

## Refining 321

### Chapter 321 – The Pill Eating Pill Furnace

Zhao Jiutian had a dignified complexion. After the brief initial excitement wore off, he constantly reminded himself that this was the only chance he had of recovering from having made such a grave mistake. If he didn't want to sink into oblivion here, his only chance was to obtain first place. Otherwise this would all be meaningless.

However, the pill Zhao Jiutian chose wasn't a common fourth-grade pill. Rather, it was a pill called the Muscle Growth Pill. The effects were just like its name; it possessed a formidable restorative ability. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that it could grow new muscles on white bone.

Of course, the most important reason Zhao Jiutian chose this pill was because the refinement process was relatively simple and required less time. Although the difficulty was slightly higher, there wouldn't be a problem if he was careful.

He wanted to be the first one to finish the refinement!

Black Beibei was far away in another room. His pill furnace was already producing waves of billowing heat.

His expression was grim and serious. There wasn't the least bit of usual pride on his handsome face.

The materials were constantly placed into the pill furnace at a steady speed. His divine sense sensed every minute change within the pill furnace and he constantly made law formulas to adjust the speed.

His pill furnace was only medium-grade. If he wanted to obtain a higher ranking, he would need to invest more time and effort into increasing the quality of the pill.

At this time, White Fengfeng was sweating profusely, constantly tossing materials into a pill furnace. Her speed was faster than average and it seemed a bit chaotic, but her eyes were calm and steady.

This method of rapidly throwing in materials and using the furnace fire to quickly temper and extract the medicinal efficacy before fusing it into the pill was a secret method passed down within the Great Desolate Lake. If others were to find out that someone so young like her was able to utilize such a method, they would surely cry out in admiration, making her the target of numerous envious gazes.

There were many other cultivators who used their true abilities right now. They wanted to obtain a satisfactory result on the competition's first day.

As everyone was working hard, Qin Yu was in a daze. Yes, that's right, he was in a daze. It wasn't because he had suffered some psychological attack from failing the refinement, and it wasn't because the pill furnace exploded, but because this pill furnace that already seemed the worst of the worst was actually more useful than expected.

No, to be more precise, it was far more useful.

The Overwhelming Pill was the one Qin Yu had chosen, and also the one he had the most practice with. When he joined the inn and refined pills for them, if he hadn't produced a hundred furnaces full of these pills, it was close enough to that.

Originally, a fourth-grade pill shouldn't be difficult for Qin Yu, especially one he had so much experience with such as the Overwhelming Pill.

The first furnace was successfully refined. Moreover, he was extremely lucky, and what was produced were medium-grade pills.

After a short daze, he was overjoyed that things were far better than what he had expected. It seemed that he would be able to keep competing for now.

As I thought, you're not as rotten as your appearance suggests. All of your essence and power must be contained within!

Unfortunately, just as Qin Yu had changed his opinion of the pill furnace, his happiness lasted for less than three seconds before a bucket of cold water was poured over his head, completely extinguishing any sense of joy.

This was because before he could put away the pills that were just produced and were still warm, there was a light swooshing sound as the pills flew back into the pill furnace. Then...there was no then.

Qin Yu swore that he had looked through every inch of the pill furnace with his divine sense. The only way he could check further was if he took the pill furnace apart. Even so, those successfully refined Overwhelming Pills had vanished without a trace.

If it weren't for the fluctuations of a light medicinal fragrance in the air that had yet to disperse, Qin Yu might have believed that this had all been just an illusion.

Then, there was only one possibility left...the pills were eaten!

Qin Yu's eyes popped open. He also knew that his thoughts were incredibly absurd, but besides that there was no other explanation.

This was...a pill furnace that ate pills.

He wouldn't have believed it unless he saw it with his own eyes!

After a long period of bewilderment, Qin Yu clenched his teeth and took out the second set of materials for the Overwhelming Pill. He didn't bother dwelling on the fact that this pill furnace was able to eat pills. If it could at least refine pills, that in itself was an unexpected harvest.

Qin Yu didn't believe that it would be able to swallow back the pills he refined when he was already prepared beforehand.

When he started the second refinement, the various young prides of heaven in the Southshine Nation had already completed their first refinement.

This didn't mean that Qin Yu's alchemy skills were above those of these fellow young prides of heaven. Rather, it was because the pill eating pill furnace in his hands was indeed a bit different.

Zhao Jiutian was one of these proud sons of heaven!

With a flick of the finger, there was a dull thump within the pill furnace. The furnace mouth opened and a rich medicinal fragrance gushed out. Blue pills shining with light shot forth.

Zhao Jiutian's eyes brightened. He took out the prepared jade bottle and placed the three Muscle Growth Pills within. Then, he flicked his sleeves and opened the door, striding straight out.

"Cleansing Temple's Zhao Jiutian has completed the refinement!"

He was the only person outside at the rows of low cabins. His voice echoed back and forth, excitement in his eyes. He gripped his fists.

First...he was first...

The Southshine Nation officials responded quickly. A cultivator soon arrived. After inspecting the jade bottle's Muscle Growth Pills in front of everyone, he nodded and announced that they qualified.

At this time, another sound rose up from the distance. "Great Desolate Lake's White Fengfeng has completed the refinement!"

Zhao Jiutian's smile stiffened and a trace of gloom flashed in his eyes. He didn't think that this little girl would have such skills.

Luckily, she was still a step slower than him.

One step slow and every step after would be behind. Once they reached the second stage of the alchemy competition, that would be when the true test of skill occurred. At that time, he would be able to leave her far in his dust.

White Fengfeng's Marrow Washing Pill was a spirit pill designed to enhance the physique and strengthen the body. After being examined, it also met the requirements.

Zhao Jiutian and White Fengfeng were like the beginning of a chain reaction. Cabin after cabin opened.

"West Brook's Zhang Chengzong has completed the refinement!"

"South Lake's Yuan Fangting has completed the refinement!"

"Southridge City's Feng Dou has completed the refinement!"

One after another, all of these young cultivators with outstanding strength started to push open their doors and loudly proclaim their own names. For a moment, there was a bit of confusion. Luckily the Southshine Nation officials were well prepared for this and they easily dealt with all these people. They clearly recorded the order in which these people called out their names.

At the same time, a special wide-angle camera captured the entire process. Later, the video would be reviewed and compared with the records in order to correct any errors that were made.

Of course, just shouting out one's name was useless. They still needed to go through the appraisal process and verify that their pill passed standard in order for their result to count.

"Great Desolate Lake's Black Beibei has completed the refinement!"

At this time, more than several dozen people had completed their pill refining. Black Beibei wasn't near the front of this group, but his expression was still calm and tranquil. Deep in his eyes was a great self-confidence.

The rankings didn't look at just time alone.

When the Southshine Nation official saw Black Beibei hand over the pill, his face shook and he looked deeply at him, smiling. He thought that this young fellow was truly worthy of the name of the Great Desolate Lake. His alchemy skills couldn't be underestimated.

Time slowly passed. One hour...two hours...more and more people finished their refinement smoothly. However, this didn't include Qin Yu.

In the low, narrow, and tiny cabin, Qin Yu's face was so dark that it seemed it could drip water. He gripped his fists together. If he wasn't conscious of the fact that he needed this pill furnace to continue on with the competition, he feared he would have already smashed this little bastard into pieces!

It was the ninth time. Qin Yu had never refined pills as smoothly as he did today. Every time he refined pills it was a success. But, what left one fuming in grief and indignation was that he couldn't obtain the pills he refined at all!

That's right, they were all eaten up by the pill furnace.

Without a single scrap left over!

Qin Yu swore he had already used every possible precaution at his disposal. But no matter what he tried and no matter how tenaciously he clung onto the pills, he couldn't avoid the fate of them being eaten up.

In particular, this time the damned pill furnace didn't even open its lid after he finished refining the pills. Those pills simply vanished into thin air.

If it wasn't for his powerful mentality and will, he feared he would have gone insane by now.

He took a deep breath. Although he didn't want to admit it, he knew that during his battle with the pill furnace today, he had been thoroughly defeated.

According to the look this fellow was exposing, even if Qin Yu refined another hundred pills in a single try they would still be eaten.

Now, out of the ten sets of Overwhelming Pill materials that he had purchased, there was only one left.

Bastard, you'd better make sure we don't have any time alone together in the future, otherwise I'll make you understand what it means to regret your past mistakes!

Qin Yu was vexed but he made an effort to squeeze out a smile. He flipped his hand to reveal five pale blue Overwhelming Pills. These were some private goods left over from his previous refinements, and after being purified by the little blue lamp, there was no need to mention their quality. As he placed these in his palm, one could smell an intoxicating pill fragrance.

"Let's try to work things out. If you leave behind the last furnace of pills for me, in return, I will give you these five top grade pills."

The pill furnace was quiet, like a piece of rotten wood with no response at all. If he hadn't personally competed with it in the great Tug of War Battle for the Refined Pills and suffered a devastating result, he

might have been deceived by it. At this time, he naturally knew it was playing the fool. In other words, its silence meant that this was only the starting price!

He clenched his teeth inwardly and his smile brightened. "It doesn't matter if five isn't enough. I'll add on another three! These are top grade pills; their quality cannot be compared with medium-grade pills."

The pill furnace remained silent.

Qin Yu darkly chuckled. "This is my final offer. Leave me the last furnace of pills and I will give you all ten of these top grade pills!"

Quietly, the pill furnace's lid popped open. The inside was dark, as if it were a mouth mocking him.

The ten pills were placed inside. Qin Yu could clearly hear the sound of crunching from within.

This bastard, it ate so happily! I'll endure this!

After a long time, the pill furnace finally finished eating. The extinguished flames beneath ignited on their own, drawing in heaven and earth spiritual energy. The flames changed into being ones suitable for refining pills.

The mouth of the pill furnace opened reluctantly. Although it didn't make any sound, Qin Yu could clearly feel impatience from its actions. The general feeling was: This father has already opened his mouth, so you'd better start refining pills. Stop dawdling about!

I endure!

Qin Yu laughed and took out the last set of Overwhelming Pill materials. The refinement process continued smoothly. After the furnace flames were extinguished, although the pills hadn't been taken out yet, the medicinal fragrance already indicated that it was a success.

Qin Yu let out a breath of relief. But as he was about to retrieve the pills, his face suddenly turned green. This was because he could hear a familiar chewing sound from within.

This, he really couldn't endure!

### **Chapter 322 – First Place, In Parentheses**

"Stop chewing!!" Qin Yu roared out loud. He gripped the pill furnace with his fingers, but no matter how much he twisted and no matter how much his fingers scraped against the surface, the pill furnace's mouth had no intention of opening.

Finally, the chewing sound stopped. Qin Yu's complexion paled. He couldn't believe he had been played so perfectly by a pill furnace. Killing intent began to rise in his eyes. As he was contemplating whether to tear it into eight pieces or rip it into ten, the mouth of the furnace opened and an Overwhelming Pill flew out.

Qin Yu looked at the open furnace mouth that seemed to be laughing at him and his lips twitched. This bastard...but he really didn't have time to argue with it, because the one day time limit was almost over.

He rapidly grabbed a jade bottle and placed the Overwhelming Pill within. Qin Yu rushed out of the door and shouted, "The inn...uh, the refinement has been completed!" In his haste and excitement he had

nearly shouted out his real name. Luckily, his reactions were fast enough and he just mumbled out the rest.

Among the empty rows of cabins, the sound was especially loud and startling. A group of shocked Southshine Nation officials were frightened and they leapt up in their boots.

One of them was clearly not of low status. He frowned and glanced at the official beside him.

That person hurriedly said, "Lord Hulun, there is still a minute before the time limit expires."

Hulun frowned. He wondered just where this strange person had come from, that they would actually finish at such a late time and then shout out as if they were looking to stimulate themselves.

But the rules were rules. He could only come to a stop and impatiently wave his hand.

Someone rushed over to Qin Yu. "Give me the pill!"

To take this long to finish, this person's strength must be disappointing. In addition, he had managed to displease his superior, so this official's attitude naturally wasn't pleasant at all.

Qin Yu also had a trace of embarrassment in his expression. He inwardly scolded the damned pill furnace 10,000 times in his heart and hurriedly handed over the jade bottle.

After opening it and taking a look, the official was clearly stunned. He saw the jade bottle was almost empty, with only a single pill within. From its dim appearance and the weak luster around it, it was clearly a medium-grade pill.

"You...you refined one pill?"

Qin Yu lightly coughed. He nodded.

Luckily, the competition didn't state a minimum. One pill was enough to pass this round.

The official sucked in a deep breath. "What about the remaining materials? Give them to me." At this time, he didn't want to waste a single extra word on this person.

Qin Yu remained silent.

The official's breath caught in his throat and his eyes widened. "Are you telling me that you used up all ten sets of materials?"

Even with Qin Yu's strong willpower and mindset, he still couldn't help but feel a bit ashamed. He could only innocently nod his head on purpose, as if asking, 'what do you mean?'

This expression almost caused the official to spit out a mouthful of blood!

This was ten sets of materials! Even for an experienced alchemist, when one added in the time it took to set up and rest, it was impossible for one to continuously operate a furnace ten times in a single day.

Thus, within the rules used to calculate the final rankings, the amount of remaining materials was also an extremely important factor.

Of course, the officials wouldn't acknowledge that this was simply a way to openly and honestly amass wealth. This was because the materials received here would be kept for the duration of the competition as proof for the contest organizers in case they needed it.

And the reason they had everyone purchase ten sets of materials was so that they could earn more spirit stones through the recycling process...but what was this? Ten sets of materials had all been used to refine a single fourth-grade pill, and it barely managed to reach a middle-grade quality...

This official professed that he had seen and experienced a great deal, but he had never seen someone whose alchemy skills were so rotten. He really couldn't figure out just how this person had managed to come this far.

The official flicked his sleeves and left in a huff, not even bothering to say another word to Qin Yu. In his heart, he had already sentenced Qin Yu to the death penalty.

This brat, he would definitely be arranged first...the first from the bottom!

It was unknown what this person said when he walked back, but the crowd of Southshine Nation officials all developed strange expressions and seemed a bit more impatient. For some reason, it made one think of people that were looking at the mentally handicapped with pity.

Hulun also couldn't help but glance at the boy. As he discovered that Qin Yu looked a bit familiar and then remembered where he saw him from, a look of disgust flashed across his face, then he coldly coughed and left.

This was the vulgar grandstander that played to the crowd!

The official that collected the pill from Qin Yu sneered inwardly. Even his superior couldn't stand him and left. This boy's first place was already decided!

So on the next day when Qin Yu opened his handphone and looked at the announcement posted on the official app, he searched through the long list of names and finally found his own in a dim and dark corner.

The inn – Ning Qin – No. 9527 – Points: 0 – Ranked first (From the bottom)

Qin Yu's lips twitched. He swore that the fellow who compiled the list must have some deep-seated grudge with him, otherwise why would he publicly mock him?

Moreover, there were those emphasized parentheses. What the hell was that!?

Qin Yu clenched his teeth and chose to remain anonymous. After he confirmed his status, all that remained on the end of the list was the No. 9527.

Fortunately, a good number of people seemed to have made the same decision as Qin Yu did. At the bottom end of the list, all that was left were serial numbers.

Everyone cared about their face...

Qin Yu coughed and comforted himself. He didn't fear losing face. He just didn't want to ruin the wonderful and positive image of Ning Qin that everyone had in their minds.

Mm, it was definitely because of that!

Scrolling up, there were over 4000 people that passed the first round. The list was extremely long.

And what was most eye-catching was the top of the list, with just 30 people. Because their names were posted in dazzling colors and they were at the top, this made them even more noticeable.

The first ranked was Zhao Jiutian.

Black Beibei was second.

Third was White Fengfeng.

Behind them followed a pack of strong and skilled young prides of heaven.

Qin Yu frowned. What use were the points after their names?

He took out the jade slip of information that the inn had prepared for him about the competition. As he read through it with his divine sense, a look of burning annoyance lit up his face.

That damned pill furnace!

The competition was split into four stages. Starting from the second stage when one began refining pills, participating alchemists will be ranked according to their performance. And, the top 30 alchemists would each obtain points as a reward.

For instance, the first place Zhao Jiutian obtained 10 points. The second place Black Beibei obtained 8 points and White Fengfeng obtained 6. Following that, points were reduced more and more. A single point could be exchanged for 10,000 spirit stones from the Southshine Nation officials, but almost no one did this, because saving these points was even more useful.

For example, they could be exchanged for special flames that increased the quality of pills. Or, they could be exchanged for materials that were lacking in the refining process. They could even be exchanged for more time to refine pills.

Was this fair to other participating alchemists? Of course it wasn't. But, those people had relied on their own strength to obtain points to begin with. Those points were there for the taking and no one could blame anyone else if they weren't able to seize them for themselves.

Qin Yu sneered inwardly. When it came to alchemy, what truly mattered was one's own strength. Any outside help or the like were just minor tricks.

Hum hum! Even if he had to compare, would this young master's little blue lamp be any weaker than those point benefits?

He definitely, definitely would not acknowledge that his heart was seething with envy. No way, absolutely no way!

The competition continued.

The official announced the rules for the third stage. "Following this, you will all have three days. Within these three days, you must refine 10 different types of fourth-grade pills. After refining a fourth-grade



pill, it will be appraised and each person will receive 1 to 3 points in the competition app on their handphones. These points can be added to the points from the previous stage and can be exchanged at the medicinal material storehouse for materials you will need to refine pills in the fourth stage.”

After a pause, he warmly smiled. “I would like to solemnly remind everyone that there is a limited amount of materials in the storehouse. Once a certain material runs out, there will be no more exchanges for it. Thus, for everyone to obtain sufficient materials to fight in the fourth stage, please wholeheartedly refine pills.”

Qin Yu felt deep admiration for the person who designed the competition rules. The points they awarded could be used like this? It was truly simple and frugal to the extreme. But at the same time, these rules pushed everyone into a desperate situation where none of them could take anything lightly.

As a simple analogy, in the fourth stage, Qin Yu was prepared to refine a fifth-grade Skydust Pill. In the third stage, he would need to do everything in his power to obtain the materials required for the Skydust Pill. Otherwise, if certain ingredients ran out, even if he had 99% of the other materials gathered, all of his efforts would still be wasted and he would undoubtedly lose the final round.

It was yesterday’s cabin, yesterday’s flavor.

But just before things began, there was a small interlude.

Cleansing Temple’s Zhao Jiutian arrived with several people around him. His head was held high and his expression was full of confidence.

Coincidentally, the group from the Great Desolate Lake also arrived at this moment. Both sides met face-to-face.

They were old opponents to begin with. In addition to the mystic beast fodder medicine incident, they were now like water and fire. Without a word spoken, their eyes directly clashed.

If looks could really kill, then there would likely be rivers of blood by now.

Zhao Jiutian’s lips curved up in a smile, tinted with the supreme pride of a victor. “Black Beibei, Miss White, I apologize for taking first place in yesterday’s match.”

Behind him, the group of cultivators from Cleansing Temple all laughed, ridicule in their eyes.

So what if they were the Great Desolate Lake? Weren’t they just stubbornly suppressed by their senior-apprentice brother Jiutian?

White Fengfeng was expressionless. She lightly glanced around. In front of others, this bratty girl could at least put on the act of being as arrogant as a phoenix, a noble and sacrosanct character. Just her eyes alone revealed a cold indifference, and this indifference could be understood as disregard.

Zhao Jiutian’s smile didn’t falter. “Miss White seems to think otherwise. Then, how about we make a bet on the competition’s final result?” Before those from the Great Desolate Lake could refuse, he continued to say, “If you let me win and I somehow manage to obtain first place through luck, then Miss White must be a guest at my Cleansing Temple for half a year and must give me the chance to pursue her. How about it?”

“Insolence!”

“You don’t have the qualifications to tarnish our miss!”

“Surname Zhao, our business is not yet over! Dream on!”

The cultivators from the Great Desolate Lake all shouted out together.

Black Beibei coldly chuckled and the surrounding people immediately fell silent. “Zhao Jiutian, with your qualifications, you can stop thinking about my cousin.”

Zhao Jiutian’s expression sank and his voice became sharp. “Hoho, if Miss White doesn’t dare to agree then just take it as me never having said anything.”

White Fengfeng suddenly said, “And what if you don’t take first place?”

Zhao Jiutian unhesitatingly said, “Then I am willing to accept responsibility and punishment for the mystic beast fodder medicine incident, and I will allow Miss White to handle me however she pleases!”

Black Beibei was panicked, “Fengfeng, don’t fall for his provoca—”

White Fengfeng lifted a hand, interrupting him. “Good. I accept your bet.”

Zhao Jiutian laughed out loud. “Miss White is truly straightforward. Very well, then I ask all fellow daoists here to stand witness!” He smiled with self-confidence. “Perhaps Miss White can prepare a little early and move your items into my Cleansing Temple. I guarantee Miss White that you will receive the warmest of welcomes.”

A trace of pity appeared in White Fengfeng’s eyes. “Perhaps you should worry more about yourself.”

She turned, leading the people from the Great Desolate Lake away.

### **Chapter 323 – Damned Pill Furnace**

Zhao Jiutian’s heart skipped a beat. A foreboding premonition rose in his heart but he immediately pressed it down.

This competition was related to the treasure furnace’s remnant spirit, so it was one that their Cleansing Temple had to win. All backup preparations had been completed, so it was impossible for there to be any problems.

Hum hum!

White Fengfeng, just wait until you arrive at my Cleansing Temple. Then everything will be beyond your control.

With a cold sneer, Zhao Jiutian stepped towards the field. But soon he came to a stop, his face full of awe, “Greetings, Revered Yuan!”

Yuan Tiangang had a light expression. “Zhao Jiutian, I know about your bet with White Fengfeng. If you can win, I will guarantee you endlessly vast prospects in the future.”

Zhao Jiutian was overjoyed. He expressed his thanks again and again.

On another side, Ming Siyuan appeared in front of the people from the Great Desolate Lake. His complexion was heavy, "Young master, you were far too careless! I have obtained news that Cleansing Temple has made arrangements to ensure that they obtain the treasure furnace's remnant spirit no matter the cost. Zhao Jiutian's bet was surely a trap! Although our Great Desolate Lake isn't afraid of that, you should always consider every possibility."

His eyes were cold and severe. He looked at Black Beibei, "You were right beside her, so how come you didn't stop the miss?"

Black Beibei cried without tears. It wasn't that he didn't try to stop her, but when this young aunty suddenly decided to put on airs and act so haughty, who could still control her?

White Fengfeng glanced around. Because of Revered Ming, no one dared to look at them, so she suddenly revealed an incomparably excited expression. She quietly said, "Uncle Ming, don't worry. Someone as smart as me can clearly see any traps, so how would I possibly jump inside. This time, Zhao Jiutian will be ruined by his own stupidity."

Looking at White Fengfeng's smug and gloating expression, Black Beibei frowned. In terms of alchemy skills, he was similar to Zhao Jiutian. But, the opponent had a high-grade pill furnace in his hands. Yesterday he had expended a great deal of effort yet had still fallen behind; the chances of him winning in the end were small. Could this young cousin of his be hiding some great hidden card that would reverse the competition at the end?

White Fengfeng curled her lips. She arrogantly said, "Stupid cousin, you still haven't realized it? Zhao Jiutian said that he would take first place, and as long as he doesn't take first place then I'll have won!" A look of reverence lit up her face, "Did you forget that it's not just us participating in the competition this time? There is still that incomparably fierce and powerful Big Brother Baoyu! Hum hum, as long as my Big Brother Baoyu tries just a little bit, that Zhao Jiutian or Zhao whatever-tian will be finished for sure!"

Black Beibei was enlightened. Although he hadn't come into contact with that mysterious Senior Baoyu too much, his admiration and awe towards him was like a flowing river that had no end. That bastard Zhao Jiutian was strong and the preparations Cleansing Temple made were surely considerable, but when placed together with Senior Baoyu, it wasn't enough to be glanced at a second time.

Ming Siyuan's complexion relaxed a great deal. His eyes flashed and he said, "Young master, if we win the bet, then you should ask for the same thing and bring Zhao Jiutian back to the Great Desolate Lake for half a year."

White Fengfeng's eyes popped open and she clapped her hands. "It's Uncle Ming that is so wise and intelligent! I was originally going to make that disgusting Zhao Jiutian bow his head to the ground 100 times and then slap himself silly, but now it seems that would be too nice for him. I will bring him back home and then we'll see if he won't be a good little boy. I can already think of several hundred ways to play around with him!"

Ming Siyuan's face stiffened.

And at this time, 'Big Brother Baoyu' was standing in front of the pill furnace. He didn't know if it was an illusion or not, but the cracks that spread along the surface seemed to have diminished by the tiniest amount.

Of course, Qin Yu wasn't in the mood to care too much about this. Right now he was thinking – just how would he overcome this hurdle? Yesterday Qin Yu had already tried to communicate with this damned pill furnace. He had asked kindly and politely that it not gobble up pills, and he had even tried making a deal of compensating it with higher quality pills.

He originally thought this would work, but he never imagined he would be refused. In particular, this damned pill furnace had an expression as if asking why it would want to negotiate with an idiot. It had left Qin Yu so enraged he nearly blew up his lungs.

But anger was just anger. If he wanted to obtain the treasure furnace's remnant spirit, he would need to temporarily endure this.

Qin Yu clenched his teeth and coldly said, "I have nothing to say if you want to eat pills. But, since you chose me, you must have a reason for doing so. I believe that you don't want to completely tear apart all pretenses of cordiality with me." Qin Yu put forth his own conditions, "You can eat the pills, but out of each batch you must leave one for me so that I can complete the assessment. Otherwise we'll go down together, and if you want to eat pills in the future you'll have to look for someone else."

The pill furnace didn't respond. Qin Yu had no expression. There was a faint tension in the air.

After a long time, the pill furnace on the ground reluctantly opened the lid and closed it, issuing a light clanging sound.

This was considered an agreement.

Qin Yu cheered up but his complexion didn't relax in the slightest. His expression was still cold and serious as he muttered, "Ignite."

The furnace fire lit itself, soon reaching the required temperature. Qin Yu took out the first set of pill materials.

The refinement continued smoothly. Within the pill furnace, the medicinal efficacy of the refined materials began to rapidly fuse together.

After several breaths of time, a light medicinal fragrance spread outwards, signaling the completion of the refinement.

At this time, just as Qin Yu felt that his cold expression and decisive words had subdued the pill furnace, he heard the familiar sounds of chewing ring out. It was like some dark joke being played against him, making him feel embarrassed.

Clang –

Clang –

The lid of the furnace opened and closed. It was like a large mouth wildly laughing at him, mocking him.

Qin Yu's field of vision flashed black. He sucked in a deep breath and clenched his teeth. "You are ruthless enough!"

He took out the second set of materials and continued refining.

Luckily, there didn't seem to be a minimum standard required for the quality of the pills in the third stage. As long as one refined a fourth-grade pill then it was alright. Thus the Southshine Nation only gave three sets of materials for each pill. Even so, Qin Yu needed to conserve as much time as he could because according to this damned pill furnace's actions so far, it wouldn't give up anything until it had eaten all the materials.

In other words, within three days, Qin Yu needed to refine 30 sets of materials. If he was even a bit slower he wouldn't have enough time.

As Qin Yu was exhausting himself to the bone, crazily refining pills, White Fengfeng was the first one to complete her refinement and then hand over her pills as well as the surplus materials. She took out her handphone, opened the official app, and saw that she really did have two extra points. She stuck out her tongue. She had only cared about speed so it was inevitable that the quality of the pills would be influenced. Out of the possible three points, she had only obtained two. Still, she couldn't worry about this right now.

When the points appeared, the originally gray points column brightened up, turning into a colored number indicating she could use those points. She quickly exchanged those two points for a night tail flower.

After completing the exchange, she smiled. She continued refining the second fourth-grade pill.

Zhao Jiutian was the second to complete the refinement. According to the temporary ranking issued through the official app, he could see that White Fengfeng had refined the first pill a step ahead of him. Still, his expression was serene and there was a faint confident smirk hanging from his lips.

Although she was fast now, it was because she had refined a pill she was adept at. There were still nine other fourth-grade pills to refine. With White Fengfeng's age, it was simply impossible for her to be sufficiently skilled in them all.

The time when the gap between them was pulled apart had yet to arrive!

Zhao Jiutian chose to exchange two points for a seven-colored spore.

Black Beibei was the third to complete the refinement. When he looked through the list of exchangeable materials, his eyes flashed and he chose one: seven aperture flower.

The cost was one point.

Following that was the third person, fourth person, fifth person...they all completed their refinements one after another.

After a while when all the proud elites of heavens had mostly finished refining their first pill, a large number of successes began to occur.

The stock of materials in the storehouse began to drop at an astonishing speed. The most sought-after materials, such as the 100 year spring water, five spirit fruit, south sea black bamboo, and so forth, quickly ran out. When the stock of those materials reached zero, their image on the official app turned gray, meaning that it had been wiped clean.

Qin Yu frenziedly refined three sets of materials and finally managed to harvest one single pill that had a massive amount of its medicinal efficacy sucked out and nearly fell below the level of being a fourth-grade pill. By this time, the material storehouse had nearly suffered two rounds of being cleaned out. Looking at the official app on his handphone and all those dark gray materials that couldn't be exchanged for anymore, Qin Yu's complexion paled. He clenched his jaws and carefully placed the pill in his storage ring, continuing to refine more.

The materials in the storehouse were already incomplete. Although he could still exchange for some usable materials, if he were to exchange for anything now, there was a 99% chance that in the end he would be unable to use those materials because others would be missing. Rather than uselessly wasting points, he might as well wait until the end for a few more chances.

Another reason was that handing over a pill every time would waste too much of Qin Yu's time. To refine 30 sets of materials in three days was a considerable challenge for him.

One day passed. Then another day passed. In the blink of an eye, it was the last day.

The fastest one was Zhao Jiutian. As the first day ended, he completed the refinement of 10 different types of fourth-grade pills. His speed was the quickest amongst all the participants. Even so, he still wasn't able to completely exchange for all the materials he needed for the fourth stage!

"Black Beibei!" Zhao Jiutian gnashed his teeth and his face darkened. He had to spend 10 points to exchange for a ghost visage lotus leaf. There were originally three of these items within the storehouse, but before he could exchange for them, they were actually all taken out by Black Beibei in a single breath. It was clear that Black Beibei already guessed that what he was going to refine was the Child and Mother Yinyang Pill.

This bastard, his eyesight was actually amazing. He had deliberately tried to mislead him in the exchanging process but hadn't been able to do so.

But if Black Beibei did this, it meant that his own chances of winning were ruined before he entered the fourth stage. He was no longer a threat to him.

To exchange the 10 points he had obtained in the second stage for Black Beibei's elimination wasn't necessarily a loss.

Moreover, if Black Beibei could think of that, could Zhao Jiutian not have?

It was just that he never expected the Great Desolate Lake would place all their hopes on that girl White Fengfeng. He feared that his previous arrangements might not be able to thoroughly suppress her.

But none of that mattered. She was just a little girl that was still wet behind the ears. Who cared if she was the young master of the Great Desolate Lake? She couldn't be placed on even grounds with him.

Zhao Jiutian smirked confidently. The title of competition champion was already his!

On the side of the Great Desolate Lake, White Fengfeng curled her lips. "Stupid cousin, why would you use your points to deal with that bastard Zhao Jiutian and not have others do it for you?"

Black Beibei forced a smile.

Ming Siyuan's eyes flashed with appreciation. He said, "Young master, before you entered the competition field, Yun Yilan activated an array formation so that no unauthorized information could be transmitted. Black Beibei sacrificed his own hopes in this competition in order to stir up trouble with Zhao Jiutian and create a greater chance for you."

White Fengfeng opened her mouth but didn't speak further. She groaned and said, "I still need a last keylead vine, but they're all gone. According to the extra exchange process of the competition, I will need six points."

Ming Siyuan lightly said, "Exchange for it. Once the fourth stage begins, that will be where the competition truly starts – when the battle for the peak arrives. Young master, the treasure furnace's incomplete spirit is extremely vital to the Great Desolate Lake. I hope you will give your best effort and not be careless."

White Fengfeng nodded. Her pupils sparkled so brightly that they seemed to shine.

With Black Beibei's understanding of her, this girl's fighting spirit didn't originate from the heavy pressure that was on her shoulders.

Rather, she was thinking that she would soon meet her Big Brother Baoyu!

And the facts proved that Black Beibei was correct. Only a small number of alchemists were able to smoothly enter the fourth stage.

And amongst that small number of alchemists, the ones ranked at the top were even fewer.

At this time, she certainly had to widen her eyes and find out where her Big Brother Baoyu had hidden!

### **Chapter 324 – Demon Puppet Pill**

In the third stage of the competition, once the final day arrived, the truth was that it didn't matter much at all.

If there was someone that couldn't refine 10 types of fourth-grade pills by this point, their strength wouldn't be too high. Even if they managed to barely enter the fourth stage, they would only be able to serve as a foil. They would have no chance to compete for the championship.

Thus, the Southshine Nation officials were very relaxed. After two days of rigorous appraising, the top positions were basically determined and wouldn't change much afterwards. As for the people who had yet to emerge, they were either eliminated or directly placed at the end of the rankings.

Behind the supervisory table, as Lord Hulun Hehe saw that the competition time was about to come to an end, he stood up and prepared to leave.

Every time the competition reached this point, there would be all sorts of strange and special characters popping up. They weren't willing to admit their final defeat, or they acted crazy to gain sympathy. Some of them clung to him and begged for another chance to make something of themselves. Lord Hulun Hehe had already seen these things happen far too many times, so he didn't want to waste even a single extra minute on them.

So walking away ahead of time was a good choice.

However, just as Lord Hulun Hehe turned around, a subordinate suddenly flew over. His complexion was strange as if he were a bit constipated, "My L...Lord, please judge this contestant's pills to see if they qualify?"

Lord Hulun Hehe had an impression of this subordinate. He was someone with considerable attainments in alchemy. Could it be that this last remaining little fellow had placed someone like him in a conundrum?

With a bit of curiosity, Lord Hulun Hehe received the jade box. After opening it, he frowned and his face began to gradually darken.

Within the jade box, there were a total of 10 pills. Each one gave off a dark cloying feeling as if they were about to break apart at any moment.

That's right, it was this feeling!

Fourth-grade pills...alright, let's call these fourth-grade pills for the time being. But, Lord Hulun Hehe had never seen such pitiful fourth-grade pills before.

Each one barely managed to reach the cutoff line for being a fourth-grade pill. It was as if they would fall into the third-grade rank with a single light puff of air.

How could it be such a coincidence? Lord Hulun Hehe's first thought was that someone had decided to use this as a form of protest against the competition! But he immediately suppressed that thought. There was no one who would dare do that.

"These pills, who refined them?"

The subordinate turned and pointed.

Lord Hulun Hehe calmly looked over. He was stunned for a moment and his face suddenly turned a shade of blue. If it weren't for him being able to hide his emotions so well, he feared he would have started cursing out loud.

It was this bastard again!

He had fooled everyone during the Pill Furnace Pagoda round. Then during the second stage he had handed over a pill that barely qualified as a medium fourth-grade pill. Now, he was up to the same tricks!

This fellow was deliberately trying to create a sensation! How ridiculous!

But did he really think he could obtain attention by doing this? Lord Hulun Hehe restrained his anger and his gaze brightened. He stared at the ten pills within the jade box. He swore that as long as any one of these pills didn't qualify, he would immediately eliminate this bastard.

After muttering to ten below his breath, Lord Hulun slammed the jade box closed and his complexion became even uglier. These half-dead pills were actually all fourth-grade, even if they were just a breath away from dropping down.



To have all of them in a similar state, this bastard definitely did this intentionally. Just what did he want? Just what was the plan behind all of this?! He wished he could stomp on this brat a hundred times, but the rules were the rules. Since he had put forth 10 pills that met the required standard within the time limit, no matter how angry he was, he couldn't destroy the fairness of the competition just because of his own individual emotions.

"Consider him as qualified! Place him last on the ranking list!"

Lord Hulun Hehe left in a huff.

Qin Yu didn't know that he was already a target of loathing in the eyes of many officials. After receiving the ice-cold reply that he had qualified, he was too busy to worry about the official's attitude towards him. He quickly opened the official app.

As he thought, he was met with a mass of grayed out icons. If he had chosen to exchange before, then all the materials he received would have been wasted. Qin Yu's finger quickly skimmed over the handphone, pulling up the materials in the storehouse that were available for exchange. Then, he felt his heart chill. It seemed that out of the remaining materials, there were none that he could scrape together for a pill recipe.

"Hahahaha! After 30 years of hard preparation, I was ready to soar into the skies, but in the end all I did was fail! I cannot even obtain a complete set of materials. So what if I enter the fourth stage now? It's over, this old man's life is over! Heaven! Why must you be such a thief! Why are you so cruel to me!?" The person who screamed out loud was a fellow with an initial Nascent Soul cultivation. According to an average lifespan of 800 years, this fellow should still be considered young. But because of various reasons or maybe because he had suffered too much, he looked like an old mortal man in his 80s or 90s.

At this time, on his face that was withered like a dried orange, there was an expression of despair and craziness. "This old man may be defeated, but none of you will succeed either! I have 10 points that I will completely exchange for purple point grass, and none of you will be able to exchange for a complete set of materials. If I'm done for, the rest of you will be too!"

The roars still echoed out in Qin Yu's ears. In the next moment, on the official app, the icon for the purple point grass rapidly darkened, turning a grayish-white color that indicated there was no more. Qin Yu's lips twitched. He glared at that screaming man who was forcefully carried off by the officials and finally realized why this situation occurred.

Indeed, there were far too many petty villains in this world. If they didn't feel good, no one else could either!

Then things were truly troublesome...would he really fail here?

His fingers subconsciously swiped over the official app. 10 points, he still had 10 points...

Suddenly, Qin Yu's finger stiffened and he looked down with wide eyes towards the points section.

What entered his eyes was a large number 7.

7 points! How could it be 7 points!

Qin Yu was puzzled and then angered. He had worked himself to the bone for three whole days to refine 30 sets of materials, and all he had to show for it were those ten fourth-grade pills.

Wasn't it said that every pill would give 1 to 3 points? Yes, he acknowledged that his performance wasn't too good, but at the very least he should have 10 points, right? What the hell were these 7 points then!?

Originally, he thought he had seen the light at the end of the tunnel, but then he fell into a miserable result where he couldn't refine any pills at all.

As if that weren't saddening enough, they actually stole his points from him.

Even if this was a competition held by the Southshine Nation and the officials all had deep backgrounds, so what? They still had to give him an explanation for this!

Qin Yu was filled with righteous indignation. He rushed towards an official that had yet to leave the field. It was just that at this time, he didn't notice two cultivators standing far away. One of them looked on with bright eyes, turned around a little, and then a bright light flashed in front of them.

The official who Qin Yu caught was stunned for a moment. To refine ten different pills and only receive 7 points, he had never seen anything like this before.

The official saw Qin Yu's angry expression and thought that he shouldn't be lying. Otherwise, this person really wanted to die if he dared lie about something like this to a competition official.

"Fellow daoist, please wait a moment, I will immediately inquire into this matter for you." The official took out his handphone and hurriedly contacted his superiors. At the same time, he asked for Qin Yu's number.

"Right, participating cultivator no. 9527 has delivered 10 different types of pills but in the official app he has only received 7 points.

"No problem, I will wait. Please find out for me.

"Ah. Alright alright, I understand.

"I will deal with it."

After hanging up, the official's gaze fell on Qin Yu and revealed an icy coldness. "Fellow daoist, I have already inquired into the matter. The number of points is not wrong. In the third stage, you may indeed receive 1 to 3 points for every fourth-grade pill you refine. But fellow daoist, the quality of the pills you refined is too poor. After the appraisal committee reviewed the situation, they decided to deduct three points as a penalty."

He had learned that the decision came from high up. It was clear this cultivator had caused some high-ranking official to be extremely unhappy with him. He certainly had to display an overwhelming sense of callousness and indifference towards this type of person. He needed to show that high-ranking superior that he would follow firmly in his steps, and that he was a loyal subordinate.

Qin Yu frowned. "I never heard a rule that a person's points could be deducted."

The official rolled his eyes. "Starting from today, there is." He narrowed his eyes, a cold look on his face. "If you refuse to accept, you can make an appeal." He turned and left, a faint laugh sounding out. "You're just at this level but you still want points? You might as well exchange for an eternal night demon mushroom and eat it until you die!"

Qin Yu was stunned. He completely forgot this person's cold indifference and disdain. His thoughts were racing...

Eternal night demon mushroom...eternal night demon mushroom...

He seemed to have heard this name from somewhere. Moreover, it was used to refine an extremely strange type of pill.

Qin Yu closed his eyes. The mark of the Primary Pill Collection within his mind reappeared. He quickly sifted through it and found what he needed: Demon Puppet Pill. Using the eternal night demon mushroom as a material, fuse one's own blood within and temper three into one to form a pill.

After that was a long section introducing details about the Demon Puppet Pill. Finally, it mentioned that the Demon Puppet Pill could be used to summon a demonic path puppet, and the puppet's strength would be dependent on the quality of the pill.

This was an extremely strange and macabre type of pill. Even in the Land of Divinity and Demons, there were few cultivators that refined it.

This was because the Demon Puppet Pill was of too little value and interest.

First was the refining difficulty.

To create the Demon Puppet Pill, one needed to refine three blood-fused eternal night demon mushrooms together as one. Those that had the qualifications to achieve this were alchemy grandmasters, and if an alchemy grandmaster casually refined some pills, the value of those pills would be much higher than a Demon Puppet Pill.

Next was the power of the pill.

The puppet summoned by the Demon Puppet Pill could only be maintained for an hour. Its strength was relatively weak: around the Golden Core level. With such strength, who would bother with it? Moreover, it required that one use their own blood.

The Primary Pill Collection included the recipe for the Demon Puppet Pill. But in the eyes of many people, it was only included to pad out the numbers.

Yet right now this Demon Puppet Pill that was used to pad out the numbers actually gave Qin Yu a ray of hope.

Although he had only casually glanced over the list, if he didn't remember incorrectly, it should be there.

He quickly opened the official app. Indeed, in the corner, he found the common-looking eternal night demon mushroom.

This was an auxiliary material used only for a rare minority of extremely poisonous pills. Moreover, it could even be substituted with other materials, so that was why it was sitting here all alone. Even those vile alchemists who wanted to drag everyone into the abyss with them never thought of exchanging for it.

Eternal night demon mushroom, exchange price of 1 point, remaining amount of 7.

In Qin Yu's eyes, this sort of coincidence was like a faint sense of divine intervention.

He had an extremely strong feeling that he could refine the Demon Puppet Pill. Moreover, it wouldn't be a normal Demon Puppet Pill.

There was nothing else to say...

Grab them all!

Shua –

The points became 0. This proved that Qin Yu had obtained seven complete eternal night demon mushrooms.

He turned and walked away. He needed to hurry up and collect them.

Qin Yu didn't know that his conversation with the official and his performance afterwards had all been caught by a button-shaped camera.

Moreover, this video wasn't recorded, but was directly streamed to a mass audience.

### **Chapter 325 – Concerning 9527**

The Fish Catcher app was a well-known live streaming app in the Southshine Nation with a massive user base. At this time, one of the hottest topics being broadcast was the Youth Alchemy Competition being held by the Southshine Nation.

Three days of live broadcasting left countless viewers crying out in addiction. In particular, the various young prides of heaven that stood above all others in refining pills; they attracted a massive number of fans and were held in high esteem by numerous cultivators.

I love Zhao Jiutian –

Black Beibei is the most handsome and elegant –

White Fengfeng, please don't marry anyone –

And other such nicknames grew like mushrooms after a storm, nearly flooding the entire screen. At the same time, the audience thanked the two hosts for bringing them such a wonderful live show.

But this time, the streaming channel was actually strangely quiet.

There were no shouts of acclaim on the screen.

The countless spectators were all watching a participating alchemist questioning the Southshine Nation official about why he had received so few points. Normally, these people would have mocked the

slightly dark-skinned young alchemist. It was already the third day and you just now finished refining the pills. Even if he gave you full points, you'd still lose no matter what.

This was because the material availability list of the storehouse had been leaked at the very first exchanges, spreading through the network, and was also being constantly updated over time.

When the handphone conversation ended, everyone expected that this mediocre young alchemist who was doomed to fail would receive the few points he deserved, and then things would end there. But suddenly, an accident occurred. The official coldly rejected his request and even said that the appraisal committee had decided to deduct points from him.

"Starting from today, there is." The official unhappily said. As he spoke, his voice was particularly grating.

At this time, many cultivators were already angered. Not only did this official not know how to do his job, he even bullied the weak and small.

Some people had already started to sympathize with this dark-skinned youth whose face was full of anger and yet had no other path to choose.

Then, the climax appeared.

"You're just at this level but you still want points? You might as well exchange for an eternal night demon mushroom and eat it until you die!" The official spun around with gusto and left. But, what he didn't know was how much damage his words would cause to a young man who was trying his best to find a better future.

As expected, that youth stood there stunned in place, as if he didn't want to believe he would be shamed so deeply.

He closed his eyes. He should be trying his best to not cry, right?

The live broadcast stream exploded!

In that instant, almost everyone released the rage in their hearts.

"What a ridiculous official!"

"Dog shit! He needs to eat dog shit!"

"This useless lazy bastard! All he does is take taxpayer money every year and yet he places himself on such a high pedestal!"

"Poor little brother, what did he do wrong? To be so young and be able to refine a fourth-grade pill is already extremely outstanding. But after today, such an outstanding young man might be thoroughly destroyed."

"We must expose this matter and let more people understand just how these officials that keep saying they serve the public interest above all actually treat us!"

The live broadcast stream exploded in popularity. Soon, it grabbed the attention of the Fish Catcher app's workers.

“If we don’t handle this matter well, it will definitely stir up a great deal of trouble.” A manager quickly hurried to report this to his superiors. Then, he received a response that left him shaking with excitement.

As he hoped, the Fish Catcher app had a deep background and didn’t fear any trouble coming from this.

“Quick, place this topic on the front page. We have to hype this up as much as possible!” After the manager issued the order, the live broadcast stream increased in numbers to an almost exaggerated degree.

And now, the live stream captured Qin Yu opening his eyes and looking down at his handphone. When the audience saw the light shining in his eyes, to them, it was a certain kind of resolve.

“What is that little brother doing?”

“9527, you can’t be reckless!”

“Holy shit, don’t tell me he’s really going to exchange for the eternal night demon mushroom.”

Then, someone in the live stream channel said to quickly look at the storehouse material availability list.

Shua –

At this moment, countless cultivators promptly found a picture that had just been posted on the network.

It showed that the icon of the eternal demon mushroom night had turned gray.

The post that accompanied was as follows:

‘I am a participating alchemist. After unintentionally watching the live broadcast, I decided to stake out the materials storehouse and I watched with my own eyes as all of the eternal night demon mushrooms were exchanged for – seven in total. I have reason to believe that it was little brother 9527 who did this. Although I don’t know what reason he did it for, I can only hope that this doesn’t end in tragedy.

‘Finally, I am left in a dilemma. Isn’t this a competition for which I’ve been preparing myself for many years? My family kept telling me that I had to do my best and obtain a good result. But right now, I suddenly feel that I should withdraw. If something happens to little brother 9257, then I will withdraw from the competition and post a picture of my identification card as proof.’

Whoosh –

This really stirred up a great ruckus!

Countless cultivators were enraged. In their opinion, this official had stubbornly sentenced an originally talented young man to death!

This sort of complete disregard for human life was completely out of line.

On the live broadcast stream, everyone began shouting for the host to hurry and stop little brother 9527. Unfortunately, by the time he responded, that young fellow had vanished without a trace.

Time is of the essence! Please save little brother 9527!

This topic blew up through the network. Then, in the shortest time possible, it became the most blazing hot topic across the various forums.

As various netizens were warmly discussing how to save little brother 9527, other opinions started to quietly appear.

For instance, the massive number of corpses that appeared in the wilderness trial. The photos uploaded online left many cultivators frightened into a cold sweat.

For instance, the furnace selection at the Pill Furnace Pagoda and the numerous participants that fell to the ground writhing in pain. In particular, that extremely unlucky fellow whose divine sense had been imploded by a pill furnace smashing into him. Images of his family's sad expressions were posted for all to see.

For instance, at the end of the third stage, that incomparably old-looking man who had exchanged for all of the remaining purple point grass. His look of sorrow and despair left many people near tears.

All sorts of vicious rumors appeared in the comments. They swept through the Southshine Nation's competition, causing roiling undercurrents to billow!

The Southshine Nation officials took any rumors on the network extremely seriously. Although there was generally freedom of speech today, if there were rumors that harmed the nation's interests or image, they would try to suppress it the best they could.

Thus, the event of saving little brother 9527 was soon locked onto and passed up as quickly as possible.

Officials represented the nation's image. To reveal such a cold and callous expression in the live stream video was simply unacceptable. In particular, this matter also involved the Southshine Nation's grand 30 year alchemy competition.

No one had truly calculated how much income this competition would generate, but it was sure to be a terrifying amount. This was without a doubt. Thus, the officials had always spared no effort in maintaining the competition to the best of their abilities. With public opinion on the network targeted at the competition right now, they had to immediately deal with this matter!

Once a state apparatus began to move, the power it erupted with could be called terrifying. Several large-scale network companies announced in succession that they would be temporarily suspending services for updates. At the same time, the Southshine Nation officials sent out several eye-catching articles to divert attention.

But these were only stopgap measures. If this matter couldn't be resolved, there would eventually come a time when the flames burning within the hearts of the network users would explode.

When Yun Yilan obtained this news, he was sitting together with Ming Siyuan and Yuan Tiangang, deep in discussion. The three of them all belonged to different factions. Even so, as Blue Sea supreme elders, even if there were tensions behind them, they didn't mind sitting down for a moment to verify their cultivations.

In Yun Yilan's eyes, the event exploding through the network couldn't be compared to his calm conversation with these two about the Great Dao. He thoughtlessly passed down orders for those below to deal with it.

Yun Yilan had an appearance that he wouldn't even bat an eyelash if a mountain were to collapse in front of him. But, the officials managing the competition didn't have this ability. If the competition's reputation were to be damaged because of this, they didn't doubt that they would all suffer severe punishments.

Finally, the official from the live stream was found. By now, he realized he had become a network celebrity and his face was incomparably white. He didn't dare to conceal anything at all. He quickly spilled everything he knew.

In the end, all things fell into the lap of Lord Hulun Hehe. When his cultivation was interrupted, he had an annoyed expression. After he learned of everything going on, his complexion turned cloudy.

"That's right, I was the one who ordered this."

Hulun Hehe was from the royal family and his status was extraordinary. Even if someone with a higher role spoke to him, there wasn't much they could say.

A Southshine Nation senior official helplessly said, "Lord Hulun, with your status, why lower yourself to the level of this junior? What does it matter if he has 10 points or 7? Once he enters the fourth stage he will naturally be eliminated."

"But speaking about these things now is useless. We should hurry up and find this person as soon as possible. If he really can't look past this and decides to take his own life, this matter will truly spiral out of control." Another senior official said.

Hulun Hehe sucked in a deep breath. "Everyone, please rest assured. Since I was the one who caused this, if there really are any problems that stem from it, I will shoulder it all." After he spoke, his eyes flashed, "But, I sincerely believe that this junior will not take his life no matter what!"

His eyes brightened. He felt as if he had grasped onto some sort of truth. As expected, this bastard of a junior was not just purely playing gimmicks and tricks anymore.

He was doing this all on purpose!

Now, as long as he went to check, he would find out whether he was right or not.

Hulun Hehe stood up. "I have sent people to find him. There will soon be an answer."

At this time, someone walked in with a report, saying they already found that person.

Shua –

The large crowd of officials hurriedly left.

During the rest periods within the competition, the field wasn't isolated from the outside world. Thus, everyone learned of what had happened through their handphones.



As they saw a massive number of high-level officials appear, all with grim complexions, they approximately guessed the reason.

This was a rare scene of liveliness. Without any words at all, people started to follow behind.

One high-level official asked whether or not they should disperse these people lest a problem occur and make things hard to handle. This suggestion was overruled by Hulun Hehe. Since he was the cause of this and since he also said he would shoulder all consequences, no one opposed him.

### **Chapter 326 – The Wise Hulun Hehe**

Soon, the group arrived in front of a cabin.

An official walked forwards and knocked on the door. When Qin Yu opened it, he was startled for a moment. His first thought was that the secret of the little blue lamp had been exposed.

But then, he thought about how he hadn't used it since he entered the competition. So...what was going on here?

Hulun Hehe's eyes flashed with a faint light, as if everything was as he expected. He lightly said, "Ning Qin, when you asked about your points, it was indeed that official who improperly managed things. But, your 7 points were personally decided by me. This is because with your alchemy skills, the most you can obtain is 7 points."

He waved his hand. The incomparably unlucky official haplessly appeared, a look of shame on his face. He expressed his 'sincere' apologies to Qin Yu. Of course, in his heart he wished that he could kill Qin Yu. This was naturally a useless detail so there was no need to worry about it.

"Ning Qin, I am Hulu Hehe, an official responsible for all affairs that arise in the competition. Do you have any objections towards this matter? If you do, you can raise them now and I will give you an explanation." Hulun Hehe's voice was calm and his expression cold.

Qin Yu was stunned. No one had given him an explanation of what was going on yet.

After obtaining the seven eternal night demon mushrooms, he had spent all this time deliberating on how to use them to refine the Demon Puppet Pill. Thus, he had no idea of what was occurring on the network.

This Ning Qin, he could actually put on a decent performance and pretend to be innocent and clueless. However, even if you are an award-winning master, everything is exposed beneath these fiery golden eyes! You can give up any ideas of escaping this!

"Ning Qin, if you have no objections then I will consider this matter as having been concluded." Hulun Hehe turned, about to leave. But then he casually asked, "Just what did you want to obtain the eternal night demon mushrooms for?"

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "It is for refining pills during the fourth stage."

Hulun Hehe's eyes flashed with a cold sneer. He nodded and walked away with everyone in tow.

Qin Yu was left bewildered. But, he felt that something wasn't right.

It wasn't a good atmosphere to contemplate the situation with all eyes on him. He closed the door, cutting off all those gazes. But before he even took two steps forwards, he froze in place.

Ning Qin...

That Hulun Hehe had called him out using the alias he registered with!

That bastard...

Qin Yu was finally clear where that evil intent came from.

Within the crowd, countless cultivators that were paying attention to the situation relaxed. At the same time, they scratched their heads, a bit perplexed.

What sort of pill could the eternal night demon mushroom be refined into?

Luckily for everyone, this matter seemed to only be an understanding, and it seemed to be solved now.

But suddenly, a cultivator shouted out, "Lord Hulun Hehe seemed to have called that fellow Ning Qin just now, right?"

"Mm, that's his name." To the side, a calm cultivator's eyes flashed with a dignified look.

Following that, the field fell silent for a moment. Then, all of these people subconsciously widened their eyes.

Ning Qin...Ning Qin...

Several months ago, during the Weather Discussion Channel's Columnist Weekly, they had appraised a Divine Blood Pill, creating a wonderful amount of advertising for the inn and causing their reputation to rise drastically. The most outstanding figure from the program, besides that Grandmaster 19 who was still an unseen mystery, was that little brother Ning Qin who had used his own body to test the pill and turn the tide!

The Southshine Nation had millions upon millions of citizens, and it was far too ordinary for people to share the same name. But, in everyone's hearts, they actually had a faint intuition.

It was him! It was definitely him!

Although the two live broadcast streamers had no way to directly stream this, their professional instincts still told them to keep recording.

So at this time, their two faces both revealed an excited color.

Once the live streaming began again, they would definitely upload this video and they were both sure it would cause a great uproar.

They had even thought of the title: In-depth competition news – an exclusive reveal of little brother Ning Qin's true appearance.

A big wave of fans and rewards was already on the way.

Hulun Hehe sat down. He swept his eyes around, "You may leave. Without my permission, no one is allowed to enter."

"Yes, my Lord."

The subordinates withdrew. The remaining senior officials were left standing there with confused expressions.

Hulun Hehe clapped his hands. In the corner of the room, a cultivator emerged from the shadows. They were wrapped in black clothes, making it impossible to discern their appearance. "My Lord, the things you requested are here."

With the cultivator's hoarse and scratchy voice, it wasn't even possible to tell if they were a man or a woman.

The senior officials all revealed shocked expressions.

The Dark Night Division!

This was a secret organization controlled by the Southshine Nation's royal family. They were assigned to monitor the news and guard the members of the royal family. If a person from the Dark Night Division was sent here, it appeared that things weren't as simple as they seemed.

Hulun Hehe nodded. "Allow everyone here to see it."

The Dark Night Division cultivator moved his hand and magic power surged out into a jade slip. A curtain of light immediately appeared in midair, playing a video.

Impressively, it was a variety of monitoring clips of Qin Yu participating in the competition, all merged together.

There was the matter with the Pill Furnace Pagoda, as well as the handing over of the pill from the second and third stages.

If one could become a senior official, then disregarding their cultivation, just their intelligence and methods were definitely not poor.

Otherwise, they would have already been swallowed up by all the behind-the-scenes scheming going on. How could they be calmly and securely sitting here?

Although these pictures didn't prove anything, they still noticed something strange from them.

For instance, Qin Yu would always hand over pills at the final moment, and the quality of the pills just barely satisfied the minimum standard.

If it were said that there wasn't something going on here, no one would believe it.

Hulun Hehe flicked his sleeves and several jade slips flew out, falling in front of each person present. "This is an investigation of Ning Qin's background sent through an emergency channel of the Dark Night Department. This person's history is incomparably clean and it is impossible to find anything wrong with it. However, the most suspicious point is that it is far too clean."

Next, every senior official carefully looked through the jade slips. They read through a recorded personal history stemming from childhood to adulthood.

The place of birth was a little village in a volcanic region. He lived there for 16 years. Later, because an earth dragon turned over, he was forced to leave his home and relocate to a tiny town just past the Southern Overwatch Pass. He entered a local family called the Xu Family as an apprentice and officially stepped onto the road of cultivation...until he joined the inn.

Everything was clearly written, but the things recorded actually couldn't be investigated. This was because the little village underwent a disaster and was drawn into the earth, where it was reduced to ashes. The number of people who survived could be counted on one hand. After all these years they had disappeared without a trace, and even if they could be found it wouldn't be strange if they didn't know who Ning Qin was.

Then, Ning Qin lived for ten years in that little town. It was originally a beautiful sightseeing area, but because a rainbow peacock that was being raised there suddenly went insane and dove into the demonic path, it eventually evolved into a heaven swallowing earth roc. The entire town was razed to the ground and all things were erased. Naturally, no evidence was left behind.

All the experiences afterwards were of similar types. It was simply impossible to verify Ning Qin's identity.

The senior officials frowned. They withdrew their divine senses and looked over.

Hulun Hehe had a grave expression. He said, "I suspect that Ning Qin is a spy from another country, sent to my Southshine Nation to weaken our national stability! This was the same several months ago in the struggle between the inn and Philosophy Watch, and is the same now in this competition."

"This...Ning Qin's current behavior is a little suspicious, but when he tried his best to preserve the inn's reputation, there didn't seem to be anything to suspect there."

"I believe that the initial reason why matters between Philosophy Watch and the inn grew so heated was because someone was secretly pushing things from behind. As for Qin Yu, the only reason he helped the inn should have been in order to obtain a higher status and carry out an even larger plot."

Although this theory was a bit forced, when everyone thought about Ning Qin's overly clean identity that couldn't be traced back, in addition to his behavior in the competition so far, the senior officials nodded and approved Hulun Hehe's judgment.

After all, they all knew how highly the royal family regarded the competition. And if it was for the competition, it wasn't bad to be a bit more cautious. Moreover, the person who spoke of this was Hulun Hehe. This might be the will of the royal family so naturally no one here spoke out against him.

"May I ask what Lord Hulun is preparing to do?"

Hulun Hehe's eyes shined. "Right now, Ning Qin has already become an extremely famous figure on the network. If we rashly implement some plan to capture him, we will definitely be criticized for it. In fact, some people with ulterior motives might use this chance to retaliate. Ning Qin has likely already planned for this. He has already anticipated that there would be a day when he is found to be suspicious, so he

wore an extra layer of protection! Humph, but in front of me, all his plans are useless! To move against him, we don't need to do it ourselves."

"Lord Hulun, what do you mean?"

Hulun Hehe's voice was calm and light, as if everything was within his control. "In order to obtain his initial protection of fame as well as the inn's trust, this Ning Qin actually offended many people, primarily Philosophy Watch. I've already investigated the situation. Philosophy Watch has dispatched many cultivators to participate and their actions are strange. Even after being eliminated they still linger around here, not leaving."

The eyes of the senior officials brightened, revealing deep acclaim. They had already approximately guessed Hulun Hehe's plan. Indeed, using the borrowed knife to kill someone wasn't a bad idea. In fact, there didn't even need to be murder. As long as Ning Qin came into conflict with others, they would have an excuse to interfere. Then once Ning Qin fell into their hands, they could do with him whatever they pleased.

Hulun Hehe icily smiled. "Recently, there's been a great deal of negative news about the competition. We can put out some interesting news to divert everyone's attention. I wonder if anyone here has an objection to my plans?"

"Lord Hulun is wise. Everything shall be as you say."

The other senior officials nodded.

Thus, a mere hour later, someone uploaded a video onto the Southshine Nation's largest gossip forum. The contents of the video included information on the initial Divine Blood Pill appraisal as well as edited clips of Qin Yu participating in the Southshine Nation's Youth Alchemy Competition.

Then, the uploader used the identity of being one of Ning Qin's fans and said that they had finally found their black-robed little brother.

There was a great deal of excited chatter, and in the end, some confusion. This fan seemed to be confident in Ning Qing's alchemy skills and firmly believed that there was some hidden plot against him. Otherwise, why would the Southshine Nation official try to suppress Ning Qing, and only relent when the 'save little brother 9527' event happened? Even then, they only reluctantly apologized to him afterwards.

This was Hulun Hehe's clever plan. He wanted to spray dirt all around and make use of those waves that had yet to disperse. This sort of thing was the best way to attract everyone's attention.

And once this video was uploaded, it spread like wildfire after a short period of time.

Guided by the Southshine Nation officials, news that little brother 9527 was also Ning Qing blew up the network.

### **Chapter 327 – Ruthless Methods**

Following that, more and more people posted information. For instance, high quality images of the pills that Ning Qin delivered during the second and third stage.

“When he first calmly assessed the Divine Blood Pill, Brother Ning Qin was so calm that I thought he was some incredible alchemist. Now it seems he just meets the bare standard for being one.”

“Haha, I really sympathize with those Southshine Nation officials. I’ve already looked into the details about those pills that Ning Qin delivered, and their quality really was rotten to the extreme.”

“It’s not just rotten. I asked my teacher and he said that those pills barely manage to satisfy the minimum requirements. It’s reasonable for him to receive 7 points.”

“Humph! What I love is Brother Ning Qin’s character and moral behavior. Even if his alchemy skills are so-so, so what!? However, why did Brother Ning Qin exchange for the eternal night demon mushrooms? Could that sort of poisonous thing really be used to refine a pill?”

“Let me teach the post above some science. The eternal night demon mushroom can be used to refine a Demon Puppet Pill. It is a pill between the fourth and fifth-grade, and its exact rank is determined by its quality. But, refining a Demon Puppet Pill isn’t simple at all.”

“Hum hum, only great alchemy master level characters can refine the Demon Puppet Pill. This young master is willing to bet spirit stones that Ning Qin cannot refine the Demon Puppet Pill!”

“Don’t look down on my Ning Qin! Although the pills he refined barely qualify and he only refined one of each, do you know what sort of pill furnace he is using?”

An image posted below clearly showed a pill furnace.

This image was obviously enlarged and then cropped out. Although it was blurry, one could clearly see the horrendous cracks crossing the surface of the pill furnace.

“Am I drunk? I heard that in this competition, any pill furnace with five or more cracks is considered a low low-grade.”

“This is definitely a low low low low low-grade. The king of all rot, the trash of trash!”

“I feel pain for my beloved Ning Qin. I can’t believe he has to use this furnace to refine pills.”

“Those people that bully my Brother Ning Qin, open your eyes wide and take a good look! Do you think you could use this kind of pill furnace to refine pills and still have them pass?”

Hulun Hehe scrolled over the forums. His indifferent eyes swept over the posts filled with shock and worship. Ning Qin, didn’t you want to become famous? Then I’ll help you blow up on the network once more!

Philosophy Watch.

On a bed, Elder Nangong stared stubbornly at a screen, every breath he took short and fast. If the hate in the eyes of his ashen gray face could kill, then even though he was separated by a handphone he would still be able to tear Qin Yu to a million pieces.

“Trash! All of you are trash! If it weren’t for the competition officials exposing Ning Qin’s identity, none of you would have been able to find him!”

Within the room, there was only the sound of heavy breathing. Several cultivators below paled, terror rising on their faces.

“Pass down orders. Have all our forces make a move and kill Ning Qin!”

A Philosophy Watch cultivator cautiously said, “Elder, won’t it anger the officials if we do that?”

Elder Nangong sneered, “You idiot. Do you think all of this information would have been disclosed on the network if the officials didn’t agree? I don’t know exactly what is happening, but there is something you need to remember. The officials also don’t have a favorable impression towards Ning Qin.”

Everyone’s eyes suddenly lit up. If this were true, they wouldn’t need to have any scruples anymore!

The next day.

Qin Yu pushed open the door. He furrowed his eyebrows for a moment before immediately composing himself. It seemed there were some people secretly eyeing him.

Fortunately, he already expected that this would occur. So, he continued walking out without stopping at all.

The competition’s fourth stage would begin today. This would be a challenge for three winners and then everyone would compete for the final rankings.

Qin Yu was without expression, but he was actually vigilant within as he looked around. He was well aware that once his identity as Ning Qin was exposed, there would be many people gnashing their teeth at him.

In particular, after the Southshine Nation officials deliberately expressed their ill intent towards him, all those people who wanted to do something to him would be even more unscrupulous.

Qin Yu didn’t know who all these hidden enemies were or what they would do, but he was sure about something. Since he had come this far in the competition, he had to take first place no matter what.

“Who cares about the inn? Do they really think they can compare with us? After this competition is over and I become famous, I will definitely show them my strength and trample over them!”

“That’s right, a mere inn with less than a hundred years of background dares to place themselves on par with my Philosophy Watch. Sooner or later, the day will come when they are all exterminated!”

“Everyone, as long as we work together and cooperate well, the day when we overthrow the inn won’t be too far away!”

Qin Yu revealed a strange complexion. If you fellows are going to talk or curse or plot, then why are you all squinting at me? Do you really think I’ll rush over in a fit of anger and argue with you?

Did the people from Philosophy Watch really come up with such a plan to deal with him? Or was there some trap hidden deeper within that he wasn’t aware of? Qin Yu thought for a moment. Then, without revealing his actions, he took out his handphone and activated the audio recording function. He continued walking forwards without a change in his complexion. He came closer and closer and finally he brushed past them.

Everyone tensed up. The Philosophy Watch cultivators all revealed excitement in the depths of their eyes. Then, their expressions changed and they froze.

He walked away...how could he just walk away...? Aren't you someone that loves the inn above all else? Didn't you place your life on the line in order to restore the inn's reputation? If so, then how could you tolerate us recklessly speaking about the inn like this? At this time, shouldn't you be enraged and then rush towards us and quarrel with us? At the very least, you should taunt us a few times to return the favor.

If you walk away like this, then what do we do with the following plan?

Hey director, this script doesn't seem right!

In truth, there were many intelligent cultivators. When Ning Qin's status was completely exposed in the middle of the night, many cultivators guessed that he was in for a spell of bad luck.

Because of the '9527 event' yesterday, many people knew where he was staying. As a result, lots of people had already gathered here in the morning to watch the fun.

As for the Philosophy Watch cultivators, they didn't leave anyone disappointed. They popped up along the road towards the competition field. This left everyone thrilled, their excitement rising. They widened their eyes, waiting for a collision like a giant meteor crashing into the earth.

Of course, I certainly won't explain why cultivators from the Land of Divinity and Demons would know about giant meteors crashing into the earth!

Don't ask, because any question is useless.

Returning to the topic –

When Qin Yu appeared, the cultivators that had been waiting for a long time felt their heartbeats quicken and their eyes start to shine!

But what did they see afterwards? Ning Qin walked past them, he actually walked past them! He had zero reaction to the provocations of Philosophy Watch.

At this moment, they were left dumbfounded.

Philosophy Watch's methods were low level and basic, but they were carefully prepared in consideration of Ning Qin's devotion towards the inn. It could be called a simplistic yet effective scheme.

After all, they knew what Ning Qin's 'weakness' was.

But now it seemed that it was utterly useless!

A thin man with a beard stood in a corner quietly waiting. He stroked his beard, a smile on his face as if everything occurring was within his grasp. Then, his complexion suddenly paled. His fingers tightened and he pulled hard on his beard, his entire face twisting.

Damn it all!

This little bastard Ning Qin, he didn't fall for the trap at all. It seemed that he had underestimated him.



Since the soft method didn't work, he could only come in hard.

With a cold sneer, the bearded man freed his hands and started walking forwards.

Several wisps of torn beard hairs fluttered in the air, making him seem somewhat cool and carefree.

"Ning Qin!" Within the crowd of watching cultivators, someone suddenly roared out loud. "In that past you ruined my little sister's reputation! Now I have finally found you! Give me your life as repayment!"

Bang –

The ground shattered and this person hurled himself forwards like a wild lion descending a mountain.

Everyone was bewildered for a moment before they praised this move inwardly. Philosophy Watch really hated Qin Yu; they were actually going to use this method of perishing together against him.

But this reason just seemed a bit too forced. What do you mean about your little sister's reputation being ruined...hey, go take a look in the mirror first. Unless Ning Qin is blind, why would he bother with your little sister!

Everyone knew that the officials explicitly forbade fighting. Any cultivators that participated in fighting would be mercilessly punished, no matter how it started. It was unknown whether this attacker would be able to kill Ning Qin, but if the two of them fought, he could at least drag Ning Qin into the water with him.

At the very least, this fellow could ruin Ning Qin's goal for participating in the competition.

Despicable, absolutely despicable. But...I like it!

Otherwise, if this didn't happen, how could things become lively?

Certainly, there were some female participants who cursed Philosophy Watch for being despicable and worried for their Big Brother Ning Qin. As for the male cultivators, they all coldly laughed together. Big Brother Ning Qin...shit, if you are so popular among girls, didn't you know it's easy to encounter retribution?

Qin Yu dodged to the side. "Who are you? I don't even know you!"

"Ning Qin, you may have forgotten me, Zhang Mou, but even if I become ashes, I will never forget you!" Zhang Mou's face was full of unbearable pain. His acting could be given an almost perfect score.

"Hold on, if you attack me, can I defend myself?"

"Don't run; I'm going to kill you!"

Qin Yu evaded several times. Then, his eyes flashed. He waved his hand and took out the pill furnace. He whispered, "If I make a move I will be forced to leave the competition. If you want to eat pills from then on, you'll have to find someone else!"

Qin Yu was already well aware of the ill intent the officials held towards him. Although he had a sound recording, it didn't necessarily ensure nothing would happen to him if he were to restrain this man.

The pill furnace in his hand might seem sad and miserable, but Qin Yu knew that it was absolutely a disguise.

He still had a vivid memory of that graceful yet wild bull-like charge and that overwhelming smash from the ninth level of the Pill Furnace Pagoda.

It hadn't chosen anyone, then decided to blindly choose him. Qin Yu had spent the last few days with the pill furnace and believed there had to be some reason why it had chosen him.

If this was the case, it might help him today.

Bang –

With a loud buzz, the pill furnace flew up on its own. In the blink of an eye it grew ten feet tall. Although the cracks became even more miserable and the opening in the top left one's heart shaken, the horrifying aura it emitted shocked everyone present.

Zhang Mou had been racing forwards and had too much momentum; he simply wasn't able to stop in time. He could only watch helplessly as a massive shadow fell over his head.

Then...

Bang –

The earth shook and a massive crater appeared. The pill furnace stood at the center, overflowing with slaughter energy. Zhang Mou was stuck waist-deep in the ground, his pale face drained of blood and his mouth emitting sorrowful screams. Although no one knew how deeply he was injured, just looking at him left one shivering.

Cough cough...this Zhang Mou was crippled, he was definitely crippled!

The crowd suddenly fell silent. In the silence, Zhang Mou's cries only became more ear-piercing. The crowd's gaze fell on Qin Yu, revealing shock and dread.

This fellow had been evading the entire time just now, with an awkward and helpless confusion that said he didn't know what to do. Then, in the blink of an eye he had become hostile, even going so far as to put that Zhang Mou fellow in a half-dead state.

This Ning Qin, what a ruthless method!

### **Chapter 328 - Yun Yilan Interferes**

The bearded man's scalp tingled. He never thought that this bastard Ning Qin would actually dare to use such a cruel and heavy hand while in full view of the public. However, this was also good. He had attacked a participating cultivator, causing severe injuries. With just this alone, no one would be able to save him! Compared to this, the price that Little Zhang paid wasn't considered anything at all. At worst they would just compensate him more later.

A trace of smug satisfaction crossed his face. Then, his expression became one of sorrow. He blinked his teary eyes and cried out, "Brother, you have suffered too much!"

The bearded man threw himself onto the ground near the giant furnace and hugged onto Little Zhang, sobbing. He lifted an arm and quietly poked the injuries, causing Zhang Mou's cries of pain to become even louder. With these cries of pain and sadness, this scene was truly one to weep over. Hehe, this was the effect he wanted. No matter what happened, it was best to occupy the moral high ground and then wait for another opportunity to take action.

The Philosophy Watch cultivators rushed forwards, excited expressions on their faces as if they would never forgive Qin Yu for his sins. But in reality, though there was loud thunder, there wasn't much rain at all. After seeing the fate that Old Zhang suffered, they didn't hope that this would also happen to them. This was especially true since their main goal had already been achieved.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

With a series of howls, over ten officials arrived on the field. All of them wore armor and a cold chill glowed in their eyes. These were the security guards secretly arranged by the competition officials.

"Insolence! You really are brave to try and kill someone in public while the competition is underway!" A high level security guard coolly said as he waved his hand, "Take them all away!"

The surrounding cultivators all revealed dignified expressions. No matter what place they were at, the response of the security guards had always been extremely slow. But today, this matter had just occurred and now these fellows dropped down like soldiers from heaven. If it was claimed that there wasn't something going on, no one would believe it.

For a time, everyone fell silent. Even those female cultivators that supported Qin Yu just now didn't dare to speak up again.

Qin Yu took out his handphone. "Hold on, I have evidence that he was the one attacking me just now. I was only evading him."

Unfortunately, he didn't even have a chance to play his sound recording. The high level security guard sneered and said, "This is the so-called evading you did? Brat, your actions are ruthless! What are you all doing? Grab him!"

Qin Yu took a step back. "Security guard, the one who started this wasn't me, so what is the point of catching me?"

The high level security guard's eyes turned cold. "Do you plan on resisting law enforcement?"

Qin Yu lightly said, "I am merely stating facts." He pointed a finger, "This pill furnace is an official pill furnace. It suppressed this person on its own initiative, so can you blame me?"

"What ridiculous nonsense! If it weren't for you, do you think a mere pill furnace could harm someone?"

Qin Yu turned and said, "I have proof."

With this, many people revealed a look of shock. They thought, what sort of proof could you possibly have? Do you think this pill furnace is going to testify on your behalf?

But following that, many people subconsciously dropped their jaws and a look of disbelief crossed their faces.

“Pill furnace, tell them, was it you who did this? If it was you then open your lid once.”

Clang –

The lid opened and fell.

Facing Qin Yu’s innocent expression, the high level security guard’s mouth opened so wide that he could stuff 10 eggs in it. He already felt regret. If he knew this would happen, he would have directly captured Qin Yu just now and would never have given him the chance to say such words.

But, it was already too late.

The bearded man clenched his teeth and howled out miserably, “Security guard, this must be Ning Qin’s tricks! He must have done something to that pill furnace! If you grab him and interrogate him, you will definitely be able to learn the truth.”

The high level security guard’s eyes brightened. The order he was given was to capture Ning Qin no matter what it took. The justification to do so was unimportant.

“Ning Qin, you are involved in a case of injuring another. Come with us!”

Two security guards had already arrived in front of Qin Yu, their complexions harsh and unkind.

Bang –

The pill furnace suddenly flew up from the ground. The unlucky Zhang Mou’s eyes rolled back and he fainted.

Then, that bloodstained pill furnace that was covered in slaughter intent rumbled directly towards the two security guards.

Completely unprepared, the two guards thrust out their hands but were sent shaken back, becoming rolling gourds on the ground.

“How brazen! Ning Qin, you dare to attack security guards!?” The high level security guard paled.

Qin Yu shook his head. “Hey security guard, it is this pill furnace that is going crazy; it has nothing to do with me. You keep impatiently trying to charge me with something. It makes me suspect whether or not you are trying to intentionally persecute me because of previous events.”

Hulun Hehe’s lungs nearly blew up with rage. Among the security guards, there was actually such a stupid pig. This should have been an extremely simple matter, so how had the situation devolved to such an extent? He couldn’t allow this to continue any longer, otherwise who knew what sort of disaster would come next!

“Grab that pill furnace!” With a loud shout, Lord Hulun Hehe appeared. His purple official robes flapped in the wind, his momentum overbearing.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Several masters ran out. They raised their hands and cast out nets, covering the entire pill furnace and forcefully restraining it.

Hulun Hehe's eyes were like lightning. "Ning Qin, you are suspected of controlling the pill furnace and attacking security guards, affecting the great competition. Men, take Qin Yu away and hold him for trial!"

Several powerful senses locked onto Qin Yu. The slightest change would attract their all-out attack.

Qin Yu sighed. It was truly all because of this Lord Hulun Hehe. But, he really didn't know why this person, a Southshine Nation senior official, would constantly target him.

At this time, Qin Yu had a sliver of regret over not withdrawing as soon as he sensed something was wrong. But, perhaps he had already been locked down by Hulun Hehe by that time, so he didn't necessarily have a chance to leave.

Luckily, since he was being detained in front of everyone, the Southshine Nation officials would still need to give an explanation of this matter to the public. They shouldn't make things too hard for him.

Let's just take things one step at a time.

As for resisting...

Qin Yu acknowledged that this thought popped up in his mind. But as soon as it appeared he pressed it back down.

What nonsense. If he resisted now, wasn't that the same as suicide?

He didn't overestimate himself just because he had a Divine Soul level of strength. While he wasn't considered weak when placed in the Land of Divinity and Demons, if he stood against the machinery of an entire nation, he would immediately be crushed to pieces.

Of course, this was because his life wasn't being threatened yet. If he faced a life or death situation, his decisions would be entirely different.

Seeing Qin Yu surrender without a fight, a trace of disappointment flashed in Hulun Hehe's eyes. He waved his hand and two subordinates soared directly towards Qin Yu.

But at this moment...

Bang –

With a heaven-shaking bang, the pill furnace that was restrained by nets suddenly exploded out of them. The 10 foot tall furnace began to grow once more at an astonishing speed.

In the blink of an eye, it grew to a mind-boggling 100 feet tall!

After growing to such a degree, the cracks that spread throughout the furnace's body became even more fierce and diabolical. The cracks connected together in a horrific manner, and one even wondered

how this seemingly broken pill furnace was still held together. As the pill furnace grew, its aura also expanded to a realm which left people shaking with fear!

Within the void, there seemed to be an angrily raging sea. The originally clear and sunny skies began to dim down at a speed visible to the naked eye. Strong winds whipped into existence, kicking up dirt and crushed stones, sending debris flying in all directions and crashing throughout the competition field. All over the wilderness, countless ancient trees started to bend and twist.

Yun Yilan frowned. He awoke from his reflection and his eyes flashed. He smiled and said, "Revered Ming, Revered Yuan, please wait a moment. There is a minor matter I must deal with first."

He stood up and stepped away, instantly vanishing from sight.

Yuan Tiangang's eyes flashed with surprise. "What incredible momentum, and it's actually a pill furnace that's emitting it. How curious."

Ming Siyuan was also thinking things over in his mind. He lightly said, "Then how about we go over and take a look."

"Haha, great!" Yuan Tiangang took a step out and disappeared.

Ming Siyuan took a deep breath and followed right behind.

Hulun Hehe's complexion was pale. He never thought that this scene would ever occur. Now, he could confirm that this pill furnace wasn't controlled by Ning Qin.

He didn't have the courage, nor did he have the strength!

He looked up towards the vast skies and that nearly broken but still glorious pill furnace, and his heart began to shake. Who would have expected that such a cracked pill furnace like this would actually possess such power?

As he was hesitating about how to deal with this, a figure suddenly appeared in front of him. Hulun Hehe hurriedly bowed, "Greetings, Exalted Yun!"

"Greetings, Exalted Yun!" All the other officials respectfully bowed.

All around the field, countless cultivators lowered their heads, expressing their awe and reverence towards this Blue Sea realm super powerhouse.

Yun Yilan's eyes flashed before his gaze fell on Qin Yu's body. "Little friend Ning Qin, can you stop it first?"

Qin Yu hesitated for a moment. He cupped his hands together and asked, "Exalted Yun, this junior would like to ask, can I still participate in the competition?"

Yun Yilan was startled for a moment. He never thought that this junior would still be able to maintain his calm in front of him. He revealed a look of appreciation and said, "Of course."

With his status, there was no reason for him to lie. Qin Yu's heart relaxed, "Thank you, Exalted Yun!" He looked up and said, "Hey, it's alright, you can stop now."

In the air, the 100 foot tall pill furnace started to restrain its aura as it rapidly shrank. Then, it fell into Qin Yu's hand. It was unknown whether it had used up too much strength or whether it was because of some other unknown reason, but the pill furnace didn't fly back down smoothly. It wobbled about as if it were drunk, nearly crashing into Yun Yilan's head. It flew over him, stirring up his neatly combed hair.

Qin Yu was raised to full alert. If the pill furnace really did crash into Yun Yilan, he had no idea what sort of ending he would have had.

He would definitely have been implicated!

Yun Yilan revealed a nearly imperceptible smile. The pill furnace was warning him; it seemed it really held this junior in high regards.

But, this was quite strange. Just what was so special about this junior that could draw this pill furnace's attention?

His thoughts revolved before he immediately pressed them down. He said, "Today's matters will end here. Continue with the competition."

He turned around and cupped his hands together. "Revered Ming, Revered Yuan, shall we continue?"

Yuan Tiangang looked deeply at Qin Yu and then laughed out loud, "Alright."

Ming Siyuan's eyes were much more restrained. But only those familiar with him could see the seriousness in his eyes.

According to the young master's description, that fellow daoist Baoyu almost certainly came here for the remnant spirit of the treasure furnace. Although a person that had the qualifications to be a Deva reincarnation wouldn't care about a treasure of this level, he couldn't guarantee that there weren't other reasons.

Thus, Ming Siyuan had constantly been secretly searching for that fellow daoist Baoyu. Unfortunately, all his efforts over these past days had been for nothing...until today. Perhaps most others might not know of this pill furnace, but upon reaching a status similar to his and Yuan Tiangang's, he naturally knew of the pill furnace that was being nourished and maintained within the Pill Furnace Pagoda. If there was someone that could awaken it and even attract it to the point that it would actively protect them, then this Ning Qin was highly likely to be that fellow daoist Baoyu who he had been searching for for all this time without luck.

His thoughts raced but there was no change in his expression. Ming Siyuan turned and simultaneously flashed away with the two others. But, it was clear that after today's events, Qin Yu had already entered into the minds of the three Blue Sea realm super masters with completely different statuses and theories.

The wind faded and the clouds dispersed.

White Fengfeng's face was full of shock. "Idiot brother, did you know that the person from the ninth level is actually him!?" She shook her head repeatedly as if she had never expected this.

Black Beibei's complexion was heavy, "Fengfeng, it looks like you have another opponent! Although I don't know why this person has been laying low for all this time, since he has such a precious furnace helping him, you absolutely cannot underestimate this competition!"

The truth was that the things Revered Ming thought of, Black Beibei also thought of. But since Qin Yu now had a completely different appearance, he thought for a moment longer and then decided not to say anything.

After all, they would soon enter the critical stage of the competition. He absolutely could not allow White Fengfeng to divert her attention somewhere else.

White Fengfeng frowned in distress. She originally felt that defeating Zhao Jiutian would already be difficult, but now this wild Ning Qin had jumped out from nowhere. The pressure was too great!

Zhao Jiutian had an ugly complexion. He coldly snorted and walked away.

Who cared if he obtained that furnace from the ninth level? He didn't believe he would lose to him.

First place must be his!

### **Chapter 329 - Contract**

With Yun Yilan's word, the matter came to a conclusion just like this. Lord Hulun Hehe's face was stunned blue and white. He glanced at Qin Yu briefly before flicking his sleeves and stomping away.

The security guards left the field with awkward expressions.

Qin Yu instantly became the target of many burning hot gazes. The female cultivators were thinking, 'My big brother Ning Qin is so fierce!' And the male cultivators were feeling bitter inside, wondering just what sort of dogshit luck this boy walked into.

Those from Philosophy Watch had become clowns. After putting on such a laughable performance and still having half their people crippled, they still weren't able to accomplish anything. Now that everyone knew that the Exalted Yun Yilan was interested in Ning Qin, even if Philosophy Watch was a hundred times braver they still wouldn't try to move against him in the future.

The bearded man's lips twitched but he couldn't force out a smile. He and the several other cultivators from Philosophy Watch felt as if they were about to cry together.

But at this time, Qin Yu didn't feel overjoyed or proud at all. Rather, he was completely silent. He was well aware that if it weren't for the accident with the pill furnace, Yun Yilan definitely wouldn't have interfered and his ending today wouldn't have been so lucky.

Looking at this from another angle, Yun Yilan had appeared without warning, and while it seemed that he had protected Qin Yu from today's disaster, with his status, he wouldn't have done this without a reason.

Then what was the reason?

Qin Yu thought that the most likely cause was the low-profile pill furnace in his hands that always pretended to be a pig to eat a tiger.



He originally just hoped to come here and get first place in the competition. After obtaining the treasure furnace's incomplete spirit for the Fleeting Flame Furnace, he could leave. But how had things suddenly spiraled out of control? Hulan Hehe's hostility towards him was one thing, but Yun Yilan's attention was of prime importance.

Qin Yu sighed and tossed these thoughts to the side. Under countless gazes, he arrived at the field for the fourth stage. The location was the same; it was where the third stage had been located. But now, all those low hanging cabins had been demolished, and earth-attribute magic arts had been used to construct wide rows of spacy stone buildings.

The official announced the rules. "The fourth stage will determine your final ranking. In other words, everyone here has already entered the finals." As he said this, the numerous participating cultivators all revealed looks of excitement.

In truth, before the competition even started, the majority of people here knew that it was impossible to obtain one of the top spots with their abilities. To be able to step into the finals was more than satisfactory for them. By using the status of someone who was a finalist in the Southshine Nation's Youth Alchemy Competition, their future road of cultivation would be much easier to walk down.

After all, the tens of thousands of contestants encompassed nearly all the geniuses from the younger generation in the Southshine Nation. If they could stand out amongst this crowd and bloom upon entering the fourth stage, they would absolutely be praised as talented youths.

"This time, you must refine a pill using the exchanged materials from the third stage. Then, you will be ranked according to the grade and efficacy of your pill. This stage will last for a total of three days. I wish all of you luck and a smooth refining."

The competition began.

Qin Yu used his tag number and found his own stone building. He pushed open the door and walked in.

As before, he swept the area with his divine sense. After not sensing anything strange, he took out an array plate and set up an array formation around the stone building.

The Demon Puppet Pill was rarely refined and required a considerable amount of skill. This was also Qin Yu's first time seeing it and he had no experience in refining it. Still, he had considerable confidence that he could succeed.

First he needed to feed his blood to the eternal night demon mushroom, and then refine three of those together into one, forming the Demon Puppet Pill. Upon further investigation, Qin Yu discovered that the quality of one's blood had a tremendous influence on whether the pill refining was a success. Since he had a Demon Body and also Ning Ling's demonic bloodline, they should naturally be helpful in refining the Demon Puppet Pill.

Next, there was also this pill furnace in front of him. Although he still didn't know what its origins were, if it could cause someone like Yun Yilan to appear, it definitely wasn't anything minor. Moreover, he hadn't failed once in his previous refinements. Because of that, Qin Yu had to recognize this pill furnace's abilities.

He laid down the pill furnace and took out the seven eternal night demon mushrooms. He wasn't in a hurry to begin the refinement. His eyebrows pressed together and a light flashed in his eyes. It was unknown just what he was thinking.

After several breaths of time, Qin Yu finally said, "Pill furnace, I know you can understand my words, so I'll get straight to the point. You chose me out of everyone here, so you must have your reasons. I will acknowledge that I have my own secrets, but I cannot trust you. So, unless you give me a sufficient guarantee, I would rather lose this competition than refine pills."

This was a matter involving the little blue lamp and he couldn't allow any chance that it would be exposed. Otherwise, with his current cultivation, he would immediately be torn to shreds.

These words might contain a bit of threat towards the pill furnace, but if it continued to play dumb, Qin Yu would make that fantasy into a reality.

After a moment of silence, the pill furnace suddenly shook. With a slight hum, faint traces of light flowed out from it, turning into a sphere of light in the air.

One could see countless tiny characters in this sphere of light. Unfortunately, these characters were extremely strange and even when one looked directly at them, it was impossible to figure out what they said.

Kacha –

With a light sound, another crack appeared on the pill furnace's surface. Although it was tiny, and even though it seemed quite ordinary amongst the rest of the numerous cracks, this sight still caused Qin Yu's heart to skip a beat. His intuition told him that in order for this pill furnace to summon this sphere of light, it had paid a considerable price.

Moreover, he didn't feel any threat from this pill furnace. After a moment of hesitation he lifted his hand and searched the sphere of light. Immediately, a great deal of information flowed into Qin Yu's mind and he understood that this sphere of light was actually an extremely ancient contract. He had already signed it once he touched it. There were no severe requirements in this contract. The only point was that both signatories could not have the intent of harming the other party, otherwise the contract would be activated and a backlash would occur. If that happened, the other party would undoubtedly die!

The sphere of light vanished. Through the contract, Qin Yu could faintly feel the boundless aura emanating from the pill furnace. However, this aura was already torn to pieces and had barely managed to keep itself together. Right now, less than a single percent of this aura's strength could be used, but this 1% was already amazing. If this pill furnace could be restored to its original state, then...it would be unimaginable!

Qin Yu suppressed his shaking heart and cupped his hands together. "Since Brother Pill Furnace has expressed sufficient sincerity; I won't speak too much. The first place position in the competition is already ours. Of course, the premise is that Brother Pill Furnace is willing to be merciful and not swallow any Demon Puppet Pills. After all, these are all the materials that I have."

Hu –

The flames ignited on their own, drawing in heaven and earth spiritual energy. The furnace lid opened, clearly approving of this.

Qin Yu faintly smiled. He picked up the first eternal night demon mushroom and tossed it into the furnace.

It wasn't as easy as feeding one's blood to the eternal night demon mushroom and then tossing it in. First, one needed to use the pill furnace to refine out all the impurities within the eternal night demon mushroom, only retaining the medical efficacy. Then, one could begin adding their blood.

This step continued smoothly. The eternal night demon mushroom within the pill furnace turned into a liquid form that was nearly pitch black in color. Then Qin Yu flicked his finger and a small cut appeared on it. Several drops of blood flew out and were sucked into the pill furnace. His face slowly paled with it, but in several breaths of time this paleness disappeared and Qin Yu's face returned to a rosy color.

In refining the Demon Puppet Pill, the quality of blood was extremely important. Even though he had the little blue lamp, the Land of Divinity and Demons was a place of crouching tigers and hidden dragons, so he had no choice but to remain careful. So, what he used just now was his blood essence. Each drop was incredibly potent. This was something that only someone like him who possessed the Demon Body and wasn't afraid of losing some blood essence would dare to do. If it were any other alchemist, they would shrink at the sight of this.

Of course, having the Demon Body was one part, but an even more important reason was the limitless amount of pills at his disposal. Otherwise, if he relied only on his mortal body to regenerate all its lost blood essence, this would take a month if not longer.

The refining continued.

Three eternal night demon mushrooms were soon fed full with blood. They floated in front of Qin Yu, their black and red mottled color emitting a strange and ghastly aura. Qin Yu wasn't in a hurry to refine. He closed his eyes in meditation for four hours. With the support of a massive amount of pills, he slowly restored himself and then opened his eyes.

A sharp light flashed in his eyes and he pointed a finger at the pill furnace. The three eternal night demon mushrooms flew into the pill furnace and the flame below instantly erupted, drawing in a tremendous amount of heaven and earth spiritual strength. It was so much that one could even hear it rushing inside.

Qin Yu had a dignified expression. His hands constantly formed law formulas, and the pill furnace's temperature rose at a dramatic speed. Within the pressure of an absolutely high temperature, the three eternal night demon mushrooms began to slowly fuse together because of the similar blood essence within them.

...

In Zhao Jiutian's eyes, the pill furnace began to turn crimson because of the high temperature within it. The heat rushed out, causing his face to flush red.

He lifted a hand and took out a black lotus leaf with ugly textures that resembled a ghost face on it. He used a bit of effort and shattered it.

Then, this lotus leaf actually emitted a shrill and sorrowful scream like that of a fierce ghost. The powder was swallowed up by the pill furnace and that originally crimson pill furnace became an even deeper red, like roiling magma.

Zhao Jiutian's face revealed a bit of hesitation. Then, he clenched his teeth and pressed his hand directly onto that blazing red furnace.

Sizzle –

There was the sound of burning flesh and blood. His face immediately paled and because of the pain that surged up his arm, he unconsciously trembled.

Sweat moistened his robes. It even began to drip onto the ground from the corner of his robes.

The flesh and blood of Zhao Jiutian's palm quickly melted away to reveal white bone. And, that melted flesh and blood was absorbed by the pill furnace.

“Child and Mother Yinyang Pill, open for me!”

Bang –

The pill furnace popped open and two pills flew out, one small and one large. They were blood red in color and had horrendous ghost faces on their surface.

Zhao Jiutian flicked his sleeves and caught the two pills. A look of excitement lit up his pale face.

“Medium-grade...they're actually medium-grade...” As he thought, this method of feeding blood could forcefully enhance a pill by one rank.

But this wasn't the end. Although a medium-grade Child and Mother Yinyang Pill was rare, if he wanted to secure first place, it was still a bit lacking.

He carefully placed the pills in the extinguished pill furnace. Then, he flipped his hand and took out a piece of ice.

This was a true shard of ice. When it appeared, it emitted a horrifyingly low temperature. A layer of white frost began to form on the edges of Zhao Jiutian's eyebrows.

But what was most shocking was that sealed within this terrifying shard of ice, there was actually a flame!

Even though it was in a sealed condition, the beating flame still peacefully burned.

Zhao Jiutian's complexion became incomparably earnest. He lifted a hand and there was a crack on the shard of ice; a small crack had appeared on the surface.

Without any delay, he tossed the shard of ice into the pill furnace. Then, he used his other hand to rapidly form law formulas.

The sealing array below the pill furnace activated and a loud and deep bang erupted, causing the entire pill furnace to gently tremble.

Zhao Jiutian had a worried look. After several breaths of time, the humming fell silent. His heart relaxed and his face lit up with joy.

It worked!

Hahaha! With this extreme cold fire that he had exchanged for with his points to temper the pills, the quality of the Child and Mother Yinyang Pill rose by yet another level.

A high-grade Child and Mother Yinyang Pill was something that not even a great grandmaster level alchemist would be able to accomplish on the first try. This time, he was sure to be the champion of the competition!

White Fengfeng...

The Great Desolate Lake's young master – what a prestigious name. But in the end, she was nothing but a little girl. From the beginning, he had never placed her in his heart.

Qin Yu's figure subconsciously flashed in his mind and his lips lifted in a mocking smile.

So what if he had that furnace from the ninth level?

With just you alone, you don't have the qualifications to compare with me!

### **Chapter 330 – Ninth Province**

Right now, the Great Desolate Lake's young master that Zhao Jiutian despised was approaching the final moment to form her pill. She constrained the last bits of medicinal efficacy in a keylead vine and tossed it into the pill furnace. Then a net seemed to cover all of the medicinal efficacy, fusing it together.

“Form the pill!” With a clear shout, White Fengfeng raised a hand and pointed a finger. The pill furnace blew apart into countless pieces. In that instant, a crystal green bead the size of a cat's eye projected a ray of green light that covered all the fragments of the pill furnace.

Then, as if the void had frozen over, all those pill furnace fragments froze in place.

At the same time, a thumb-sized pure white and warm jade-like pill appeared within the midst of the fragments.

White Fengfeng wiped the sweat from her forehead and let out a long breath of relief. This was her first attempt, and succeeding here was really a great stroke of luck.

But no matter what the reason was, success was success. Now it seemed that this miss could struggle for the competition championship!

She flipped her hand and took out a jade bottle from her storage ring. After opening it, powder floated out on its own volition, covering every fragment of the shattered pill furnace. Then, this powder ignited on its own, like numerous lamps in the air, all of them surrounding the pill.

Big Brother Baoyu, you must try harder! If your championship is stolen by others, I fear your face won't be pleasant to look at!

While White Fengfeng was tittering with pride, Big Brother Baoyu had also smoothly completed the refinement of the Demon Puppet Pill.

Compared to the astonishing performances that Zhao Jiutian and White Fengfeng revealed when they finished refining their pills, the Demon Puppet Pill could be called unassuming and common. The furnace lid opened and the pill popped out.

The Demon Puppet Pill was the size of a pigeon egg, with black and red lines interweaving across its surface, forming all sorts of complex textures. Qin Yu's attainments in array formations weren't too high, but this pill still contained a fair bit of his blood essence. He vaguely felt that these black and red lines seemed to be some sort of summoning array formation.

He coughed, immediately suppressing these thoughts as soon as they appeared. How could the textures on a pill be an array formation?

Qin Yu placed the Demon Puppet Pill into a jade bottle. Then, he took out some pills and swallowed them before closing his eyes in meditation. "Don't be in a hurry, it isn't dark yet. Soon you will know what card I have in my hand."

The pill furnace was silent, as if saying 'You had better make sure I am not disappointed.'

Night arrived.

At this time, most of the participants had finished their refining attempts. Of course, some failed and some succeeded. Those alchemists that failed had no choice but to withdraw with sorrow on their faces. As for those people that succeeded, most of them stayed in their stone buildings, using various methods to temper and strengthen their pills.

That's right. Within the Land of Divinity and Demons, there were techniques that could temper pills. For instance, what schoolmates Zhao Jiutian and White Fengfeng did. At the same time, not all people had such daring spirits that they could pay such a high price to forcefully enhance their pills to the next level.

Hu –

Within the darkness, Qin Yu opened his eyes, a sharp light bursting from his pupils. He had fully restored himself from the losses he suffered while refining the Demon Puppet Pill. The furnace lid opened and closed. The clanging sound was particularly loud in the dark. It seemed that this brother pill furnace was growing impatient.

Qin Yu faintly smiled. His thoughts stirred and the little blue lamp that was within his dantian sea's great dao base suddenly vanished from sight. He lifted a fist and slowly opened his five fingers. Then, a deep blue light flowed out like seawater, covering the surrounding foot.

Yes, its coverage area had shrunk. However, Qin Yu knew that this wasn't because it had weakened, but because it was hiding its strength. Perhaps it did feel some dread within the Land of Divinity and Demons, so it needed to carefully conceal its own aura.

Even though Qin Yu had witnessed the little blue lamp light up several times, he still admired and acclaimed how gorgeous it was. Just glancing at this deep blue light once made an inexplicable feeling swell up from the depths of one's soul, leaving them intoxicated by the sight.

But compared to Qin Yu, the pill furnace was far more excited. After it saw the little blue lamp, it fell silent for a short period of time before gently shivering. Its appearance was just like someone who was thrilled beyond belief and couldn't constrain their emotions.

After a long time, the pill furnace finally fell silent. Then, strange syllables began to echo out in Qin Yu's mind. Although he didn't understand them, he mystically understood their meaning.

"Ninth...Province..."

These two simple characters rumbled in Qin Yu's mind like thunder. It seemed that just the pill furnace's name contained an invisible prestige and energy.

Qin Yu had a dignified expression. It seemed that he had underestimated this pill furnace. Just the name alone was able to conjure up such an incredible phenomenon; it was simply unimaginable!

Qin Yu took a deep breath and loudly said, "My name, is Qin Yu!"

The pill furnace didn't respond. But through their contract, Qin Yu could feel faint fluctuations. It seemed it had obviously remembered this name.

There was nothing much said between them; they only told each other their names. But, Qin Yu could actually clearly feel that there was a much deeper harmony between him and the pill furnace named the 'Ninth Province'.

He opened the jade bottle and poured out the Demon Puppet Pill, allowing it to bathe beneath the little blue lamp.

A moment later, he watched as the black and red colors on the pill's surface deepened and formed even more complex textures. Qin Yu's heart relaxed. He was originally worried that he wouldn't be able to utilize the strength of the little blue lamp to enhance the Demon Puppet Pill because he had used his own blood to refine it, but now he could rest assured.

Hum –

Ninth Province suddenly shook and an invisible aura emanated outwards. It flooded the entirety of the stone building. It was like a thick sponge was stuffed into the surrounding spell, thoroughly isolating the outside world so that no one could peek in.

Qin Yu smiled. He wasn't surprised that he had easily obtained the approval of Ninth Province. After all, the little blue lamp was the most precious and unique treasure in the entire world.

Qin Yu took out a pill and swallowed it. He closed his eyes and started to refine it.

There was still two days before this stage of the competition ended; he naturally couldn't waste this time. The journey of a thousand miles began with the first step and one's cultivation had to be gradually grown. He couldn't slack off in the least.

In the blink of an eye, two days passed and the competition reached its final event. The Southshine Nation officials also released the restrictions they placed on various network platforms and major streaming stations. Countless cameras were already locked onto the competition field as well as a hundred foot high jade mountain located just outside the field.

On the peak of this mountain, there were countless words. If one looked carefully they could see that these were the current rankings for the fourth stage.

“Ladies and gentlemen, friends and family, how do you do! I am the South Xiang’s television station host, Wang Ling. Today, it is my greatest honor to live stream the final qualifying stage of competition to you. Alright, let’s dispense with the small talk. I ask that all our spectators follow our camera as we focus on the rankings atop the peak of the jade mountain.”

The screen changed as the camera turned. The camera could capture an extremely high-definition image, since even though the peak was far away, it was still incomparably clear.

“First, everyone should be focusing on the dazzling rainbow-hued name in the front. Yes, just as you think, he is the provisional first place contestant. Wuyuan...this seems to be the name of a geographic location. Since this person dares to use such a name, he is assuredly a proud elite of heaven. Fellow daoist Wuyuan hasn’t shown too much brilliance in the competition so far, but he was clearly hiding his own true skills. In this competition, he has successfully refined a fifth-grade Fire Path Pill, something extremely beneficial to fire-attribute cultivators. He really does deserve the title of temporary first place contestant...”

A headset that Wang Ling wore on his ear suddenly flashed. He attentively listened to the incoming message and then his eyes brightened. “Dear audience, before the finals began, everyone should have seen the name list that contained all the proud young elite cultivators. For instance, Cleansing Temple’s heartless Zhao Jiutian and Great Desolate Lake’s beautiful White Fengfeng. You should all be quite curious as to why their two names haven’t appeared on the rankings atop the jade peak.”

After pausing for a moment to deepen the mood and provoke excitement, Wang Ling suddenly said, “We have obtained confirmation that fellow daoists Zhao and White have finished refining their pills. However, due to certain questions related to their rank and efficacy, the appraisal has been temporarily postponed. To ensure absolute fairness, the assessment will be carried out in public to determine the final rankings.”

Broadcast on the live stream, a simple platform was set up just beneath the jade peak. Ten alchemy grandmasters appeared in front of everyone, causing countless cultivators to gasp out in alarm.

“Audience, audience, do you see! Those you see in front of you now are some of the most famous and skilled alchemy grandmasters of my Southshine Nation! They are the final judges for this competition. Now, even I am curious as to what pills fellow daoists Zhao and White have refined that not even these grandmasters were able to make a judgment of.”

The voice of a Southshine Nation official suddenly spoke up on the live stream. “Fellow participants, we will be assessing the pills in the order that they were received. The first to be assessed is the Great Desolate Lake White Fengfeng’s pill.” He clapped his hands and a person holding a jade bottle with both hands quickly walked up the platform and passed it to the ten grandmasters.

With a simple judgment verifying that there were no problems with the pill, the grandmasters all nodded together, acclaim in their eyes. This sight caused the hearts of the countless viewers watching to shake. Anticipation rose in their hearts. If a pill could cause such a reaction from the grandmasters, it was surely something incredible!



The official continued to say, "The grandmasters have confirmed that there are no problems with the pill. Following this, we will proceed with the method to determine the pill's medicinal efficacy." He paused and then said, "To inform everyone ahead of time, the pill that White Fengfeng refined is an upper fifth-grade Sky Soaring Pill."

The countless live streams all took a panning close-up shot of the Great Desolate Lake's group.

White Fengfeng had a calm expression, but her fists were tightly gripped beneath her long sleeves. She was barely managing to restrain her mood.

Upper fifth-grade Sky Soaring Pill. Even her father and mother didn't think she could accomplish this.

Hum hum! She was truly a genius! All of you trash, you had best tremble before this miss!

If others were to learn that the calm and aloof White Fengfeng was thinking such thoughts at this moment, they might vomit out blood for dozens of meters.

Black Beibei revealed a happy look. He naturally knew how strong a Sky Soaring Pill was; it was a high grade pill. Without accident, his cousin would be the champion. If so, then he really didn't waste his points in taking the ghost visage lotus leaf first and wiping out 10 of Zhao Jiutian's points ahead of time.