

Nine Star Hegemon Body Arts

- Chapter 51 Tenth Level of Qi Condensation -

Chapter 51 Tenth Level of Qi Condensation

Translator: BornToBe

Ever since the Phoenix Cry Lantern Festival, knowledge of Long Chen and Huang Chang's peak battle had spread in every direction. Long Chen's fame had spread not only throughout the capital but even throughout the entire empire. There was practically not a single person that didn't know his name.

This was especially true of the younger generation. Long Chen was their idol. Whenever his name was brought up, they would be worshipful and envious.

Of course, in any world, there was no lack of geniuses. And of course, geniuses didn't all have to be on the martial path.

You could also gain fame in other specialties. Now, just over ten days had passed since Long Chen's battle. However, in just these few short days, there had been a genius who had used Long Chen to make a crazy profit of millions of gold coins.

That person was originally just a master painter. Although such a person wouldn't be in a state of poverty within the capital, such a profession could not be considered high level. The income was rather meager.

But after that person had seen Long Chen's battle, he had immediately returned home and spent three days and three nights without pause to draw over ten refined drawings.

The person in those drawings was precisely Long Chen. Originally, Long Chen was handsome enough and had an easy-going confidence. Following that master painter's backgrounds and lighting exaggerations, he had been transformed to practically look like a divinity.

The scenes of his pill battle and subsequent fight had been especially exaggerated by him to appear extremely vivid and exciting.

After he drew those, he went directly to the largest printing workshop. After that, an extremely impressive drawing of Long Chen became available in the capital, and those young men and women went crazy for it.

Thousands of drawings were immediately sold out. Some people who hadn't managed to snatch one had already begun to stalk the printing workshop. The entire staff of

hundreds of people worked incessantly, but that crowd of people waiting only grew larger.

The printer workshop actually had to hire more people as time went on, and only after a week had passed did they just manage to satisfy most of the demand.

But if that had been all, then that master painter would have only counted as an average businessman. He had a brilliant plan, and after that first painting had been sold off, he added another.

This new drawing was even more refined than the first. What it pictured was even more impressive, and it was printed on an extremely expensive animal hide paper. That meant it could survive for hundreds of years without fading. It had been advertised popularly as being a limited edition collector's item.

Of course, this limited edition collector's drawing was sold at a considerable price. But countless youngsters came to buy it, and the sales were positively shocking.

But what no one expected was that after this limited collector's painting had sold enough, a graphic novel called the Phoenix Cry Divine Battle silently appeared on the marketplace.

That comic was a record of that day's scenes which contained the third princess's confession, Xia Baichi's pill battle, Huang Chang infuriating Long Chen, and Long Chen's bloody battle with Huang Chang. That entire story had been expressed through pictures perfectly.

From the pictures to the graphic novel, that painter and the workshop basically emptied the pockets of all the youngsters in the capital.

Over just a few weeks, they had profited at least millions of gold coins. That originally poor painter immediately became a celebrity within the capital. Other than Long Chen, he was probably the most famous person in the capital now.

Long Chen was not aware of this matter along with countless other things that had occurred in the capital. After a couple of weeks, Long Chen had already broken through to the ninth Heavenstage of Qi Condensation a few days ago.

It went without saying that this fast speed was absolutely related to that life and death battle he had had with Huang Chang.

Only by experiencing life and death trials and only by facing the pressure that came with them could you make your Dao-heart steadier and firmer. And only then would your cultivation speed increase without causing your cultivation base to become unsteady.

Currently, Long Chen was pushing his nine cyclones to the max in order to absorb the world's spiritual qi into his FengFu Star. As long as his FengFu Star became maxed out on energy, he would be able to draw out Blood Qi and enter the Blood Condensation realm.

The so-called Blood Condensation realm was named so due to the intention of condensing the blood and qi. Blood was one of the most important parts of the body. Only by reaching the Blood Condensation realm could you count as a true martial artist.

You condensed blood by circulating real qi to purify your blood. All the various foods that people often ate caused impurities to form within the body. Therefore, the blood needed to be refined and condensed in order to expel those impurities, letting your strength become greater.

But before entering the Blood Condensation realm, you had to reach the peak of the ninth Heavenstage of Qi Condensation. Only by compressing the spiritual qi in your body to a certain level could your qi transform the blood. This gave birth to something known commonly as Blood Qi.

Once blood and qi combined, the energy that was released was inconceivable. At the same time, it was the most important foundational level for cultivators.

BOOM!

Currently, Long Chen's FengFu Star was starting to surge, a sign that he was about to enter the Blood Condensation realm. Long Chen couldn't help rejoicing, but he hastily stabilized his emotions and slowly circulated his cyclones, steadily absorbing energy.

This was an extremely critical moment. There could be no mistakes. The slightest error would cause a backlash that would injure him, and it was very likely that some of those nine cyclones he had managed to form would break apart, causing his realm to fall.

BOOM BOOM BOOM!

His FengFu Star repeatedly boomed. His spiritual qi was continuously being compressed. Having reached this critical moment, Long Chen didn't dare to be the slightest bit careless. All his attention was completely focused.

But what Long Chen had not expected was that these explosive sounds continued for six whole hours, yet nothing changed within his body.

"What's going on?"

He was completely astonished by this. This situation was completely different from what was recorded in the literature.

It was definitely not supposed to be this difficult. Within the Battle Skill Pavilion, he had paged through several records regarding cultivation. When most people tried attacking the Blood Condensation realm, there was usually a single pair of 'shackles' that prevented them. But as long as they had enough spiritual qi, they would be able to break those shackles and advance to Blood Condensation.

There were also some people with two or even three shackles that they had to break out of before entering the Blood Condensation realm. It was said that the more shackles that had to be broken when advancing, the greater potential that person would have.

Long Chen had broken through nine shackles right at the beginning and went mad with joy, thinking he must be an absolutely peerless talent. But as he broke more and more shackles, Long Chen's delight turned into shock.

He didn't even know how many shackles he had broken through after these six hours. He didn't count precisely, but it was definitely a number in the hundreds.

This completely toppled common sense. In those recordings he had read, the maximum number had only been three.

It had already been six hours. It would be a lie to say that he wasn't afraid now. Those shackles kept coming endlessly.

"I don't believe I won't overcome you!"

Long Chen ground his teeth. Since it had already reached this point, giving up halfway would only hurt his confidence in himself. In addition, the next time he tried breaking through would at least be twice as difficult.

He could only force himself to continue. After a full day and night had passed, Long Chen had practically gone insane.

Who knew how many shackles he had broken through. He was already numb now. Even with his perseverance, he started to feel like giving up.

He had even started to form some doubts about the FengFu Star. Was it possible that the FengFu Star couldn't be treated like a true substitute for a Dantian?

BOOM!

While Long Chen's mind was going crazy, his FengFu Star suddenly blossomed with light. Could it be that he had finally succeeded?

Following that explosion, his Dantian surged. Long Chen watched dumbstruck as another cyclone slowly appeared beside the other nine. He had actually formed a tenth cyclone!

“What kind of joke is this?”

Long Chen couldn't believe this. Couldn't there only be nine cyclones in total, representing the nine Heavenstages of Qi Condensation? What was going on now?

After this full day's torment without breaking through to Blood Condensation, he had actually ended up forming a tenth cyclone.

There were nine Heavenstages to Qi Condensation. This was something that had been true since forever. Even amongst the countless freaks of the cultivation world, there had never been anyone who had heard of condensing ten cyclones.

Anyone who had this happen to them would be flabbergasted. Long Chen was no exception. He looked foolishly upon those ten cyclones in his body and was unable to say anything.

Long Chen suddenly noticed that after the tenth cyclone appeared, his other cyclones all started to gradually grow larger. Although it was extremely slow, they were definitely expanding.

Whatever size the cyclone formed at the beginning was supposed to be its set size forever. That was also just common knowledge.

“Could it be because of the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art?”

Long Chen could only attribute these anomalies to the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art. Now that he had cultivated in that technique, his entire cultivation path had deviated from the norm.

He watched them as they slowly doubled in size over the course of less than an hour. They were now around a foot wide.

Although he didn't know what was causing this, Long Chen knew that the larger the size of his cyclones was, the more beneficial it would be to him.

The larger they were, the faster he could absorb heaven and earth's spiritual qi. He wouldn't have to use up so much energy during a battle, and his recovery speed would be much greater.

But he was still scared by what had happened just now. Originally, something celebratory should have happened today, but instead, he was alarmed. The Nine Star Hegemon Body Art was just too strange.

At just the seventh Heavenstage of Qi Condensation, he could jump a whole major realm plus its minor realms to fight Huang Chang who was at the seventh Heavenstage of Blood Condensation. That was already an extremely frightening battle strength.

It seemed as if the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art was like an endless treasure house. What he had found out about it so far was just the tip of the iceberg. And yet, just that tip contained delights and horrors. Even Long Chen himself had both high expectations and fear for his future. It was a very contradictory sensation.

The fact that he had ten cyclones definitely could not be revealed for the fear of his life. Such a defiant technique was something everyone would become jealous of. When he fought in the future, he definitely couldn't use such explosive techniques like last time and reveal the ten cyclones.

But what Long Chen was most unsure of was just how many cyclones could be formed in the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art's Qi Condensation realm.

On one hand, it was possible to say that the more cyclones he had, the better. But if he didn't advance to the next realm, then his combat abilities wouldn't truly progress. Even if you had ten thousand cows, they wouldn't be able to beat a single tiger.

The most alarming thing was how much danger he was in. He couldn't even tell who his enemies were at this time. It was unknown just when they would pop out and try to take his life. He had to quickly raise his cultivation base.

Looking at the cyclones within his body that were still slowly growing, he couldn't help but sigh. Perhaps, this was what it meant to have mixed feelings.

Long Chen no longer wanted to continue cultivating today. In any case, the current mood he was in was no longer suitable for cultivating. He had to adjust himself.

Suddenly, his stomach let out a loud rumble. Only now did he realize he hadn't eaten anything today.

Opening his door, he took in a breath of fresh air. Noticing it was noon, he shouted for Bao-er to prepare lunch for him.

He was a bit afraid to see his mom at this time, so he went about it sneakily. Bao-er appeared to have figured that out and laughed, bringing him lunch.

He ate a plate of white cut chicken, a plate of fish, two vegetable dishes, and a bowl of soup. It was both simple and rich.

After finishing, he felt his mood improve by quite a bit. His irritation with the Nine Star Hegemon Body Art also had decreased greatly.

"Young master, someone's looking for you."

“Who is it?” asked Long Chen.

“I don’t know. You should go take a look. You looked like you were eating happily so I didn’t disturb you,” laughed Bao-er.

Long Chen also laughed. Now that the Long family was richer and happier, Bao-er had started to become a bit naughty. She even dared to give guests the cold shoulder.

Arriving at the guest room, Long Chen was absolutely shocked to see that this person had come to find him.

Chapter 52 Trapped Birds

Translator: BornToBe

“Seventh prince.”

Long Chen really never would have imagined that the seventh prince would come to find him like this. They had never had any further interactions after that disagreeable moment in the Imperial College.

But since the seventh prince was Chu Yao’s true flesh and blood younger brother, Long Chen also felt a bit apologetic about what had happened last time. In the future, he would be his brother-in-law.

“Brother Long, you should call me Chu Feng,” said the seventh prince hastily and respectfully. He acted completely different from his old bossy and domineering self.

Long Chen had learned from Chu Yao that Chu Feng wasn’t actually a bad person and only did his best to act like an arrogant fool in order to protect himself. It was all to keep himself alive.

“I’m sorry about last time.” Long Chen nodded and patted Chu Feng on the shoulders.

“It wasn’t brother Long’s fault.” Chu Feng was very modest and unpretentious.

Pouring two cups of tea, Long Chen handed one cup to Chu Feng and asked, “What are you here for?”

This time, Chu Feng wasn’t wearing his imperial clothing, but just some embroidered robes similar to what a noble son would wear.

“Brother Long... this...” Chu Feng opened his mouth a couple of times but couldn’t say what he wanted.

“Just say it.”

Chu Feng hesitated and took a deep breath. "The Empress Dowager announced today that she is marrying my big sister to Xia Changfeng. They set the date for the first of October."

Although Long Chen was already prepared to hear this news, his blood surged and the teacup in his hand shattered, the tea splattering over him.

Not only was killing intent rumbling within his eyes, but the entire room immediately turned icy cold. Chu Feng couldn't help but to shiver.

The current Long Chen looked just like an infuriated savage beast. It was as if he might explode and kill someone at any moment. His killing intent was a hundred times stronger than it had been back then in the Imperial College.

"Are you sure?" Long Chen ground his teeth.

Chu Feng nodded. It was difficult for him to even speak under Long Chen's pressure.

Long Chen was incomparably enraged. He had already promised Chu Yao in front of everyone that she was his woman.

He hadn't used his relationship with grandmaster Yun Qi to force the proposal with Chu Yao, which could be counted as giving enough face to the Empress Dowager. He had given her an easy way out of a difficult situation since he hadn't wanted to make it too embarrassing for her.

But she actually completely disregarded his good intentions. She also completely ignored grandmaster Yun Qi's face and married off Chu Yao to Xia Changfeng without hesitation.

"Brother Long, my big sister has lived a life of hardship and loneliness. She has always conducted herself properly, but I know about her secret situation. If she is married to Xia Changfeng, she will definitely die. So, brother Long, I'm begging you to save my big sister." Chu Feng actually started to tear up, and after he said this, he slowly knelt down in front of Long Chen.

"Hey, get up already." Long Chen pulled Chu Feng up. "Since I already made a promise, then even in death, I will keep it. Don't worry."

Chu Feng was extremely moved to hear that. Having lived his whole life in the imperial palace, trust was the only thing he had never had.

"Chu Yao hasn't left the palace in a while. Is she under house arrest?" asked Long Chen.

Chu Feng nodded. "Yes. Ever since she returned last time, she's been confined within the palace. The Empress Dowager refuses to let her take a single step out."

Long Chen's face was ashen. It seemed the Empress Dowager didn't give a crap about grandmaster Yun Qi. That old b*tch better wait for him.

"Can you go see her?" asked Long Chen.

"I can. The Empress Dowager only forbid her to leave, but she can still see others. As her brother, they don't dare block me," answered Chu Feng.

"Then, that's good. There's still a month until October. There's enough time. The Huayun Pavilion's yearly auction will be three days from now. I'll do my best to get the Starfusing Grass to resolve the problem in her body. Tell her to wait for me. Don't let her do anything stupid."

Chu Feng was overjoyed. He thanked and apologized to Long Chen a thousand times, something Long Chen was completely unused to.

"Chu Feng, let me see your Dantian."

Long Chen was a bit suspicious and reached out his hand towards Chu Feng's shoulder. He slowly sent his spiritual qi into his Dantian.

As expected, something strange was present!

Although Chu Feng's Dantian hadn't been locked down like Chu Yao's, there was a strange entity on the Spiritual Root of his Dantian.

It was something so small that it wasn't even visible by the naked eye. If Long Chen hadn't been suspicious, then he might have missed it.

"Try to hold on."

Long Chen increased the spiritual qi he sent into Chu Feng's body. Chu Feng felt his stomach hurt for a moment and a small spurt of blood came from it. A small feathered needle appeared in Long Chen's hand.

"The Underworld Feather Pin. How vicious."

This Underworld Feather Pin was actually used to treat a kind of Yang poison. Inside was a Yin poison that could relieve the Yang poison. Both poisons would neutralize each other to cure someone.

But when it was placed into a healthy person's Dantian, the Dantian's Spirit Root would be corroded by its Yin poison, making it impossible to cultivate.

Once more examining Chu Feng's Dantian, Long Chen couldn't help but sigh. After being corroded for so long by the Yin poison, Chu Feng's Spirit Root had already declined. Otherwise, his talent would not be that much inferior to Chu Yao's.

"I've removed this poisonous needle from your body now. That means, you'll be able to cultivate from now on, but you must keep it secret. Here are a few aura concealing pills. Take one every seven days and no one will notice anything." Long Chen handed Chu Feng a jade bottle.

When Long Chen had free time, he would refine some other random medicinal pills. Such pills had a great assistance to the current him.

But Long Chen couldn't bear to tell Chu Feng that his Spirit Root had been severely corroded. The Blood Condensation realm would probably be his peak.

At the same time as he felt this regret, he also became even more disgusted with the imperial household who were just tigers in human clothing.

"I can cultivate now?" Chu Feng couldn't believe this. He had always thought that he was innately crippled. He was wildly overjoyed.

Long Chen could understand this kind of mood. He had also been someone given the name of a cripple who had managed to gain an opportunity.

"Yup. But remember to hide it from everyone," warned Long Chen. Although he knew that he and Chu Yao were already extremely careful, he still wanted to make sure there were no blunders.

After sending off Chu Feng, Long Chen sunk into his own thoughts. Chu Yao and Chu Feng's situation had reminded him of his own predicament.

However, he was in an even more tragic situation. His Spirit Root, Spirit Bone, and Spirit Blood had all been stolen away. Although the method wasn't the same, hadn't he also been plotted against as well?

His own father was a peak expert of the Phoenix Cry Empire. Because of his father, he had ended up crippled.

Last time, when he had chatted with Chu Yao she had told him a name - Marquis Ying.

The three great experts of the Phoenix Cry Empire were Marquis Ying, Marquis Wu, and Long Chen's father the Border Suppression Marquis. They were called Phoenix Cry's three great pillars.[1]

The Border Suppression Marquis guarded against the barbarian tribes of the wild border. Marquis Wu guarded the southern border. Only Marquis Ying always stayed within the capital.

According to Chu Yao, all the princes and princesses were taught martial arts by Marquis Ying. Now, Long Chen felt that this Marquis Ying might actually be a very big problem.

That was because Chu Yao's situation was something that an outsider like him had noticed the very first time they had exchanged blows. As a peak expert of the Phoenix Cry Empire, how could Marquis Ying have failed to notice?

Since he must have known and hadn't said anything, it was likely that he had participated in it. In fact, perhaps he had been the one to do it.

If it had been him who had placed those foreign spiritual energy seeds inside Chu Yao, then was it possible that Marquis Ying had also been the one to steal his cultivation ability? Why would he do that? Was it just to ruin them? Or was there a bigger reason?

All these questions spun in Long Chen's head, giving him a splitting headache. But there was no way for him to figure it out.

"Whatever. No matter how cunning a fox is, they'll have to reveal their tail at some point. What I need is to become a true hunter so that when they do reveal themselves, it won't be me who is the prey."

After coming to this conclusion, Long Chen no longer focused on those questions. Returning to his room without even daring to go over to where his mother was, he directly entered seclusion.

But as soon as he began to circulate his cyclones, he jumped up, almost knocking into the ceiling.

"This is too ridiculous."

Long Chen looked into his Dantian. His ten cyclones had already stopped growing now, but each cyclone had already reached a terrifying circumference of a whole meter. It was truly shocking.

They were on a completely different size compared to the previous cyclones. Under their slow circulation, heaven and earth's spiritual qi flooded into his FengFu Star. This speed was at least a hundred times greater than before.

He was both shocked and pleased. But after just cultivating for a breath's time, he realized that there was one problem.

Those ten cyclones were like ten huge drains that sucked up spiritual qi. The surrounding spiritual qi was unable to satisfy the demands of the ten cyclones' absorption, causing the spiritual qi in the air to become thinner.

He was only absorbing a tenth of what he should be able to.

"No, I have to find somewhere else to cultivate."

On that very night, Long Chen covered up his aura and stealthily left the city. Using the Windchasing Steps, he was just like a wisp of smoke that went directly towards Sunset Mountain.

Sunset Mountain was completely quiet at night. The scenery was as it was before, but Long Chen couldn't help but feel somewhat moved upon seeing it again.

The first time he had come here was with Meng Qi. Thinking of her absolutely perfect beauty and that gentle gaze of hers, his heart became aroused.

The second time he had come was while trapped in Chu Yao's net. Her revengeful state turned into one of gentle charm.

Now, Meng Qi was in some unknown faraway place. He had no idea how she was doing. Perhaps, she had already forgotten about him...

There was also that crap-brother Xi who had almost killed him. Thinking about that idiot caused him to become enraged. It was as if that arrogant figure had appeared before him again.

Meng Qi was far away, Chu Yao was under house arrest, and he was all alone. That was simply the cruel reality. Without power, life couldn't be called living; it was just barely managing to survive.

If you wanted to live with dignity, then you had to have a matching strength. That was the reality. Looking at the scenery around him, Long Chen took a deep breath.

Sitting down lotus-style on a huge stone, he gently circulated his cyclones. In the time it took for an incense stick to burn, the spiritual qi in this area also became too thin to keep up.

But the spiritual qi here was at least twice as dense as the one at his home, so he hadn't wasted his time by coming here.

Two days later when the first ray of light came from the east, Long Chen's body emitted an explosive sound. He slowly opened his eyes, a strange expression appearing on his face.

He had actually once more condensed a cyclone. Eleven cyclones!

This Nine Star Hegemon Body Art, just how many cyclones could it condense?

Seeing the cyclones in his body growing once more, Long Chen couldn't help but feel worried. This was absolutely insane. If all he did was to continue condensing cyclones, he really might go insane.

As he returned home, Long Chen thought about it and decided to make a trip to the alchemist guild to get several medicinal ingredients first.

Arriving home, he arranged the medicinal ingredients in front of him. A kind of anticipation filled him. It was the time for him to test his new Pill Flame.

Chapter 53 Flesh Bone Restoration Pill

Translator: BornToBe

BANG! His pill furnace shook violently before slowly calming back down. A bright ray of light shot out when the furnace lid was opened.

Inside the pill furnace was a pearl-like medicinal pill. High grade medicinal pill! He had finally refined a high grade medicinal pill!

Low grade pills were judged by the pill fragrance, mid grade pills by their pill lines, and high grade pills by their halo of light. That light was a sign of the medicinal energy being firmly locked within the pill. Other than grandmaster Yun Qi, there was definitely not a single person within Phoenix Cry who could refine a high grade medicinal pill.

"The light is still a bit faint, most likely meaning that my control over the Pill Flame still isn't perfect. But the lack of flaws is already enough to make it high grade."

Long Chen was filled with pride as he looked at this high grade medicinal pill. That pill was called the Flesh Bone Restoration Pill.

The formula had come from his Pill God memories. Although it was just a second tier medicinal pill, the pill formula had already disappeared from this world. What Long Chen had in his possession was one of a kind.

He carefully collected that high grade Flesh Bone Restoration Pill as well as the remaining lower grade ones. He had spent a whole night refining, exhausting himself slightly in the process.

There were still two hours until daybreak. Long Chen closed his eyes and slowly recovered his exhausted spiritual energy.

After refining the beast flame, his Pill Flame had become over ten times stronger. But to control it was greatly exhausting to his soul.

This was also due to him not being very familiar with the beast flame. Thus, the toll was even greater and he needed to rest.

As soon as the first ray of light sprinkled itself over the capital, he slowly opened his eyes.

After eating breakfast, Long Chen brought the medicinal pills he had refined straight to the Huayun Pavilion. Today was the starting date of their yearly auction.

But the auction would only begin at noon. This kind of large auction continued for three days, so there was no one rushing to get there. Long Chen was the first guest to arrive.

The Huayun Pavilion was located in the northern part of the city. But even from other parts of the city, you could see a majestic building hundreds of meters tall.

As soon as he entered the Huayun Pavilion's lounge, four pretty maidens came to greet him.

"Welcome mister. May I ask... oh!"

Those maidens were all used to receiving guests, but when they saw it was Long Chen, they all let out a startled cry.

Long Chen was surprised at that. He checked his clothes, but he had just changed clothes right before coming here so there shouldn't have been a problem.

"Hey, what's with all the noise this early in the morning? Did you forget all your training... ah, young master Long Chen?"

"It's been a while, Fu Gui," laughed Long Chen.

That was the person who had sent Long Chen the invitation to the auction. The reason Long Chen still remembered his name after all this time was because of how peculiar it was.

That was a kind of name that rich families would give their pets. But in any case, this Fu Gui had managed to succeed in making others remember his name as soon as they met. That was enough to say that he was a remarkable salesperson.[1]

Fu Gui was delighted that Long Chen had come. The most important thing for him was that he had already used up his three quotas.

One had been given to a roaming knight whose power wasn't bad. The other had been given to a rich merchant. But as the time drew closer to the auction, he found out that those two didn't have much interest in auctioning anything. In other words, it was likely all his work had gone to nothing.

But there was also nothing he could do. After all, all those high-class clients had already been pulled over by the higher-ups.

So, now Fu Gui had placed all his hope on Long Chen. But ever since Long Chen had received his invitation, he had never contacted him again.

Fu Gui had already been filled with despair now that the auction was starting today. He had thought that he wouldn't have any hope of getting any profits this year.

But seeing Long Chen's arrival now, he quickly became excited.

"Young master Long Chen, I actually thought you forgot about this matter," laughed Fu Gui excitedly.

"Haha, my bad. I've just been too busy recently. By the way, I brought some stuff over. Call over your appraiser and let's talk about the auction. After all, we're cutting it a bit close," laughed Long Chen.

"Good, come with me young master Long Chen." Fu Gui was overjoyed to hear that Long Chen had brought things to be auctioned. He quickly brought him inside.

The remaining four maidens had all been looking at Long Chen foolishly, all the way up to the point that he disappeared from their views.

"Heavens, I actually saw a person of legends."

"That's the number one junior generation of the empire! He was close enough to touch... I could die of happiness."

Long Chen was led by Fu Gui into a very luxurious private room under their stealthy gazes.

As soon as they entered that private room, a woman in elegant robes walked in and curtsied to Long Chen. She then warmed and steeped some tea with her tender jade hands. She was actually a master in the art of tea.

“Young master Long Chen, try some tea for now. I’ll quickly go find an appraiser. What exactly do you need to appraise?” Fu Gui asked carefully. Each appraiser had their own specialties.

“Medicinal pills.” Long Chen smiled slightly.

Although Fu Gui had long since expected that, to actually hear it still caused his eyes to brighten. “Please wait a moment. I’ll go find an appraiser immediately.”

“Lord, please have some tea.”

That tea master handed him a teacup. Before the tea had even been poured, the smell of tea had already drifted over.

“Good tea.”

Long Chen took a sip. As soon as it entered his mouth, its gentle warmth spread throughout him and the taste even stirred his spirit.

“It’s a good tea, and the one serving it is even better.” Long Chen looked at the tea master and laughed.

The woman reddened slightly. She began to act in an extremely lovable manner, but as soon as she did, that initial interest Long Chen had had in her immediately disappeared.

That woman’s tea skills were extremely exquisite. Her timing and control of the temperature and pouring caused Long Chen to feel a bit of admiration for her. After all, all craftsmen were deserving of respect.

But when she switched to that act of hers in order to make men fall for her, Long Chen’s admiration turned to disgust. He no longer even drank the tea and simply closed his eyes.

That tea master immediately became embarrassed. She hadn’t thought that her techniques she had honed thousands of times would fail.

She actually didn’t recognize Long Chen as the empire’s number one celebrity. She had already passed the age where she chased after dreams.

Luckily, that awkward atmosphere didn’t last for long before Fu Gui returned along with a senior in his sixties.

That tea master hastily retreated as soon as the two of them arrived. When the senior came in, he immediately brushed his hand over his chest, an etiquette reserved for alchemists.

“Greetings young master Long Chen. I am Qian Fu[2], a Pill Apprentice. Please give me some pointers.”

Long Chen was speechless. A businessman was very suited to such a name. He also replied with an alchemist’s etiquette and said, “Senior is too modest. When it comes to refining pills, senior is much more experienced.”

After the two of them exchanged their formal etiquettes, Long Chen got straight to the point. “This time, I want to auction off several medicinal pills. Take a look.”

Long Chen handed over a jade bottle to Qian Fu, and he carefully received it. He put on gloves and also took out a jade plate in which he poured out a pill.

“This is...”

As soon as he saw the pill, he could tell it was a middle grade second tier medicinal pill. But he was then immediately dumbstruck as he actually didn’t recognize it.

Although Qian Fu’s talent was limited and he was only a Pill Apprentice, he had seen countless medicinal pills during his lifetime. Otherwise, there was no way he would have become the Huayun Pavilion’s first-rate appraiser.

But now just a second tier pill had stumped him. He looked at it forever, even taking out a few small testing tools.

After a bit, Qian Fu’s expression became a bit embarrassed. He didn’t know what this pill was, which was a slap in the face to his status as an appraiser.

Qian Fu’s display was within Long Chen’s expectations. This Flesh Bone Restoration Pill was an extremely unknown kind of medicinal pill according to his Pill God memories.

Long Chen had had to refine 217 medicinal ingredients in order to condense it.

Those ingredients might not have been all that precious, but that pill formula was exceedingly amazing in the manner that it managed to add up the different medicinal ingredients’ energy to form a unique effect.

Sometimes, there were only a couple of things that needed to be refined. Sometimes, there were just a dozen ingredients that needed to be refined into powder and then, combined together in specific ways in order to refine a pill. But the difficulty of this pill was something many people could only lament at.

When he had refined the Flesh Bone Restoration Pill, it was the first time Long Chen sensed how broad and profound the Pill Dao was. Various medicinal ingredients could be refined together to have different effects. To be able to find the correct combinations and processes was a god-like craft.

“Cough, if I’m not mistaken, then this should be a healing pill with shockingly great effect.”

Although he wasn’t able to say the name of the pill, Qian Fu still managed to figure out its effect after examining it for so long. He was not an incompetent appraiser. However, he was unable to tell exactly how great the pill’s effect was.

His face was rather red. If he wasn’t able to say what its effect was, then he wouldn’t be able to bring it out to auction. If even he wasn’t clear on its effect, then wouldn’t it be like cheating others to bring it out to auction? That would greatly hurt the Huayun Pavilion’s reputation.

Qian Fu had spent over thirty years as the Huayun Pavilion’s medicinal pill appraiser. He had read through countless tomes and archives. He knew third tier pills and below like the back of his hand. But today had completely toppled his confidence.

“I’m extremely sorry young master, but I am unable to state the name of this medicinal pill, and I’m not clear on its exact medicinal nature. Therefore, we cannot accept this pill.”

Long Chen didn’t overly react to this. However, Fu Gui’s face was completely green. If Long Chen had nothing to auction, then his profit this time would fly away.

“This medicinal pill’s name is the Flesh Bone Restoration Pill. It’s a marvelous medicine for treating outer wounds,” smiled Long Chen.

“I truly am sorry, but even if you say its name, we still can’t accept it.” Qian Fu once more apologized. He had no other choice since he couldn’t risk the reputation of the entire Huayun Pavilion.

After all, it wasn’t as if they could accept whatever he said. If there was even the slightest error, all of Qian Fu’s future prospects would sink.

“No problem. The main thing is that you aren’t able to estimate the medicinal pill’s exact nature, right? I can show it to you,” laughed Long Chen.

“Show it to us?” Qian Fu and Fu Gui were both puzzled.

“Sorry for this.”

Long Chen suddenly took out a long blade and in front of their shocked expressions, chopped it at Fu Gui.

Blood splattered everywhere.

Chapter 54 Auction

Translator: BornToBe

The midday sun shined down upon the Huayun Pavilion, making it appear even more majestic and grand than usual. Even though it was scorching hot, countless people still flocked over.

At the front of the Huayun Pavilion was a huge auction hall that was already completely full. Those who were capable of being invited over were all extremely rich, had high statuses, or were true experts.

“Haha, this is my first time attending the Huayun Pavilion’s auction. It really is exciting.” Shou Hou was in a private room looking out towards the outside eagerly.

Shi Feng, Fatty Yu, and the others weren’t much better than Shou Hou at controlling their excitement. They could see out of their glass room, allowing them to clearly observe every single thing that was happening outside, but no one was able to see into their glass room.

They could see that all the famous and powerful people within the capital had come. Normally, those were people they could only look up at, but now those people were only able to sit amongst the crowd while they sat in a private room above them.

“We only got here because of Long Chen’s fame. Otherwise, we probably would never get to have this kind of treatment in our entire lifetime.” Shi Feng sighed.

Shi Feng had already made a complete recovery. But despite that, Shi Feng had still never received such a hard blow.

After that loss last time, Shi Feng had worked hard to recover and managed to profit from the disaster. His determination had become even stronger, and he had broken through repeatedly, advancing to the third Heavenstage of Blood Condensation. He was only one step away from entering the mid Blood Condensation realm.

Even Shi Feng’s father was merely at the mid Blood Condensation realm. Thus, he had great expectations on Shi Feng.

Actually, the reason Shi Feng was able to advance so quickly was both because of his own effort and also because of Long Chen’s medicinal pills.

Shi Feng’s defeat and suffering had been due to his relationship with Long Chen. That had caused Long Chen to feel a bit ashamed, and he had secretly given Shi Feng a Foundation Establishment Pill.

That had allowed him to completely stabilize and steady his foundation. The powerful medicinal effect had allowed him to easily break through his shackles, allowing him to repeatedly advance.

“Right, why would the Huayun Pavilion treat you so importantly, brother Long? Why would they give you such a luxurious room?” Shi Feng was a bit puzzled.

The auction hall could fit tens of thousands of people, but there were only just over ten private rooms. Those were reserved for exceedingly important guests. It was reasonable to say that Long Chen had yet to reach the position where he was qualified for a private room.

“You think they gave us a private room for nothing? Once the auction starts, we’ll have to start spending some crazy money,” laughed Long Chen.

“That’s not possible! Everything at this yearly auction is incredibly valuable. Even if we sold ourselves, we still wouldn’t be able to buy anything,” said Shi Feng.

“Hmph, we couldn’t auction you off even if we wanted to. With your figure, it’d be better to sell you in pieces,” joked fatty Yu. “We’re with brother Long! What are you worried about?”

Long Chen laughed, “Don’t worry. No one’s going to come and kick us out. Oh? Even he has come.”

What surprised Long Chen was that he suddenly saw a familiar figure - Xia Changfeng.

Long Chen ground his teeth. That bastard still hadn’t left! The current Xia Changfeng had already returned to his free and easy manner. He was currently laughing and talking with crown prince Chu Yang.

Behind them was also a beautiful woman - the one Long Chen had defeated in a pill battle, Xia Baichi.

There were also several guards around them. Those guards were all young and under the thirties, but despite that, they were all Blood Condensation experts.

And when Long Chen’s gaze fell on one of those men, he felt a familiar spiritual fluctuation.

That fluctuation caused him to think back to the beginning when he had defeated Li Hao. A man in a bamboo hat had used a secret weapon to kill Li Hao to prevent him from leaking any secrets.

He had been wearing a hat that had covered his face, and he had moved extremely quickly, but as an alchemist, Long Chen’s Spiritual Strength was extremely sensitive.

He didn't need to see that person's face. He could rely solely on that spiritual fluctuation to identify that person. That was because each person's spiritual fluctuation was different. This was a special ability of alchemists, similar to a scent dog's nose. He could not be mistaken.

"So, he's actually one of the crown prince's people." Long Chen's eyes narrowed. Could Chu Yang be the mastermind behind all this? But even as he came up with this thought, the crown prince had already brought Xia Changfeng into another private room.

"Look, the fourth prince has come too!" said Shou Hou.

Looking through the glass walls, Long Chen saw that the fourth prince had also come with another group of princes. However, he didn't see Chu Feng. Most likely he was holed up cultivating.

The fourth prince and the other princes also entered a private room; however, it was a different private room than the one the crown prince and Xia Changfeng had entered.

"Hehe, today we get to feel how the princes feel every day," joked Shou Hou. For them to be able to also sit in a private room just like people on the level of the princes was a very great honor.

They all knew that the reason the princes could enter a private room was because of their high statuses and how much money they possessed.

At this moment, a slender man walked into the auction hall. He had a fair complexion, and despite being already in his forties, he still appeared very handsome.

But that handsomeness seemed rather feminine. For this kind of femininity to appear on a man caused Long Chen to feel a bit cold.

As soon as that person entered, the noisy hall immediately became much more suppressed. Many people completely shut their mouths.

"That person is one of the most powerful experts in the Phoenix Cry Empire. Marquis Ying Zhao," said Shi Feng with some difficulty.

Marquis Ying Zhao, Martial Wu Yi, and Marquis Long Tianxiao were the three top experts in the Phoenix Cry Empire. Normally, they were called Marquis Ying, Marquis Wu, and the Border Suppression Marquis.

Long Chen's heart shook, and he turned to get a better look at that feminine man. That person was just as famous as his own father.

At the same time, he recalled what Chu Yao had told him about Marquis Ying being in charge of their training. He didn't know if it was that person who had given him his own affliction.

As Long Chen was examining Marquis Ying, Marquis Ying suddenly raised his head to look over at his direction. A ray of light shot out of his narrow eyes, and his gaze seemed to penetrate straight through the wall.

Long Chen's heart jumped. His perception truly was sharp, worthy of being one of the top experts in the Phoenix Cry Empire. Although he wasn't a pill cultivator, his sensitivity and perception were shocking.

After glancing over at their private room, Marquis Ying acted as if nothing had happened and walked into another private room.

A couple of shocking people also arrived one after another and were allowed to enter a private room. According to Shi Feng, those people included a rich merchant as well as some authorities.

Long Chen nodded. The Huayun Pavilion's auction was only for rare, expensive items... Having such high-end customers was completely normal for them.

"Welcome everyone to our Huayun Pavilion's yearly meeting. I am the chief auctioneer of the Huayun Pavilion."

A flowery voice rang out and drew the attention of the hall. The curtain on the stage was slowly pulled to the side, revealing a gorgeous lady.

That lady immediately drew out the crowds startled cries. Her beauty was absolutely shocking.

She appeared around twenty-five years old. Her elegant, narrow eyes and exquisite face were extremely seductive.

The most extreme thing about her was the skintight clothes she was wearing. They were rather low-cut, allowing people to see the pale tender skin beneath.

Perhaps, if that had been all, it would have been fine, but the most frightening thing of all was her deep cleavage that seemed to invite people to jump in.

But since she was standing on the stage, it was impossible to get a good view. Quite a few people stealthily stood up to their tiptoes before helplessly sitting back down depressed. They looked up at the private boxes that had a high vantage point and couldn't help being jealous.

The eyes of fatty Yu, Shou Hou, and the others almost jumped out. Even Shi Feng's gaze turned a bit lifeless. The few of them were completely plastered to the clear wall. Long Chen was even a bit worried that they might press too hard against the wall and tumble down.

But Long Chen also acknowledged that this woman was extremely beautiful. Although she couldn't compare to Meng Qi, she might even be a bit more attractive than Chu Yao.

Of course, while part of this was due to her innate charm, another part was due to her mastery of dressing herself up to accentuate her advantages. With this skintight clothing that basically hid nothing, her beauty was practically destructive, elevating her from just sixty percent beauty to over a hundred percent.

Long Chen patted fatty Yu's shoulders and scolded, "Can you guys grow up a bit?"

Shi Feng and the others all recovered themselves and quickly stepped back. Fatty Yu lightly said, "Brother Long, don't worry. The wall's very sturdy."

"I'm not worried about the wall, I'm worried that if you keep looking, then drool might cover the floors." Long Chen pointed to a pool of saliva.

Their faces all turned red, and they hastily returned to their seats. They also couldn't help but admire Long Chen's self-control.

That woman was clearly already used to the crowd's reaction and didn't seem uncomfortable at all.

Instead, she actually announced grandly, "I am Yao Niqian and you can call me Niqian. I hope all of you will look after me as I take charge of this time's auction."

After saying this, Yao Niqian gracefully curtsied slightly, and the landscape that originally could only be seen from the private boxes was revealed to all.

A huge uproar immediately exploded from the crowd below. But unfortunately for them, Yao Niqian's movements were extremely quick. Before everyone could completely react, she had already returned to her dignified standing position.

Long Chen's admiration of the Huayun Pavilion only continued to grow. From Fu Gui, to Qian Fu, to the current head auctioneer, each of them were completely focused on making more money. It would be more direct to just call their auction the 'Give Me Your Money Auction'.

But Long Chen had to admit that this Yao Niqian truly was skillful. She was already completely able to control the men's hearts.

Her enticing movements, her quick reveal before hiding it again... such a visual evoked all the men's desire.

The auction hadn't even begun, but many of the younger people were already starting to breathe heavily.

Now, Long Chen remembered what Fu Gui had told him at the beginning: through their auction's embellishments, all their wares would be sold at an incredibly high price. Long Chen now believed it.

Looking at the scene, everyone was already following Yao Niqian's pace. She smiled and waved her hand; the center of the stage slowly opened, and a stone platform rose up.

Chapter 55 Golden Striped Tiger

Translator: BornToBe

Following Yao Niqian's movements, the stage split open like a blooming flower, and a small stone platform rose out.

That kind of mechanism wasn't that exquisite, but the entire device was built out of ivory and was as pure as jade, causing it to truly shock quite a few people.

A shining golden battle armor floated atop the stone platform.

That battle armor was extremely thick, and from the golden luster, it had to weigh at least a hundred pounds. With such weight, neither Long Chen or even grandmaster Yun Qi would be able to keep it floating in midair with just Spiritual Strength.

But when Long Chen swept his spiritual perception over it, he shook his head and scolded inside.

That armor was actually being supported by some very thin props. Due to the length of the armor and its positioning, it perfectly blocked those supportive props from vision.

Yao Niqian's charming voice rang out, "This golden armor was made completely out of gold with a small amount of 'wind copper'. It comes from a famous craftsman, and its defense is shocking."

A sword appeared in Yao Niqian's hand. She slashed the armor so quickly; it was like a thunderbolt in many people's eyes. A cold gale from the speed of the slash blew over everyone before they could even react, and a clear ringing came from the golden armor.

Her slash just now completely shocked everyone. The Huayun Pavilion truly was strong; just an auctioneer was a Blood Condensation expert.

And from her slash's speed, it was obvious there wasn't the slightest waste in her attack. She was a true expert of the Blood Condensation stage.

A couple of those people who had planned on bringing that bewitching woman back into their homes immediately gave up.

"Everyone can clearly see I used my full strength yet was unable to leave behind a single mark on the golden armor. Its hardness is shocking," Yao Niqian said to the crowd.

But looking at her bewitching eyes and recalling the huge gust caused by her slash just now, many people had already started to feel that she was the thing whose hardness was most shocking.

"The golden armor is our first item this time. The minimum price is set at a hundred thousand gold coins. Each bid must be at least ten thousand gold greater than the last. The auction has officially begun!"

Yao Niqian smiled slightly. She raised a small wooden mallet and lightly banged it before her.

"150,000!"

"180,000!"

"250,000!"

Countless bidders immediately leaped into action.

But the auction had only just begun, so everyone was still very reserved. The prices only went up by tens of thousands.

However, due to how many people there were, the price continued to rise. Even Shi Feng wasn't able to resist the temptation and shouted out two bids, but he was quickly drowned out.

Long Chen couldn't help but shake his head. Businessmen truly were all evil.

They truly were planning on plucking away everyone's money. This golden armor would definitely be sold for over a million.

That was why Yao Niqian had tossed out such a low starting price. It was in order to slowly entice everyone and gradually excite everyone's moods.

This was just like boiling a frog. If Yao Niqian's display was too seductive, many people would be on alert inside. Although most men thought with their lower halves, it didn't mean all people were fools.

Now, Yao Niqian was acting extremely tranquil. She would only occasionally say several words. But whenever someone shouted out a high price, her roving gaze would always brighten and pause over that person for a while.

"Give up Shi Feng. That thing is definitely not cheap. Don't be fooled by the beginning price," advised Long Chen.

Although that golden armor looked good for an auction, and its defense was irrefutable, it wasn't actually that practical. It was only useful in small battles. In a large battle, who would wear such a gaudy armor? And if you were to wear such a cumbersome heavy armor at other times, you would be asking for death.

And even if it was a small battle, if you were to wear such a shiny armor without the strong enough martial might, it would also be no different than asking for death.

In a battle between armies, the main hope was to kill the opposing officers. Wearing something that gaudy would inevitably attract trouble.

Frankly speaking, this armor was just for looks. If it really was something good, the Huayun Pavilion wouldn't be foolish enough to bring it out as the first item.

Normally, the first item to be auctioned was always the hardest to pick for the auctioneers. It had to attract people's eyes, but it couldn't be too expensive. Otherwise, it might negatively impact the items following it.

And thus, this golden armor, which appeared awe-inspiring yet didn't have much use, had been chosen to start the auction. As expected, it ended up attracting quite a few people.

After Shi Feng heard Long Chen, he also gave up on it. Originally, he had thought that with a starting price of a hundred thousand, he should be able to get it for less than three hundred thousand. He hadn't thought of the other's shenanigans.

In just a couple of breaths' time, the golden armor's price had already exceeded eight hundred thousand. And furthermore, the bids had yet to stop. This caused Shi Feng to completely give up any thoughts on it.

"Damn, are these even people anymore? How can they spend that much money?" Shou Hou gulped.

“All the people qualified to be invited here have the cash to spare. Just the first item is like this. I can’t even imagine what kind of intensity the bidding will reach for the rest of the items,” sighed fatty Yu.

Although they were all part of the nobility as noble heirs, they were still speechless at the amount of gold coins being spent.

Back when Long Chen had fought with Li Hao, the person with the most money in their group had been fatty Yu. He had saved all his money since his childhood and still only had eighty thousand gold coins.

Just as they were sighing, the bidding of the golden armor easily broke through a million gold coins.

“1,050,000!”

“1,080,000!”

“1,150,000!”

Even after going past a million, there were still a dozen people bidding. They had been completely enraptured with the golden armor, and even their eyes had turned somewhat red.

“1,500,000!”

Suddenly, Xia Changfeng’s voice came from his private room, calming down the bids by quite a lot.

“He really is worthy of being the Grand Xia’s crown prince. With just one look, he managed to see just how valuable the golden armor is. Are there any higher bids?” Yao Nijian exclaimed in admiration.

“1,510,000!” shouted a middle-aged man.

“1,800,000.”

Xia Changfeng’s voice was still as calm as ever, giving off the impression that he was just playing around. His voice caused others to feel uneasy.

That middle-aged man’s face became a bit unsightly. Shaking his head, he didn’t continue bidding. It was obvious that one million eight hundred thousand gold coins had already surpassed his max.

“One million eight hundred going once!”

“One million eight hundred going twice!”

“Sold for one million eight hundred thousand. Congratulations Grand Xia’s prince! By purchasing this golden armor, you’ve become the first winner of the auction this time. Congratulations!”

Yao Niqian’s words were perfectly tuned in order to let people feel comfortable and at ease. Long Chen had no choice but to admit she was a truly skilled businesswoman.

“Haha, it’s just a bit of money. I wonder whether this prince has the qualifications to invite young miss to an evening meal?” Xia Changfeng suddenly walked out of his private room and asked Yao Niqian to a dinner.

“Respected Grand Xia prince, this little one cannot bear such a glory. However, now is not the time to talk about that,” laughed Yao Niqian.

“This prince was too rude. Please continue,” Xia Changfeng indifferently smiled. He returned to his private room confidently and with ease.

A disdainful smile appeared on Long Chen’s face when he looked at Xia Changfeng. With just his intelligence, he dared to have a battle of wits with a skilled woman like Yao Niqian?

The second item was brought out, and as Long Chen had expected, it was not a ‘flashy but useless’ item like that golden armor.

This item truly was not flashy; it was a deed to a plot of land. Long Chen didn’t know much about it, but that deed caused quite a commotion when it was brought out.

It seemed that deed truly was quite attractive to some of the people. That was also due to the Huayun Pavilion’s brilliance.

Their auction wares were meant to be attractive to everyone. Anyone who came to the auction would find something that they were interested in.

The diverse items being auctioned were only collected by them after spending a year saving up. And for them to prepare such an auction, it naturally required a great deal of manpower.

After the bidding competition, that deed was won by a rich merchant for eight million gold coins. When he obtained it, he went crazy with joy. It seemed that he had made a profit.

Another three items were brought out. Although everything was very novel, none of those items drew Long Chen’s interest.

But what gave Long Chen a surprise was the sixth item; it was actually a living creature.

A young tiger was trapped in a cage. It was five feet long, but its fur clearly showed that it had only just been born. Its eyes opened wide, and it looked extremely adorable.

“Second rank Magical Beast - Golden Striped Tiger. Special golden stripes grow over its fur and will appear extremely beautiful once it has fully grown up. I’m sure everyone knows that amongst second rank Magical Beasts, the Golden Striped Tiger is the easiest to tame. In other words, even someone without a cultivation base would be able to raise it. The Golden Striped Tiger only mates five times in its lifetime, so this infant is very precious. Everyone should take advantage of this rare opportunity. Infant Golden Striped Tiger, starting bid of five hundred thousand gold coins.”

As soon as she stopped speaking, the crowd went crazy as they shouted out bids.

“600,000!”

“800,000!”

“1,100,000!”

Once an infant second rank Magical Beast grew up, that would be equivalent to a Blood Condensation expert! Moreover, its combat ability would be even greater than most Blood Condensation cultivators. Who wouldn’t be tempted?

“Damn, I really want it, but the price is definitely going to be sky-high.” Shi Feng rarely cursed, but this time he couldn’t help it. The Golden Striped Tiger was simply too attractive.

It wasn’t just Shi Feng; Long Chen was also tempted. Back then, he had especially admired Meng Qi’s Magical Beast.

Although he wasn’t a Beast Tamer, as long as he raised this Magical Beast to trust him, then he would also be able to use it for fights.

The current price had already broken through one million five hundred thousand when Long Chen suddenly shouted:

“3,000,000!”

Long Chen immediately doubled the price, causing quite a few people to give up. Three million was already a price to cause many people to shrink back, and the crowd became silent.

Long Chen couldn't help but celebrate inside. If it had continued by slow increments, three million would probably not have been able to stop everyone. Now that he had increased the price so sharply, it seemed he should be able to win.

"3,010,000!"

Just as Long Chen thought the infant Golden Striped Tiger would land in his hands, a woman's voice that was filled with hatred rang out.

Chapter 56 Starfusing Grass

Translator: BornToBe

As soon as he heard that voice, Long Chen recognized that it was from Xia Baichi.

After she had lost the pill battle to him and angrily revealed the scandal between her and Wei Cang, it was as if she had completely disappeared.

Now, it seemed that this idiot woman would not let him obtain the infant Golden Striped Tiger so easily.

"3,500,000."

"3,510,000."

As soon as Long Chen countered, Xia Baichi immediately followed without hesitation. The rest of the crowd was completely silent.

In reality, an average Golden Striped Tiger's price was somewhere between two million to two million five hundred thousand. But due to the lack of supply, it wasn't something that could be bought so easily.

As soon as the infant was taken from its mother, it had to be immediately sold off. Otherwise, if even just a couple weeks passed, the infant would have grown too much, and the difficulty in taming it would shoot up, making it not worth the price.

That was why Long Chen's bid of three million was actually quite reasonable. Since such an opportunity was rather rare, it was worth it to spend a bit of extra money.

Now that the price had surpassed three million five hundred, Long Chen had already given up on it. However, since it was Xia Baichi, he couldn't just let it go so easily.

He needed to get the Starfusing Grass. It should be coming up extremely quickly, and if that idiot woman deliberately messed with him, the price of the Starfusing Grass might skyrocket past his reach.

“4,000,000.” Long Chen ground his teeth, and a trace of anger had entered his voice.

“4,010,000.” Xia Baichi seemed to have heard Long Chen’s anger. Her mood improved greatly, and her voice even had some joy in it.

Long Chen was even more sure that this idiot woman was trying to mess with him. She probably wasn’t even interested in this Golden Spotted Tiger; her target was him.

“5,000,000,” retorted Long Chen angrily.

“5,010,000.”

As expected, as soon as Long Chen put his bid, Xia Baichi’s voice would immediately follow. The crowd was watching both of the private rooms; everyone understood that the two of them were at odds with each other.

“That woman is a Grand Xia princess. But as for the other private room, it sounds like he’s very young. I don’t think I recognize the voice.”

“Wow, do you even get any news? You don’t recognize the voice of Phoenix Cry’s number one warrior of the junior generation?”

With this reminder, that person immediately understood. No wonder the Grand Xia’s princess would go against him; so it was Long Chen!

On the day of the Phoenix Cry Lantern Festival, everyone had seen Xia Baichi lose to Long Chen, and she had fallen into disrepute. The reason everyone despised her now was because of Long Chen, so it was obvious that she was now aiming for him.

Yao Niqian looked from Long Chen’s private room to Xia Baichi’s private room. No one knew what she was thinking, but a bright smile appeared on her charming lips.

“Baichi, don’t waste too much. The auction has just started, and we still have to see whether there will be other good things in the auction later. We can’t spend too much just for revenge against him,” Xia Changfeng advised Xia Baichi.

This was just the start. The best items had yet to appear, and if they were to run out of money too early, then they would only be able to watch as the precious items were taken away by others.

“No, I definitely can’t let him off after he humiliated me. I also lost the beast flame to that scoundrel. Don’t worry, I’ll use my personal money. I definitely won’t dip into yours.” Xia Baichi was viciously glaring at Long Chen’s private room.

“Then fine. But there will be plenty of opportunities in the future, so calm down a bit. Just let it go if he raises the price again.”

Seeing how obstinate Xia Baichi was acting now, Xia Changfeng also had no way to calm her down. He really didn't have any way to handle this younger sister of his. After all, she was a Pill Apprentice who could even be counted as having reach Pill Adept, and that status was even slightly greater than his status of a prince.

Long Chen smiled slightly. If she wanted to play, then he'd play. In any case, just waiting around was boring.

"Congratulations to princess Baichi on obtaining the infant Golden Spotted Tiger," smiled Yao Niqian. A couple of aides brought the infant down.

Since the price for it had already reached a sky-high five million gold coins, there was no need for her to call out any 'going once, going twice'. She directly skipped that, as it would only result in an awkward silence.

Xia Baichi was surprised. When she realized that Long Chen had schemed to make her waste her money, she couldn't help but angrily curse, "Long Chen, you definitely won't have a good death!"

When encountering a random crazy person's shouting and cursing, you absolutely could not try to argue with them. One, you'd never be able to win an argument against an idiot, and two, even if you won, it would still be a kind of disgrace.

So, Long Chen just laughed and hid inside his private room. He could imagine what Xia Baichi's current expression was.

The auction continued, and all kinds of precious items and oddities were brought out, dazzling the crowd. But Long Chen was no longer low-key like he had been for the previous items. He practically shouted out at least one bid for every single item.

The result was that as long as Long Chen bid, Xia Baichi would immediately follow. She would always bid an extra ten thousand against him, and for a while, the auction became just a battlefield between the two of them.

"1,800,000!"

"1,810,000!"

"2,500,000!"

"2,510,000!"

...

Yao Niqian laughed to the side. She didn't say anything as both parties shouted with all their force.

“Baichi, stop making trouble. He’s clearly just playing you. No matter how much money you have, it won’t be enough,” said Xia Changfeng angrily.

Under Long Chen’s enthusiastic help, Xia Baichi had already bought over a dozen items, most of them being absolutely useless to her. She had already spent over two hundred million gold coins.

Xia Changfeng couldn’t help but feel a bit regretful. Originally, Xia Baichi hadn’t even wanted to come. Due to the details of her affair with Wei Cang spreading out to the whole city, she had kept hiding in her room without daring to show herself.

But Xia Changfeng had wanted her to come out to this auction in order to get her out of the mood she was in, as well as for financial assistance to bid for the things he wanted. After all, as a Pill Apprentice, she had plenty of money.

However, Xia Baichi had thrown out two hundred million gold coins in just a short time. He couldn’t help but feel distressed at how much money she was wasting.

At this time, Xia Baichi had also become clear-headed. No matter how much money she had, there was no way she could buy everything here. If she continued on like this, then she would just be playing into Long Chen’s scheme.

“You don’t need to be so worried, princess. If you want revenge, wait until Long Chen truly goes for something. Taking revenge then won’t be too late,” smiled crown prince Chu Yang.

“Yes, brother Chu Yang is correct. Since he has a private room, the Huayun Pavilion must expect that he is planning on buying some important things,” advised Xia Changfeng.

Hearing the two of them, Xia Baichi’s anger calmed a bit. But her hatred of Long Chen only continued to grow.

Ever since she had first met Long Chen, she had suffered defeat after defeat. Long Chen was her nemesis, completely suppressing her.

Xia Baichi now stopped competing with Long Chen over the bids. Once the two of them calmed down, the auction once more returned to its normal state.

At this time, the sky had already darkened. The auction paused temporarily in order to serve dinner. They opened the curtains, and hundreds of women walked out with dining cars covered in delicious foods and alcohol.

This dinner was offered for free by the Huayun Pavilion. They were worried people might leave if they got hungry.

“Brother Long, we should go down too. To be honest, we were so nervous with what was happening with you and Xia Baichi that we’re now incredibly hungry,” said fatty Yu.

“No need to go down.”

Long Chen shook his head. Two beautiful maids came in with a long table and set it down.

There were dozens of rich dishes on the table. The smell coming off of them caused people to drool in anticipation.

But that fatty Yu only foolishly looked at the two maids, completely forgetting his hunger.

“Everyone, please eat. We’ll pour the alcohol.” Those two maids paid no attention to fatty Yu’s gaze. Their gazes swept over Long Chen with some delight.

“Oh, so it’s you guys.”

Long Chen was a bit surprised that these two were two of the four who had welcomed him when he had come to the Huayun Pavilion earlier.

“Ah, young master Long Chen, so you actually remember us.”

Those two women were excited to be in his presence. One of them cast a furtive look around and then actually took out a small book.

Her face was completely red as she asked, “Young master Long Chen, could you autograph this for me?”

Long Chen stared blankly. Taking the small book, his eyes widened. A tall, handsome man with sword-like eyebrows, starry eyes, and dancing black hair had been drawn on the cover.

Looking closely at that man, it was actually eighty percent similar to him; however, it was more handsome and dashing than he was.

“Is this supposed to be me?” asked Long Chen doubtfully.

“You didn’t know about it?” Not just the two maids, but even Shi Feng and the others were surprised.

“This is the hardcover limited edition of Phoenix Cry Divine Battle. It costs thirty-five gold coins! We used half our yearly salary in order to buy it. We’re begging you! Please, can you sign it?”

Flipping open this Phoenix Cry Divine Battle book and seeing what was inside, even he exclaimed in admiration. Reading this book would involuntarily cause a person's heart to be excited. Even he had an urge to buy it.

Seeing the writing brush the maids handed to him, Long Chen bitterly laughed, "Did you guys plan this in advance?"

The two maids blushed. His guess was right on. The two of them had run over to send Long Chen dinner just to see him.

Brandishing the brush, Long Chen wrote his name boldly atop the cover. Back when he was unable to cultivate, his mother would always spend time teaching him reading and writing, so his calligraphy was extremely polished.

And now that he could cultivate, all strokes of his brush would contain a vigorous grandeur and were filled with a sword-like will.

The two maids were endlessly excited when Long Chen handed their book back to them. After thanking him vigorously, they hastily ran away. They didn't even bother with pouring the alcohol. Instead, they most likely rushed off to show it to their fellow maids.

"Brother Long, my family has collected several hundreds of that book. How about you help me sign each one?" Shou Hou rolled his eyes and laughed at him.

"Give it up. With your carelessness, it's better to just keep them in storage. Aren't you planning on selling the ones brother Long signs for profit?" One of the other noble heirs in their group disdainfully said.

"Nonsense, am I that kind of person?" Shou Hou angrily retorted. But looking at everyone's disdainful expression, his confidence faltered and he spread his arms. "I'm just trying to figure out how much brother Long's signature is worth."

"Shut your mouth. Let's eat."

Long Chen cursed and everyone laughed, starting to devour the food that had been brought over. After they finished eating, those two maids ran back and took away the dining table as well as offering the tea and fruits.

In less than the time it took for an incense stick to burn, the auction once more began. Yao Niqian's charming voice rang out:

"The next item in the auction is thousand-year-old Starfusing Grass."

Chapter 57 Marquis Ying's Methods

Translator: BornToBe

Hearing that the thousand-year-old Starfusing Grass was about to be auctioned, Long Chen's heart jumped. This was the real reason he had come to the auction; he absolutely had to obtain it!

If he could get the thousand-year-old Starfusing Grass, he would be one hundred percent certain of being able to refine an upper quality Starfusing Pill. And such a Starfusing Pill would have a one hundred percent chance of resolving the foreign spiritual energies within Chu Yao's body.

Originally, Long Chen hadn't planned on using thousand-year-old Starfusing Grass; he had thought that just hundred-year-old Starfusing Grass was already good enough. After all, even just hundred-year-old Starfusing Grass was difficult to obtain. That was because Starfusing Grass was an essential ingredient in many different second tier medicinal pills.

It was also extremely hard to gather Starfusing Grass, so it was in extremely low supply. Using ordinary Starfusing Grass vs thousand-year-old Starfusing Grass to refine pills simply could not be compared.

For Chu Yao, he didn't care how much money he had to fork over. Originally, he hadn't thought that it would be a problem to obtain this Starfusing Grass, and thus, he hadn't attempted to try buying it through back channels.

But truthfully, that most likely would not have worked anyways. The Huayun Pavilion refused all backdoor channels, since if news of that were leaked, it would hurt their reputation.

Although the Starfusing Grass was rare, it wasn't as if there were many alchemists. Long Chen had been highly confident in purchasing it with his current financial ability.

But now, that idiot Xia Baichi had decided to start messing with him... If he let her realize what his goal was, then that idiot woman would force Long Chen to fork out all his money, bankrupting him of even the clothes he was wearing.

That was also the reason why Long Chen had shouted out a bid on every item before, no matter what it was. And as expected, she also shouted out a higher bid every time. He deliberately set himself against her, forcing her to lose money. That was him setting up for the Starfusing Grass.

"Ten stalks of thousand-year-old Starfusing Grass, an essential ingredient for second tier medicinal pills. I don't need to explain just how precious such a thing is. The starting price is five hundred thousand gold coins!" announced Yao Niqian.

“700,000!”

“800,000!”

...

At least ten people immediately started bidding. Most of them were all elderly faces.

Long Chen was familiar with a few of them. They were all the people he had seen in the alchemist guild. But they were all Pill Apprentices.

There were a few unfamiliar faces, but they were most likely alchemists as well. Other people wouldn't know exactly just how precious such an item was or how to use it.

“Two million!”

One of the seniors had shouted a bid of one million eight hundred thousand and suppressed all the other bidders. Yao Niqian had begun to start her count when Long Chen finally shouted his bid.

Originally, he had been praying that Xia Baichi would shout a bid before him. If he then bid against that, it would be seen as him trying to provoke her.

That kind of situation had the highest chance of him obtaining it at the lowest price.

But it appeared that the heavens were not in a listening mood. Despite being a Pill Apprentice, Xia Baichi had no interest in the Starfusing Grass, causing Long Chen to curse inside.

“Little idiot sister, do you want to come out to test the waters?” As soon as he shouted the bid, he also sent some indifferent words to Xia Baichi's private room.

The crowd was quiet. Was Long Chen trying to use this as a pretext to intimidate Xia Baichi?

“Don't take the bait Baichi. He's intentionally trying to infuriate you.” Xai Changfeng hastily tried to calm her down, afraid that she would get angry and once more foolishly waste money.

“Do you think I'm an idiot? I won't fall for such an inferior trick,” replied Xia Baichi coldly. She was filled with contempt for Long Chen.

Hearing her reply, Long Chen celebrated inside. Of course, he didn't dare show that outside. In a peculiar voice, he said, “Little idiot sister, could it be that you're embarrassed about running out of money?”

“You! ... Don’t worry, this lady has enough money to bury you alive!” Xia Baichi retorted angrily. She actually ran out of her private room and cursed right at Long Chen’s private room.

A stately imperial princess actually revealed her vulgar, uncouth side publically. Everyone’s expressions were strange as they exchanged glances.

Xia Changfeng’s face darkened, hastily pulling Xia Baichi who was cursing madly back into the private room. This time, Xia Baichi had truly lost the Grand Xia’s face.

Seeing that the atmosphere had become a bit strange and suppressed, Yao Niqian hastily said, “Young master Long Chen bids two million. Are there any higher bids?”

“Two million going once.”

“Two million going twice...”

Long Chen finally relaxed when he saw Yao Niqian begin counting down. It seemed he had managed to trick that idiot Baichi again.

“Two million going“

“Three million.” A soft voice rang out calmly from another private room.

Long Chen’s expression changed, and he turned to look at that private room. If he hadn’t remembered wrong, then that was Marquis Ying’s private room!

He wasn’t a pill cultivator and also wasn’t a merchant; he couldn’t possibly know the true value of the Starfusing Grass!

And Long Chen’s bid of two million already counted as a high price. Although the Starfusing Grass was rare, it was something that could be collected if given enough time.

If Long Chen wasn’t in urgent need of it, he also wouldn’t have offered such a price. But now Marquis Ying had raised the price by fifty percent!

Although nothing could be obtained cheaply at an auction, this price was far too high. And more importantly, Starfusing Grass had absolutely no use to Marquis Ying.

A cold light flashed in Long Chen’s eyes. This Marquis Ying was even more difficult to handle than what he had thought. He had underestimated him; as one of the three peak experts in the Phoenix Cry Empire, he was truly worthy of having his name stand alongside his father. He had easily seen through his ruse.

“Three million ten thousand.”

Long Chen indifferently shouted out this bid. The only bidders were him and Marquis Ying. If he didn't give up, then his only choice was to continue until the end.

"Haha, I really did have some use for this Starfusing Grass, but since you want it, I'd feel bad quibbling with someone from the junior generation over it. You can have it." Marquis Ying's soft, feminine voice rang out.

Long Chen was filled with anger. This Marquis Ying was definitely an unscrupulous old killer!

"Four million!"

As expected, as soon as Marquis Ying said that, Xia Baichi woke up and shouted out a new bid.

Long Chen's face darkened. Fatty Yu and the others also had unsightly expressions. They could all tell that Marquis Ying had played a trick on him.

"This junior does not dare accept your generosity. My father is an upright man who guards the wild border, protecting the empire and its people. I have my father's upright blood in my veins, so I simply cannot accept senior Marquis Ying's kindness."

Long Chen originally didn't plan on saying these things. But being schemed against by Marquis Ying had immediately revealed his fatal weak point. Long Chen's anger exploded, and if he didn't say a bit, then he would feel too irritated.

Long Chen's words caused the noisy crowd to become deathly silent. Only Long Chen's words continued to echo.

Every member of the Phoenix Cry Empire felt that Long Chen was being far too brazen. How could he nakedly give a slap to Marquis Ying's face?

Marquis Ying was one of the backbones of the empire. Even the Empress Dowager and the crown prince had paid deferential respect to him. In fact, even Long Tianxiao wouldn't be so impolite!

Although Long Chen's words didn't have a single real curse or insult, anyone who wasn't an idiot could tell that Long Chen was implicitly cursing Marquis Ying.

"Haha, young people really are hot-tempered. You need to train more. If you can't hold your anger in for such small things, then you won't be able to grow up properly."

What no one had expected was that the high and mighty Marquis Ying didn't show any anger at all and just indifferently laughed.

Quite a few people sighed inside. He really was worthy of being one of the empire's apex experts. That kind of bearing was something no one could aspire to.

"Four million. Long Chen, are you embarrassed at your lack of money? Hahaha." Xia Baichi's ridiculing laughter came from the side.

Xia Baichi wasn't actually stupid. With just a small prod from Marquis Ying, she realized that Long Chen actually greatly desired this Starfusing Grass.

Having suffered such a loss before, how could Xia Baichi give up this opportunity to make things difficult for him?

Long Chen took a deep breath. It really was the case of having your worries come true. Xia Baichi hated him deeply, so he would need to be prepared to bleed his money dry in order to obtain this Starfusing Grass.

"Five million," said Long Chen indifferently.

An uproar shook the crowd. It seemed Long Chen viewed the Starfusing Grass as a must-have item; otherwise, there was no way he would make such a sky-high bid.

"Ten million!"

What caused everyone's hearts to jump was that Xia Baichi was even more vicious and immediately doubled the price.

Long Chen merely nodded. There was nothing else for him to think about. Who asked Marquis Ying to point out his weak point?

He had to obtain the Starfusing Grass. Time was too pressing and he couldn't allow this chance to pass him.

And even if Long Chen gave in now, with the temperament of that idiot woman, it would only be a disgrace for him.

"Fifteen million!" shouted Long Chen.

"Eighteen million!"

Xia Baichi immediately bid after him. She had already descended into madness. She no longer cared about money. All she knew right now was that if Long Chen wanted it, she would definitely not let him have it.

"Twenty million!"

Long Chen paused, but in the end, he still shouted out this bid. The entire crowd was shocked. That number couldn't just be randomly shouted! That was money! The price had already multiplied crazily, and even if it was just to relieve anger, wasn't that still too expensive?

"If you bid again, I'll guarantee that this Starfusing Grass will be yours." After Long Chen shouted out his bid, his heart calmed.

Having handed his medicinal pills to the Huayun Pavilion, he had obtained a twenty million credit limit. In other words, he had obtained a twenty million gold coin loan from them.

Thus, after using up all that, he calmed back down. If Xia Baichi continued, he could only let the Starfusing Grass go to her.

But he had also made another decision. If Xia Baichi dared to bid again, he wouldn't mind killing her for it.

"Baichi, that's enough revenge. Now that you've raised the price so high, it's enough to relieve your anger." Xia Changfeng hastily pulled on Xia Baichi. He was afraid she would become too wound up and really spend twenty million gold coins on something completely useless to her.

"Right, Baichi, let it go. This time, Long Chen has suffered a crushing defeat. Your anger has also been relieved." Crown prince Chu Yang also advised her.

Xia Baichi nodded. She also felt that some of her anger had been relieved now that she had forced him to buy it for ten times the price. And in truth, Starfusing Grass wasn't useful to her. Twenty million wasn't a small number so she was also somewhat unwilling to part with so much money.

"Hmph, this lady will have some pity on a peasant like you. This trash medicinal grass is yours."

Long Chen had finally succeeded in obtaining ten strands of Starfusing Grass for the sky-high price of twenty million gold coins. Although he was somewhat pained, he did relax slightly. Killing people for their treasure was definitely something he wouldn't do unless pushed to the breaking point.

Following this, the atmosphere in the auction gradually heated up and the prices slowly climbed.

After just two items had passed, a hidden door opened in Long Chen's private room and a man walked in.

Chapter 58 Mountain Splitting Battle-Ax

Translator: BornToBe

All the private rooms had a secret channel. After the guests in the private room successfully won an item, someone would come to send that item to them.

There was no need to be like the people in the crowd who had to personally go behind the stage or to handle the transaction after the auction ended.

The person who had come in was precisely the one who had pulled Long Chen into participating in the auction, Fu Gui. He was holding a foot-long case with ten stalks of Starfusing Grass that shined brightly like the stars.

“Young master Long Chen, here are your goods.” Fu Gui respectfully handed the case to Long Chen.

To tell the truth, today was the most exciting day of his life. According to the Huayun Pavilion’s rules, after subtracting a few business costs, he would obtain one percent of what Long Chen had spent.

Just the money which Long Chen had spent just now had given him enough to spend the rest of his life without having to worry about money ever again.

Long Chen carefully examined the case. Each stalk of Starfusing Grass had over ten starry spots.

Starfusing Grass would gain an extra starry spot for every hundred years it was preserved. Thus, its age was something that was obvious at a glance.

Although some mishaps had occurred today and he had a stomach full of anger, he had at least managed to obtain his goal, so it had all been worth it.

Only after putting away the case inside his spatial ring did he relax. All the Starfusing Pill’s ingredients had finally been collected. He could now start refining it.

“Young master Long Chen, please wait a moment.”

Seeing that once Long Chen had stood up after collecting the Starfusing Grass, the astute Fu Gui immediately knew that he was planning on returning to his home.

“What? You want me to stay? But I’m penniless right now,” laughed Long Chen. He was itching to go refine pills. It was better to resolve Chu Yao’s matter as soon as possible.

“You’re our guest, and when I was coming over just now, my boss said your credit limit could be raised by another thirty million. So if you see anything you like, feel free to bid,” smiled Fu Gui. He handed a crystal card to Long Chen.

Now Long Chen had two special crystal cards. But the twenty million on the other card had already been completely used up.

The Huayun Pavilion had a special rule. Everyone participating in the auction would have to transfer their gold coins to the Huayun Pavilion in exchange for a credit limit.

But they could only do that once. Once the auction started, you could not exchange for a higher credit limit. That was why most people would exchange as much money as they possibly could at the beginning in order to increase their spending limit.

If you didn’t buy anything or your credit had yet to reach the limit, the Huayun Pavilion would return your money to you without taking the slightest percentage.

So every single person here had their own crystal card with all their money on it. Once the auction was over, the Huayun Pavilion would immediately take those cards back and deduct what they had spent. It was a very efficient process.

For those like Long Chen who had used up all their money, the rule was that they could no longer add to their funds. But obviously, the higher-ups of the Huayun Pavilion had opened a special backdoor for him.

Long Chen hesitated for a moment as he looked at the crystal card in his hand. Originally, he had been planning on going back to refine since he had no more money. Watching others spend while you had no money was also a kind of torment.

But now that he had more funds, he truly was interested in the items that had yet to be auctioned.

“Fu Gui, we already have an agreement that you won’t immediately demand money from me if the things I gave you don’t sell. I can’t immediately return the money that you loaned to me in that case.”

“Don’t worry, my boss has said that if those pills don’t get auctioned off, the loan will just be written off as a gift to you,” smiled Fu Gui.

Long Chen was startled. “Who is your boss?”

“Hehe, sorry, but this little one cannot reveal that. Please don’t make it hard on me,” apologized Fu Gui.

Although he was a bit puzzled, Long Chen still decided to stay. He really was interested in the later items of the auction.

After Fu Gui left, the auction paused for a moment and began to serve tea. Whether it was to the auctioneers or the guests, this kind of tense atmosphere truly did use up a lot of energy.

Such a huge auction naturally had to give its guests some breaks. Only then would they have the energy for the even more intense bidding later.

Otherwise, if everyone was exhausted, the auction would have a weak finish. Obviously, the Huayun Pavilion had already made preparations to avoid that.

After a two hour break, the auction once more began. Calculating the time, the auction had already gone on for two whole days.

Due to the competition being too intense, no one had really felt the time passing. Every item brought out was even more precious than the ones before it, and the bidding became increasingly hostile. The prices naturally shot up wildly as well.

This was especially the case with Yao Niqian's 'encouragements'. It was as if everyone had taken some kind of drug that made them go wild.

Looking at the impassioned crowd, Long Chen couldn't help but feel some admiration. After two days of auctioning, this Yao Niqian had figured out the majority of the people's temperaments, and now the atmosphere was completely under her control.

Shi Feng, fatty Yu, and the others had all been exposed to the grandness of the world. Even after these two days of auctioning, none of them were the slightest bit tired.

Although none of them had the money to enter the competition, just watching those impassioned sky-high bids was stimulating on its own.

"The next item is the Mountain Splitting Battle-Ax."

As she said this, a battle-ax was carried on top of the stage. But everyone was shocked when they saw it.

Naturally, they all knew what battle-axes looked like. But they had never seen such a battle-ax before. It was absolutely enormous!

That double-edged ax head was at least five feet long. It was as thick as an arm and possessed an imposingness that was absolutely terrifying.

"Mountain Splitting Battle-Ax. It was made from golden sand, and its hardness is unmatched. It weighs two tons and is a symbol of power and martial might. It is said that it was the weapon of divinity, and placing it within your estate will scare off any spirits or ghosts. The starting price is two million."

Dozens of nobles immediately began to bid.

“2,010,000!”

“2,050,000!”

“2,080,000!”

In truth, the battle-ax might be considered more of an ornament than anything else. Weighing two tons, it would be a miracle if you could even hold it, let alone wield it in battle.

But Yao Niqian was not wrong; such a domineering battle-ax would definitely be a symbol of your status and power. The nobilities especially were interested in such an item.

“Shi Feng, help me shout my bid,” said Long Chen quietly.

Shi Feng was startled. “That’s just a household item. What are you buying it for?”

“Don’t worry about it, I have my own use for it. Help me bid. If I do it myself, then that idiot woman will come to look for trouble,” said Long Chen.

At the very first moment he saw that Mountain Splitting Battle-Ax, he had thought of a certain huge figure - Wilde.

With Wilde’s physical strength, he should be able to use the battle-ax properly. That ax’s weight was something extremely hard to find in other weapons, and it was also incomparably sturdy. It was practically perfect for Wilde to use.

“2,910,000!”

“3,000,000!”

“3,050,000!”

The last bid was Shi Feng’s. When others heard Shi Feng make such a high bid, they all shook their heads.

Although it might possess a domineering might, it was simply an ornamental piece. Three million was already too high of a price. Three million fifty thousand was already something others were unwilling to bid against.

Xia Baichi had been waiting to shout her own bid against Long Chen when she heard the voice coming from Long Chen’s private room. But hearing that the voice wasn’t Long Chen’s, she hesitated and didn’t bid against it.

It was already the later stages of the auction. The wares being auctioned were becoming increasingly better, and if she ended up using all her credit limit, she would only be able to watch as those good things were taken away by others.

Although she was suspicious that it was actually Long Chen, she wasn't completely certain, and after debating it for a moment, she still decided not to interfere.

Long Chen celebrated when he saw the Mountain Splitting Battle-Ax be obtained so smoothly. Unfortunately, this item was something they were unable to bring into their private room, so Long Chen had to personally go get it.

Long Chen followed the secret channel to below the stage. There were a dozen men guarding that place.

His pupils contracted slightly when he saw them. Those people were actually all Blood Condensation experts.

Just an auction already had so many experts. Then what was the true strength of the Huayun Pavilion?

Long Chen arrived in front of the Mountain Splitting Battle-Ax. Looking at the huge battle-ax that was even larger than he was, he was truly stunned.

Reaching out a hand, he slowly rubbed the handle. He noticed that he was almost unable to wrap his hand around that handle which was as thick as an arm.

“UP!” Long Chen used his full force in an effort to raise that battle-ax. It shook slightly and slowly rose into the air, but after just rising it for three inches, it fell back down to the ground with a crash.

The shelf that was originally holding it was immediately smashed into pieces. A huge explosion followed as it fell to the ground.

“Who would have thought that young master Long Chen possessed such divine strength. It really is admirable.”

Those guards had all been watching Long Chen. Originally, they had been looking at him with some disdain as he had spent so much on something that was only ornamental.

But seeing him actually able to raise the ax with just one hand caused all their disdain to disappear.

And even though he had dropped it in the end, it was still completely shocking. They were all clear on just how heavy it was. It required at least two people using their full strength to raise it like that.

But Long Chen had succeeded in lifting it slightly with just a single hand. Plus, he had been holding it from the handle. The kind of force required to lift it from there was difficult to even imagine.

That was why they had all opened their mouths to exclaim their admiration.

Long Chen shook his head and bitterly smiled, "This thing really is just an imposing ornament."

"Who said it wasn't? It's so heavy; just who could manage to use it?" One of them nodded.

After confirming the huge ax's heaviness, Long Chen no longer showed off anything. He directly stored it within his spatial ring.

Returning to his private room, Long Chen's indifferent expression became one of delight. That ax was definitely something Wilde could use.

If he had used his full force, then even he would have been able to use it. But it would exhaust too much of his strength. Fortunately, Wilde wasn't the same. His physical body was the most abnormal one Long Chen had ever seen, and physical strength was his main forte.

With this battle-ax, even without using spiritual qi, his battle strength would be absolutely terrifying.

As time passed, the later items became even rarer and more precious. Natural treasures of heaven and earth, cultivation techniques, and medicinal pills, they were all available. The prices became even more frightening. There was practically not a single item that was sold for less than five million gold coins anymore.

"Everyone should look carefully at our next item."

An exceptionally confident smile appeared on Yao Niqian's face. She raised her hand, showing off what she was holding.

Chapter 59 Earth Class Battle Skill

Translator: BornToBe

In her hand was a thin book. When it appeared, the whole crowd went silent for a moment before exploding into startled cries.

Most of the people present all knew that every three years, the Huayun Pavilion would always have a Battle Skill as their final auction item. Counting the time, this was precisely the third year.

If it was just an ordinary Battle Skill, it wouldn't have attracted so many startled cries. However, it was no ordinary Battle Skill. It was an Earth class Battle Skill!

Earth class Battle Skills only existed in legends. They could only be found within the hands of sects that were isolated from the secular world.[1]

It was rumored that the Phoenix Cry Empire's most precious treasure was just a portion of an Earth class Battle Skill. And only the imperial disciples could learn it.

Thus, for most people, Earth class Battle Skills were things they had only ever heard of in legends. Now that they could personally see it, although they knew such a thing would not be obtained by them, it still was something that caused their hearts to jump wildly.

“Earth class Battle Skill - Three Style Parting Wind. Starting bid of twenty million.”

An Earth class Battle Skill did not require much introduction. Just the ‘Earth class’ introduction was enough.

“Thirty million!”

Xia Changfeng's bid came from his private room. That was the first time Xia Changfeng had participated in the competition since the golden armor.

Furthermore, he immediately increased the price by ten million. That kind of money spending style was quite shocking.

Although Long Chen was attracted to that Battle Skill, he knew that it was impossible for him to obtain it. Xia Changfeng's thirty million bid was nothing. It was just the beginning.

“Fifty million!”

An aged voice came from inside another private room. The guest in that room had never revealed himself to the crowd so no one knew who was inside.

Long Chen realized that the old man had probably come here expressly for that Battle Skill. Perhaps, now was the time for all the hidden tigers participating in the auction to reveal themselves and compete.

“Sixty million!”

This time, the voice was extremely sharp and uncomfortable to listen to, like the sound of metal scraping against metal. It came from a bearded, middle-aged man in the corner of the crowd.

“Eighty million!”

This time, it was the soft feminine voice of Marquis Ying.

Now the crowd was extremely quiet. Other than Xia Changfeng, the mysterious elder, the bearded man, and Marquis Ying, no one else had enough money to compete against such a high price.

“One hundred million!”

Xia Changfeng took a deep breath and shouted out this price.

Long Chen sighed in admiration. The Huayun Pavilion truly had a shocking amount of wealth. Just a copied, handwritten Earth class Battle Skill could be sold for over a hundred million.

What was even more shocking to think about was that they could copy it countless times and auction it over and over at different places. As for the people who managed to obtain it in the end, they would all hide it away deeply so no one else could take it from them. Maybe they would even kill anyone who knew about it.

This caused Long Chen to become more and more interested in the identity of the secret support of the Huayun Pavilion. Whatever the origin of that support was, it even allowed them to take out such a precious item without being afraid of others attacking in greed.

Xia Changfeng’s hundred million bid might be shocking, but it was immediately followed up.

“110,000,000!”

This time, it was the mysterious elder in the private room. Considering that he had refused to show himself up until this point, it seemed he would not easily give up on obtaining this Battle Skill.

“130,000,000!”

That bearded man was also unwilling to appear weak. Considering the current point in the auction, only bids by increments of ten million were worth anything.

The rest of the crowd was completely silent. Only the astronomical bids continued to ring throughout the room.

“150,000,000!”

“160,000,000!”

“180,000,000!”

Such high numbers actually tested a person’s mental fortitude. Although it wasn’t their money, when fatty Yu and the others heard them, it made it hard for them to breath.

Sweat was dripping of Xia Changfeng’s forehead. He had managed to learn from a secret backchannel that the auction this time would have an Earth class Battle Skill.

Thus, he had brought all the money he had to increase his credit limit. But in total, he only had two hundred million. Since the price was already at one hundred eighty million, it seemed that his two hundred million wouldn’t be enough.

“Baichi, how much more credit do you have?” He asked of Xia Baichi.

Looking at her crystal card, she replied, “I still have three hundred sixty million.”

Xia Changfeng was overjoyed. “Good sister, your brother’s money won’t be enough soon. Lend me some money and I’ll return it when we get back to the Grand Xia.”

Xia Baichi hesitated for a moment before saying, “I can lend it to you, but you must hand over Long Chen’s head to me within a short time.”

Xia Changfeng immediately felt awkward. Chu Yang was right there! To talk about murder in front of the crown prince was definitely excessive.

“Baichi, we’ll talk about this when we get back.”

“No, if you don’t promise me, then I won’t lend you any money.” Xia Baichi coldly snorted. She didn’t give her older brother any face.

Chu Yang smiled slightly. “This Long Chen is dislikable, and in this case, you’ll be my younger sister’s husband soon, so I won’t hear anything you’re saying now.”

Hearing Chu Yang say such a thing, Xia Changfeng became much more at ease and he cupped his fists at Chu Yang. “Many thanks, future brother-in-law.”

“Okay, Baichi, I promise you. Give me your crystal card.”

Only then did she hand him her crystal card. Drawing a line over his crystal card, Xia Baichi’s credit limit was transferred over to his card. Now he had a credit of over five hundred million.

“300,000,000!”

Seeing that the price was continuing to climb, Xia Changfeng directly raised the price greatly in order to display that it was a must-have item for him and hopefully, intimidating his competitors away.

The others became somewhat taciturn after that high price. Although an Earth class Battle Skill was extremely rare, it still was something buyable with money.

Furthermore, the price for one was much lower than three hundred million. After all, most Earth class Battle Skills that were sold were all secondhand copies.

This Earth class Battle Skill auctioned by the Huayun Pavilion was one that didn't exist in this region. That was why its price was so high.

But the price of three hundred million truly was intimidating. After all, if you had enough gold, you could travel to somewhere far away and then, you would be able to buy Earth class Battle Skills for a much lower price.

Now, the mysterious elder, the bearded man, and Marquis Ying were all hesitating.

“Prince Xia Changfeng bids three hundred million. Are there any higher bids? Three hundred million going once, three hundred million going twice“ Yao Niqian's voice was a bit excited as she started to count time.

The profit from this auction had already surpassed her expectations. That was especially the case for this Earth class Battle Skill. The three hundred million bid was extremely exciting for her.

Three hundred million should be the ceiling price for this Battle Skill; thus, she decided to start counting down.

“400,000,000.”

What no one expected was for a lazy voice to suddenly ring out.

That voice was extremely young. It was Long Chen's voice! The entire crowd was stupefied, and even Yao Niqian was shocked.

She had yet to even react when a small earring on her ear shook slightly. She immediately recovered and smiled.

“That bastard.” Xia Changfeng flew into rage. Just as he had been about to obtain the Earth class Battle Skill, Long Chen suddenly interfered.

“Long Chen, I don’t believe a bastard like you has that much money. You’re just looking for trouble!” shouted Xia Changfeng angrily.

“Idiot, if I didn’t have enough money, would I bid? Don’t forget, this master is a Pill Apprentice,” replied Long Chen.

In reality, Long Chen had constantly been using his divine sense to keep track of his surroundings. Their two private rooms were only a few dozen meters away from each other. Although there was no way to hear what they were saying, by examining their lips, he was able to figure out the approximate details of what they were discussing.

Seeing Xia Changfeng treat this Earth class Battle Skill as a must-have item, he had decided to shout out a higher bid.

Although he appeared at ease on the outside, inside, he was still extremely nervous. If he scared Xia Changfeng off, then it would be him who had to pay the final bill.

Four hundred million was something that an ordinary Pill Apprentice wouldn’t be able to pay back even if they spent their entire life refining. But recalling how Xia Baichi had interfered with him and made him pay twenty million to obtain the Starfusing Grass, it would be depressing for him to let that go without revenge.

“Five hundred million! If you have the guts, then try to bid again!” roared Xia Changfeng angrily. He was about to go mad with rage; he had no idea how Long Chen had obtained so much money.

But according to the Huayun Pavilion’s rules, if someone shouted out a bid higher than their crystal card’s limit, they would be viewed as a troublemaker and be expelled from the auction.

Seeing that nothing happened after Long Chen had made his bid, his only conclusion was that Long Chen really did have that much money.

Xia Changfeng’s angry roar echoed throughout the room like a beast’s howl, shaking people’s eardrums.

“Don’t be so excited. I only had a little left on my card. If you had just added ten thousand then you would have won. I rarely admire someone, but I definitely admire prince Xia Changfeng. To use a hundred million as just ten thousand, you really are amazing.”

Long Chen’s voice was filled with admiration. But in Xia Changfeng’s ears, it turned into the most malicious taunt.

“You!”

Xia Changfeng suddenly coughed up a mouthful of blood due to this intense anger. Startled cries came from his private room.

The crowd’s expression was somewhat strange now. For a moment, no one knew whether Long Chen had been speaking the truth or whether he had been deliberately provoking Xia Changfeng.

“Since no one else is bidding, congratulations prince Xia Changfeng, the Earth class Battle Skill is yours.” Yao Niqian skipped right past counting down because she was certain no one would be as foolish as Xia Changfeng.

Seeing that the Earth class Battle Skill had already been auctioned off, everyone started to get up and prepare to leave. But just at this moment, Yao Niqian’s charming laughter rang out.

“In the past, the auction would end with the Earth class Battle Skill, but this year we have an even more unusual item for the end.”

Everyone was shocked. What could be more precious than an Earth class Battle Skill? They all hastily sat back down and stared closely at the stage.

Long Chen smiled. Hehe, a good show was about to start.

Chapter 60 Shocking Methods

Translator: BornToBe

Yao Niqian banged her gavel. The red curtain behind her slowly opened, revealing a jade platform.

That jade platform shined brightly; it was actually entirely made from the extremely rare Lantian jade.

Lantian jade was exceptionally rare in the Phoenix Cry Empire. Only people with extremely high status could wear Lantian jade as accessories to display their grandeur.

But now they saw an entire platform made of it. Just that platform alone had to be worth millions.

Atop that perfect white jade table was a golden embroidered case which immediately drew everyone’s gaze.

Long Chen couldn't help but feel admiration at how grand their methods were. The Huayun Pavilion actually used a table worth millions to show off a single item. If he hadn't known about this before, he would also be extremely curious.

No wonder Fu Gui had been so confident back then when he had told Long Chen that the pavilion would take a fifty percent commission on the final price. It appeared they really did have the confidence to demand such an amount.

They immediately grabbed hold of everyone's attention. Everyone was completely focused on that golden case.

Yao Niqian smiled and slowly opened the case in front of their eyes, taking out something small from within.

But people almost coughed up blood when they saw that it was just another small case inside the first case. Was there a point to this anticipation?!

She carefully took out that small case. A maid hastily came forward and gave her a snow-white glove.

Putting on the glove, Yao Niqian carefully opened the smaller case. Her cautiousness caused everyone to hold their breath, and it was so quiet that even the drop of a needle could be heard.

A soft sigh of air escaped from the small case as it was opened.

Following the opening of the case, projections appeared on the walls throughout the hall. All the walls became real-time projections of Yao Niqian's hand.

Through those projections, people could clearly see that what was inside that small case was a round medicinal pill. A faint, ancient aura circulated around that pill.

When Long Chen first saw that, he actually thought it was a mistake. But sweeping over with his divine sense, he immediately understood what was going on and practically prostrated himself to the Huayun Pavilion in admiration.

"This medicinal pill is something that a small group of adventurers found within an ancient cave after fending off great danger. But that cave had many traps, and just for this medicinal pill, their ten-man group was almost exterminated. Only two of them managed to survive. As for the two survivors, one of them died shortly. Such a tragic story is truly sorrowful, and every adventurer is worthy of respect. They risked their own lives to scout out that extremely unknown area. They are true warriors." Yao Niqian's voice was somewhat subdued. Her eyes were red with tears bubbling up.

Long Chen had been drinking tea when he saw that. He almost spat out that tea in shock. Wasn't this act of hers a little too much? That was the medicinal pill that he had given them!

Of course, Long Chen had repeatedly warned them that they were not to leak the real origin of this pill. If they did, then he wouldn't sell it.

And now it seemed that the Huayun Pavilion truly did keep their word. They had actually made up such a story and had done something to the outer layer of the medicinal pill. Now, the medicinal pill appeared extremely ancient, and their technique was so perfect that even Long Chen was unable to tell it was fake. The Huayun Pavilion truly had many experts.

"What is this medicinal pill?" The people present were all powerful figures in their own rights. They naturally wouldn't care about the deaths of some adventurers. What they wanted to know about were this thing's price and effect.

Yao Niqian wiped her eyes. Who knew whether or not she had been actually crying, but she quickly recovered to normal and said, "This medicinal pill is a pill from ancient times."

"An ancient pill?"

Everyone present was extremely startled. Those ancient pills weren't necessarily medicinal pills refined in the ancient era, but more accurately, they were from pill formulas that were passed around from the ancient times.

Most such ancient pills had already disappeared. However, they were extremely attractive to alchemists.

If an alchemist could use the medicinal pill to extrapolate the pill formula, that would be equivalent to a new start for a lost inheritance, and that alchemist's name would ring throughout the land.

"Although this is an ancient pill, its age definitely does not surpass a hundred years. Everyone should be aware that a medicinal pill's effect and strength will not fade as long as it is less than two hundred years old. Therefore, this medicinal pill will still have one hundred percent of its effect," continued Yao Niqian.

"Miss Yao, don't keep us in suspense. Tell us the name of the medicinal pill! And tell us the effect as well." Seeing that Yao Niqian still refused to tell them the important part, someone finally ran out of patience.

Seeing that everyone was sufficiently enticed, Yao Niqian smiled and said, "This medicinal pill has gone through our appraising master. Its name is the Flesh Bone

Restoration Pill. Now that you've heard its name, I'm sure everyone should know what its effect is."

Sighs of displeasure immediately followed.

"What, just that little effect?"

"A healing pill? Isn't that too ordinary?"

Yao Niqian seemed to not notice their confusion, continuing, "I'm sure everyone knows my Huayun Pavilion's reputation. We naturally wouldn't make a joke of ourselves. If this Flesh Bone Restoration Pill really wasn't valuable, then we wouldn't have brought it out as the final and most precious item."

Hearing that, the crowd quieted down. She wasn't wrong; the Huayun Pavilion definitely wouldn't disrespect their own brand. Then, did that mean the medicinal pill had some sort of special use?

"If I could be so bold, I'd like to invite a Blood Condensation expert onto the stage to bear witness to the medicinal pill's effect." Yao Niqian smiled at the crowd.

"I'll go!"

Yao Niqian's charm went without saying. A man in his thirties immediately volunteered.

Everyone felt this was rather strange. In all the previous auctions of the Huayun Pavilion, it seemed this was the first time anyone had been invited onto the auction stage.

That man walked up to the stage. Due to the proximity with Yao Niqian and with how revealing her chest was, he couldn't help but stare fixedly.

Yao Niqian smiled slightly and didn't bother about that. She playfully asked, "Is master afraid of pain?"

"Hey, don't joke. I, Zhao Yang, have roamed the lands for so many years. It's offensive to ask me that." That man was a bit depressed now.

Long Chen, in his private room, laughed at that.[1] Zhao Yang? Zao Yang? His name really was appropriate, as a tragedy was about to befall him.

"In that case, Niqian will apologize in advance."

Suddenly, a cold light flashed. A sword had appeared in Yao Niqian's hand, and she slashed it down too quickly to react.

Blood splattered in front of everyone's shocked eyes. Zhao Yang's arm had been cut off at the elbow by Yao Niqian.

"You!"

That man hadn't even had the time to defend himself. With one of his arms cut off, he was about to angrily say something when a sword was pressed up against his throat, cutting him off.

Everyone was completely shocked. Yao Niqian had always been acting so weak and delicate, and yet her attack just now had been exceptionally smooth. She was definitely an expert.

"Sir has already said that he isn't afraid of pain. Here, take this." Yao Niqian handed him the Flesh Bone Restoration Pill.

Zhao Yang was scared witless. He swallowed the pill without even thinking about it.

"What?"

Startled cries rang out as soon as he swallowed it. Almost everyone stood up to get a better look.

Only then did Zhao Yang realize something was happening. Looking at his arm, he was shocked to see it miraculously growing back.

In just the time it took for an incense stick to burn, his arm had completely grown back. Flexing his fingers, he was shocked to find that it was completely fine without the slightest feeling of unfamiliarity.

He was absolutely shocked. If it wasn't for the bloodstained stage and his severed arm on the ground, he would have thought he was hallucinating.

"Damn, how could you waste such a precious medicinal pill like that?" An old man had stood up, panting with rage. His eyes were practically spitting flames as he cursed at Yao Niqian.

Other people also agreed with him. That medicinal pill was practically a divine pill. For it to just disappear like that enraged everyone.

"Miss Yao, are you trying to play us? Give us a clear explanation!" Some people were unable to hold back their anger.

As for Zhao Yang, he listlessly returned back to his own seat. Even now he couldn't believe what had just happened. Occasionally, he would rub his hand over and over.

Yao Niqian looked at the angered crowd and smiled. This result was even better than what she had hoped.

“Everyone, please calm down. Let me say it again, my Huayun Pavilion will not make jokes with our reputation.”

Banging the gavel, she caused everyone in the crowd to quickly quiet down. Actually, it wasn't because of her banging the gavel, but because a maid had come up behind Yao Niqian with an embroidered case.

“Everyone, altogether we had two such Flesh Bone Restoration Pills. But everyone should know that such a shocking effect is something that no one would believe even if I told you. So I could only show you. Please forgive me.”

The crowd calmed down quite a bit after hearing that explanation. It was true; if they hadn't personally witnessed it, no one would believe that this world had a miraculous medicinal pill like that.

Even having personally witnessed its effect, there were still many who still didn't dare believe their own eyes. Several people even went up to Zhao Yang to examine his arm. But that arm was clearly a new arm that had regenerated. There was no way it was fake.

Plus, with the Huayun Pavilion's reputation, there was no way they would do something like selling fakes. But that pill was just too shocking. People had to be cautious about it.

Long Chen nodded. These crafty unscrupulous business dealers had truly perfected their art.

Yao Niqian opened the case, revealing a Flesh Bone Restoration Pill exactly the same as the last.

“Flesh Bone Restoration Pill, a second tier medicinal pill. I won't say any more about its effect, but I want to remind everyone that this medicinal pill is only effective in the Blood Condensation realm and below. We originally had two pills, but now after showing off its effect to everyone, this last one is completely unique. Starting bid, one hundred million.”

As soon as she finished speaking, a huge uproar exploded.