

Noble Ruler 1161

Chapter 1161: Time is Up

As this commotion silently happened, Chu Liuyue absorbed the force at a gradually faster rate.

It was as if she had entered an extremely special state. Even with her eyes closed, she could strangely feel everything in her surroundings. She vaguely felt that her surroundings seemed to be moving slightly and passing through her.

During this process, a portion of the force silently entered her body.

At this point, she suddenly discovered that the Heaven and Earth Force here was extremely pure. She didn't need to refine it much before she could completely consume it.

Her body was like a sponge that kept absorbing the surrounding force crazily, and this absorption speed kept increasing!

Chu Liuyue originally had some considerations. She was worried that her body might not be able to tolerate such a terrifying force entering her body since she was just a beginner stage-seven warrior.

But very quickly, she realized that she had thought too much. This was because from start to end, her body wasn't uncomfortable at all.

The rich force kept circulating within her Yuan meridian. Not only did it not cause any discomfort or pain, but it also kept nourishing her Yuan meridian, allowing it to become more resilient.

Chu Liuyue could even clearly feel her surrounding aura strengthening!

Could it be that the force here is more special... This thought just flashed across Chu Liuyue's mind once. However, it doesn't seem to be entirely so...

Chu Liuyue still suppressed her thoughts very quickly and focused on cultivating.

Tuan Zi—who stayed beside her—stopped moving at some point and lay on the floor lethargically. Only the shining silver lightning on its body showed that it wasn't as harmless as it seemed at this moment.

...

Qing Ming Square.

Elder Bo Yan stood with his hands behind his back as his gaze swept across the crowd before him.

Standing here were the same few people who previously discussed the matter in the hall. However, there were significantly fewer people than at that time. For example, Wei Xiping wasn't here at this moment.

However, there were dozens of elders standing beside him, so they looked like they had higher numbers overall.

The closest to Elder Bo Yan was Rong Xiu.

“...I won’t say anything unnecessary. We’ll have to trouble you guys for this.” Elder Bo Yan cupped his fists.

The crowd acknowledged him in unison.

“If there’s danger this time, Rong Xiu—” Before Elder Bo Yan could finish speaking, he saw Rong Xiu’s expression suddenly change as he looked in a certain direction.

Rong Xiu squinted his deep phoenix eyes, and his thin lips curled up into an extremely faint and helpless smile. *She’s really...*

“Rong Xiu, what’s the matter?” asked Elder Bo Yan strangely.

Rong Xiu retracted his gaze, smiled slightly, and shook his head. “Nothing much.”

Elder Bo Yan followed the direction he just looked in and took a glance. *That’s the warrior region. Everything is normal.*

Elder Bo Yan’s brows moved slightly. *Even though I can’t tell much from Rong Xiu’s face, I just feel that there is something amiss. It was the same the previous time... It seems like there is something occupying Rong Xiu’s heart in the academy. This person has always been cold and lonely, and there aren’t many things he cares about. But since he doesn’t want to talk about it, it will naturally be better if others don’t ask.*

Right at this moment, Elder Wen Xi came late.

Elder Bo Yan smiled and said, “Wen Xi, if you still hadn’t arrived, you wouldn’t make it on time.”

Elder Wen Xi coughed. “I was delayed by a last-minute matter.”

Elder Bo Yan glanced at him, and his expression changed slightly. “What’s the matter?”

Elder Wen Xi wasn’t someone who liked to be late, and it seemed like he was really preoccupied.

“That...” Elder Wen Xi hesitated for a moment and still decided to report the truth. After all, they would know about this incident sooner or later.

“Actually, it’s nothing much. It’s just that a student made a small mistake and was locked up in Fengmin Mountain.”

Once he said this, the people at the side all looked over. *People don’t easily go into a place like Fengmin Mountain. This student... shouldn’t have made a ‘small’ mistake, right?*

“Oh? Who?” Elder Bo Yan frowned slightly. *The academy indeed hasn’t given out such punishments in a while. It seems like that student has really done something that touched the academy’s bottom line.*

Elder Wen Xi sighed. “He didn’t come down in time yesterday and stayed at Million Wine Mountain for an extended period of time.”

The elders' expressions changed slightly.

“Which student is this bold and preposterous?”

Elder Bo Yan knitted his brows even more tightly. *Regarding Million Wine Mountain, the academy has repeatedly emphasized that the students aren't allowed to stay there during the restricted time period. Why would a student do such a thing?*

“Ahem, it's... Chu Yue.” Elder Wen Xi lowered his voice and quickly added, “But that child didn't do it on purpose. It was just that he coincidentally went back late and was stuck on Million Wine Mountain. After we received the news, Hua Feng and I immediately brought him out.”

Once he said this, Elder Wen Xi felt slightly shocked. For some reason, he actually unwittingly made an excuse for Chu Yue as if he didn't want the latter to suffer such a severe lecturing.

“I see... Since you guys have already punished him, this matter shall be the end of it!”

Luckily, Elder Bo Yan didn't ask further, causing Elder Wen Xi to heave a secret sigh of relief.

After recovering his senses, he was dazed. *It's probably because... I recruited the child, so I can't bear it, right?*

Anyway, once he thought of that young man being lectured and how he lowered his head and admitted his faults, he somehow became determined.

Elder Wen Xi took a deep breath in and suppressed his messy thoughts.

At the side, Rong Xiu had a light expression as he looked down slightly, and a faint light flashed across his eyes. *Fengmin Mountain... At the very least, it's safe to stay there during that period. However—*

Rong Xiu's eyes flickered slightly before he hid his emotions.

This small intervention did not attract much attention. In their eyes, a student being locked up in Fengmin Mountain for a few days wasn't that big of a matter.

"Go!" An elder hollered and took action first, flying toward the academy!

The others followed closely behind.

Rong Xiu silently glanced at Fengmin Mountain and left afterward.

Their figures quickly disappeared.

...

Within the seven-story pagoda on Fengmin Mountain.

Within the hall, the seven doors floated quietly and silently.

Time trickled past.

Finally, that old voice sounded again. But this time, his voice was filled with doubts. “Hm? Logically speaking, that kid should’ve escaped because he can’t take it... Why hasn’t he made any noise until now?”

Nobody answered the empty and silent hall.

Another period of time passed, and the seven doors were still as normal.

“Are the trouble makers these days and age so capable...” That person couldn’t help but mutter. *He is rather capable since he hasn’t come out after such a long time.*

...

In the special space, Chu Liuyue sat down cross-legged with her eyes tightly shut.

The surrounding tremendous force continuously entered her body as the lines on the walls moved according to her breathing. It was as if her entire person had merged with this place!

Coincidentally, knocks could be heard.

An old and low voice went into her ear. “Kid, time’s up!”

Chapter 1162: Courting Death

Chu Liuyue’s eyes flew open, and a strangely bright light quickly flashed across her eyes!

That moment of sharpness caused others to not be able to look straight into her eyes. But that light quickly dissipated, and she recovered her lazy and nonchalant look.

She stretched her waist and relaxed her bones, and her body that had been sitting for a long time made crisp sounds.

Time’s up... Chu Liuyue calmly thought, Did ten days just pass like this? However, why did I not feel anything at all? During the entire process, the only thing I did was cultivate. It seems as if I have to go out in the blink of an eye.

Chu Liuyue stood up and surveyed her surroundings. There weren’t many changes compared to when she first came here.

She didn’t know that the moment she opened her eyes, the lines on the four walls had already returned to what they looked like in the beginning. Thus, she naturally couldn’t discern anything.

She picked Tuan Zi up.

It was probably because Tuan Zi had already digested all of that force, so it didn't have the rays of sparkling silver lightning on its body. Besides, the color of Tuan Zi's feathers seemed to be richer than before.

Perhaps this is a sign of its bloodline power being unleashed? Chu Liuyue thought as she walked over to open the door.

When her hand was about to touch that door, she suddenly stopped, turned around, and squinted her eyes slightly. *Hm... I actually want to stay here for a while longer. What should I do?*

For some reason, she felt that it was very comfortable to cultivate here.

The surrounding force naturally entered her body, nourishing her muscles and veins and strengthening her aura... She also didn't feel uncomfortable during this entire process—it was like everything happened smoothly. It was as if... this force should already be hers.

This type of feeling was very strange, and she had never experienced it before.

“Senior—” She suddenly spoke but stopped when she spoke halfway.

The voice came from outside. “What’s the matter?”

An idea popped up in Chu Liuyue's mind. She smiled slightly, and she changed her tone for the remaining half of the sentence. “Thank you for taking care of me during this time.”

That person grunted lightly. *After he passed through the door, I could no longer intervene, especially when I didn't touch the door this kid picked at all. How would I take care of him?*

"Just come out!"

Chu Liuyue took a deep breath in, took one last glance, and turned around to leave.

...

A white light flashed across Chu Liuyue's eyes, and she instinctively squinted her eyes. When her eyes adjusted to the light, she then saw her surroundings clearly.

The hall that entered her view was empty, just like when she had just come.

She turned around and took a look.

The seven doors didn't change at all. It was as if... the ten days spent inside were just a dream.

"Go on."

After exiting the door, Chu Liuyue couldn't tell where the voice came from. It was as if the entire hall was his voice that clearly landed in her ears in the end.

Chu Liuyue thought for a while and bowed in the direction of the seven doors. "I'll take my leave first."

Then, she turned around and left.

But the moment she took a step out—

“Hm?” That voice sounded again with confusion and hesitation.

Chu Liuyue immediately stopped in her tracks, stood rooted to the ground, and turned around obediently and respectfully, allowing that person’s blade-like gaze to sweep across her. “Senior, is there anything else?”

The other party’s voice sounded weird. “...Your aura has strengthened?”

Chu Liuyue was dazed. *Is there a need to ask? In there, I focused on cultivating for ten days. Isn’t it normal for my abilities to be strengthened? But since the other party asked, there seems to be something wrong.*

She paused for a moment before replying, “I have been focusing on cultivation the past few days.”

The other party didn’t speak for quite some time.

Chu Liuyue was slightly disappointed. *This answer doesn’t seem right...*

“Forget it. Go ahead!” After a while, that voice sounded again.

However, Chu Liuyue sensitively felt that the other party's attitude toward her seemed different. She couldn't point it out exactly, but she had such a feeling.

She pressed her lips against each other, bowed, and bade farewell.

The door automatically opened, and after she walked through it, the door automatically closed behind her.

Bang!

The hall was completely silent within the pagoda.

Filled with confusion, a low voice muttered, "This kid... Perhaps she liked him..."

Outside the door, Chu Liuyue turned around and glanced at it, lightly sighing. *Even though the senior in charge of guarding was a little weird... If only I could come a few more times...*

If Elder Wen Xi and the rest knew that not only did she not remember any lessons but even benefitted from this trip and wanted to come again, their expressions would be incredulous.

Her neck itched.

Chu Liuyue patted Tuan Zi's head. "Okay, I know you still want to go, but you need to wait for me to figure out a way. If you're disobedient like before..."

She glanced at Tuan Zi coldly.

Tuan Zi immediately nodded eagerly. *I won't cause trouble! I'll listen to you for everything, Master!*

Chu Liuyue then nodded in satisfaction and flew out!

...

"I've already said that I also don't know when Chu Yue will come back." Zhong Xun suppressed the anger in his heart and said carefully, "This is our residence, so please leave first. When he comes back, I'll tell him that you came."

"There's no need for trouble. We'll just wait for him here directly." The few youngsters opposite him smiled brightly.

That young man standing at the front lazily said, "Senior Brother Zhong Xun, why are you so nervous? We just want to duel with Chu Yue. We hear that he's very talented as a heavenly doctor, so we wanted to experience it. Do you... want to stop this too?"

Zhong Xun furrowed his brows tightly. *Starting from a few days ago, these few people suddenly ran over and said they wanted to duel with Chu Yue. Chu Yue isn't around, so they come every day in the morning and only leave at night. Chu Yue's residence was flipped upside down by them.*

The few of them weren't old, but according to seniority, Zhong Xun was their senior. However, they didn't treat Zhong Xun respectfully or politely. This was because their backgrounds weren't to be underestimated!

These few people were all Liu Yintong's junior brothers! It was clear who instructed them to come here!

That night, Zhong Xun didn't go to Million Wine Mountain, so he didn't know what exactly happened back then. However, he heard from the crowd later and knew that Liu Yintong insisted on competing with Chu Zhong's legendary fiend, yet she completely lost in the end.

This time, Chu Yue had completely offended Liu Yintong and even her little team. Hence, a few people willingly came forward and challenged him.

"Senior Brother Zhong Xun, this incident has nothing much to do with you. I think you shouldn't intervene." That youngster at the front nonchalantly smiled. "Since he can be accepted by Elder Wan Zheng as his disciple, he definitely is capable, don't you think? If he doesn't even dare to accept our challenge, won't he be too much of a coward?"

Zhong Xun was about to argue when a clear voice filled with smiles suddenly sounded. "Okay, I'll accept it!"

Chapter 1163: Challenge

Upon hearing this, the few of them turned around to take a look. They saw a young, green-robed man standing behind them at some point.

His figure was quite slim, but he was very tall and had a clear appearance. His gaze was pure as he looked over, and his lips were curled up into a faint smile as if he were nonchalant and a little flippant.

Those few youngsters were dazed.

Some of them were at Million Wine Mountain that day, but others were not. However, they weren't very familiar with Chu Yue. Now that they suddenly saw him, they realized that this young man... had such an aura.

"Chu Yue, you're back?!" Zhong Xun reacted first and immediately welcomed him. He walked forward and rapidly sized Chu Liuyue up, looking worried. "Are you okay?"

Being locked up at Fengmin Mountain is one of the most severe punishments in the academy. He has just come to the academy and definitely feels uncomfortable meeting such a matter.

Seeing Zhong Xun's gaze filled with worry, Chu Liuyue was caught between laughter and tears, and her heart felt warm. "Senior Brother Zhong Xun, don't worry. I'm fine."

Or perhaps I should say: I'm great!

Zhong Xun originally thought that Chu Yue purposely said that to make himself feel better, but after closer inspection, he realized that the young man before him looked relaxed. His eyes also had smiles as if he were really okay.

He heaved a sigh of relief in his heart. "That's good..."

"You're Chu Yue." An ambiguous voice sounded.

Chu Liuyue looked up.

Opposite them were a total of three people who looked quite young, around their twenties.

The one talking was the one standing at the front. At this point, his arms were crossed as he outrageously sized Chu Liuyue up with a complicated gaze.

“You just came to the academy and were locked up in Fengmin Mountain. Junior Brother Chu Yue, your abilities are something I can’t ever have! Haha!” His words were strange with thick sarcasm.

“You—” Zhong Xun’s expression changed slightly, and he was about to speak, but Chu Liuyue stopped him from the side.

She stepped forward and nodded with a smile. “Yeah, I do think so too. I am much more outstanding than you.”

The laughter on the opposite side suddenly stopped.

“But you don’t have to be discouraged. After all, you have to admit defeat sometimes.” As if she didn’t see the incredulous expression changes on the opposite end, Chu Liuyue’s lips curled up, and her tone was light.

However, the words she said could drive someone to the wall.

“Hah!”

The two parties fell into a stalemate for a moment.

The few youngsters looked as if they finally recovered their senses. “What did you say?”

Chu Liuyue blinked. “It seems like your hearing isn’t very good either. I’ll repeat it again.”

She smiled in a clean and harmless manner, but the words she spat out were like needles that shot straight at the few of them! “I said that you guys are too weak. Have you heard it clearly now?”

...

Arrogant!

Preposterous!

Everyone present, including Zhong Xun, had such a thought when they heard Chu Liuyue’s name! *Is this kid crazy? Does he know what he’s saying?!*

“Chu Yue, you...” Zhong Xun’s face changed as well.

He had thought that Chu Yue might not be convinced by them. If not, he wouldn't directly accept their challenge once he came back. After all, he was a kid in his teens, and it was normal to be confident in himself. However, he never thought that Chu Yue would actually say such words!

But at this point, Chu Liuyue suddenly turned around, blinked at him, and smiled slightly. She said, "Senior Brother, don't worry. I know what I'm doing."

Zhong Xun was dazed for a moment. He clearly saw that the young man's eyes weren't filled with anger from being agitated. *The few people's previous targeting and teasing didn't trigger Chu Yue at all. He is clear and logical, and he actually said such words in such a situation...*

"Hah! You have guts!" Liu Zi'an was so angry that he laughed. *There haven't been such arrogant new students in the academy for a long time!*

"Since this is so, let's compete for once, shall we?"

Zhong Xun's heart skipped a beat. The next moment, he saw Liu Zi'an wave his wrist, and a black plaque suddenly appeared.

"I—Liu Zi'an—challenge you, Chu Yue, today! Chu Yue, do you dare to accept it?!"

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes slightly.

Zhong Xun hurriedly said, "Chu Yue, you mustn't agree! You can't accept this challenge!"

Chu Liuyue looked over. “Why?”

Zhong Xun secretly felt anxious as he explained, “Because once you accept this challenge, it means that nobody can interfere with your match! And if any of you two refuse to end the challenge, then... the match will continue!”

“This also means that as long as you’re not beaten to death, the two parties have to suffer the torturing of the other party!”

This was also the reason why very few people would issue such challenges in the academy. Those who would do such a thing would normally have quite big grumbles in private.

Chu Yue has completely offended the other party now. Once he agrees, then—

“Senior Brother Zhong Xun, do you think that I’ll be the one getting beaten?” asked Chu Liuyue softly.

Zhong Xun looked into Chu Yue’s eyes, and his heart suddenly faltered. *Could it be... he has confidence that he’ll beat Liu Zi’an?*

Welcoming the pair of clear and silent eyes, Zhong Xun’s words of advice were suddenly stuck in his throat. *Chu Yue, he... He doesn’t seem to be as immature and young as he looks on the surface...*

“Senior Brother, don’t worry.” Then, Chu Liuyue glanced opposite her.

Liu Zi’an raised her brows. “What, do you not dare to accept it?”

Chu Liuyue smiled. *If I allow myself to be bullied when they find me at my door, I will definitely be treated worse in the future! Anyway, I've already offended Liu Yintong. Besides, these few people are basically minor characters sent by Liu Yintong.*

Chu Liuyue felt that she had never willingly offended anyone, nor had she purposely teased and offended whoever. *Liu Yintong took the initiative to cause trouble for me, and it's still never-ending. Even if I lie down and be the smaller one, the other party won't treat me well anyway. Instead, they will stomp on me and bully me as much as they want. Therefore... From the very beginning, I had no intentions of being tactful or fake with these people. The only thing I have to do is take this chance and tell everyone that I'm not one to be messed with!*

Chu Liuyue took out her black jade plaque. "Accept!"

...

According to the rules, the students at the academy had to carry out such challenges at Qing Ming Square. Hence, the few of them came to this place.

The entire square was spacious and huge.

They came over here and only occupied a small portion of the ground, but even so, they still attracted quite a few people's attention. This was because students weren't allowed to go to Qing Ming Square casually during normal days.

Hence, the sudden appearance of the few people at the square naturally attracted quite a few people's gazes.

Chu Liuyue walked over and stood still.

Liu Zi'an stood opposite.

The two of them looked at each other.

“Junior Brother Chu Yue, I believe nobody has told you before, but you must be diligent and humble when you're incapable. If not, you won't even know how you died.” Liu Zi'an sneered.

Chu Liuyue's lips curled up slightly.

Bang!

A cauldron dropped heavily!

“Senior Brother Liu, you can say these words after you beat me!”

Chapter 1164: I'm Not Looking at You

At some point, a few people had already gathered around their competition area.

“Isn't that Liu Zi'an and Chu Yue? What are they doing? A challenge?”

“It must be if they went to Qing Ming Square! Tsk, why did these two people suddenly fight?”

“You don’t know? Didn’t Chu Yue offend Liu Yintong before? That Liu Zi’an seems to be a younger brother of a division in her clan... Normally, this Liu Zi’an also uses Liu Yintong to get his way.”

“Huh, isn’t Chu Yue in danger then? Even if he’s quite talented, he’s only an eighth-grade heavenly doctor. And didn’t Liu Zi’an break through to become a ninth-grade heavenly doctor just recently?”

“What is Chu Yue thinking? Why would he agree to a challenge that he’ll definitely lose? The elders won’t easily interfere with such matches...”

The crowd partook in heated discussions.

All kinds of voices drifted into their ears.

Chu Liuyue’s expression didn’t change as if she was unaffected.

Liu Zi’an also took out his own cauldron. “Tsk, I’ll show you who’s boss!”

...

The two people stood opposite each other on the square. Cauldrons were already placed before them.

Liu Zi'an was the first to take action.

He was currently a ninth-grade heavenly doctor. Even though he could only produce inferior-class ninth-grade pills, it was still a piece of cake to go against a mere eighth-grade Chu Yue.

In actual fact, he had already prepared his pill before coming, so he even prepared the ingredients.

He took out the herbs and placed them side by side one after another, while his other hand was on the cauldron.

Rumble!

A blue fire suddenly rose! Following this, he whipped his sleeves. The herbs then flew up consecutively, landing in the cauldron.

The special bitter fragrance of the herbs quickly spread around.

But in stark comparison, Chu Liuyue—who was opposite him—hadn't moved at all. She just stood there and crossed her arms with one hand, looking lazy.

Her gaze seemed to be staring at Liu Zi'an.

Look? What's about Liu Zi'an's medicine is good to look at? Quite a few people exchanged glances and revealed confused looks. This match has already started. Why hasn't Chu Yue moved? Can he directly win just by watching Liu Zi'an produce his medicine?

“Chu Yue, do you have a problem?” Zhong Xun knitted his brows and asked rather worriedly. “If you're missing herbs, I can go to Medicinal Valley to grab them for you.”

Liu Zi'an came prepared, but Chu Yue didn't. The moment he came out from Fengmin Mountain, he directly agreed to this challenge. Therefore, he might be missing a lot of ingredients.

Chu Liuyue tilted her head and smiled. “Thank you, Senior Brother Zhong Xun, but I'm not missing any herbs. Don't worry.”

How could Zhong Xun really not worry? Even if he isn't missing herbs, the eighth-grade pill he produces will definitely lose to Liu Zi'an's! According to the current situation where the two's abilities are clearly different, Chu Yue only has one way to win—Liu Zi'an's pill production has to fail! Only this can let Chu Yue win!

However, this is a challenge. As long as Liu Zi'an doesn't wish to end the competition and continues producing, Chu Yue has no choice either. If Zhong Xun still produces a pill in the end... Chu Yue will still lose this match!

Watching the young man on stage, Zhong Xun was anxious, and his throat became dry. *Why does Chu Yue not seem panicked at all at this time?*

...

Liu Zi'an added a few herbs and produced the pill in an orderly manner. When he had time, he looked up and glanced.

On the opposite side, Chu Yue hadn't moved, and even his cauldron was empty.

He couldn't help but mock, "Junior Brother Chu Yue, do you simply intend on watching me produce the pill during the competition? Let me remind you: the competition has already started. It's too late for you to surrender."

Chu Liuyue raised her brows. "Senior Brother Liu, don't misunderstand. I really don't have any interest in you producing pills."

Her tone was very sincere and serious.

Honestly speaking, Liu Zi'an wasn't very good at producing pills. She already looked down on his hand techniques. If she stared at him longer, she was even worried that she would affect her own performance.

Liu Zi'an's face darkened. "Let's see if you still can be this unreasonable when the results come out!"

However, Chu Liuyue didn't seem to care about this agreement at all.

After Liu Zi'an threw a few herbs in again, she finally retracted her gaze and smiled. "It seems like Senior Brother Liu wants to make the Greater Mastery Pill."

Liu Zi'an's hand trembled slightly, and he accidentally put a little more of the very last herb.

He hurriedly took out that portion, but most of it had instantly dissolved. Even if he reacted fast enough, it was still normal if he didn't solve it thoroughly.

Luckily, it won't really affect one's pill production... Liu Zi'an looked up, and his heart was shocked as he felt regretful. "You've watched for so long to know what pill I'm producing?!"

"Yeah." Chu Liuyue smiled slightly and directly affirmed his guess, but her eyes seemed to be a little disappointed. *I originally thought... Forget it. This saves quite a lot of trouble. In the beginning, I was thinking about what quality the produced pill would be. After all the commotion, it's actually just an inferior-class ninth-grade pill. Besides, it's the more forceful kind.*

This made Chu Liuyue feel bored. But considering that the other party wasn't very strong and that she could beat him more easily, she felt better again.

Her emotions and thoughts had no intention of sabotage, and Liu Zi'an spotted it effectively. At that moment, his heart skipped a beat and burned! *This kid! He's actually belittling me?!*

"You—"

Rumble!

Before he could say anything, Chu Liuyue finally traveled around.

An intensely red fire instantly filled the entire cauldron. Then, she attended to another bunch of herbs without hesitation.

The entire process was very smooth—the technique was pure and could even be considered perfect!

Chapter 1165: Thousands of Ways to Win

Once she made a move, the originally noisy crowd fell silent instantly!

Not all of the spectators were heavenly doctors, but even if they were warriors or Xuan Masters, they were all top elites to be able to enter Ling Xiao Academy.

They had a certain level of understanding toward heavenly doctors, so they could also differentiate one's standard in pill production. Hence, when Chu Liuyue started to produce the pill, they were all star-struck.

This smoothness in movements and control over the herbs were clearly better than Liu Zi'an!

Liu Zi'an was also shocked. *Isn't Chu Yue an eighth-grade heavenly doctor? However, the abilities he's showcasing have clearly long exceeded someone like that!*

Liu Zi'an closed his eyes and focused again. *Perhaps Chu Yue is just bluffing people and doesn't actually have capabilities—*

When Liu Zi'an saw the opposite Chu Yue relaxingly separate the herbs and refine them respectively, his last bit of hope was completely shattered!

At this point, even if he didn't feel indignant, he had to admit that Chu Yue was indeed capable!

He was slightly anxious. *Perhaps Chu Yue can actually beat me...*

"Si—" Suddenly, a scorching pain was felt!

Liu Zi'an gasped and looked down. He then realized that he actually forgot to control the fire within the cauldron as he was distracted!

Just now, the fire spark that flew out burned his hand. He wasn't really injured, but the herbs within the cauldron were already burned.

Looking at the scorched mess, Liu Zi'an's blood boiled. He wanted to kick the cauldron away and smash it against Chu Yue's face!

Bang!

He harshly poured all of the herbs within the cauldron out!

The dust flew away.

Seeing this scene, quite a few people secretly exchanged glances. *This Liu Zi'an... doesn't have much resilience... Chu Yue just stood there and only started producing his pill, yet he has already accidentally ruined the herbs he just refined. Tsk. If this Chu Yue really wins, god knows what kind of expression he will have!*

Liu Zi'an took a deep breath in and forced himself to calm down. Even though he wasted his previous efforts, he luckily still had some spare herbs. *The next thing I have to do is quickly produce my pills!*

He started refining the herbs again.

...

Glancing from the corner of her eyes, Chu Liuyue roughly knew about Liu Zi'an's condition. Her lips curled up slightly, and she found it funny. *I really don't know why Liu Yintong would ask him to come over. Did she overestimate Liu Zi'an or underestimate me? She clearly has already lost to me once at Million Wine Mountain, yet she is still so careless now. Isn't she just directly giving me a win?*

Chu Liuyue started to add herbs to the cauldron in an orderly fashion.

Ever since she came out from Fengmin Mountain, she clearly felt that her abilities had improved. She faintly felt that she had touched a higher stage, and she seemed to be much more energized. This allowed her to be more comfortable when producing pills.

Time slowly trickled past.

Outside the square, there were quite a few spectators.

On the one hand, there weren't many challenges in the academy, so it would attract quite a few people's attention every time one happened. On the other hand, the name 'Chu Yue' had been talked about wildly in the academy.

The moment he came out from Fengmin Mountain, he had a challenge with someone else, and the other party was clearly stronger than him... It was hard to forget this new student even if they wanted to.

...

After receiving the news, Luo Shishi and the rest also rushed over.

Luo Yanlin also came with them.

“It’s really Chu Yue!” After seeing that person standing on the square, Zhuo Sheng couldn’t help but exclaim, “What exactly is he thinking?! He knows the rules of the challenge, right?”

If the other party is bent on teaching him a lesson, he—

“Shishi, your friend isn’t very mature.” Luo Yanlin stared at the square and gave a comment.

It was rare to see such torturous students.

“Liu Yintong and the rest want to bully him, so he reacted in this manner.” Luo Shishi pressed her lips against each other. *On Million Wine Mountain that day, it was clearly those people who went to provoke him and wanted to compete. After Liu Yintong lost, she was still indignant and sent other people to purposely cause trouble for Chu Yue. From start to end, Chu Yue actually didn’t do anything wrong. If it were someone else, they might not even be in Chu Yue’s state as they would be bullied completely.*

“The strong are respected. There’s nothing about bullying or no bullying,” said Luo Yanlin lightly. “He clearly knows this logic too.”

Hence, he agreed to this challenge! Thinking of this, Luo Yanlin suddenly laughed. “This kid... is rather interesting!”

If he really can win, it won’t be others bullying him. Instead, he’d be setting a precedent!

...

Whir!

Noise suddenly came from Chu Liuyue’s cauldron, and an intense herbal fragrance spread out from within!

“Chu Yue is about to form the pill!” someone cried out.

Almost at the same time, Liu Zi’an had the same commotion! The fire burned even more strongly, and a circular-shaped pill vaguely appeared!

“Liu Zi’an is about to complete it!”

“I wonder who can finish completing the pill first...”

“So what if it’s Chu Yue? An eighth-grade pill can’t be compared to a ninth-grade one!”

“He doesn’t seem to be anxious at all. Perhaps he has some backup plan...”

“Hah! Backup plan? Do you think he’ll produce a ninth-grade pill?”

Laughter could be heard from the crowd.

Coincidentally, Chu Liuyue suddenly slapped the cauldron at this moment!

Fire wrapped around the fist-sized pill and suddenly flew up! At the same time, she whipped her sleeves, and a few herbs landed within the cauldron one after another!

This sudden movement shocked the entire crowd.

“What is he doing? He hasn’t finished producing the pill, yet he emptied the cauldron?”

“No! He’s producing a second one!”

“He hasn’t even finished the first, so why is he producing a second one?”

Suddenly, a gasp filled with shock could be heard from the crowd. “No! He’s merging pills!”

Chapter 1166: Familiar Technique

Luo Shishi knitted her brows slightly and couldn’t help but mutter, “What is pill merging?”

“Pill merging is a special method during pill production. I’ve heard that one can join two or even more pills and finally form one pill. With this method, you can gather the efficacy of the medicine in one place and produce a pill of an even higher level,” explained Luo Yanlin patiently. Even though he wasn’t a heavenly doctor, he had stayed in the academy for a few years and had some form of understanding toward this.

“Increase the standard of the pill?” Luo Shishi’s heart skipped a beat. “Does he really plan to produce a ninth-grade pill?”

“It’s understandable if he wants to win.” Luo Yanlin smiled. “Previously, I thought that he could only win if Liu Zi’an made a mistake. I didn’t expect him to have this second path.”

In the beginning, he didn’t really care about Chu Yue and even had some form of natural enmity toward him as Luo Shishi cared about him especially. But now, he realized that this Chu Yue... was indeed rather interesting.

Chu Yue has already made such a name for himself after just arriving at the academy. Not to mention the previous few incidents, he can definitely be famous in the entire academy if he wins this match today!

Luo Shishi and the rest looked elated. “This means that his chances of winning will be high if he can succeed?”

Seeing her smile, Luo Yanlin couldn't help but reach out and lightly flick her forehead. He then lightly grunted. "Don't be so optimistic! I just said that because he wants to pill merge, not that he can definitely do it! You need to know that focus is very important when merging pills. If one wants to merge pills, they need to multitask at the very least. He's an eighth-grade heavenly doctor, so if he wants to beat Liu Zi'an, he needs to produce at least two superior-class eighth-grade pills!"

Luo Shishi and the rest were stunned. *Producing two superior-class eighth-grade pills would be quite hard for a ninth-grade heavenly doctor, let alone an eighth-grade one, right?*

"Anyway, to this day, I've never heard of an eighth-grade heavenly doctor merging pills successfully."

Luo Yanlin's words sank their hearts again as they gazed at the square worriedly. *He is just a sixteen-year-old youngster. Can he really do it?*

...

Chu Liuyue split out some fire and wrapped it around the pill she previously produced as she quietly refined it a half-arm above the cauldron, carrying out the finishing touches. On the other end, she kept adding new herbs into the cauldron.

Liu Zi'an saw such a scene when he looked up. He clenched his teeth and was even more enraged.

"You don't know your limits!" He cursed softly. *Does an eighth-grade heavenly doctor know what pill merging is? He's just forcefully doing it, putting on an act! At the very end, he might not even produce an eighth-grade pill!*

However, time trickled past bit by bit, but there was no strange situation on the opposite end.

Chu Liuyue completed the entire process in an organized manner.

The pill above the cauldron kept shrinking continuously, and the herbs below were extracted and refined smoothly. Very quickly, Chu Liuyue actually started producing the second pill!

Liu Zi'an forced himself to retract his gaze as he focused on his own pill. However, he faintly felt anxious and uneasy as if something bad was about to happen.

When his heart was in a mess, the fire in the cauldron also moved.

His heart harshly skipped a beat, and he hurriedly tried to calm himself down.

Luckily, the pill seemed fine. However, Liu Zi'an's heart still sank.

During pill production, the last stage was extremely important and needed even more focus! Any small mistake would cause an irreversible outcome, affecting the quality of the produced pill! It would even destroy the pill in serious cases!

Even though I can complete the pill, the quality... Clenching his teeth, Liu Zi'an still controlled the fire and finished the last bit of heating and forming!

Whir!

A shocking ripple reverberated throughout the cauldron! At the same time, an intense herbal fragrance permeated the air!

A red pill flew out from the cauldron.

Liu Zi'an was long prepared as he flicked his wrist and formed a barrier above it.

That pill harshly slammed against the barrier and bounced back! Then, Liu Zi'an whipped his sleeves and rapidly stored the pill within his jade box!

Kacha!

He closed the jade box!

The pill was completed!

...

Holding the jade box in his hands, Liu Zi'an heaved a sigh of relief. *Luckily, there weren't many mishaps, and the pill was finally completed! Now, the win and loss of the competition depends on Chu Yue!*

...

Seeing Liu Zi'an's expression, everyone guessed that he had smoothly produced a Greater Mastery Pill. This also meant that he had an inferior-class ninth-grade pill with him.

If Chu Yue failed in merging the pills or the pill he produced wasn't as good as an inferior-class ninth-grade one, Liu Zi'an would win this match! But if the pill he produced was better than Liu Zi'an's, then—

Some people secretly shook their heads when they thought of this. How can that be? A mere eighth-grade heavenly doctor like Chu Yue doesn't have such abilities.

...

Chu Liuyue focused on producing her pill and ignored everything else in the surroundings.

When she was still Shangguan Yue, she was quite experienced in merging pills. But after she was reborn, she hadn't done it again. She only had such an idea because she wanted to beat Liu Zi'an today.

With her current abilities, it was fine if she wanted to produce an eighth-grade pill. However, it was quite hard to produce a ninth-grade pill.

Rather than taking a risk, she decided to use a more stable method—pill merging! This method had lower requirements on a heavenly doctor's abilities, but it had more demands on one's techniques and focus, which suited the current her.

Of course, if the people present knew she was thinking in this manner, they would probably want to beat her up. This was because techniques and focus were the biggest tests for a heavenly doctor!

For warrior cultivators, if they weren't talented enough, they could use their hard work to make up for it.

However, this wasn't so for heavenly doctors. Every improvement in cultivation and every breakthrough for heavenly doctors were closely related to the cultivator's talent. For example, different heavenly doctors would produce pills of different efficacy with the same formula.

If one was talented and had natural abilities, they could unleash the formula's full efficacy.

A heavenly doctor's technique, sensitivity, and sharpness were all included in the word 'talent.' Some people could practice producing a pill more than hundreds of times, but it still might not be better than others producing it once.

And Chu Liuyue was that kind of person.

...

"Why are a bunch of people gathered there?"

A few elders were sitting together at Dong Huang Clock Tower.

Hearing the noise, one of them looked down. "Hm? It seems like some students are doing a challenge—wait! Wan Zheng, look. it looks like it's your new disciple!"

Upon hearing this, Elder Wan Zheng walked over.

Suddenly, his expression became slightly dazed, and he slowly knitted his brows. "...Why does this technique look familiar?"

Chapter 1167: Done!

He took a closer look at the young man producing the pill below. His movements were well-practiced, and his actions were smooth. It was clearly a nerve-racking challenge, but he didn't look nervous at all.

Elder Wan Zheng focused on him and squinted his eyes slightly, the sense of familiarity in his heart becoming increasingly stronger. "It's really that Chu Yue? Wasn't he locked up in Fengmin Mountain previously? Why—"

"Haha! Wan Zheng, I thought your disciple was an obedient one, but I didn't expect him to be so capable! He just ended his punishment, and now, he's fighting with someone else again!"

The other elders also walked over and watched the competition below with much interest.

"Hey, it looks like he's merging pills?" Suddenly, the elder who noticed this match first turned around in shock and glanced at Elder Wan Zheng. "Wan Zheng, he didn't have the chance to learn much from you after he came to the academy, right?"

Elder Wan Zheng knew what he meant and replied, "I didn't teach him how to merge pills."

“Oh, that’s surprising.” Upon hearing this, the surrounding elders took a glance and laughed with ambiguous meaning.

“You won’t normally teach an eighth-grade heavenly doctor how to merge pills, right?”

“Yeah, back then, I only started learning it a year after I became a ninth-grade heavenly doctor.”

“Oh, but this kid’s pill production techniques are indeed very smooth. I think he’s even better than the ninth-grade one opposite him! Wan Zheng, you accepted a good student,” teased the few elders.

Elder Wan Zheng didn’t speak. *Of course, I know that Chu Yue is very talented, but I didn’t expect him to be able to do this. If I don’t recall wrongly, he seems to be only 16 years old now, right? If he successfully merges the pills now...*

For some reason, a figure suddenly appeared in Elder Wan Zheng’s head. They had the same shocking talent and the same troublemaking tendencies.

The hands in his sleeves clenched slowly.

...

At this point, Liu Zi’an had already finished producing the pill and waited along with the spectators.

The second pill had already formed within the cauldron.

As time gradually passed, the two pills finally became of similar size.

Bang!

Chu Liuyue slammed her hand down! Then, a ball of fire wrapped around the second pill and flew up!

The two pills floated in mid-air and faced each other.

Seeing this scene, the crowd unwittingly held in their breaths. *It's coming!*

Chu Liuyue stared at it closely and gathered all her focus. This was her first time trying to merge pills after she was reborn, and she had to win this match!

When she estimated that the two fires' temperatures were adjusted appropriately, she took a deep breath in.

Two waves of forces surged out of her dantian, and one wave injected into each hand!

Rumble!

Rumble!

The two balls of scorching hot fire instantly wrapped around her hands! At the same time, she rapidly raised her hands and controlled them respectively before forcefully merging them.

After the two pills approached each other, they started repelling each other crazily. The surrounding fire started moving around agitatedly.

Chu Liuyue's movements had no form of hesitation at all! She continued to use even greater strength!

The two pills started approaching each other at an even slower speed. When the two fires touched each other—

Huala!

Sparks flew everywhere, and a light glowed very brightly!

Chu Liuyue's arm started trembling slightly. She clenched her teeth and crazily circulated her bodily force!

Rumble!

The fire on both her hands burned even more intensely! Under such strong movements, the fire of the two pills finally started merging!

Liu Zi'an's heart seemed to be harshly knocked as an intense uneasiness filled his heart!

Suddenly, a sound exploded between the two balls of fire! Then, the fire that had already started merging separated again from the middle! At the same time, the two pills started retreating slowly!

Liu Zi'an's eyes lit up. *It is about to fail! If a heavenly doctor can't control the state of the two pills and forcefully merges them, it will cause the pills to be completely destroyed in the end! It is such a situation now!*

He couldn't help but laugh, and his eyes were filled with mockery. *One indeed only has such an outcome if they continue forcing themselves. I've long known that a mere eighth-grade heavenly doctor like Chu Yue cannot do it!*

When these thoughts flashed across his mind, the two pills between the young man's hand had already completely separated, and the fire above gradually dimmed.

Liu Zi'an held the jade box tightly, and happiness filled his heart! *I will definitely win this match!*

...

"It's a pity." The elders at Dong Huang Clock Tower were also watching the match below. Upon seeing this scene, they all looked rather regretful.

"Just a little bit more..."

"He's an eighth-grade heavenly doctor after all, and his abilities are quite lacking. It'd be rather difficult if he wants to use this method to win."

The other elder gave a neutral comment and looked at Wan Zheng at the side.

Elder Wan Zheng just stared speechlessly at the match below without an expression. The elders even thought that he was unhappy because his disciple was going to lose.

That's true. Nobody can smile in such a scenario. Besides, it's even a challenge. Losing isn't the most important thing. If the person opposite Chu Yue is relentless, it will be... troublesome.

According to the rules, even the elders couldn't intervene.

“Wan Zheng, don't be disappointed that Chu Yue lost. Actually, Chu Yue is very talented, and he'll definitely exceed the person opposite him in time to come.”

An elder advised, “With your guidance, this child will definitely be on the Qing Yun Ranking!”

Elder Wan Zheng shook his head. “He won't lose.”

Although his tone was calm, it was filled with determination and insistence. This wasn't a question but a statement! It was a very determined statement too!

The few elders exchanged glances. *What is Wan Zheng saying? Chu Yue won't lose? However, we all saw clearly that the kid had lost control of the two pills. When the fire above completely extinguishes, he will—*

“How can this be?” Suddenly, an elder gasped.

Upon hearing this, the few people immediately looked over. When they saw the scene below, the few of them fell into dead silence.

They saw that the young man—who already showed signs of losing earlier—didn’t completely lose on the spacious square. On the other hand, the fires of the two pills before him started burning crazily!

The aura was even more ferocious than before as he pressed hard with his two hands! Following this, the two balls of fire immediately merged!

At the same time, the two pills also merged!

Chu Liuyue yelled, “Join!”

A shockingly intense herbal fragrance exploded from within!

The fire in her hands had already completely wrapped around the pill! The next moment, the pill rushed out of the fire and wanted to escape!

Chu Liuyue went on her toes and directly flew up to capture the pill! Then, she swiftly put it in the jade box she had already prepared!

Kacha!

The jade box shut tightly!

Chu Liuyue landed on the ground lightly, and her clothes flowed with the wind.

She raised the jade box in her hands, raised her brows, and smiled at the pale Liu Zi'an. "Senior Brother Liu, let's compare?"

Chapter 1168: I Haven't Said it Ended

Dead silence.

Everyone looked at the smiling young man in shock as they lost their words at that moment. *It's done... He actually merged the pills successfully ?!*

"That's impossible!" yelled Liu Zi'an suddenly. He stared at Chu Liuyue closely, and his eyes burned with disbelief as if they wanted to burn a hole in Chu Liuyue's body! "That pill is definitely problematic!"

Chu Liuyue wasn't annoyed as her smile didn't falter at all. "Since you're so sure of it, why don't you come and verify it yourself?"

Seeing how confident Chu Liuyue was, Liu Zi'an became increasingly uneasy, and his heart seemed to be tightly clutched by something!

I clearly just saw that Chu Yue was about to fail, but who would've thought he actually managed to save it in the end! Liu Zi'an kept comforting himself. Impossible... Even a ninth-grade heavenly doctor might not have a method in the previous situation, let alone Chu Yue? Even if his pill looks fine, there was such a big commotion previously. I don't believe that there can be a completely undamaged pill! This Chu Yue is most likely putting on an act!

Thinking of this, Liu Zi'an felt more assured. He calmed himself down and walked forward.

"It seems like you're pretty confident in yourself, Junior Brother Chu Yue," said Liu Zi'an coldly. "Since this is so, why don't you take yours out first?"

Chu Liuyue smiled. "Senior Brother Liu, you finished your pill first. Why don't you take it out first?"

Liu Zi'an ground his teeth and felt increasingly certain that this child was guilty.

He coldly snorted and picked up his jade box—everyone's gazes landed on it. Then, Liu Zi'an opened the jade box.

A red, dragon eye-sized pill lay within quietly.

Everyone could see the lines on it clearly. It's indeed an inferior ninth-grade pill!

"Have you seen it clearly?" Liu Zi'an's tone had a hint of annoyance.

Just when he was about to close the jade box, Chu Liuyue suddenly said, "Hold on."

Liu Zi'an knitted his brows. "What else do you want?"

Chu Liuyue pointed at his jade box. "Senior Brother Liu, your pill... seems to be faulty."

Liu Zi'an's expression changed slightly. "What nonsense are you talking about!? This pill is an inferior-class ninth-grade pill! Everyone saw it clearly, so how can it have a problem?!"

His voice sounded more enraged and frustrated.

Chu Liuyue's expression didn't change as she still smiled warmly. "Senior Brother Liu, although I'm just an eighth-grade heavenly doctor and can't compare to you, a ninth-grade one... I've seen ninth-grade pills before. Just now, the color of your pill seemed off. Senior Brother Liu, do you mind if you bring the pill up for us to take a closer look?"

Liu Zi'an's heart suddenly skipped a beat. This kid—how could he tell?

"On what basis are you doubting my pill?" asked Liu Zi'an lowly as he clutched the jade box tightly.

Chu Liuyue blinked. "This is a challenge, and we're competing in this. Isn't it normal to bring out your pill for everyone to see it clearly? Senior Brother Liu, are you so resistant because you... don't dare?"

Liu Zi'an was stumped. I really can't reject him in front of everyone!

He was so angry that he laughed. "Okay! Since this is so, don't forget to do this later too!"

Chu Liuyue smiled and nodded. "Of course. Senior Brother Liu, go ahead!"

Now, Liu Zi'an was caught between a rock and a hard place. He clenched his teeth and opened his jade box to take out the pill within.

"Hey! That pill does seem to have spots!" Gasps could be heard from the crowd.

Liu Zi'an looked at that person harshly, and his gaze was sharp.

The person talking fell silent immediately, but everyone had already heard it. Besides, everyone had eyes of their own. Even if that person didn't say it, they could tell that there was a dark spot on the pill.

Actually, the spot was only the size of a green bean and was very unassuming on this red pill. However... this meant that this pill's quality was highly discounted!

"Si... So Liu Zi'an didn't even produce his pill properly?"

"With such a huge spot, can this pill be considered as a ninth-grade pill?"

"The medicinal efficacy is messy, and it isn't separated evenly... Such a pill won't be very effective even if it's a ninth-grade one, right?"

The crowd partook in heated discussions. Some heavenly doctors even gave harsher comments. Liu Zi'an's face flashed white and red as if he were being tortured. Previously, I was worried about this problem, and I didn't expect it to actually occur! I originally wanted to muddle my way through, but who knew that Chu Yue would be so cunning!?

He braved himself and accepted all sorts of gazes from the crowd as he glared at Chu Liuyue furiously. "You! Now, it's your turn to take out your pill for everyone to judge, right?!"

Chu Liuyue raised her brows slightly and opened her jade box without hesitation to take out the pill.

This pill was the size of a normal pill, but its color was very special. Emerald green and light blue each took up half of the pill in a very distinct separation, and the colors were very rich!

The pill had a smooth and tidy surface, glowing with a faint light. With just one glance, they knew that the medicinal effects were merged well.

However, this wasn't the most important point. The most important thing was that the lines on the pill were exactly the same as Liu Zi'an's Greater Mastery pill.

The pill Chu Liuyue produced was clearly also an inferior ninth-grade one!

When he saw the perfect color and shape of the pill, Liu Zi'an felt very uneasy.

This uneasiness evolved to the extreme when he saw the same lines! Almost at the same time, he knew that he had lost this match!

Shua!

The last bit of color on his face disappeared!

The surrounding spectators broke into an uproar after a temporary silence. “Inferior ninth-grade! Chu Yue’s pill is also an inferior ninth-grade one!”

“And this pill looks even stronger than Liu Zi’an’s! So he wins this round, right?!”

“I really couldn’t tell that this Chu Yue was so strong!”

“Haha! One that can be accepted by Elder Wan Zheng naturally isn’t ordinary! Liu Zi’an originally wanted to use his ninth-grade heavenly doctor identity to suppress the other party, but the latter made a comeback! This time... he’s completely humiliated!”

All sorts of voices came one after another.

Liu Zi’an’s heart beat wildly, and his face burned!

He never thought that Chu Yue would actually succeed! Previously, he still thought that Chu Yue’s pill was faulty, but the truth was now out. He stood so near and could see very clearly that Chu Yue’s pill was indeed more outstanding than his!

He couldn’t even say a word of defense.

Chu Liuyue looked at him. "Senior Brother Liu, have you taken a good look at it?"

Liu Zi'an ground his teeth and said with hatred, "You win!"

Then, he flung his sleeves and was about to leave.

"Hold on." Chu Liuyue's voice came from behind.

Liu Zi'an turned around and furrowed his brows tightly, his gaze filled with hatred. "What else do you want?!"

Chu Liuyue smiled, and her eyes curved up. Then, she slowly said, "Did I say that this match has ended?"

Chapter 1169: Cheat

Liu Zi'an was dazed.

The surrounding crowd also gradually fell silent as they looked at Chu Liuyue in confusion. *What does that mean? He doesn't want it to end? But the match already ended, and he won! Is there a need to continue?*

"You still want to continue?" Liu Zi'an furrowed his brows even tighter. "I've already surrendered. What else do you want?"

Chu Liuyue smiled in a very genuine and harmless manner. "A challenge is called one because it can only end when both parties agree, right?"

When Liu Zi'an saw that youngster's smile, his heart suddenly sank! He faintly felt that he had been tricked. "You still want to battle in pill-making?"

Not to mention that he has already won, and there is no need to continue, even if we really battled another round, both of us don't have much energy.

"Who says I want to produce pills?" said Chu Liuyue rather strangely. "I thought we could do whatever we want in a challenge?"

"Hah! You want to fight with me?" As if hearing a joke, Liu Zi'an mocked her and sized Chu Liuyue up, his eyes filled with unconcealable contempt. "If I don't recall wrongly, you're still a beginner stage-seven warrior, right? With such abilities, you still want to fight with me?"

It was normal that he looked down on Chu Liuyue's standard. After all, the entry requirement for warriors in the academy was to be a stage-nine warrior.

Even if some Xuan Masters and heavenly doctors didn't specialize in this area, they weren't weak either. Chu Liuyue, as a beginner stage-seven warrior, was unquestionably one of the bottom few in the academy.

Even though Liu Zi'an didn't have much talent as a warrior, he was still a beginner stage-eight warrior.

It was a piece of cake to deal with a beginner stage-seven warrior like Chu Liuyue, and warrior competitions used real weapons. Without true ability, one wouldn't be able to win with tricks up their sleeves.

Very obviously, Liu Zi'an thought that Chu Liuyue would use some unscrupulous means to attain victory, which is why the latter made such a request. If not, he really couldn't think of how Chu Liuyue would bridge the giant gap between the two of them!

"Since it's a challenge, what's the big deal of fighting another round?"

Hearing Chu Liuyue's affirmative reply, Liu Zi'an almost laughed out loud. "Are you sure?"

Chu Liuyue nodded seriously. "Senior Brother Liu, please—"

Liu Zi'an laughed. "Okay! I'll fight with you!"

"What exactly is Chu Yue thinking? He won once, yet he actually wants to continue with a warrior match?"

"Beginner stage-seven—it's not that I look down on him, but he's really too unskilled!"

"If anything goes wrong, Liu Zi'an might even be able to claim back all the humiliation he suffered,,,"

Luo Yanlin suddenly asked, "How are his combat skills?"

Luo Shishi didn't expect her fourth brother to take the initiative to ask a question, and she shook her head. "We haven't seen him fight yet, so... We're not too sure either." Luo Yanlin fell silent for a moment. "Do you know about his background?"

Luo Shishi and the rest shook their heads.

Chu Yue seemed like he didn't really like talking about this as if important matters must be kept a secret, so they didn't ask further.

"...But he has a very powerful Yuan instrument. After we came into the academy, the Yuan instruments used to hide our auras couldn't really be used anymore, but Chu Yue's one wasn't really affected. Even Elder Wen Xi and the rest couldn't tell," said Luo Yanming suddenly.

"Oh?" Luo Yanlin was shocked for once. "It's quite rare to have such Yuan instruments..."

There were two possibilities. One, Chu Yue encountered an unprecedented twist of fate and got it by accident. Two, he came from an extremely powerful aristocratic family and had a very high status there!

Our Luo family is also a true first-grade aristocratic family; we definitely have such Yuan instruments. However, this item is extremely precious, so we might not get it. Not to mention Luo Shishi and the rest, even I didn't have such a treasure with me when I first came to the academy, Luo Yanlin thought to himself and looked at the stage.

That young man stood upright. Even though he looked young, his expression was calm and composed.

Such an aura doesn't seem like it comes from a nobody..

“...Liu Yintong and the rest might’ve kicked a metal board this time...”

“Wan Zheng... Wan Zheng?” In Dong Huang Clock Tower, the few elders were still watching the match. One of them saw that Elder Wan Zheng seemed dazed as if he were thinking of something, so he called the latter twice.

Elder Wan Zheng then recovered his senses. “What’s the matter?”

“What do you mean what’s the matter? We want to ask you what’s the matter!” An elder laughed. “What are you thinking about with so much focus!?”

Elder Wan Zheng’s brows moved slightly, and he shook his head. “Nothing much.”

“Don’t think about it and look at your disciple first! Enough that he won that pill production match, but he even wants to continue fighting with the other party!”

The few elders present were all taken aback when they saw that Chu Liuyue had successfully merged the pills and won the competition. After the shock, they were filled with envy and jealousy toward Wan Zheng.

This Chu Yue is more talented as a heavenly doctor than we thought! If we had known this earlier, we would’ve fought for a chance at the beginning of the month!

Elder Wan Zheng followed their gaze and looked down. As expected, he saw that the two of them had put away their respective cauldrons and were now standing opposite each other, preparing for battle.

An elder suddenly laughed at the side. “Wan Zheng, your disciple isn’t only talented as a heavenly doctor, but he’s also very good at making trouble! I think... you’ll be very busy in the future!”

This was originally a joke, but it felt like the words had uncovered a misty cloud to Elder Wan Zheng! It was as if something flashed across his heart!

But without waiting for him to figure it out, Liu Zi’an’s angered voice could be heard from below.

“Absolutely no way!”

After having his thoughts disrupted, Elder Wan Zheng knitted his brows and looked down.

At the venue, the two people stood opposite each other.

Liu Zi’an’s face flushed red, and he was agitated as he pointed at Chu Liuyue. To be exact, he was pointing at the small thing on her shoulders.

Even though it was entirely red, fluffy, and adorable, everyone present knew that it was Chu Liuyue’s legendary fiend—a red-tailed phoenix! Besides, this was the one that clearly beat Liu Yintong’s legendary fiend!

Its powerful capabilities were as clear as day! If one really fought against it... Liu Zi’an only had death awaiting him as a stage-eight warrior!

“This is a match between the two of us. It’s cheating if you use your fiend!” As he was nervous, Liu Zi’an’s voice became extremely shrill.

“Since fiends have an agreement with cultivators, they’re partners. It’s logical that they live together, die together, and fight together. Why do you think that I can’t summon it?” Chu Liuyue patted Tuan Zi’s head and nonchalantly said, “Can’t you just summon your fiend out to battle too?”.

Chapter 1170: Compete Like This!

Liu Zi’an was stifled and almost spat at the person opposite him. Pfft! He has the face to say it? And he even asked me to summon my fiend... If I also had a legendary fiend, I wouldn’t be so worried! However, there aren’t so many legendary fiends in the world! Even Liu Yintong’s one was obtained with much difficulty, and hers previously lost to Chu Yue! If it weren’t for that bet, there wouldn’t be this mess today! In front of such a formidable legendary fiend, my ninth-grade fiend wouldn’t even be able to last three moves!

“Anyway, I don’t agree! Only the two of us can fight like this!”

The smile on Chu Liuyue’s face faded.

She retracted her expression, and a vague icy pressure spread. Then, a cold and distant voice was heard. “I say we’ll compete like that.”

Meeting the pair of silent, icy black eyes, Liu Zi’an’s heart turned cold for some reason. Under the stare of those two eyes, he actually felt that he was very small and insignificant, unwittingly feeling a sense of fear.

A shudder ran through him. How can a young man in his teens have such a gaze?

He still wanted to retort, but the words were stuck in his throat for some reason, and he couldn't say them.

He clenched his teeth. "Okay! We'll compete!"

As long as my fiend can hold that red-tailed phoenix back while I rapidly deal with Chu Yue, I can still win!

"Wind scooping bird!" he hollered, and his surrounding force surged up!

A gigantic bird rapidly appeared above his head. This bird had brilliant colors, with its main color being dark blue. It had nine strands of white feathers at the top of its head, and its pair of yellow-orange eyes were sinister and nonchalant.

Ninth-grade fiend!

Actually, a ninth-grade fiend wasn't low level, but this was Ling Xiao Academy. All the top warriors and elites gathered here, so it looked rather ordinary. This was especially so when its opponent was a true legendary fiend—a red-tailed phoenix with extremely strong bloodline power!

Tuan Zi opened its eyes lazily.

Perhaps because it absorbed the strength from the lightning, but Chu Liuyue felt that its bodily aura seemed different from before.

Tuan Zi's brilliant eyes lightly swept across, and the wind scooping bird opposite it suddenly felt a sense of fear.

That was the absolute pressure from the bloodline power!

Liu Zi'an naturally felt the strange emotional change in his own fiend, and he couldn't help but be enraged.

"Go!" he hollered! As long as it can hold the red-tailed phoenix back for a moment, I can definitely finish Chu Yue off!

Even though the wind scooping bird was afraid, it couldn't disobey its master's command!

It flapped its wings and flew forward! Almost at the same time, Liu Zi'an's figure also disappeared from the spot!

"I didn't expect to see them fight in a competition between two heavenly doctors..."

"One is a beginner stage-seven warrior, while the other is a beginner stage-eight one. Haha, I haven't seen a competition at such a level in a while! Interesting, interesting!"

"I really don't know what that Chu Yue is thinking... Since he won, can't he just end it beautifully? Why must he make things difficult for himself like that?"

“Don’t talk about it. If I have such a red-tailed phoenix, I would also dare to do it!”

“So what if he has a legendary fiend? If he is incapable, it will also limit how much strength the legendary fiend can unleash. There is no certainty as to who will win in the end... If Liu Zi’an is fast enough, he has a rather high chance of winning this match!”

Many spectating warriors were interested, and they all had various comments.

The two people competing had heard some parts of it.

Liu Zi’an’s confidence greatly increased, but when he looked forward, he saw that the young man still seemed nonchalant and composed as if he didn’t even take those words to heart.

What an act! Liu Zi’an scolded in his heart. When I beat him up until he has to find his teeth all over the floor, we’ll see if he can look so high and mighty!

At this point, Tuan Zi had already flown forward and was going head-on against that wind scooping bird! Hence, Liu Zi’an’s line of vision only had Chu Liuyue left.

He almost laughed out loud. Without that legendary fiend protecting him, Chu Yue has no advantage and is filled with flaws!

“Wind-thunder punch!” He circulated his bodily aura and injected it into his right fist as he harshly hurled it forward!

The punch howled with the wind, and the empty air vibrated!

Liu Zi'an had used all his force in this punch! I have to end this as fast as possible!

Chu Liuyue stood at her spot as she moved her legs slightly and bent her knees. She then curled her arms, pulled back, gathered her strength, and slowly clenched her fists!

It was clearly an extremely ordinary move, but it looked very smooth and pleasing when she did it. It was as if all the blood and muscles in her body had perfectly moved!

In front of her, Liu Zi'an's punch was right before her eyes!

The terrifying and harsh suppression caused her hair to fly up and her clothes to flow with the wind! This shocking strength almost caused one to doubt if the punch would directly blow one's head out when it hit them!

Coldness filled Chu Liuyue's face as she stared straight at Liu Zi'an opposite her with no hint of fear in her eyes!

Then, without hesitation, she hurled a punch out! It was the simplest—the most direct punch!

Bang!

The two punches collided!

Crack!

The sound of bones cracking could be heard.

The next moment, the delight on Liu Zi'an's face rapidly disappeared and was filled with extreme pain!

At this moment, Elder Wan Zheng—who was standing at Dong Huang Clock Tower—had his eyes narrowed. He unwittingly took a step forward and held the railing tightly with one hand. I have seen this fist technique before!