenerates.”

Long Chen’s expression immediately turned cold, and the veins in his hands jumped out angrily.

Chapter 24 Revenge in Just a Day

Translator: BornToBe

Long Chen had originally just been drinking alcohol calmly. But now his face turned cold and blue veins popped out on his hands.

That voice was very familiar to Long Chen. The familiarity caused Long Chen’s killing intent to explode out, and this strangeness was noticed by everyone.

“Brother Long, what’s going on?” asked fatty Yu. Seeing him in his murderous state, he immediately awoke from his tipsy state.

“Don’t worry about it. When that person comes up, just act really annoying. Keep focus on celebrating with Shi Feng and put on a show of it,” said Long Chen.

Everyone realized that Long Chen was wanting to make a disturbance. Currently, they all had the support of their families and were told to form good relations with Long Chen as best as they could. How could they let such a good opportunity go?

“Brother Long, just watch.” Shou Hou patted his chest confidently.

The footsteps continued getting closer. A man in his twenties wearing a strange hat and long eyebrows entered the room.

Long Chen didn’t reveal his face and he also told Wilde not to either. The two of them had their backs facing that person.

After that person came up, a bitter-faced man also came up behind him. He appeared to be the restaurant’s shopkeeper.

“Get them all out. Otherwise, I’ll blame you.” That arrogant man didn’t even place Long Chen’s group within his arrogant eyes.

Obviously, he felt that personally shoing them would reduce his status so he had the shopkeeper do it.

“Oh my, have you guys noticed there’s a weiner growing out of his head?” Shou Hou said quietly to fatty Yu.

Although it was said quietly, it wasn’t a whisper. Anyone there could hear it completely clearly.

Long Chen smiled. The strange hat on that man’s head did have a long protuberance at the front. At first, he hadn’t noticed, but once Shou Hou said it, he realized that it really was similar.

“It’s nothing to make a fuss about. I bet his dad was too corrupt and other people cursed it there.” Fatty Yu looked somewhat disdainfully at Shou Hou.

“What?” asked Shou Hou confused.

“Wow, have you not heard about the curse before? They curse you to have a son with a penis growing on his head?”

“Oh, brother really is wise,” Shou Hou said admiringly.

When the shopkeeper saw everyone jeer and taunt this person, he turned pale with fright and quickly cast a meaningful look at Shi Feng.

Unfortunately, Shi Feng, who had a slight relationship with the shopkeeper, didn't pay him any attention and acted as if he had never met him.

That long-eyebrowed man's face became cold immediately, and he icily looked at fatty Yu. "Damn fatass pig, are you guys looking to die?"

Fatty Yu shook his head. "Brother, seeing your bitter face, I can easily tell that someone close to you must have died. Was it your father? Your mother? Either way, now's not the time to eat and drink here."

"Right, that's too unfilial."

"Such a son should be directly thrown into the streets."

"Shh, stop. Don't you see him trembling? If we keep talking, he might go crazy and start foaming at the mouth. Then how will we be able to drink enjoy ourselves?"

The power of teamwork was definitely amazing. Everyone heard fatty Yu and Shou Hou's taunts, so they all inserted their own ridicule. They definitely had to at least contribute their own jokes at such an opportunity.

"Die." With a short cry, a long whip appeared in that person's hand. The wind howled with biting cold killing intent. As it crashed down upon them, everyone realized that that whip had them all in range.

Shi Feng had long since been prepared for this. With just a touch on his belt, a blade slashed out.

The long blade and the flexible whip collided, emitting an explosive sound. Shi Feng felt a huge power hit him and was sent flying into the roof, shaking the entire restaurant.

His face turned slightly red due to an internal injury, a sign that his blood and qi was about to overflow out of his control. He had shockingly been beaten in just one attack.

"Go die you urchins."

After that first attack, his whip became like a poisonous dragon, immediately turning rigid and becoming like a sword stabbing towards Shi Feng's heart.

This shocked everyone; they hadn't expected this person to be so ruthless. He was clearly intent on killing Shi Feng!

That whip was too fast, and Shi Feng was unable to dodge it. Just when he thought he was about to die...

A large hand tightly grabbed the whip. It was now completely unable to move.

“Brother Long!” Everyone cried out as Long Chen appeared beside Shi Feng. He appeared like a king amongst men as he coldly looked at that man.

“It’s you?” That man couldn’t help being startled when he saw that it was Long Chen.

“Good, you still remember me.” A cold smile appeared on Long Chen’s face. He suddenly tugged on the whip and the man was startled to feel a huge force involuntarily pull him flying towards Long Chen.

He was slightly startled, never expecting Long Chen’s strength to be so great. Even a first Heavenstage of Blood Condensation expert like him couldn’t resist.

He sneered, and borrowing the force from being pulled over by Long Chen, he raised his leg and aimed it at Long Chen’s stomach. His reactions were so quick that it dazzled and confused the others. This person was obviously a true expert.

Seeing him rushing over, Long Chen also sent a kick out. Its speed wasn’t that great, but it was perfectly timed such that it viciously landed on that person’s crotch right before his attack reached Long Chen’s stomach.

The sound of something exploding caused everyone else’s groins to turn cold. Goosebumps arose all along their backs.

“AHH!”

A miserable scream resounded through the restaurant. Everyone who heard that cry had their hair stood on end.

But even such a blood-curdling cry was unable to relieve his pain. He rolled on the ground fiercely; his face contorted in pain, screaming.

Due to these intense movements, his hat suddenly fell off, and fatty Yu and the others’ expressions all changed.

“Someone from the Grand Xia Empire?”

When the hat came off, it revealed an extremely ancient hair bun like a stretched out thumb. It was no wonder his hat was so strange.

That hair bun was a mark of the Grand Xia. Only nobles with high status would style their hair like that.

Everyone looked at each other in dismay, realizing that they had caused a huge disaster here. The Grand Xia and Phoenix Cry had a good relationship, and this kind of disaster could even influence the relations between the two empires. The consequences would be severe.

Looking at the rolling man, the suppressed anger inside Long Chen loosened slightly. He handed the whip to Wilde and said, "He hit you. You can hit him back now."

"Hit someone? I can't." Wilde hesitated.

Long Chen's face darkened. "You won't listen to me?"

"I... I'll do it." Seeing Long Chen's face darken, Wilde quickly became frightened. He had only ever known how it felt to be beaten; this would be the first time he hit back. He held the whip in his hand for a long moment of hesitation, not daring to strike.

"Do it!" shouted Long Chen. He had to push Wilde to take this step; otherwise, he could only end up bullied for the rest of his life.

"Okay, okay!" Wilde took a deep breath and used the whip to attack him.

"Hey!"

But that scream wasn't from the man with the long eyebrows. It had come from the person closest to Wilde.

"Brother Wilde, you have to aim better." That person had to suppress his tears as he rubbed his thigh that Wilde had hit painfully.

Wilde's face reddened. He had never used a whip. It was so light that he couldn't use any real force. Missing the person in front of him, he ended up hitting his neighbor.

Long Chen sighed. This child needed to temper himself.

"Continue." When Long Chen shouted this, everyone immediately ran at least ten meters away. Only at that distance did they feel safer.

Crack!

This time Wilde had picked up a bit about how to use a whip, but he still ended up missing his target by almost three meters.

The man with the long eyebrows was still tightly holding his groin, his face twisted in pain. He didn't pay any attention to Wilde's weak attacks.

“Brother Long, this time I’ll definitely get it right!” Seeing how unsightly Long Chen’s face had become, Wilde hastily reassured him and prepared to lash the whip again.

Just at this time, a figure appeared behind everyone. This person was in his thirties and had an exceptionally long blade scar on his face that made him appear extremely fierce.

“Stay your hand!” That man sternly shouted in fury when he saw the man lying on the floor with Wilde holding a whip in his raised hand.

“Just because you tell us to stop, we’re supposed to stop? Hit him,” ordered Long Chen coldly.

Hearing Long Chen, Wilde no longer hesitated and sent another lash towards the man.

“You’re asking for it!” Seeing Wilde actually attack, he furiously stepped forward, his figure turning into a violent tempest that charged towards Wilde.

“Get lost!”

Long Chen also stepped forward, getting between them and punching out.

Seeing Long Chen come forward to block him, he frowned and also sent out a punch.

BOOM!

The air exploded when the two fists met. But what shocked the scarred man was that his fist was actually completely unable to force back this frail and scholarly looking young man.

At this time, Wilde’s lash finally landed. Originally, he had been aiming for the man’s buttocks, but due to his poor aim, it actually landed on his face.

Furthermore, it ended up landing perfectly on the nose. Although Wilde didn’t know how to use a whip, he still had quite a bit of physical strength. The man’s nose immediately broke and blood spurted out.

Seeing this, the scarred man turned ashen with anger. With a draconian shout, he unleashed his full power to force Long Chen back.

Long Chen saw the situation and decided not to wait any longer. The FengFu Star on the bottom of his left foot shook and terrifying spiritual energy flooded out. He now used his full strength.

The two of their fists offset each other, but the powerful energy was something the tiles on the floor were unable to bear and spiderweb cracks spread out.

The scarred man's expression changed when he found out that Long Chen could still continue to block him when he used all his strength. Killing intent exploded out from him.

His aura erupted from his body and a faint blood-colored qi could even be seen filling the air. His frightening energy caused even the atmosphere to become heavy. The others all had some trouble breathing.

“Mid Blood Condensation realm?”

Everyone was astonished, as that level of Blood Qi was something that only mid Blood Condensation experts were capable of.

Each major level of martial cultivation had nine minor levels that were split from the first Heavenstage to the ninth Heavenstage.

First to third Heavenstages were early stage, fourth to sixth were mid stage, and seventh to ninth were late stage. As for the scarred man in front of them, now that all his strength had exploded out, everyone realized that he was a shocking mid Blood Condensation expert.

BOOM! Long Chen felt his blood and qi billow, and he was forced back over three meters; his stomach started to ache.

He had finally discovered his limit. This person in front of him was someone he was currently not a match for. Fear and shock filled him inside.

As for that scarred man, he sent a fist flying towards Long Chen without hesitation.

“You dare attack my brother Long!”

A thunderous roar shook everyone's ears suddenly, and a fist covered in blood-colored light smashed towards the scarred man with an immense power.

Chapter 25 Grand Xia's Prince

Translator: BornToBe

“You dare hit my brother Long!”

That man suddenly felt a chill as if a giant monster was staring at him.

Without even thinking about it, the punch that was aimed at Long Chen immediately changed direction, colliding with a fist that was even larger than his own.

BANG!

The entire restaurant rocked and everyone was shocked to see that the huge figure that was protecting Long Chen was actually Wilde.

Wilde was like a war god, his eyes practically spitting flames as a strange red layer appeared over his skin. He actually managed to firmly stop the scarred man's punch.

But although he blocked it, Wilde was still forced back several steps, and he would have fallen to the ground if Long Chen hadn't come to support him.

The scarred man was surprised yet again. Both Long Chen and Wilde didn't have any obvious cultivation base, yet they were actually able to consecutively block him, a Blood Condensation expert. His shock quickly led to killing intent.

Long Chen saw he had provoked the man's killing intent. His FengFu Star had yet to reach the level of complete condensation and so he was unable to handle him.

The most important point was that although the scarred man had released his full strength, he had yet to consider them true opponents. From the beginning until now, he had yet to use any Battle Skills. He had clearly not unleashed his full attack potential on them.

Long Chen didn't know what was happening with Wilde for him to suddenly become several times stronger, but even if the two of them joined hands, they would definitely not be able to block the scarred man's killer attacks.

Long Chen stealthily rubbed his spatial ring. A fiery red medicinal pill appeared in his hand as he coldly looked at the scarred man.

"Everyone stop!"

Just as the scarred man was preparing to attack again, a cold shout rang out and a group of people appeared at the top floor of the restaurant.

There were at least a dozen people, most wearing protective armor, but the two men at the front were wearing yellow imperial robes.

"Greetings to his highness the crown prince."

Everyone was shocked and hastily knelt down when they saw that person.

That person was the crown prince Chu Yang. He appeared to be twenty-seven years old, and with his square nose, he had a rather dignified and imposing air.

The man beside him was slightly younger. He was pale and very handsome. However, he also gave people a very soft and gentle feeling.

“Brother Chu Yang, does your Phoenix Cry Empire treat its guest this way?” gloomily asked that man.

At this moment, Chu Yang’s expression was slightly unsightly. Looking at the man with long eyebrows lying on the ground, he angrily demanded, “What is going on here? Have you all gone blind? Do you not realize these are guests from the Grand Xia?”

Chu Yang’s gaze swept over all of them. Fatty Yu and the others’ hearts were all pounding nervously, and sweat ran down their foreheads.

They could tell that for that person to talk to the crown prince in such a way, in addition to his hair bun, he was most likely a prince of the Grand Xia.

The Grand Xia was once mortal enemies with the Phoenix Cry Empire, but in the past few decades, their relations had mellowed and they had become allies.

But the Grand Xia only had two princes, and they didn’t know whether this person was the crown prince or the second prince.

“My eyes haven’t gone blind. This guy has blind dog eyes, so I just took the place of his master and taught him a little lesson.” Long Chen walked forward indifferently.

“Who are you?” The crown prince Chu Yang was irritated that a youth would dare speak to him in such a manner, but he was still calm and didn’t immediately order his subordinates to capture him.

“Long Chen.”

If he hadn’t know Long Chen’s name a month ago, he definitely knew it by now. There were few members in the upper class who had yet to hear of him.

He was originally a trash cripple, but had now defeated a Qi Condensation expert on the martial arena twice in a row, and then somehow became a Pill Apprentice. There was a veil of mystery around him.

“Why did you beat up crown prince Changfeng’s bodyguard?” Now that this matter involved the alchemist guild, even he, the crown prince, felt that it was extremely problematic.

“No reason. I just felt that it was his fate today, so I helped the heavens send him on his way.” Long Chen spread his hands.

“You...!” Chu Yang exclaimed angrily. He had wanted Long Chen to give a reason, and then with a bit of his smoothing around and pointing out Long Chen’s background with the alchemist guild, this matter would be resolved!

But Long Chen acted like he hadn’t understood anything and actually said such a line! His face turned green from rage.

“You’re called Long Chen? I think I’ve heard of you. You seem to be pretty impressive these days?” suddenly asked the Grand Xia’s crown prince Xia Changfeng.

“Hehe, I might be a bit impressive, but I pale in comparison to the people from your Grand Xia.” Long Chen pointed to the man lying on the ground. “With a Magical Beast pulling a carriage, he went wild throughout the streets, barreling left and right without regard for other people. Now, that’s really impressive. For a dog to be so impressive, I really can’t imagine how impressive its master must be!”

Xia Changfeng’s expression immediately sunk. “Is this true?”

Long Chen coldly snorted, “Don’t ask me. Ask your dog.”

“Lu Luo, did such a thing truly happen?” Xia Changfeng’s gaze turned ruthless, but he quickly pushed it down.

“Master, I was rushing for time. Who knows why the lowly people here don’t know how to get out of the way? It isn’t my fault.” The man with the long eyebrows had now recovered slightly, and he suppressed his pain to answer.

“Idiot, this isn’t the Grand Xia. No one here recognizes our imperial carriages! Take him away.” Xia Changfeng’s face turned dark, and he cursed. Two men wearing the Grand Xia’s clothes took the man away.

He then turned towards Chu Yang and apologized, “Changfeng was not strict enough with my people. Once I return, I will definitely properly discipline them to brother Chu Yang’s satisfaction.”

“Haha, brother Changfeng is too courteous. I just hope this small matter won’t affect the relations between our two empires,” hastily said Chu Yang.

“Brother Chu Yang worries too much. This matter will cease here.” He then turned to Long Chen and said, “Many thanks to little brother for warning me of this danger.”

Everyone stared blankly; no one had expected the crown prince of the Grand Xia to actually say such words and apologize to Long Chen. A feeling of admiration arose for him; this Grand Xia prince truly had an extraordinary bearing.

If it weren't for Long Chen's powerful Spiritual Strength and perception, he might also think that way. But that killing intent Xia Changfeng had released towards him was not unnoticed or forgotten.

"Prince is too polite. For dogs to misbehave is common. You have to hold on to their leashes tightly; otherwise, they'll bite and claw others." Long Chen laughed and warned him cordially.

Hearing this, the scarred man's expression darkened. Long Chen's usage of the word dog included not only him but also all the other imperial bodyguards.

But Xia Changfeng only smiled slightly as if he hadn't understood his implicit meaning. "We just arrived at the capital, but all we've heard about is what you've done. I actually originally thought brother Long was just an alchemist, but it seems everyone was wrong. You dual cultivate martial arts and pill refining. Such battle strength is truly admirable. You are definitely at the peak amongst your generation."

Long Chen only looked back at Xia Changfeng, momentarily not understanding what he meant by this. He only smiled slightly without offering a response.

"I wonder if brother Long would do me the honor of having a few drinks with me and brother Chu?" asked Xia Changfeng.

Although his smile was pleasant, Long Chen sensed that it was a smile that hid a poisonous fang, and he felt extremely uncomfortable with it.

"I'm sorry, but this little brother has drunk too much just now and can't bear any more. Otherwise, I also wouldn't have bothered with two dogs. This little one will take his leave."

Long Chen smiled and seemingly without noticing Xia Changfeng's darkened expression or the scarred man's dense killing intent, he brought Wilde out.

Once Long Chen left, Shi Feng and the others hastily apologized and ran, having experienced a great fright today.

...

"Master, why didn't you let me kill that kid? Lu Luo's now is incapable of having any more children. That kid is too vicious."

At this time, the Grand Xia's prince had already returned to his residence, and the scarred man was speaking to him.

“That little kid is someone from the alchemist guild. Although he’s not from our country’s guild, if you killed him like that, I would have to hand you over to the guild for punishment.”

“But that kid is completely wild. I just can’t swallow this anger.” To be repeatedly cursed as a dog, no one would be able to bear it.

“If you want to kill him, you first have to come up with a plan. You have to make sure to kill that person while being sure you’ll survive.” Xia Changfeng shook his head.

“Then does that mean... you have a plan?” asked the scarred man joyously.

“Of course, otherwise, would I act so kind to him? Every single person who ever gets to see me put on that kind face has died.”

Xia Changfeng smiled a dark and profound smile. The scarred man couldn’t help but shiver.

“Don’t forget our goal in coming here. He’s just a small matter. Let him live a few more days. The Phoenix Cry Empire’s largest festival, the Phoenix Cry Lantern Festival, is about to arrive. That’s the largest martial arts gathering of the year for Phoenix Cry. My praise today is not to be wasted. Hmph, once his popularity reaches its peak, challenge him at the Lantern Festival. At that time, would he be able to refuse?” Xia Changfeng leaned back into his chair, his eyes half closed and a cold smile appearing on his mouth.

Only now did the scarred man realize what a vicious trick this was. At that time, countless people would be watching. Long Chen couldn’t refuse no matter how much he wanted to.

If he dared to refuse, he would drown in ridicule, especially since he was so popular.

“However, be a bit more careful. As my imperial bodyguard, you can’t reveal too much strength. Don’t make me warn you again.”

“Yes, don’t worry master. Over these years, I have never revealed my true hidden strength,” replied the scarred man hastily.

Xia Changfeng nodded, looking out into the night sky. His pupils were the exact same shade as the curtain of night, unfathomable.

Chapter 26 The Terrifying Wilde

Translator: BornToBe

“Wilde, what happened just now? Why did your power suddenly explode by so much?”

As soon as they got home, Long Chen immediately asked Wilde about what had happened. At that time, Wilde had given even Long Chen an intimidating feeling.

“I don’t know. When I saw that person was about to hit you, my head buzzed and my whole body became hot. It was like some inexhaustible energy was coming out of my body,” described Wilde unsurely.

Long Chen put his hand on Wilde’s shoulder and used his exceptional Spiritual Strength to probe his body. But when it entered into his body, he found a completely shocking situation.

Wilde’s body was different from every other person. Most people had many winding meridians in their body.

But Wilde only had four meridians. Those four meridians went from his Dantian to his four limbs. This was the first time Long Chen had ever encountered such a thing.

Furthermore, the most surprising thing wasn’t these strange meridians, but his physical body. A large majority of his cells had become closed off, appearing as if they were dead.

But it wasn’t a true death. Long Chen could sense that once heat passed over them, these cells that were in suspended animation would immediately swallow any cells that passed by them before returning to their state of fake death.

Wilde truly was a strange being. Long Chen remained puzzled after considering hundreds of possibilities before he finally came to a certain theory.

“Wilde, have you ever truly been full before?” asked Long Chen.

“I eat till I’m very full here,” said Wilde.

“Tell me the truth.”

“Uh, well just being half full is already enough for me.” Wilde didn’t dare hide the truth.

“Wilde, remember. I’m your brother Long. You can’t tell me any more lies in the future. Otherwise, I’ll get mad,” Long Chen admonished seriously.

“Brother Long, I... I know.” Seeing his severe expression, Wilde nervously agreed.

“Let me ask, what do you need to eat to feel more powerful?”

“Meat.”

“What kind of meat?”

“Any meat. But beef is the best. I’ve eaten a bit of it.”

Long Chen nodded. Wilde’s special constitution had ninety-nine percent of his cells in a suspended animation state.

That was because there wasn’t enough energy to provide for them. To protect themselves, they had to enter such a state.

Even with his Pill God memories, Long Chen had never seen such a strange body. Despite already having such a powerful body, only less than one percent of his cells were working.

If all of his cells were activated, then just how terrifying would that be? Just thinking about that unnerved Long Chen. But Wilde was his own person, and the stronger he was, the better.

“How much meat can you eat in one go?”

“Five kilograms...” Wilde hesitated and he raised one finger.

“The truth.”

“A whole cow...”

“The TRUTH.”

“I can eat five cows...”

“TELL ME THE TRUTH!” Long Chen’s voice was now a shout.

“I don’t know! But I think if I had ten cows that would be enough.” Wilde had a somewhat bitter expression; he had never gotten to eat that much, so he himself didn’t know how much he could eat.

Long Chen shook his head, dumbfounded. “Okay, tomorrow I’ll go buy a whole pasture for you. You can eat as much as you want.”

The next day, Long Chen told Bao-er to find pasture on the outskirts. The pasture wasn’t very large, but there were over a thousand cows on it.

Long Chen let Wilde go over, and the result was that the next day, everyone else working on the pasture ran away.

They later came to Bao-er to report that Wilde was a savage. He would grab a cow and punch it to death, ripping off one of its legs and just start eating while it was still dripping with blood.

All of them were trembling at the memory of it, afraid that Wilde might become interested in them and eat them.

Long Chen had no other choice but to hire a dozen chefs that would regularly go over to cook for Wilde. Only then did Wilde get to eat cooked food.

But what shocked Long Chen was that while Wilde could only eat ten cows on the first day, with each passing day, his appetite grew voraciously.

Since each cow was only two or three gold coins, Long Chen wasn't worried about being eaten into poverty. In fact, he delighted in what was happening.

The fact that Wilde's appetite was growing was a sign that his cells had started to gradually awaken. Once all his cells had awoken, Wilde would be completely transformed.

After resolving Wilde's affairs, Long Chen entered his own seclusion. That battle with the scarred man had given him an extremely great sense of crisis.

His feeling from that day was that the scarred man had still been holding back. Although he was not a threat for the moment, Long Chen still felt that this matter would not be resolved so simply.

After merging with the Pill God's soul, his ability to sense danger had become increasingly great. Last time, his opponent hadn't been properly prepared.

Once his opponent was prepared, Long Chen might really be doomed to die. But he still didn't regret it.

Even if he was given another chance, he still would have handled things the same way. Otherwise, that lash Wilde had received would stay forever in his heart. The heart could not be allowed to have imperfections, or it would eventually become a heart-devil.

Long Chen entered his seclusion in great determination this time, and he began to wildly absorb the FengFu Pills. Seven days later, the FengFu Star at the bottom of his foot finally emitted an exploding sound.

The FengFu Star had greatly changed under Long Chen's absorption of endless medicinal energy.

The smooth outer shell was shed, and what shocked Long Chen was that the inside appeared to be a star.

But this star was somewhat indistinct. It was filled with the rhythm of life though, a shocking state.

That was the first star of the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art, the FengFu Star. The current Long Chen was no longer able to sense just what level of power he was at, and he was filled with shock.

BOOM!

The FengFu Star that was shedding its outer layer suddenly shook, and a terrifying energy caused even the room to shudder.

“Crap, what a huge movement!”

Despite being worried, it was too late for Long Chen to do anything. The entire room blew apart like paper.

At the same time, the energy of heaven and earth underwent a huge shock and wildly surged towards Long Chen.

BANG!

Long Chen spat out a mouthful of blood. His body felt like it was on the verge of exploding, and he fainted.

When Long Chen came to his senses, he saw his mother worriedly examining him. Seeing he had awoken, she was both alarmed and happy.

“Chen-er, you scared your mom! What were you doing?”

Long Chen quickly replied, “Mom, it’s nothing too big. A furnace explosion is normal when refining pills.”

He could only use a furnace explosion as an excuse. It was not easy to reassure his mother, but once he had, he used his divine sense to examine his insides, almost letting out a shocked exclamation.

He had somehow gained a Dantian! The originally empty spot now held three cyclones that were slowly revolving.

“What is going on?”

Noticing that the FengFu Star on the bottom of his foot was still there, he relaxed quite a bit. But seeing those three cyclones in his Dantian still gave him a pause.

When his personal Spirit Root had been extracted, his Dantian had turned into a land of nothing but death. That was something that could not be recovered from. Unless...

Did this mean that after condensing the FengFu Star, the Dantian would be reconstructed?

Thinking back to what had happened just before he had fainted, he knew that the terrifying energy from heaven and earth that had surged into him was something that no ordinary person could endure.

That energy had been crazily berserk; it was not something people could use. Could it mean that that energy had been used to destroy the original Dantian and then build a new one in its place?

But in truth, Long Chen was wrong. The Nine Star Hegemon Body Art was an existence even more terrifying than he imagined. If he had actually had a Dantian at that time, then he would already be dead.

Although Long Chen couldn't figure it out, he continued to examine the changes and found out that he could actually interact with the three cyclones in his Dantian.

"Did I really reconstruct a Dantian?"

Long Chen tried to pull the energy within the cyclones to the rest of his body and found out that there was not the slightest obstruction. He was easily able to use that energy.

With a stamp of his foot, the FengFu Star's energy also flowed out without the slightest pause. Long Chen was completely befuddled; what was the meaning of this? Was it just to gain another reserve of spiritual qi?

With a simple thought, Long Chen drew the FengFu Star's energy into his Dantian.

He immediately felt as if a volcano was exploding within him. The terrifying energy was like a tsunami bursting forth. A mouthful of blood was quickly spat out by him, and he almost fainted again.

Long Chen laid on the ground wildly gasping for air, filled with shock and terror. Even his internal organs had been shaken and torn.

Quickly swallowing a healing pill, the medicinal energy enveloped his body. Long Chen's pale face gradually returned to normal.

"What the hell is going on?" Long Chen angrily snarled inside. Just now he had almost killed himself. That really would have been ridiculous.

But he had no answer. In terms of the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art, all that he had in his memories was how to cultivate in it; all other informations about it was gone.

There were no ranks, no origins, and no means of using it. In a sense, its defects were quite similar to his.

Long Chen smiled bitterly. He had no Spirit Root, no Spirit Bone, and no Spirit Blood. These three things had all been snatched away, so he supposed he was quite suited to the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art.

But if he couldn't figure out what was going on after such a strange event, Long Chen would not be able to stomach it. Grinding his teeth, he continued his interact with his FengFu Star.

This time Long Chen knew not to use such a large amount of it. He slowly drew a tiny amount, bit by bit.

BOOM!

When that slightest bit of energy entered his Dantian, Long Chen clearly sensed the three cyclones become ten times larger in an instant.

Most shocking of all was when that slightest bit of FengFu Star's energy entered, they went from slowly revolving to crazily spinning.

Following the wild revolving of the three cyclones, endless energy immediately flowed out to all of Long Chen's body, filling him with power.

Long Chen had finally figured out one of the secrets of the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art. It really was too shocking and too frightening. Even Long Chen himself was a bit terrified.

"Is this what the nine star transformations in my memories mean? The three cyclones in my Dantian, do they indicate three transformations?"

Only after a long time did Long Chen slowly calm his thoughts down. Since he had three cyclones now, then according to the rest of the world's tiers, he would be a weak beginner at the third Heavenstage of Qi Condensation.

But as for whether he truly was weak, that was something only Long Chen knew. This discovery filled him with both shock and excitement. With a touch of his spatial ring, an ancient beast hide appeared in his hand. That was what he had gained in exchange for bribing a Blood Condensation expert.

“Split the Heavens, Split the Heavens... hehe, let me see just what secrets are hidden within you.”

Chapter 27 Flamecloud Palm

Translator: BornToBe

Looking at the nine red dots on the beast hide page, Long Chen sunk into a deep contemplation. These nine dots didn't have the slightest pattern.

There were no explanations, but this time, Long Chen carefully examined them and found that there really was an extremely faint line connecting them.

“These should be nine acupuncture points.”

Long Chen had to look at them for a great deal of time before coming to this conclusion. Within Long Chen's mind was a map of countless meridians, and only after going down each and every single one of them did he come to such a conclusion. Other people might think about it until they died before figuring it out.

“Enter LiYao, merge into HuiMing... rush into QuChi, join LaoGong?”[1]

Long Chen quietly whispered the names of the nine points as he followed along their meridian paths. He paused, “This isn't a fist or palm technique, but a weapon Battle Skill.”

“What a brilliant technique.”

Long Chen studied it and found that when qi flowed through these nine spots, it was as if a dammed river had burst forth. After passing through nine turns, it would definitely be terrifying to the extreme when released.

He had definitely gained a treasure this time, and although Long Chen didn't know what class it was, it was definitely not low.

Under his urging, his Dantian's qi flowed out towards the LiYao point, but when he tried to urge his spiritual energy to the second acupuncture point, he found out that he was unable to continue.

“Huh?”

After a brief pause, Long Chen understood that this technique must have very high requirements in terms of spiritual energy. Without enough spiritual energy, it was impossible to use it.

Giving up on his Dantian's spiritual energy, he started to use his FengFu Star. As he expected, his FengFu Star was filled with much more power than his Dantian.

But when he arrived at the fourth acupuncture point, he began to stall. No matter how hard he tried, he was unable to reach the sixth point.

"I don't believe I can't do this!"

Long Chen clenched his jaw and sent a strand of spiritual energy from his FengFu Star into his Dantian's cyclones. The cyclones immediately released a wild energy.

Controlling that energy, he quickly progressed.

The sixth...

The seventh...

The eighth...

"Crap..."

Long Chen suddenly stopped and hastily recalled his spiritual energy. Using his divine sense, he examined his meridians.

He was shocked to find that his meridians were already starting to break down from that terrifying energy, and tears had started to appear. If Long Chen had been a step too late in recalling his spiritual energy, his meridians would have completely exploded.

If the meridians really did explode, then it would require an extremely long time to recover. Sweat dripped down his back from fear.

"Crap, I can't train in this for now." Long Chen could only unwillingly give up on practicing Split the Heavens.

Swallowing a meridian nourishing pill, he quickly restored his slightly damaged meridians. Long Chen stood up and walked out.

Opening the door, he took a deep breath of fresh air, recovering from his fatigue from his continuous training.

At this time, the sun had just started to rise in the east. Long Chen made some inquiries for Bao-er. Their estate was completely fine. Wilde was also completely fine and eating till he was full every day.

This let Long Chen relax. He changed his clothes and prepared to go to the alchemist guild to request help from grandmaster Yun Qi.

But Long Chen was somewhat nervous. Ordinary alchemists focused on cultivating the Pill Flame and didn't split their attention to Battle Skills. This was to concentrate all of one's energy and effort, so that one could travel further on the pill path.

Alchemists were normally completely arrogant and didn't care to bother with martial cultivation. That was also what grandmaster Yun Qi had reminded Long Chen of that day.

But Long Chen had his own thoughts on the subject. He had been bullied for too long, and without powerful martial strength, he simply didn't feel safe.

No matter what status or position, it was all nothing to Long Chen. In the face of true power, such things were as weak as a piece of paper.

Long Chen didn't know just how grandmaster Yun Qi would react when he saw him.

"Long Chen!" Long Chen had already walked several blocks in his nervousness when suddenly warm shout rang out. Turning his head, he saw a carriage had stopped in the distance.

Opening the cover was a young woman who happily looked at Long Chen. It was the imperial princess Chu Yao.

"Chu Yao." Long Chen couldn't help being a bit alarmed to see Chu Yao, but for some reason, after a moment of looking at her, most of his anxiousness disappeared.

Chu Yao looked around. Seeing that no one was around due to how early it was, she beckoned. "Quick, get in."

Long Chen hadn't expected Chu Yao to actually invite him to share a carriage. Seeing her bright smile, Long Chen's heart jumped slightly and he leaped onto the carriage.

The inside of the carriage was exceptionally spacious. Other than a bed, it also had a tea table with blankets laid out.

"How coincidental to see you here. How about you come with me to Sunset Mountain?"

Chu Yao's pretty gaze at Long Chen was filled with joy, a complete opposite to her original ruthless and crafty one when she had first captured him.

"With such a beautiful woman inviting me, I'm afraid I'd be struck by heavenly lightning if I refused," laughed Long Chen.

Chu Yao's charming face reddened; within the palace, she had many rules and restrictions she had to follow. She truly enjoyed Long Chen's carefree and unfettered way of talking.

The carriage slowly left the city towards Sunset Mountain.

“Chu Yao, why are you going to Sunset Mountain?” asked Long Chen.

“I... I just want to play around.” For some reason, Chu Yao’s face became extremely red, confusing Long Chen.

“I’m not taking you away from something important am I?” probed Chu Yao.

“Me? I just came out for a stroll. For me to coincide with your carriage and come out to have fun is perfect,” smiled Long Chen. “Right, is your little brother fine? I really am sorry about what happened last time.” Long Chen still felt a bit embarrassed about what had happened with the seventh prince.

“He’s fine. Scaring him a bit is good too; it’ll keep him better behaved,” laughed Chu Yao.

In just a short time, they arrived at the foot of Sunset Mountain. Chu Yao got off and ordered her bodyguard to drive the carriage back.

“Accompany me. I really like the scenery around here.” Chu Yao pointed to the small path in front of them. “When I was young, I frequently came here to climb this mountain. But ever since my father entered seclusion, I haven’t had many such opportunities.”

A pitiful trace of loneliness appeared on her face when she said this. Long Chen couldn’t help but sigh. No matter where you were born, there was always much to be desired.

“Long Chen, what’s wrong?” Chu Yao asked when she saw that Long Chen seemed moody.

His heart warmed due to Chu Yao’s concern. He didn’t know why, but although he had only met Chu Yao once, he still felt a complicated emotion upon seeing her. Perhaps, it stemmed from not knowing if she was an enemy.

But she gave him a very trustworthy feeling that he couldn’t explain.

“I did run into a bit of trouble recently. I was hoping to cultivate a higher grade Battle Skill.”

“If you want to cultivate Battle Skills, then just come to find me. I won’t even charge tuition fees,” joked Chu Yao, her eyes brightening. “I’m already proficient in thirty types of Battle Skills. They say that I’m a peak talent.”

Proficient in thirty Battle Skills? And then using only one attack the same way over and over again? Long Chen couldn’t help being a bit doubtful.

“Hey, what kind of look is that! You doubt me?” A hint of anger appeared on Chu Yao’s face.

“No, I don’t doubt you. I don’t believe it at all!” joked Long Chen.

“You scoundrel, look!” With a cute cry, Chu Yao sent a palm towards Long Chen.

Chu Yao’s palm landed on Long Chen’s stomach. Although she hadn’t used any spiritual energy, the force behind it wasn’t small. When it landed on his body, it still emitted a loud bang.

“You... why didn’t you dodge?” She hadn’t expected him to just take the blow.

“If I dodged, you wouldn’t have hit me. That’d be boring,” laughed Long Chen. Although the hand was separated from him with a layer of clothing, he could still feel a peculiar feeling from it.

“Long Chen...”

Seeing his straightforward smile, she felt a burst of warmth. She actually gently laid her head on Long Chen’s chest.

Long Chen’s body immediately went rigid. What kind of situation was this? Long Chen didn’t dare move an inch, turning into a stump of wood.

Chu Yao’s face suddenly turned warm, and seeing his nervous expression, she covered a smile. “You bad person, back then when you were fighting, you were like a tiger baring its fangs. How come you’ve become a little kitten now?”

Long Chen immediately felt awkward and changed the subject, “Chu Yao, I don’t want to treat you like a stranger. I really do feel that you need to learn a few higher grade Battle Skills.”

Chu Yao’s face reddened, and she blankly stared at Long Chen. If he didn’t want to treat her as a stranger, then what did he want to treat her as? She clearly had misunderstood Long Chen’s meaning.

But in response to Long Chen’s seriousness, Chu Yao was also resolute. “I wasn’t joking. I really am proficient in many Battle Skills. Look.”

She extended a hand and a scorching air rose out. A faint red light appeared over her hand.

She sent her palm into a tree over a foot thick and it trembled, its leaves flying. When she removed her palm, a faint handprint could be seen on it.

“Did you see? This is a high Mortal class Battle Skill, Flamecloud Palm. How is it? Are you scared?”

Chu Yao was pleased with Long Chen’s stupefied expression.

Long Chen truly was shocked. This kind of power could still be considered a Battle Skill? Even without a Battle Skill, Long Chen could easily topple such a tree in one blow.

“Uh-huh, it really was good to look at,” quickly replied Long Chen. Chu Yao’s movements had been very fluid and smooth, which really was pleasing to look at.

Chu Yao didn’t appear to catch his other meaning and thought that he meant she had shocked him. She very patiently explained to Long Chen the main points of her attack.

But when Long Chen heard her explanation on how to use the Flamecloud Palm, Long Chen was truly shocked. Based on what she said, then in theory, it was clearly an extremely powerful palm technique!

“Let me try it.”

“So quickly?” Chu Yao asked in disbelief.

Long Chen smiled slightly. Battle Skills were just a way to use spiritual energy. Through the superposition within the meridians, they could emit a powerful strength, that was all.

Long Chen was already as familiar as possible with his body’s meridians, so hearing her explain it once was enough for him.

His Dantian’s spiritual energy circulated and a dense fiery energy erupted out. Long Chen shouted out and sent a palm crashing forward.

BOOM!

A huge tree, which would require several people to wrap around it, snapped, its crown whistling as it fell.

The huge tree smashed into the ground, sending dirt flying. Chu Yao was staring blankly; was this really the same Flamecloud Palm as hers?

The spot where the tree had broken was completely scorched, a specific mark of the Flamecloud Palm. Long Chen nodded inside; it truly was worthy of being a high Mortal class Battle Skill. Its power was extremely great.

But seeing Chu Yao beside him filled with shock, Long Chen's heart shook and he grabbed Chu Yao's hand.

"Chu Yao, let me examine your body."

Chapter 28 The Secret Behind the Princess

Translator: BornToBe

Having her slender hand suddenly grabbed by Long Chen, Chu Yao's pretty body shook and two red spots appeared over her cheeks.

A bit of panic flashed over her eyes, but she didn't take her hand away. She secretly glanced at Long Chen and realized that he was actually a bit puzzled.

When Long Chen glanced up at Chu Yao's face, he momentarily forgot what he was doing. She was like a blooming flower with eyes like sparkling jewels, and it was simply impossible not to be moved by her beauty.

"Cough." Chu Yao became even redder when Long Chen just foolishly looked at her. But within her beautiful eyes was happiness as well. With a cough, she turned her head down and didn't dare to look at Long Chen again. Only the gentle warmth transmitted from his hand continued to warm her heart.

Taking a deep breath, Long Chen calmed himself back down. She had an air of being too high to reach, and yet, also a contradicting gentle softness of a woman.

The Chu Yao who had arrogantly captured him in a net and the current gentle and shy Chu Yao were completely different.

Suppressing his wildly jumping heart, Long Chen used his Spiritual Strength to follow along the meridians within Chu Yao's hand and slowly enter into her Dantian.

Actually, with Long Chen's strength, at such proximity, it was entirely possible for him to examine Chu Yao without touching her.

But doing so would mean that Chu Yao would be essentially naked in front of Long Chen. Maybe Long Chen wasn't so against that, but he was afraid that afterward, she might once again capture him inside a net.

Long Chen's Spiritual Strength gently entered into her Dantian. But when he saw what was going on, even with his self-control, he couldn't help having his expression turn ugly.

"What is it?" Chu Yao was alarmed at his dark gaze.

Long Chen's anger was due to the fact that nine types of foreign spiritual energy were currently locked and fixed within her Dantian.

Those nine foreign spiritual energies were like nine saplings planted into a fertile farm; they were incessantly absorbing Chu Yao's spiritual energy away, leaving her with only a fraction for her own use.

No wonder her spiritual energy was so frail and disorderly! So she was just like Long Chen and had been schemed against by others.

Even more infuriating was that there was a Spirit Root that released a dense qi. Although he wasn't sure what level she was at, Long Chen knew she was definitely a rare genius seen only once in a thousand years.

Such a genius had been wasted away like this. But just this wouldn't have aroused Long Chen's killing intent.

Long Chen had found that those nine foreign spiritual energies were following along her Spirit Root, and in the future, when she married and lost her virginity, the spiritual energy that had been absorbed by them for years would be silently snatched away!

That was the most hateful thing. A princess of this generation, a beauty that could topple cities, had been used by someone as a chess piece. This was clearly the result of some sort of scheme.

And as for Chu Yao, she didn't seem to know anything about it! Long Chen couldn't help feeling empathy for this beautiful woman.

"Long Chen, what's going on?" His expression was complicated, and Chu Yao was somewhat alarmed by it.

"Chu Yao, do you trust me?" Long Chen hesitated for a moment before solemnly asking her this.

Seeing his extremely serious manner, Chu Yao also sensed something. But she didn't hesitate. Looking Long Chen in the eyes, she said, "You are the person I trust the most."

Long Chen heart warmed. "Your Dantian has been altered by others."

But what surprised Long Chen was that Chu Yao didn't have that great of a reaction. Helplessness appeared in her sad eyes.

Looking at the distant mountain peaks, her jade hands gently brushed back her hair that was blown wild by the wind. She quietly said, "If you say this secret out loud, you might be implicated with the people from my family. Are you not afraid?"

“You already knew?”

“Can you answer me first?” asked Chu Yao.

Long Chen bitterly smiled. “Since we’ve chosen to trust each other, then even if I were to lose my life, it would be worth it.”

“Trust? Trust?”

Chu Yao mumbled that word over and over. She suddenly threw herself at Long Chen’s chest and began to weep loudly. Her tears flowed out as if a dam had been broken, as if she wanted all her grievances to be swept away.

Despite having such a beautiful woman in his arms, Long Chen didn’t have the slightest intention of being charming. Instead, his heart was also filled with a kind of mourning.

Long Chen had been even worse off than Chu Yao. His Spirit Root, Spirit Bone, and Spirit Blood had all been stolen. If he hadn’t suddenly fused with a Pill God’s soul, he would perhaps still be completely in the dark.

At some point, his arms had wrapped around her slender waist and tightly hugged her. Smelling the scent of her hair, it felt as if they were the last two people on earth.

After crying for forever, Chu Yao finally stopped her sobbing. Long Chen’s chest was already completely wet from her tears.

Her face suddenly turned completely red, and she quickly escaped Long Chen’s embrace. She turned away from him, but inside, she was filled with both happiness and hesitation.

Long Chen awkwardly coughed and asked, “Chu Yao, when did you learn that your Dantian had been tampered with?”

Chu Yao slowly recovered herself and turned back to look at him. “When I was young and before my father, the emperor, entered seclusion, he told me I was this generation’s martial cultivation genius and might even be able to ascend beyond the empire. Before he entered seclusion, I was greatly encouraged to cultivate, and I truly did work hard at the beginning. But when I turned ten, my mother suddenly became sick. She turned gravely ill, and before we could even invite grandmaster Yun Qi, she had already left this world.”

Arriving at this point in her story, her tears once more began to slowly flow out. She seemed to have sunk back into her memories of that time.

“At that time, my little brother and I were still young. But as we grew older, we gradually learned about the palace’s internal struggles. I realized my mother’s death was

definitely no accident. But all the evidence had long since disappeared. I was powerless. Then, five years ago, my cultivation base ceased to progress. No matter how hard I tried, I was unable to advance a single step, and my spiritual energy became weaker and weaker. At that time, I realized that the villain who had killed my mother had finally stretched his hand towards me and my brother. From that day onwards, my brother and I started to act bossy and arrogant. We started making headstrong, rash decisions, and from that time, it seems as if everything went back to normal.”

Long Chen felt completely helpless as he listened to her story. The palace’s internal affairs were even crueler than what he had imagined.

“You used such a method to protect you and your brother?” sighed Long Chen.

Chu Yao nodded. “The only family I have left right now is my little brother. I just hope he can stay alive. Although having him to act this way is annoying, at least no one will menace him, so it should be a bit safer. Although I don’t know what they did to my Dantian, I know they were afraid I would be a threat to them, and so they restricted my cultivation. Thus, as long as I don’t have the heart to cultivate, no one will have any plans against a weak girl like me. My brother and I also will be able to live without worry.”

Long Chen sighed, “Unfortunately, you’ve underestimated your enemy’s viciousness. Whoever did this was an absolute bastard.”

Hesitating for a moment, Long Chen still decided to tell Chu Yao the situation within her Dantian. Hearing this, anger and indecisiveness flared in her eyes. Her face turned pale and her body shook.

Long Chen supported Chu Yao, saying, “You don’t need to be too worried. Give me some time, and I can unlock the seal within your body.”

“Really?” Chu Yao couldn’t believe this.

“Really,” promised Long Chen.

For some reason, when Chu Yao looked at Long Chen, she was filled with trust. It was a kind of indescribable feeling.

He gave her a sense of complete safety. This kind of feeling was extremely precious and rare within the palace that was full of hidden schemes.

Seeing that she didn’t have any hesitation or doubt in him, Long Chen sighed, feeling as if another burden had been placed on his shoulders.

“Oh beautiful Chu Yao, can you display some of your magnificent skills for me again? Let this little one study a bit.” Long Chen found that the atmosphere had become a bit depressed, so he joked a bit.

“Scoundrel, you’re clearly mocking me,” she rebuked.

“Oh heavens no, your foundation is extremely strong. It’s just that your Dantian is unable to release enough force. But don’t worry. In just a short time, I’ll help you resolve it,” consoled Long Chen.

Only when she judged Long Chen’s words to be sincere did she once more display a high Mortal class Battle Skill - Breaking Wind Fist.

Long Chen carefully examined her this time, and couldn’t help but to feel some shock. Her spiritual energy was constantly being sucked away by those nine spiritual energies, leaving her with perhaps a tenth of the energy.

But even with such a frail energy, Chu Yao’s display was completely perfect without the slightest energy wasted.

He realized her control with spiritual energy had reached an extremely high level. It was much greater than even Blood Condensation experts.

He was not at all miserly with his praise of her, causing her to happily blush.

The nine foreign spiritual energies were actually seeds of spiritual energy. After having absorbed her spiritual energy for so many years, they had already become very powerful.

Long Chen felt that if he were to just break them, it would be too wasteful. That kind of huge energy was enough to allow Chu Yao to break through to the Blood Condensation realm, and her cultivation base would continue climbing after.

After learning the Breaking Wind Fist, he suddenly took out a bottle of medicinal liquid. “This is Face Changing Liquid; once you apply it to your face, it will change your appearance for twenty-four hours. It’s very convenient.”

He poured out a few drops and rubbed it over his face. In just an instant, he appeared to become a completely different person, his eyebrows becoming thicker and his skin changing shade.

Chu Yao exclaimed, “Then in the future, I can change my appearance and come out to find you!”

She then also applied it over her face. The medicinal liquid became a thin layer over the face that could be changed at will for a while. Once no more changes were made to it, it would completely set in just a few breaths' time.

Looking into her mirror and seeing that her face had become extremely ordinary, she couldn't help jumping in joy.

Pulling Long Chen's arm, she happily said, "Long Chen, let's go stroll the streets. I've never been allowed to just walk along the streets."

Amongst princesses, she was one of those unruly types, but she still wouldn't go too far. She normally couldn't act like the ordinary poor people and just go as she pleased. So, she naturally couldn't let go of this chance Long Chen had given her.

Chu Yao intimately held onto his arm. Seeing her excited manner, it would be a lie to say Long Chen wasn't moved. He straightaway agreed to go with her.

But after agreeing, Long Chen started to regret it. He had clearly underestimated Chu Yao's desire to stroll the streets.

She practically pulled him through every small alley within the capital. She wanted to see everything and anything, and she even shot question after question to him.

He was quite happy to just smell her scent and feel the joy of her hand wrapped around his arm, but suddenly he stopped, bringing Chu Yao to a small vendor to the side.

Long Chen struck up a fake conversation with the vendor about his wares, but his gaze narrowed towards several people in the distance.

"Xia Changfeng?"

Chapter 29 Long Chen's Shock

Translator: BornToBe

There were around seven or eight people in that group, and Long Chen could clearly see that the Grand Xia's prince Xia Changfeng was amongst them. But what shocked Long Chen the most was that familiar face beside him.

That woman was very slender and fair, but her face always had a faint arrogance on it. It was the crazy woman Long Chen had encountered at the alchemist guild.

Why was she there? And why did she seem so familiar with the Grand Xia's prince? Long Chen simply couldn't figure it out.

Their group entered an expensive teahouse just after he noticed them.

“One of those people is the fourth prince.” Chu Yao warned Long Chen as she had also seen those people.

“The fourth prince?” He was supposed to be the most low-key prince. He never participated in the internal fights of the princes. But then why was he with the Grand Xia’s prince?

“He has also changed his appearance, but his finger has a ring mark on it that he forgot to hide. He normally wears a dragon ring with a very distinctive pattern, so I easily recognize it,” said Chu Yao.

As a princess, she might have to act arrogant every day, but she was also very perceptive to the everyday habits of each prince; thus, she was easily able to see through the fourth prince’s disguise.

Long Chen felt a headache coming. Why would the fourth prince disguise himself? He wanted to sneak in and use his divine sense to secretly eavesdrop.

However, the door was guarded by a dozen of the Grand Xia’s elite troops. Doing so would simply be too difficult. It was in the middle of the day, and trying to sneak in would be basically impossible. He gave up on that idea.

“Chu Yao, I’m going to go back and prepare some ingredients that will resolve the foreign spiritual energies in your Dantain,” said Long Chen.

Despite being reluctant to part, she still obediently nodded her head.

Long Chen went directly home. As soon as he walked past the gate, a happy shout rang out.

“Brother Long!”

Wilde was a small giant now, and he excitedly looked at Long Chen.

The current Wilde had become much livelier, and the thing that pleased Long Chen the most was that he was no longer as thin as he had been before.

His bare arms were clearly bigger, and some indistinct veins could be seen beneath the skin.

“Haha, have you been eating properly Wilde?” Long Chen patted his sturdy arm.

“Brother Long, I eat till I’m full every day. I feel like I’ve become very strong now; thus, I want to be with brother Long so that I can protect you.” Wilde slapped his chest confidently, emitting a sound like a thunderous drum.

Long Chen nodded and brought Wilde into his own room. He then used his divine sense to examine Wilde's body.

"What?!"

Despite nourishing them all this time and feeding them so much, still less than ten percent of Wilde's cells were active.

And when he examined his four meridians, he noticed they had expanded a little. But most shocking of all was that there was what seemed to be a trace of spiritual qi within his Dantian.

"You learned how to cultivate?" asked Long Chen.

"Brother Long, what is this 'cultivating'?" asked Wilde with wide eyes.

"Uh, nevermind."

Long Chen also didn't feel like trying to explain such a thing. Continuing his examination, he noticed that Wilde's Dantian was deathly still, but there was still a steady flow of the world's spiritual qi that was flowing into his Dantian.

"What an abnormal constitution; even without cultivating, it just automatically absorbs energy on its own."

Long Chen sucked in a breath of cold air; this was something he had never encountered before. Wilde's Dantian held a huge amount of spiritual qi, which meant that once his body was strong enough, he would be able to automatically absorb spiritual qi from heaven and earth to use.

If other martial artists were to learn of this, they would definitely go crazy. This meant that even when Wilde was sleeping or eating, he would still be incessantly cultivating.

"Wilde, I'm going to teach you a few simple cultivation methods and how to use your Dantian's qi."

Due to how unique Wilde's Dantian was, Long Chen decided not to teach him any Battle Skills. Wilde only had four meridians, which meant that he wouldn't be able to use any Battle Skills for now.

So Long Chen only taught him how to circulate his spiritual qi to his arms and legs, passively increasing their strength.

But Long Chen had still overestimated Wilde's ability comprehension skills. Even something as simple as linking to his Dantian required six hours of Long Chen's time to explain. Despite having Long Chen's throat turn raw, Wilde was still mystified.

Long Chen knew he couldn't get angry. Wilde was listening to him completely innocently, so his belly full of anger was never released.

"Okay, how about this. Until you learn this, I'll work you to death." Long Chen helplessly sighed.

"I'm sorry brother Long, I'm just too stupid. I could spend a lifetime without figuring this out." Wilde dejectedly hung his head.

Wilde truly was too incompetent; he was unable to immerse himself even slightly within his Dantian. He couldn't even find where his Dantian was.

Long Chen was unwilling to resign himself to this result. Wilde's physique was so powerful that it was frightening. If he had the assistance of his spiritual qi, the power which he could explode out with would be absolutely terrifying.

Long Chen felt that it was such a waste. He felt like a beggar who had a mountain of gold, yet still relied on begging to pass each day.

Suddenly, Long Chen's eyes brightened. Placing his hand on Wilde's back, he said, "Let me help you find your Dantian."

His Spiritual Strength poured into Wilde's Dantian. Since Wilde trusted Long Chen completely, there wasn't the slightest resistance. Long Chen easily merged his Spiritual Strength into Wilde's Dantian.

Furthermore, even if Wilde had wanted to resist, he didn't know how to. But at least now Wilde had found the position of his Dantian.

"Now that you've found your Dantian, the next step is to immerse into it."

"Immerse?"

"Use your intent to hook yourself into your Dantian."

"Intent?"

Long Chen sighed. But he still patiently controlled his temper. "Focus your entire mind onto your Dantian."

"Oh, then what?"

"Try to make it revolve."

"Clockwise or counterclockwise?"

“ ... ”

Long Chen was practically speechless. “It doesn’t matter. As long as it circulates, it’s fine.”

Now that he had found its position, Wilde slowly tried to control his Dantian. However, it was as if the Dantian weren’t even his and he was unable to move it at all.

“You’re not focused enough. Close your eyes and try again.”

Finally, under Long Chen’s great expectations, Wilde’s Dantian moved slightly. Although doing just that wasn’t exactly using his Dantian, at least, he had found it and opened the path. Long Chen relaxed slightly.

“Good, next I’ll use my Spiritual Strength to guide your Dantian’s qi for one cycle. Remember how I’m doing this.”

After saying this, Long Chen’s Spiritual Strength circulated into Wilde’s Dantian. When Wilde’s Dantian felt Long Chen’s Spiritual Strength, it was as if it had been provoked and it immediately exploded out.

The originally completely calm Dantian immediately was like an erupting volcano, like angry waves trying to swallow the sky.

“Wilde, can you control your Dantian?” Long Chen started to celebrate, but...

“No, I don’t know what happened.” Wilde was completely shocked at the uprising of the spiritual qi within him.

“Don’t be afraid, remember the path I’m taking.”

Long Chen didn’t feel like telling him the position of each one of his acupuncture points. He wouldn’t be able to remember them anyways, so he skipped that. Having him remember the feeling of where they were was good enough.

Long Chen used his Spiritual Strength to draw Wilde’s Dantian’s qi into his arm. Long Chen wanted to go slowly and circulate it.

How could he have predicted that as soon as Wilde’s qi reached his arm, it became like a wild horse and refused to be controlled by Long Chen anymore? Wild energy surged out.

Wilde felt a great power pass through his arm, so he instinctively punched out.

BOOM!!!

The entire roof was shaken into pieces; smoke and dust exploded out, revealing the starry sky above.

“What a berserk energy!”

Long Chen was extremely alarmed. All this had just been caused by the wind from Wilde’s fist, but it was already so frightening! If someone was hit by the actual fist, wouldn’t they be smashed into pulp?

Wilde was also stupefied at his own power. He had never thought he would have such strength.

Long Chen once more examined Wilde’s Dantian and found that the spiritual qi within had basically all been depleted.

“Wilde, go back and rest. Remember what I’ve taught you and train every day. Don’t goof off,” ordered Long Chen solemnly.

Wilde’s comprehension skills were already extremely low. If he was lazy as well, then even a divine immortal would be unable to teach him.

“Don’t worry brother Long, I’ll train like my life depends on it!” Wilde was filled with excitement now.

After Wilde left, Long Chen speechlessly looked at the roofless room. Just what secret was hidden within Wilde’s body?

That fist had even shocked Long Chen. If that long-eyebrowed Blood Condensation expert was hit by it, it was doubtless that he would die.

But right now, ninety percent of Wilde’s cells were still dormant. If they were all awoken, even Long Chen would feel tremendous fear.

But thinking about Wilde’s simple and honest nature, Long Chen shook his head. Wilde was his brother, and the stronger he was, the better. There was no need to worry.

Taking out a piece of paper, he wrote down a list of forty-eight names of medicinal ingredients.

“Starfusing Pill, a second tier medicinal pill. Right now, I have no way of refining an upper grade second tier medicinal pill. Looks like I can only go to grandmaster Yun Qi. But first I need to collect all the medicinal ingredients.”

According to Long Chen's recollections, the Starfusing Pill should be able to resolve the foreign spiritual energies within Chu Yao's body, but it had to be an upper grade pill.

The current Long Chen's Pill Flame was too weak; despite how much talent he had in that regard, it was impossible for him to refine a high grade second tier pill with such a Pill Flame.

The next day, Long Chen left his house. Arriving at the alchemist guild's storeroom, he handed his list over.

What was outside Long Chen's expectations was that all the ingredients could be found here except one of the main ingredients, the Starfusing Grass.

Starfusing Grass was an extremely precious treasure. It was something that could be used to refine many second tier pills, and in fact, most second tier pills actually required it in their pill formula, making it always in short supply.

Long Chen nodded. Only missing one ingredient was already better than what Long Chen had expected.

Collecting his ingredients and leaving the alchemist guild, Long Chen suddenly saw a certain figure. A slightly cruel smile appeared on his mouth.

Chapter 30 Stubborn till Death

Translator: BornToBe

The one in front of him was the person who had been beaten almost to pulp by Long Chen, Zhou Yaoyang. Martial artists truly did have a tenacious life force.

Last time, he had been beaten so badly, but now he seemed totally fine. The Zhou family truly was willing to spend money on their son.

Almost every single bone had been broken in his body. It was only by spending a great amount of gold coins that he was pulled back from the gates of hell.

But even with the Zhou family's financial resources, his wounds had still been extremely severe. He had come to the guild today to ask for powerful recovery pills.

Currently, he was still extremely weak. Ever since he had been beaten, for some reason he would always start to hallucinate in the middle of the night. Countless demons would plague him, and now he didn't even dare sleep with the lights off.

And furthermore, every morning he would feel his soul ache as if needles were stabbing into him, painning him so badly that he could only roll on the ground.

But the alchemists of the guild couldn't find any reason for this suffering despite examining him multiple times. They could only conclude that it was due to a deficit in qi within him, so they had to first restore his body.

But even after half a month passed, he hadn't improved in that regard in the slightest. The symptoms actually worsened, and even if he didn't fall asleep, he would see countless demons demanding his life.

And as for the pain in his soul in the morning, it was no longer needles, but a blazing flame roasting him, making it so painful he wished he could die. The current Zhou Yaoyang was extremely emaciated, and his complexion was turning yellow, a large difference from his old confident and easy self...

"Zhou Yaoyang, it's been a while. How have you been recently?" Long Chen smiled as if he were blessing him and cupped his hands in greeting.

As soon as Zhou Yaoyang saw Long Chen, it was as if he had seen a ghost and his face turned deathly pale.

"Long Chen... you... how are you?"

"You don't look so good. It really makes me uneasy. I'm just worried about you. How are the demons at night and the soul roasting in the morning?" asked Long Chen.

"You... you... how do you know about that? Could it be... it was you?" Zhou Yaoyang's eyes were filled with alarm.

He suddenly remembered the medicinal pill Long Chen had fed him after beating him.

According to the alchemist guild, it had been a pill to protect the organs and its effect was to make sure that he wouldn't die for a while despite his internal organ failure.

But Zhou Yaoyang always felt that something was wrong with that incident, and hearing Long Chen's words today, he immediately suspected that pill.

"Long Chen, those ghosts were definitely yours! You despicable bastard!" Zhou Yaoyang bitterly exclaimed his resentment.

Thinking about the pain he had been going through these days, he angrily shouted and charged at Long Chen.

A simple slap landed on his face. The force behind it wasn't too great and it only sent him flying.

“Despicable? You dare call me that? No matter how despicable I am, it’s not even a hundredth of how bad you are! Tell me, just how many despicable methods have you used against me over these years?”

Long Chen lightly waved his hand and indifferently said, “You yourself don’t even remember anymore. Being cruel will always have a reprisal. Now that I’m stronger, am I supposed to not get a bit of revenge?”

The slap on his face completely sobered Zhou Yaoyang. Despite recuperating from his wounds these days, he hadn’t stopped getting information about Long Chen.

The fact that Long Chen had beaten an imperial bodyguard of the Grand Xia’s prince had completely shaken the capital; that was a true expert in the Blood Condensation realm!

In terms of martial might, Zhou Yaoyang was no longer a match for Long Chen. In terms of status, Long Chen was a grand Pill Apprentice, and he was even less comparable to him.

Zhou Yaoyang couldn’t help being suspicious of what the alchemists at the guild had told him. The alchemist guild should be fully aware of all of Long Chen’s methods, so they should have been able to cure him! Instead, they had let him suffer endless torment.

But he didn’t know that he had misjudged the guild. Long Chen had applied a bit of Ghost Seeking Liquid atop the medicinal pill. Other than grandmaster Yun Qi, no one else in the guild would be able to figure that out.

Obviously, the Savage Marquis had no way of inviting someone as grand as Yun Qi. Let alone him, even a prince didn’t have that capability.

“Long Chen, what do you want in order to let me free?” Zhou Yaoyang ground his teeth.

“Zhou Yaoyang, what happened to all the unyielding courage of yours? You tormented me for so many years but I never gave in to you. Now, things have only turned to my side for such a short time. If you want to stop now, it’s already too late. Gotta follow the rules of the game,” indifferently said Long Chen. He then turned to leave.

“You really won’t let me off?”

“If you want to escape the depths of misery, it’s very simple. Take your sword and pull it against your neck. It only hurts for a second and then you’ll be free. Don’t beg me for help.”

Zhou Yaoyang was so furious his entire body shook. When he was haunted by ghosts and his soul scorched, he truly did want to use death to free himself of the pain.

But as soon as that moment passed, he returned to be a normal person and was full of longing towards life. That was the reason why he couldn't even kill himself.

If he chose life, it was misery. If he chose death, he was unable to go through with it. Zhou Yaoyang was about to collapse. He didn't have the courage to kill himself, but if it continued like this, he'd go crazy.

Zhou Yaoyang ground his teeth and actually knelt on the ground.

"Long Chen, I beg you, I admit defeat."

Long Chen's hatred no longer burned as intensely as it had before. The current Long Chen was high and far above Zhou Yaoyang, and they were no longer on the same level. He didn't place a small ant within his eyes.

Long Chen wasn't a priest who would repay enmity with kindness. But looking at Zhou Yaoyang's miserable state, most of his anger faded.

And it was also perfect since Long Chen was wishing to hear some secrets from him. Just as he reached his hand to rub his spatial ring, Long Chen's Spiritual Strength suddenly noticed that Zhou Yaoyang was secretly clenching his fists and was filled with bitter resentment.

Long Chen quietly muttered to himself for a moment before he coldly smiled. A medicinal pill appeared out of his spatial ring, and he threw it directly to Zhou Yaoyang.

"This medicinal pill is for you. I hope you won't be enemies with me in the future; otherwise, you'll regret it for a lifetime." Long Chen then left.

Zhou Yaoyang waited until Long Chen was far away before getting up. Looking at his distant figure, he narrowed his eyes.

"Long Chen, if I don't let you die a miserable death, then I wouldn't be Zhou Yaoyang!"

He wasn't afraid of Long Chen poisoning him because there were several people in the distance who had seen what had just happened. If he really did die from this medicinal pill, Long Chen wouldn't be able to escape punishment. Therefore, he swallowed the medicinal pill confidently.

The next day, Zhou Yaoyang was overjoyed to find that his night terrors were gone, and he no longer had to suffer the feeling of his soul burning every morning.

He coldly sneered inside. "Long Chen, just wait. The next time I take action, I'll be taking your life in one fell swoop. At that time, the person who will be regretful is you!"

Back when Long Chen saw Zhou Yaoyang eat it, he also had sneered. You really are too evil to live. I actually wanted to spare your life, but unfortunately, you're courting disaster.

"Brother Long?"

Long Chen had been just walking along the road when someone suddenly called out to him.

He turned to see that it was fatty Yu. He was amazed to find that he had actually reached the third Heavenstage of Qi Condensation. Due to his cultivation, his originally fat build now appeared to be sturdy and strong.

"Fatty, you're not bad. You've already reached the third Heavenstage of Qi Condensation," smiled Long Chen.

"Hehe, this is all because of brother Long," he somewhat bashfully said. "Brother Long, I was just thinking about going over to pay a visit to you."

"What do you need?"

"No, no, it's just that since I've broken through to the third Heavenstage, I feel like I should celebrate. Look at what Shi Feng did; I can't be too shameful in comparison right?" said fatty Yu.

"He advanced to the Blood Condensation realm while you are just at the third Heavenstage of Qi Condensation. Why does there need to be some grand celebration?" laughed Long Chen.

"Haha, those aren't the same. I couldn't even cultivate before, so the celebration this time is definitely on the same level as Shi Feng's!" earnestly said Fatty Yu.

"Well, when my bros invite me to drink, I can't possibly say no! Let's go."

"Yes, perfect! I've already ordered a feast and we're only lacking you."

The restaurant fatty Yu brought him to was in the southern side of the city. Although it wasn't as famous as the one Shi Feng had brought them to, it wasn't that much worse.

When Long Chen entered, he saw that fatty Yu had told the truth; Shi Feng, Shou Hou, and the others were already there.

"Haha, Brother Long has finally arrived."

Long Chen also laughed. He greeted everyone, and as soon as he sat down, the food and drinks were brought out.

“Today is to celebrate my advancement to the third Heavenstage! I’ve finally taken the first step of my cultivation path, and a bright future has been opened in front of me! This toast is for Long Chen!”

Everyone loudly praised him. They were all people whose fates had changed only because of Long Chen.

Long Chen also didn’t stand on ceremony and drank a large cup of alcohol in one go.

Everyone was friends, so there was no need to restrain oneself and everyone drank copiously. Other than Shi Feng and fatty Yu, the rest of them had yet to advance past the first Heavenstage of Qi Condensation; heroic spirits they had, but a high tolerance of alcohol they did not.

After just a few cups, a lot of mouths became unguarded.

“Brother Long, it’s like you’re a martial god from the heavens, an unparalleled genius amongst men. We’re all wondering just what kind of woman is suitable for you?” asked someone with the help of the alcohol.

Before Long Chen could even answer, Shou Hou followed up, “Hehe, at the very least, it’s gotta be a princess. As for looks, it’s got to be a beauty capable of captivating the birds and beasts, eclipsing the moon and shaming flowers. And as for cultivation level? That’s whatever. In any case, no one dares bully brother Long; even the Grand Xia’s prince is not someone he is afraid of! So his future wife doesn’t need to be so strong, haha.”

“Right! In our Phoenix Cry Empire, the only one who fits those criteria the best is the third princess!” said fatty Yu, his eyes lighting up.

“I’ve seen the third princess before, and although she’s beautiful, that kind of temperament is terrifying. Normal people wouldn’t be able to handle it,” sighed someone else.

“Tch, that’s because she still hasn’t met brother Long! Even a tiger will become a kitten in front of brother Long!”

Long Chen was speechless. When they raised the topic of the third princess, the beautiful image of Chu Yao appeared in his mind.

He couldn’t help but to feel some pity. Chu Yao was actually a gentle-hearted woman, but in order to protect herself, she had had to act arrogant and rude to the world.

Thinking about the time they'd had together, a warm feeling filled him. At the same time, he felt awkward inside; wasn't talking about things like this unworthy of Chu Yao?

Long Chen was in the middle of thinking that over when a woman's cold laugh rang out.

"You outrageous peasants really do think of the craziest things. Is the third princess someone you are capable of discussing?"