

Refining 421

Chapter 421 - Gambling Fight

Soon, Xu Sheng walked in. He respectfully bowed and said, "Subordinate greets master!"

Qin Yu lightly said, "I have some matters for you to do."

A month later, a travel-worn Tuba returned to the Black Demon Sect and gave Qin Yu a storage ring. After listening to him, there were indeed people secretly paying attention to those that purchased the materials listed within the jade slip. Luckily, with Qin Yu's warning, he realized that something was wrong and stopped his purchases. Only after running tens of thousands of miles away did he quietly complete the task.

"You have done well. It must have been hard on you. You can rest well for now."

"Yes, Your Highness."

After Tuba left, Qin Yu inspected the materials in the storage ring. He nodded in satisfaction. Unfortunately, it wasn't easy to obtain the souls and blood of high level monster beasts, otherwise if Tuba was able to purchase all of this at the same time it would have been even more perfect.

Shaking his head, Qin Yu put away the storage ring. He stood up and walked deeper into the main hall. Since he had gathered all the materials, now was the time to begin refining them.

Several days later, Qin Yu looked at the Purpleback Bluewing Ants flying in front of him. As he felt the potent aura coming from their bodies, he smiled happily.

These were truly worthy of being pills recorded in the Monster Raising Mystic Art, specifically used to cultivate the foundation of monster beasts. After using them, the aura of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants had doubled from how they were before, and he also had many pills left in hand. While the increase wouldn't be as great as it was this time, it would still be beneficial.

With a thought, all of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants were led by the ant king as they flew back into the imperial spirit bag. Qin Yu looked down and felt that this imperial spirit bag seemed a bit too poor. If he had a chance in the future, he needed to find a higher level imperial spirit bag magic tool that was more advantageous to the growth of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants.

He placed the cultivating pills into the imperial spirit bag and ordered the ant king to swallow them as needed. Until he found the souls and blood of high level monster beasts, he would put this matter on hold.

As Qin Yu was in thought, he stood up and walked towards the alchemy room. Recently, cultivators from the Black Demon Sect had visited without end. They all wanted to exchange the various precious spirit plants and seeds they had, and as a result Tuba and Tutou weren't left with many more pills to exchange. He needed to refine another batch to supplement the supplies.

Time passed a day at a time. The 'purchasing' actions of Grandmaster Yao didn't seem to end. Most of the spirit plant materials within the Black Demon Sect had been received by him. Invisibly, this seemed to touch upon the benefits of a certain person.

For instance, within the Alchemy Division, there was the third ranked Jiang Taishou, otherwise known as Grandmaster Jiang. In the Black Demon Sect he was the only alchemist who had proficient skills in alchemy using spirit plants. In the past, most of the spirit plants purchased ended up in his hands. Compared to demonic path pills, the pills formed from spirit plants might be weaker in terms of medicinal efficacy, but they were far gentler and the side effects were similarly smaller. They could be sold at a reasonably high price.

Of course, Grandmaster Jiang only ever sold 30% of the spirit plant pills he refined in the Black Demon Sect. The remaining pills were shipped out from the sect using secret channels and sold in other places. Thus, on the surface, it looked like even though Grandmaster Jiang was undercutting others when purchasing their spirit plant materials, he actually wasn't making a profit. In truth, only he knew how much he was really making.

When Grandmaster Yao first swept through the market and took all of the spirit plants out of circulation, Jiang Taishou didn't care much at all. In the past, some people had thought of sharing in some of his soup, but they had inevitably been beaten black and blue. This surname Yao was said to have mysterious origins, but so what? Spirit plant pills weren't that easy to refine!

But this time, something unexpected happened. As time passed, a significant number of spirit plant pills began to appear among Grandmaster Yao's exchanged goods.

Grandmaster Jiang obtained some. After inspecting their quality, his heart sank. The quality of these pills were extremely good, even much better than the ones he refined.

Although he didn't know why the originally low-key and common Grandmaster Yao would undergo such an immense change and gain such powerful spirit plant pill refining methods, there was one thing he was sure about. If he continued to freely allow this to continue, the potential great wealth he should have obtained would be taken away by others!

"Honorable master, we cannot wait any further, we ask you to make a decision as soon as possible!" One of his alchemy disciples anxiously said.

Grandmaster Jiang took a deep breath. "Grandmaster Yao has an unusual status. Even if something is wrong with this, I still need to give him a bit of face. Purple Spring, take my visiting card to Grandmaster Yao. After that, this matter should come to an end."

His expression was filled with indifference and confidence. After his first brief bout of anger, Grandmaster Jiang soon calmed himself, because within the Alchemy Division, he was the third ranked grandmaster.

And among the demonic path, they forever revered powerhouses!

The disciple named Purple Spring confidently took the visiting card to Grandmaster Yao's residence. But, just after indicating his purpose for coming, before he could even posture himself, he began to violently tremble. He looked up to see that the two originally warm and kind big fellows were now glaring at him with eyes as cold as the deep winter.

“Since when did a pathetic mess like you dare to convey a message to our grandmaster. Immediately screw out of here, otherwise us brothers will send you on your way!” Tuba viciously said. He clenched his fists, his knuckles cracking and popping.

Purple Spring was enraged. “How insolent! I have brought my honorable master’s visiting card here, representing my master’s dignity! He is the Alchemy Division’s third ranked Grandmaster Jiang! How could you two lowly servants insult him!? Today, Grandmaster Yao must give my honorable master an explanation for all of this!”

Tutou diabolically grinned. He reached out his hand and picked up Purple Spring who was stamping his feet. “If it weren’t for the grandmaster saying that we couldn’t casually kill people, I could have already eaten three of you little brats! Now get out of here!”

With a slap of his palm, several teeth were sent flying out. The originally handsome young man now had a face swollen like a pig’s head.

“You...how...just wait...” Purple Spring covered his face as he staggered away.

Soon, news of this event rapidly spread throughout the entire Black Demon Sect like a hurricane. Grandmaster Yao’s barbarian servants had slapped one of Grandmaster Jiang’s disciples. And the reason this all occurred was because there was a conflict of interest concerning the spirit plant materials!

“I already knew that Grandmaster Yao buying spirit plant materials at such a high price would leave others unhappy!”

“Grandmaster Jiang is the third ranked alchemy grandmaster of my Black Demon Sect. Now that he’s lost face, he will never let this go!”

“I heard that Grandmaster Yao also has a considerable status in the sect. The higher ups all tolerate his actions.”

“Rumors are just rumors. Grandmaster Jiang is a true and proven powerhouse. Grandmaster Yao is likely in trouble this time!”

As the entire Black Demon Sect was in a noisy uproar, Qin Yu had just finished refining pills. He heard Tutou and Tuba’s explanation and rubbed his head a bit before saying, “It’s fine. I already expected that some people would not be happy with me. Let them all jump out at once.”

He tapped his fingers, calculating the time. There was roughly more than a year left until the Demonic Path’s Demon Ascension Gate opened. Even if the Black Demon Sect was one of the 13 subordinate branches of the Demonic Path, that didn’t mean all their cultivators had the chance to participate. He might as well use this opportunity to drum up some fame and obtain a good standing so he could have the qualifications to participate in the Demon Ascension Gate.

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed. He was anticipating just what sort of retaliation Grandmaster Jiang would attempt.

Purple Spring returned with a face that was black and blue. He fell to his knees, sobbing, “Those two barbarians clearly knew I was bringing your visiting card and yet they were so ruthless to me. They

clearly don't place honorable master in their eyes. It doesn't matter if this disciple is wronged, but master's reputation cannot be blasphemed like this."

Several disciples in the main hall all huffed with indignation. A large youth stepped out and said, "Honorable master, how could two mere barbarians be so insolent after learning of your identity? I believe that this was all something instigated by Grandmaster Yao. He must have some ill intent in mind!"

"That's right, this surname Yao must have caused those two people to purposefully shame master's honor!"

"To step on master's name, that surname Yao is too brave! He cannot be easily forgiven!"

"Honorable master, we need the other party to pay a sufficient price for this matter!"

In the seat of honor, Grandmaster Jiang had no expression. He lifted his hand and the entire hall fell silent. He lightly said, "In the end, we are both alchemy grandmasters of the same sect, so we have some workplace sentiment and relations. In light of that, I don't want to push things too far. However, since Grandmaster Yao hasn't left me any room to move, I have no choice but to suppress him a little."

He lifted a hand and took out a jade slip. "Grandmaster Yao likes to purchase spirit plants, in particular precious spirit plant seeds and other such things, right? Then, I will give him a chance for an enormous harvest. Purple Spring, take this jade slip to the sect's Internal Affairs Division and tell them that I want to use this as a gambling stake against Grandmaster Yao. With both sides using our own respective techniques, we will determine victory and loss using our alchemy skills!"

A cold light flashed in his eyes. He continued to say, "Also, tell the Internal Affairs Division that if I somehow manage to win, Grandmaster Yao must abide by a condition I set. For the rest of his life, he cannot refine any more spirit plant pills!"

Purple Spring was overjoyed. He received the jade slip with both hands and ran out of the hall in excitement. "Surname Yao, you dare to strike my servant? You are done for!"

Soon, with some people deliberately spreading out the news, it was known that Grandmaster Jiang had challenged Grandmaster Yao to a gambling bet through the Internal Affairs Division. This information spread through the Black Demon Sect at a mind-boggling speed. This caused the demonic cultivators paying attention to the situation to be shocked. With Grandmaster Jiang making such a counterattack so quickly, he clearly must be moved to anger.

Not long after, the gambling stake in this bet was spread out through unknown channels from the Internal Affairs Division. 17 kinds of spirit plant seeds, including those of the heavenheart lotus, nine nether grass, unnamed flower, and other precious and nearly extinct spirit plants. All of these were valuable things that could only be found through a stroke of serendipity!

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call these 17 seeds priceless. If exchanged for spirit stones, they would be worth hundreds of millions or even a billion! Because they were too scarce, if someone really needed them, they could only bear the pain and purchase them no matter how high the price.

The gambling fight rules of the Black Demon Sect were as follows: the person who raised the bet, if they lost, would have to turn over the entire gambling stake to the cultivator they challenged. If the person

who was challenged was defeated instead, they had to agree to a reasonable condition from the other party as well as paying half the amount of the gambling stake. In other words, if Grandmaster Yao lost, not only would he not be able to refine spirit plant pills in the future but he would need to compensate with spirit stones worth half the amount of those seeds!

As for why no one really cared how much Grandmaster Yao could benefit if he won...this was because he was facing the third ranked alchemy grandmaster of the Black Demon Sect, the fabled ruthless and unfathomably deep Grandmaster Jiang. The hopes of Grandmaster Yao winning were far, far too low. At the very least, this was what most of the cultivators of the Black Demon Sect thought.

The Black Demon Sect also opened an internal betting ring. Grandmaster Jiang was given a rate of 10:1 and Grandmaster Yao was given an astonishing rate of 1:5.

Deep within the Black Demon Sect, in a heavily guarded hall, several Elders that presided over the day-to-day affairs of the sect were holding their regular meeting.

Some people opposed and some people approved. Although there were a few arguments, the atmosphere remained relatively good. Besides a conflict concerning a personnel appointment that led to a fierce debate and was thus put on hold temporarily, over a dozen issues were addressed and passed in less than an hour.

“That is all for today. I’m sure fellow Elders are exhausted. If there is nothing else, we can disperse.” At the end of a long table, an Elder wearing brown robes and covered in aging spots smiled.

An Elder to his left spoke. “Chief, there is something. A gambling fight was announced today in the sect. The initiator is the Alchemy Division’s Jiang Taisho, and the one he challenged is Yao Bin. The gambling stake is astonishing. Once victory and defeat is decided, the loser will suffer serious losses. Do we need to interfere in this?”

The several other Elders had calm looks. It was clear they had already learned of this before. At this moment, they all revealed curious looks.

Jiang Taishou was extremely strong. Although he was only the third ranked alchemist in the sect, they actually knew it was because he was keeping his depths hidden. This person’s true alchemy skills were formidable and he had refined seventh-grade pills more than once. Even the Sect Master had secretly invited him to refine some pills before.

As for Yao Bin...in truth, even though he was an Elder within the sect, and although he had a high position, not many of them knew any details about this person. But through the years, the way the Chief Elder, Sect Master, and others treated Yao Bin made them all cautious towards him.

Chapter 422 - I Love Betting Rings the Most

“Yao Bin?” The Chief Elder frowned, a bit of unease in his eyes. He had previously heard that several disciples had died at his hands. Thinking of the Sect Master’s reminder, he hesitated for a moment and asked, “What is the cause of all this?”

The Elder who brought up the topic didn’t conceal anything. He honestly dictated his full knowledge of events based on the results of an investigation. To them, this matter wasn’t much of a secret. Jiang Taishou and Yao Bin’s struggle was only one related to the benefits from spirit plant materials.

The Chief Elder's face darkened. He coldly coughed, "The sect does have a need for the spirit plant pills refined by Jiang Taishou. Yao Bin's actions have gone a bit overboard this time."

With a single sentence, all of the other Elders could understand the meaning in his words. It seemed that even the Chief Elder was feeling a bit impatient towards this Yao Bin who had yet to show any promising results.

After that, there was no need to discuss anything further. The meeting ending and the Elders scattered.

The Elder who raised this matter returned to his dwelling and smiled. He took out his handphone and pressed some numbers. After the connection was made, he said, "It's fine."

On the other end, Grandmaster Jiang smiled as he heard this. Since the chief wasn't tolerating that person anymore, there was no need to have any scruples. He called for a disciple and passed out some orders. The disciple nodded repeatedly before hurrying away.

Soon, rumors of Grandmaster Yao fearing a fight spread throughout the Black Demon Sect. And as more and more time passed, these rumors grew increasingly loud.

Although one could choose not to accept the challenge, amongst demonic path cultivators who lived freely to their emotions and killed and slaughtered as they pleased, to avoid a challenge was an extremely great loss of face. Unless there was a massive disparity in strength where victory was almost impossible, no one would flinch in facing a challenge.

Grandmaster Yao didn't respond on the first day; this caused the Black Demon Sect cultivators to frown. Then, the second, third, and fourth days passed in silence, and a bit of contempt began to appear in the eyes of the Black Demon Sect cultivators. In fact, even the number of people who came over to exchange spirit plant materials declined by 70-80%. As for those who still visited, they didn't display the respect and awe from before. While they didn't dare to act recklessly, their eyes and faces revealed their disdain.

This caused Tutou who was responsible for receiving to be secretly enraged. His complexion grew increasingly ugly. If it weren't for Qin Yu's strict orders to not do anything unseemly or dangerous, he would have already erupted.

Although Tuba's face darkened, he was for better or worse able to maintain a calm demeanor. With his understanding of His Highness, he knew Qin Yu wasn't someone to shy away from trouble. He and Tutou had already reported this matter to His Highness. Moreover, with His Highness's strength, there was no reason for him to avoid this fight!

This was the Ninerealm Holy Land's Saint Son! Just how honored was that status? To be able to obtain that status, that sufficiently proved how powerful His Highness was.

"Tuba, hasn't the grandmaster come out yet?" Tutuo tilted his head with an anxious expression.

Tuba said in a deep voice. "Others might not know, but how can we not? The grandmaster is in seclusion cultivating right now; he simply doesn't know what is happening outside. Once the grandmaster leaves seclusion, he will naturally show all these people that are hopping around just why he is so amazing!"

Tutou said aggrievedly, "I know, but I just cannot bear it. Who does that Jiang person think he is? Does he think he is worthy of challenging our grandmaster!? If it weren't for fear that I would cause trouble for the grandmaster, I would have already run over and wrung his neck!"

"Calm down..." Tuba began. Then, a happy expression lit up his face. "The grandmaster has come out!"

He let out a breath of relief. Most of the stuffy feeling in his chest immediately disappeared.

Although he displayed a calm demeanor, he was just like Tutou, angry about how the outsiders looked at His Highness.

Tutou was ecstatic. "Come, let us go and inform the grandmaster! These people's happy days are about to come to an end!"

At this time, a figure walked out from the main hall, a black robe covering his entire body. This was Qin Yu who was borrowing the name of Grandmaster Yao. "There is no need for you to inform me. I have already seen the notice from the Internal Affairs Division."

He looked up at the beautiful sun in the skies and his lips curved in a smile. "I didn't think that some people would be so impatient. I was in seclusion for a short several days and yet they stirred up such a great mess."

After cultivating the Five Element Mountain for over two years, Qin Yu's path of metal had reached the small success stage, and his cultivation had risen to the eighth level of Divine Soul. With the joy of making a boundary breakthrough still lingering in his mind, he was completely unaffected by this matter. However, since some people were loudly offering up precious spirit plant seeds to him, how could he not accept them? That would be completely unfair to their regards.

And to fight it out using one's alchemy skills...Qin Yu's smile widened. It had to be known that in this world, the thing he feared the least was refining pills! This Grandmaster Jiang had even chosen his greatest dependence to challenge him with; his luck was just too good.

He stepped outside. Though he didn't turn around, he could see the hesitant expressions of Tuba and Tutou. He said, "In these sorts of storylines where the plot is reversed, every moment is interesting. Do you want to miss out?"

"No way!" The two were overjoyed. Their long legs started to move and they rumbled to catch up.

Tuba hesitated for a moment. Then, he took out two pairs of giant glasses formed from black crystals. He gave one to Tutou and they both put them on. Instantly, their slaughter energy rose to the peak and their aura almost doubled. Following behind Qin Yu, they were like twin dark stars.

The group walked towards the Internal Affairs Division. As they did, they attracted the stunned gazes of countless Black Demon Sect cultivators, almost forming an endless line behind them.

Grandmaster Yao had appeared and was headed straight to the Internal Affairs Division!

This news instantly blew up the moods of the people within the Black Demon Sect. They all sucked in deep breaths, excitement on their faces. After hiding like a turtle for so long, he finally couldn't withstand it. This was how it should be! A man should accept all gambling fights tossed his way! Even if

he lost, the worst outcome was that he would have nothing left in this world and be up to his chest in debt. It was still better than being looked down upon and despised for the rest of his life.

Of course, within these thoughts, there was also a thick sense of gloating.

Purple Spring had an excited expression. "Honorable master, that surname Yao has finally appeared and he's going straight to the Internal Affairs Division!"

Grandmaster Jiang's eyebrows rose with a bit of surprise. "I thought that Grandmaster Yao was prepared to endure some shame for a while, but I didn't think he would be so hot-blooded and brave. I actually feel a bit sorry for him."

The flattery from numerous disciples immediately came rushing in like a tide. Such as, "Master is so magnanimous and kind, that fool is simply seeking his own demise!", "That surname Yao is being punished by his own self-inflicted sins," "Teacher is benevolent, but if someone offends your dignity you cannot be softhearted," and other such unbearably flatulent words.

Grandmaster Jiang sighed. "Whatever. The gambling bet has already been decided. At most, I will just let him lose a bit more beautifully in the competition. After all, both Grandmaster Yao and I are alchemists and we should support each other in the Black Demon Sect!" As he spoke, he had a fully compassionate expression.

Internal Affairs Division.

Grandmaster Yao might have a horrid reputation and his situation was not good, but he was still an infamously ominous individual. The cultivators here did not dare to neglect him.

An Internal Affairs Division Elder appeared. He invited Qin Yu in for some snacks and drinks, and then said with a worried expression, "Grandmaster Yao, perhaps you have been a bit too reckless in this situation. Grandmaster Jiang is not someone easy to provoke."

Qin Yu laid down the teacup. He lightly said, "I understand. But since things have gotten to this point, what is the point of saying any of this? Elder, please pass on a message that I will accept the gambling bet."

The Internal Affairs Division Elder shook his head, "Aiya. Alright. We will immediately inform Grandmaster Jiang. Does Grandmaster Yao have a preference for what day you would prefer the gambling fight to be on?" He hesitated for a moment and added, "According to custom, you must carry out the competition with Grandmaster Jiang within a month of the day you accept the bet."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. "Then let's do it today."

The Internal Affairs Division Elder was surprised. "Isn't...isn't that a bit too hasty?"

Qin Yu said, "I've already caused everyone to wait for so long. Now that I have some free time, it's best to finish it as soon as possible. What, can I not?"

The Internal Affairs Division Elder dryly laughed. "You can. Grandmaster Yao, please wait a moment, I will immediately ask." He quickly stood up and left.

Grandmaster Jiang laid down his handpone, a thoughtful expression on his face. This Grandmaster Yao seemed confident in himself; perhaps he had obtained some harvests in seclusion. Then, let this old man step on you and all your newfound confidence until it becomes nothing but dregs!

The Internal Affairs Division Elder returned with a smile on his face. "Grandmaster Jiang has agreed. The Internal Affairs Division will immediately begin preparations for the competition to be held in two hours. I wish Grandmaster Yao victory in advance."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, "Thank you for the support." Without further pause he stood up and bid his farewells, leaving the Internal Affairs Division. Outside, the iron tower-like Tuba and Tutou attracted the gaze of many surrounding cultivators. As soon as Qin Yu appeared, their eyes brightened.

"Let's go." Qin Yu immediately left. Tuba and Tutou followed respectfully behind. The crowd drew back like a tide, opening a channel for them to pass.

It was unknown why, but many Black Demon Sect cultivators who previously looked down at Grandmaster Yao in disdain for not accepting the challenge discovered that they simply couldn't find the least bit of contempt for this person. There was like some faint and indiscernible atmosphere around Grandmaster Yao that made them feel awed.

The Internal Affairs Division Elder watched Qin Yu leave. He suddenly frowned, a bit of hesitation in his heart. He could feel that Grandmaster Yao didn't seem to have any fear at all. But at this time, to have no fear meant that he was fully confident in himself! Did he have the confidence he could win this gambling fight?

The frown deepened, becoming increasingly tight and worried. It had to be known that he had also put down a considerable amount of money in the sect betting ring. He originally thought of gaining a small amount, but if something happened...no, no, it was impossible. The reason he had made such a large bet was because he had obtained some tips from some higher ups.

Grandmaster Jiang's alchemy skills were far stronger than what he displayed now! Humph! Even if you have some cards hidden up your sleeves, once Grandmaster Jiang uses his full strength, there is no way you can succeed!

Thinking this, the Internal Affairs Division Elder dispelled all of his doubts and hesitations. He didn't know, but he had already missed the last chance to avoid any losses. As for what happened after today, would this Internal Affairs Division Elder ruthlessly slap himself in the face several times and cry out his heart in anger and sorrow? Well, that wasn't something to worry about.

Jiang VS Yao. The gambling bet between two alchemy grandmasters would happen today in two hours!

The Internal Affairs Division spread out the news as the quickest speed possible. The Black Demon Sect cultivators were shocked, then...some people rapidly finished up what they were doing, some people pushed their work to the side, and some people simply rushed over with complete disregard!

What nonsense, who had the free time to do nothing all day but to wait? But, this was a battle that involved two alchemy grandmasters and massive stakes. As long as there was a chance, no one wanted to miss out.

Cough cough...of course, there were other reasons. This was a good chance to gain spirit stones. Everyone here was a smart person, so who wanted to miss out on such a chance? More or less, most people had thrown down a bet. When it concerned their own purses, it was hard not to care.

Two hours later the competition would begin. Qin Yu decided not to waste his time moving around. He found a pavilion to rest at and appreciate the scenery.

Tuba hesitated for a moment. Then he respectfully said, "Grandmaster, there is a matter that this subordinate doesn't know whether to speak of or not."

Qin Yu smiled. "You've already spoken up. Do you want to leave the other half unsaid to ruin my appetite?"

Tuba awkwardly smiled, "Ah...in the Black Demon Sect, some people have opened up a betting ring related to the result between you and that surname Jiang. Your compensation rate is 1:5."

Qin Yu's eyes brightened. He flipped his hand and took out a storage ring. "What are you standing here for then? Change your appearance and immediately go make a bet with all the spirit stones in here. As for who to bet on, do I need to say it?"

Tuba grinned. "This subordinate understands!" He received the storage ring with both hands and speedily ran away, killing intent in his eyes.

Hum hum! You dare to belittle His Highness? This time I'll make you all vomit blood!

With a flip of his hand, Tuba took out another storage ring. The titan tribe didn't cultivate magic power, but through the countless years they existed they had constantly collected treasures from outsiders and had amassed an incredible amount of wealth. This was originally prepared to be offered to His Highness, but now it seemed he could increase it several times over before doing so.

An hour later, Tuba came back with a jade pendant and returned it along with the storage ring. "Grandmaster, the gambling stake has been placed. After the result emerges, you can use this to draw out the amount."

Qin Yu flicked his sleeves and received it, smiling. Betting rings were what he loved the most. Now that he had to raise the Purpleback Bluewing Ants, he would require a massive amount of high level monster beast souls and blood. Hunting them down by himself would be far too slow and arduous. The fastest and most efficient way was to simply buy them up.

So when it came to spirit stones, the more the better!

This was a completely accidental harvest.

Thinking of this, Qin Yu nodded to Tuba in praise, as if saying in gratification, 'Thank you for understanding me'.

Soon, another hour passed. The handphone placed on the table began to vibrate. Qin Yu lightly tapped the screen and a piece of information appeared, 'Grandmaster Yao, the preparations have been completed. Please arrive at Heavenwait Temple as soon as possible.'

Chapter 423 – Dispel Poison

Qin Yu put away the handphone. "Let's go."

Tuba and Tutou revealed excited looks. They had no idea where Qin Yu's confidence came from, however, they didn't doubt him at all. Since His Highness believed he would win, then he could certainly achieve it.

Surname Jiang, just wait a moment and you won't even be able to cry!

Heavenwait Temple was the location of the competition. As such, it was already crammed full of people. The Internal Affairs Division sold admission tickets and every cultivator below the rank of Protector needed to purchase one at the cost of a hundred spirit stones. The profit from this was considerable.

Of course, a single Heavenwait Temple wasn't able to meet the needs of all the cultivators that wanted to watch the competition. Thus, the Internal Affairs Division set up a synchronized projection screen. For ten spirit stones, one could buy a standing ticket. Tides of people surged about in the great square outside. Just roughly counting, there were several thousand people already.

Qin Yu might have only brought Tuba and Tutou, but these two massive fellows were over ten feet tall and wore large black servant robes that hung tightly on their bodies, accentuating their drum-like muscles all over. With the large black crystal glasses that hung above the bridge of their noses, their auras completely flattened most others. They were like magnets that attracted all eyes wherever they went.

So, just as the three people walked out from a small transmission array they were immediately discovered by sharp-eyed Black Demon Sect cultivators. Numerous eyes veered towards them.

Perhaps it was just a coincidence, but right after Qin Yu's group entered the square, from another small transmission array on the other side, more flashes of lights occurred.

Grandmaster Jiang was the first to step out. Behind him were several of his most outstanding subordinates and disciples. Purple Spring had already recovered from his wounds and was wickedly glaring. If looks could kill, then Qin Yu, Tuba, and Tutou would have long since been slashed and hacked into pieces by swords and spears and axes.

In the large square, the eyes of countless cultivators brightened.

Grandmaster Jiang smiled. "Grandmaster Yao, it's been a long time since we've seen each other."

Qin Yu lightly said, "Grandmaster Jiang."

"Today's conflict is not necessary. If Grandmaster Yao hands those two cheap servants to my disciples to deal with, I will consider this gambling fight abolished." Grandmaster Jiang's eyes flashed. "I am very sincere..."

"No need." Qin Yu interrupted him and moved towards Heavenwait Temple.

"How bold! With just you, you dare to offend my master!?"

"Yao Bin, you would rather do things the hard way! You have thrust yourself into a dead end!"

"You don't have the qualifications to make my honorable master your enemy!"

Over a dozen disciples watched Grandmaster Jiang be insulted and flew into a rage. They roared out in anger.

Tuba and Tutou stopped and stared at them. Their eyes were ice cold and a terrifying killing intent that left one despairing erupted from their bodies.

“To those who dare to disrespect our grandmaster, death!”

In an instant, it was like a scene of death and slaughter arrived. Those shouting people suddenly shut up as their bodies trembled and their faces whitened. They couldn’t contain the fear in their eyes.

Qin Yu didn’t turn his head as he said, “There will soon be a result, so why waste your breath on them?”

Tuba and Tutou restrained their auras. “Yes, grandmaster.”

They followed respectfully behind.

This caused the hearts of the surrounding cultivators to shiver.

While many people had heard that Grandmaster Yao had two extremely fierce subordinates working for him, it wasn’t until this moment that they understood just how vicious and mighty these two barbarians were.

That aura was enough to crush all Divine Souls. Could it be that they both had an extraordinary strength comparable to a common Blue Sea?

And what was most terrifying was the killing intent that these two barbarians emitted.

Only by experiencing endless fields of slaughter and ruin, by emerging from seas of blood and death, could one have tempered such a terrifying killing intent!

With this killing intent supporting them, even if there were two cultivators with similar strength to that of these two barbarians, they still wouldn’t be a match!

At this time, countless people looked towards the back of the black-robed figure, awe in their eyes. Disregarding all else, just the fact that he had subdued these two formidable people was a feat worthy of praise. Without strength, this would have been impossible.

Could it be that Grandmaster Yao was a hidden Blue Sea powerhouse?

Grandmaster Jiang’s complexion changed for a moment before he composed himself. He humphed and a divine sense swept out, awakening his disciples from their daze. He said, “Now, I really am looking forward to this competition with anticipation.”

A calm voice was supported by magic power, entering into the ears of all cultivators present. They felt the light pressure contained in every syllable.

Blue Sea realm!

Moreover, it was at least at the Revered Blue Sea level. Otherwise it would have been impossible to easily accomplish this.

Grandmaster Jiang was unexpectedly a Revered Blue Sea super powerhouse. This surpassed everyone's expectations, leaving them even more excited.

Everyone knew that for an alchemist, refining pills had considerable cultivation requirements. Grandmaster Jiang had a profound boundary, thus his alchemy skills must be truly amazing!

It seemed that Grandmaster Yao's unfathomable depths had stimulated Grandmaster Jiang...this competition was truly one worth watching!

Grandmaster Jiang had no expression as he moved towards Heavenwait Temple. His disciples followed closely behind him, their faces dark and gloomy and their hearts filled with pure and vicious hate. They had actually been frightened speechless by two mere barbarian servants. This was disgraceful!

Their hearts itched with revenge. After their honorable master emerged victorious, they would surely find some way to jail those two barbarians and torture them to death to assuage the hate in their hearts.

Tuba and Tutou's eruption of killing intent and Grandmaster Jiang's counterattack had already roused the interested of those in Heavenwait Temple. Sitting on spacious chairs, several great figures waiting for the competition to begin opened their eyes, interest and shock shining in their pupils. They glanced at each other and then several of them got up at the same time to stand in welcome at the entrance to the hall.

In the world of cultivators, strength itself was a status. And amongst the demonic path, this was the highest level criteria. Since Grandmaster Jiang and Grandmaster Yao had sufficient strength then they should naturally give them their due respect.

"Grandmaster Jiang, Grandmaster Yao, you've finally arrived." Among the several people, a middle-aged man smiled and spoke. Looking at where he stood, he was clearly the one with the highest status here.

Jiang Taishou cupped his hands together, "Elder Xu."

Qin Yu bowed.

Everyone exchanged greetings, talking about trivial topics. But, from the small details in the conversation, one could see what positions they took in their hearts. For instance, Elder Xu first greeted Jiang Taishou. However, it was Qin Yu who was the first one to enter Heavenwait Temple.

As this scene fell into the eyes of those in the hall, the cultivators who had tossed their hand into the betting ring all let out a breath of relief. It seemed that Grandmaster Jiang really was the likely victor here.

If so, they had won the bet!

Elder Xu lightly coughed. "Grandmaster Jiang, Grandmaster Yao, it isn't early anymore. If your preparations are complete, let's begin the gambling fight."

Grandmaster Jiang smiled and Qin Yu didn't oppose.

"Very well. Then let us ask Elder Zhao from the Internal Affairs Division to preside over the competition. The rest of us can watch from the observation platform." Elder Xu smiled and left with the others.

The Internal Affairs Division's Elder Zhou was a non-smiling and dour old man with gray hair. He said with deep respect, "Grandmasters, the contents of today's gambling bet are concerning alchemy. Then, please choose the topic." He clapped his hand and two disciples from the Internal Affairs Division came in, carrying a large round disc. "Grandmasters, please place your hand atop the disc."

Countless streams of light flew about in a circle on the disc, looking like nebulas in the night sky.

Grandmaster Jiang stepped forward. He casually tapped a finger on the disc and a stream of light flew out.

"Grandmaster Yao, this is yours."

Qin Yu didn't know what the disc was, but he wouldn't reveal that at this moment. He casually placed a finger on it.

A second stream of light flew out.

Elder Zhou flicked his sleeves and the two streams of light fused together. After a moment, they crept together, turning into two large characters in the air: Dispel Poison.

Pa –

The characters scattered, turning into streams of light that flew back into the disc. Elder Zhou waved his hand and the two disciples carried away the disc.

"Grandmasters, today's gambling fight topic is dispelling poison." Elder Zhou turned his hand and took out a jade slip. "This is the process of how the competition will occur. We will choose poisons from the sect that are of a similar level. Whichever grandmaster can solve it first will be considered the winner.

"Of course, the premise is that you two grandmasters must rely upon your own methods to dispel the poisons and cannot draw the support of foreign objects. Otherwise, you will be judged as having lost."

This sort of gambling fight method could decide victory and defeat and wouldn't damage the participating cultivators. It was a custom established by the Black Demon Sect long ago to avoid unnecessary internal losses.

"Hold on." Jiang Taishou's eyes flashed. "I feel that this method of competition is unfair. After all, there are countless poisons in the world and it is impossible for someone to fully grasp them all. If one were to encounter a familiar poison, then even if they are inferior to their opponent there is still a chance they could win. Moreover, everyone has different individual physiques. Even if we receive the same toxins, there will be differences in how we process them."

Elder Zhou frowned. "What is Grandmaster Jiang trying to say?"

Jiang Taishou smiled. "Simple. Grandmaster Yao and I will both personally try the poisons. We will not judge victory and defeat on how long it takes to dispel the poisons. Rather, as long as we can dispel the poison within a quarter hour, then we can enter into the next test of poison, all the way until one side is unable to dispel the poison or admits defeat. Without a doubt, this method of gambling fight is far fairer. Of course, there is a certain degree of risk to it. If your strength is insufficient, you might be injured by the poison. I wonder if Grandmaster Yao dares to agree?"

The conflict in the square had moved Grandmaster Jiang to true anger. This surname Yao simply didn't know his place, so he decided to give him a lesson he would never forget!

Whoosh –

The entire Heavenwait Temple was thrown into an uproar. The faces of many Black Demon Sect cultivators shook as excitement began to rise in their hearts. They never imagined that Grandmaster Jiang would be so swift and fierce in his decisions. Not only did he want to clearly show who was the winner and loser, but he even had the intent to kill others!

Hehe, it had to be known that demonic path poisons were not easy to provoke. If there was a small accident and the poison corroded the body, even an alchemy grandmaster would feel sorrow and pain.

"This..." Elder Zhou had an awkward expression. The Internal Affairs Division was supposed to manage conflicts between sect members and avoid the unnecessary loss of cultivators. This was one of his responsibilities.

Elder Xu's eyes flashed with a strange light. He said, "Elder Zhou, the person who raised the gambling fight to begin with has made a request. If his opponent doesn't object, then changing the rules is also permissible. There has been precedent before within the sect, so you do not have to feel awkward about it."

Elder Zhou cupped his hands together. "Yes, I understand." He stood up and looked at Qin Yu. Then, he respectfully said, "Grandmaster Yao, you have heard Grandmaster Jiang's request. Do you agree?"

Qin Yu's complexion became strange. As he looked at Jiang Taishou and his light and breezy expression, he couldn't help but twitch the corners of his lips.

This person, was he seeking death?

His silence caused Grandmaster Jiang's smile to widen. "Grandmaster Yao, there is no need to be afraid. If you think this isn't proper, I won't force you."

Qin Yu was silent for several breaths of time. He said, "Since...Grandmaster Jiang is like this, I can only risk my life and accompany this gentleman!" As he spoke he seemed to lack energy. There was a helpless expression on his face that seemed to indicate he was forced to agree. Grandmaster Jiang's smile brightened with disdain and smug self-satisfaction.

This expression fell in Qin Yu's eyes. Hidden beneath his black robe, a light smile appeared. Since someone chose the road to death themselves, if he didn't push them along, wouldn't he be wronging Grandmaster Jiang's amazing intellect?

Elder Zhou sighed, but his complexion didn't change. He said, "Since the two grandmasters have agreed to change the competition rules, then we will change the method in light of this." He lifted his hand and said, "Bring in the poison!"

A sealed jade pagoda was brought into the temple and placed on a long table. Elder Zhou carefully ripped off the first level sealing talisman on the pagoda. Two dark lights flew out, each one wrapping around a drop of ash brown-colored liquid. Elder Zhou drew back several steps and waved his hand. "Two grandmasters, please inspect it. If there is no problem, the gambling fight will officially begin."

Grandmaster Jiang smiled. "It looks like my luck is quite good. This first challenge is dirty soul night. I've researched this in the past, so I can see if it's real or fake with a glance. There is no further need to inspect it."

This move was to show the crowd that his proposition had been fair. Otherwise if the gambling fight had begun with dirty soul night, he would have taken the advantage.

Grandmaster Jiang glanced over at Qin Yu and frowned. He seemed to have not heard his words at all, and instead walked forward and directly swallowed down that drop of dirty soul night...this performance was as if he didn't place him in his eyes at all!

Grandmaster Jiang was angered. He sneered inwardly. Since this person was going to be so rampant, he would make him suffer!

The play had just begun!

He brought the drop of dirty soul night up to his lips and swallowed it down.

Many Black Demon Sect cultivators in the temple gulped. This was the demonic path poison especially used to corrode the soul – dirty soul night. Although it couldn't be regarded as an extreme poison, once a person was contaminated by it, eliminating it was quite troublesome. Moreover, this poison had a very strong contaminating effect. If one didn't thoroughly dispel it and it invaded the soul, they would have to live out the rest of their life withstanding the corrosive pain!

And now they watched as these two people didn't even bat an eye as they swallowed it. The psychological impact of this was intense.

Three minutes passed. Grandmaster Jiang opened his eyes and lightly said, "I have dispelled the poison."

An Internal Affairs Division cultivator walked forward with a treasure specially used to detect and measure poisons. After several breaths of time, a blue light glowed, indicating that all the poison had disappeared.

Not too far away, 'Grandmaster Yao' was still silent, as if he were bitterly forcing out the poison.

"Hehe, if it weren't for the change in rules, Grandmaster Jiang would have already won!"

"It looks like the results of today's gambling fight have already been decided."

"People have a reputation for a reason. If Grandmaster Jiang can be ranked third, he must be unfathomably deep!"

Grandmaster Jiang smiled indifferently. "It's no problem. The deadline hasn't arrived, so we can wait longer."

Another three minutes passed. Only then did 'Grandmaster Yao' let out a long breath. "I have dispelled the poison."

A similar examination was conducted, proving the poison was gone.

Elder Zhou said, "Two grandmasters, is there anyone that would like to admit defeat? Otherwise the gambling fight will continue."

Seeing no response, he lifted a hand and tapped down. From the first level of the pagoda, two more dark lights shot out. Within these dark lights were two nearly identical-looking leaves. They were verdant green as if formed from jade. Just by looking at them one could sense the powerful vitality contained within.

“Fallen lost leaf!” A Black Demon Sect cultivator couldn’t help but shout out loud.

Within the crowd, there was a sound of many people sucking in a cold breath.

Some people didn’t know what this thing was, but once they obtained an explanation, fear rose in their eyes.

In places of extreme cold and extreme yin, when numerous coincidences gathered together, an extremely strange plant could be born. It was bred by the heavens and earth, and after growing for a thousand years, its complete essence energy would gather into the leaf that grew the highest. Then, the main body would wither and die.

This leaf was called the fallen lost leaf!

Chapter 424 – I Have Dispelled the Poison

Hidden behind this literary story and its bittersweet name was a fatal life-wresting attribute. This was because once the fallen lost leaf touched someone, it would begin its parasitic journey once more, regarding the host as its main body and plundering all of its strength until they finally died.

And the way the fallen lost leaf parasitically attached to someone was like an extremely virulent and violently spreading poison amongst the world of cultivators. Or, it could in a sense be called a poison bug.

Grandmaster Jiang’s face revealed a heavy color. “I never thought that the first level would actually have a fallen lost leaf. It seems this will be a little difficult.” Although he said this, his demeanor was still calm; clearly he didn’t fear it. But at this time his eyes fell on Qin Yu’s body. Though he didn’t reveal anything, there was still a bit of disdain floating in the air.

‘Grandmaster Yao’ stuffily coughed and hesitated for a moment. He then reached out a hand and touched the dark light. As his palm touched against the fallen lost leaf, the thing released a low cry and trembled before transforming into a drop of liquid that fused into his flesh and blood.

Grandmaster Jiang’s lips curved up in a smile.

Five minutes later, Grandmaster Jiang smoothly dispelled the poison. The fallen lost leaf that fused into his body was forced out.

This method was truly inconceivable in its skill. Those within Heavenwait Temple cried out in alarm and numerous eyes widened in awe.

This time, Grandmaster Yao was in an even worse state. It took him a full 11 minutes to resolve the fallen lost leaf, and as he did so, the fallen lost leaf was also destroyed.

This speed and skill was on a completely different level from Grandmaster Jiang!

“Grandmaster Yao, even if you care about your face, you should admit defeat now. Otherwise if you continue to go onwards, you will be even more embarrassed.” One of Jiang Taishou’s disciples called out. Though he seemed to be saying this in consideration of Grandmaster Yao, to do so at this place and time was truly vicious.

As expected, Grandmaster Yao shouted out in rage, “How insolent! A mere junior dares to taunt me!?”

Grandmaster Jiang shook his head and said, “Yun Hai, don’t be so rude to Grandmaster Yao. The alchemy skills of a grandmaster are unfathomably deep; he simply hasn’t displayed his true skills yet. It’s hard to say how this gambling fight will turn out.” He glanced over, “Grandmaster Yao, although the poisons of the first level are good, it’s difficult for them to be a threat to the likes of us. How about we change to a more dangerous poison? Otherwise I fear it will be hard to decide victory and defeat between us in a short period of time. Perhaps we can ask Elder Zhou to open the second level of the sealed pagoda for us?”

Grandmaster Yao remained silent for a moment before saying, “I have no opinion.”

Many of the cultivators in Heavenwait Temple cursed inwardly, calling this surname Yao an idiotic fool. He had fallen into the trap of others and didn’t even know about it!

He was done for!

Grandmaster Jiang smiled happily. “Wonderful!” He turned and said, “Elder Zhou, please open the second level.”

Elder Zhou sighed inwardly and nodded. “Very well. Two grandmasters, please wait a moment.” After several breaths of time he flicked his sleeves and the seal of the sealed pagoda’s second level was undone. Two dark lights of an even richer color flew out.

“Keylink poison!”

“This is truly the sect’s sealed pagoda of poison. Just the second level has such a terrifying poison!”

“If it were your or me, I fear that just being stained a little bit by that poison would result in us howling to our deaths!”

Seven minutes later, Grandmaster Jiang opened his eyes. “This old man has dispelled the poison.” However Grandmaster Jiang used 13 minutes and even a pill he refined himself to forcefully dispel the poison within the time limit.

An alchemist’s occupation was to refine pills. Thus, pills they refined themselves could be used in a gambling fight and weren’t considered foreign objects.

“What a great method, Grandmaster Yao!” Jiang Taishou said with approval. “Elder Zhou, please continue.”

The fourth poison – heart corroding grass.

This was a type of poison that was extremely damaging to the body. Its attributes were violent and overbearing. If one couldn’t control it well, it would rapidly corrode a person’s body into a mess of slimy goo.

Grandmaster Jiang took ten minutes to dispel the poison.

This time, Grandmaster Yao only used eight minutes to dispel the poison. Everyone was slightly surprised, but they immediately chalked it up to luck. This surname Yao must have come into contact with heart corroding grass before to be able to dispel it in such a short period of time.

This simply didn't count.

The fifth poison – dark night netherworld.

This was a poison produced by demonic path alchemists. By combining several types of dangerous poisons together, they each promoted and restrained the others, finally evolving into this form. Processing this poison was extremely troublesome.

Grandmaster Jiang took 12 minutes.

Grandmaster Yao...15 minutes!

That was right, he barely managed to dispel the poison and even had to take several pills in a row. If it weren't for these pills being inspected and proving that they were refined by Grandmaster Yao, then he would have been judged as having been defeated.

Grandmaster Jiang frowned. He lightly said, "It looks like the second level isn't enough to decide victory and defeat between us. Grandmaster Yao, how about we open up the third level of the sealed pagoda?"

After a long moment of silence, Grandmaster Yao reluctantly nodded.

This unsealing process was much slower than before. Grandmaster Yao sat in meditation as if he was grabbing hold of this time to recover his losses. Compared to the calm and indifferent Grandmaster Jiang that was holding his hands behind his back, these two images formed a stark contrast.

The Black Demon Sect cultivators all coldly sneered. Even at such an overwhelming disadvantage he still wanted to persist until the end. He didn't know what death or danger meant!

With a loud hum, the third level of the sealed pagoda was undone. Elder Zhou had a serious complexion. He lifted his hand and a barrier of light shrouded the sealed pagoda. After completing this, his expression relaxed a little and he said, "Grandmasters, the poisons within the sealed pagoda's third level have extremely terrifying abilities. If you don't have full confidence in yourself, I advise you to admit defeat in order to avoid great losses or even potential death."

The majority of these words seemed directed at Grandmaster Yao. But because it seemed he wanted to 'save face no matter the cost', there was no reply from him.

Elder Zhou didn't say much else. "Let the gambling fight continue!"

The sixth challenge – seven-colored rainbow.

This poison spread through air. It was colorless and tasteless and even common magic power shields and barriers couldn't completely block it. The reason it had such a name was because after a person was poisoned, seven different colors would gradually appear on their body. Every day there was a different color and not only would they feel no pain, they would instead feel fully invigorated. But once the

seventh day passed and the seven colors gathered together, the poison would instantly react, killing the person.

Grandmaster Jiang was much more careful than before. He first took out several pills and let the Internal Affairs Division inspect them. Then, he brought forth the seven-colored rainbow and swallowed it into his body.

11 minutes later, with the aid of his pills, Grandmaster Jiang opened his eyes and let out a long breath. His complexion was slightly pale and his eyes a bit weary. It was clear that dispelling this poison hadn't been easy.

However, Grandmaster Jiang still felt several points of pride in his heart. It had to be known that this was the seven-colored rainbow! Using only a single pill he had managed to dispel this poison in 11 minutes. This was a fierce result!

He swept his eyes over, looking at the completely still Grandmaster Yao. Jiang Taishou curved his lips up in a smile. The gambling fight should end here.

After being contaminated with the seven-colored rainbow, even if this surname Yao didn't hesitate to pay the price and ask the powerhouses of the sect to help him dispel the poison, most of his life would be wasted anyways. After some more arrangements, even if he didn't die, this surname Yao would be thoroughly ruined for his remaining years.

But at this time, with a deep breath, Grandmaster Yao said, "I have dispelled the poison!"

Unexpectedly, he had only used a single pill.

Grandmaster Jiang's eyes widened as his complexion shook a bit.

A cultivator from the Internal Affairs Division walked forward and hurriedly examined him. Grandmaster Yao had indeed dispelled the seven-colored rainbow poison from his body. There were no traces of it left. This result not only shocked Grandmaster Jiang, but everyone else in the temple too.

"This...could he be familiar with this poison again?"

"I heard that Grandmaster Yao has always had the habit of torturing prisoners for fun, and loves to use living subjects for experiments. It isn't a surprise if he's conducted experiments with the seven-colored rainbow poison before."

"Tsk tsk! What luck! If it weren't for this, the gambling fight could have ended here and we could happily have gone and collected our spirit stones from the betting ring!"

"It will just be another moment. I don't believe he can be lucky all the time! In the end, the only thing a person can depend on is their own strength, like Grandmaster Jiang here!"

There were cries from all over the temple. Grandmaster Yao coldly snorted but didn't say anything, as if he were tacitly approving of everyone's opinions.

Grandmaster Jiang's heart relaxed a little. Since it was only a coincidence, that just meant he had to put in a bit more work. He waved his hand, "Elder Zhou, please continue."

His face was a bit stiffer than before, not as relaxed as he had been. No matter what was said, this surname Yao lasting this long had surpassed his expectations.

The seventh poison – blue sky highest heavens.

When a meteor crashed down from beyond the heavens and landed in the earth, the strange materials within blended together with the strength of the heavens and earth, producing this strange poison. The word ‘strange’ expressed how rare this poison was. There was no conventional method to dispel it.

Grandmaster Jiang swallowed three pills. Then, with a dignified expression, he swallowed the blue sky highest heavens poison. Just as the poison entered his body his complexion changed. He quickly ate up four poison-curing pills and only then was a bit of redness restored to his rapidly paling complexion.

Even so, Grandmaster Jiang used up a full ten pills and consumed a total of 13 minutes before he managed to dispel this poison!

This time, his victory was inevitably secure!

The blue sky highest heavens poison was incomparably rare. Even if this surname Yao loved to use poisons to torture criminals, he absolutely wouldn’t use this poison!

Humph!

Although he had suffered some hardships, the blue sky highest heavens was much trickier than the seven-colored rainbow. Once it entered the body and one didn’t completely eliminate it, it would form poison deposits. From that point on, it would no longer be possible to thoroughly dispel it.

Although one wouldn’t die in a short period of time, this poison would follow them for the rest of their life and they would constantly withstand the pain and suffering from the poison attacking them. Living like this was one of the greatest agonies one could experience...only when their lifespan came to an end and the poison completely erupted would they then be able to obtain freedom.

Thinking of this, Grandmaster Jiang’s eyes turned cold. This surname Yao had brought all of this upon himself. If he had admitted defeat sooner, he wouldn’t have ended up in such a situation.

Jiang Taishou never thought that things would come this far. As he thought about his painstaking arrangements and how he had even had his disciple shame Grandmaster Yao midway through in front of everyone in hopes of forcing him to admit defeat, he suddenly felt that these fake and hypocritical methods were too disgusting.

The 15th minute came. As the last several breaths of time arrived, Grandmaster Jiang’s disciples all revealed smiles.

Within the temple, all the cultivators who had placed bets also had joyful looks.

But at this time, a sound that caused them all to curse inwardly suddenly rose up. “Cough cough...I have dispelled the poison!”

The Internal Affairs Division cultivator responsible for keeping track of time looked at the hourglass and saw that the final few grains of sand had yet to fall. He sighed and thought that this person was truly lucky. “It is within the time.”

The poison inspection continued as usual. As a green light lit up, sighs resounded throughout the temple. Many resentful eyes gathered on Grandmaster Yao.

He had managed to dispel the poison on the edge of the deadline twice...how come he couldn't just fall over, how come he decided to press on? It was better to admit defeat than to die like this. If you are uncomfortable, we are also suffering with you. The ups and downs you bring us are just too hard to bear!

Jiang Taishou frowned and his eyes turned dark and gloomy. He glared at Grandmaster Jiang and suddenly said, "Grandmaster Yao has truly hidden his depths well. I admire you!"

Between his icy cold words was a deep sense of wariness. This caused all of the resentful cultivators in the temple to be surprised. This was just another stroke of luck; how come Grandmaster Jiang placed him in such high regards?

Suddenly, a Black Demon Sect cultivator said, "Grandmaster Yao, it seems...didn't eat any pills!"

Everyone was stunned for a moment. The process of Grandmaster Jiang dispelling the poison had been so thrilling and amazing that they had fully focused on him. They hadn't paid attention to this at all.

If Grandmaster Yao hadn't drawn support from pills and had still managed to dispel the blue sky highest heavens poison, did this mean that Grandmaster Yao's poison dispelling skills were much better than Grandmaster Jiang's...? Then, was everything before this merely an act? No wonder Grandmaster Jiang had such a serious expression!

The cultivators in the temple were frightened. They were just now all imagining leaving and going to get their spirit stone profits from the betting ring, but how did things suddenly reverse in such a short period of time...their betting stakes were no longer safe!

Grandmaster Yao coldly sneered. "Grandmaster Jiang, to force me to use my true skills, you aren't too bad." Then he changed his tone. "If you admit defeat now, you still have enough time. Otherwise, if you were to encounter an even more dangerous poison, it might be too late to regret!"

Jiang Taishou's heart sank.

At this time, from the observing platform, Elder Xu lightly coughed. "In the past, Grandmaster Yao received some blue sky highest heavens poison. Not many in the sect know of this, and even I only learnt it because the Chief Elder mentioned it one time. Thinking about it, this was probably why Grandmaster Yao was able to dispel this poison so easily. His luck is extremely good."

He faintly smiled. "Grandmaster Yao, you shouldn't mind me mentioning this matter, right? After all, a gambling fight should consider some degree of fairness."

Grandmaster Yao coldly snorted and clenched his teeth. But, he didn't dare to express anger at Elder Xu. In his aggrieved mood, even his breathing quickened.

Jiang Taishou's expression relaxed. "So that's how it is. I even thought that Grandmaster Yao might be some peerless great expert. So, it was all just an empty act and you were trying to play it along with your tiny bit of luck. I wonder, just how long can Grandmaster Yao's good luck last?"

Beneath the black robes, Qin Yu sneered in disdain. It seemed that Elder Xu really knew about how Grandmaster Yao had received some blue sky highest heavens poison before. This was indeed a coincidence. When Qin Yu was refining Grandmaster Yao's soul, he fully received these memories of unbearable pain in the past. At this time, he had gambled on this to make Elder Xu open his mouth and dispel Jiang Taishou's doubts.

If it weren't for this, then if he could even dispel the blue sky highest heavens poison, even that old fart Jiang might begin to grow suspicious of him. If he did, how could he continue the play?

But with things having come this far, they were almost at an end.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed with a cold light. He said, "The poisons from the third level are only this mediocre. Since we still can't decide victory or defeat, I propose releasing the fourth level of the sealed pagoda!"

With these words, the entire temple fell silent.

Watching the battle from the upper platform, Elder Xu also revealed a shocked look.

It had to be known that the poisons in the sealed pagoda grew stronger with every level, but every three levels was a completely different step.

The poisons within the fourth level of the sealed pagoda were on a completely new level. Their power was terrifying. Even a Blue Sea realm cultivator wouldn't dare to easily touch them.

To open the fourth level, was this surname Yao insane?

Grandmaster Jiang was shocked. A bit of awareness grew in his heart. Could this surname Yao be trying to drag them both down to death?

Or, could he be forcing him to give up and use a tie as the result?

After all, the poisons of the fourth level were far too horrifying. Only a few people in the entire Black Demon Sect had come into contact with poisons of this level.

He sneered inwardly. This surname Yao had truly thought of a good plan! Unfortunately, he had miscalculated the hidden cards in his hand. Even if he had to suffer serious losses today, he would get rid of him once and for all!

"Good, I agree. I ask Elder Zhou to open the fourth level of the sealed pagoda!" Grandmaster Jiang shouted out. The entire temple fell deathly silent.

Chapter 425 – Three Kinds of Poison

Elder Xu sighed. He stood up and said, "The poisons within the sealed pagoda's fourth level are incomparably dangerous. Even if protections are in place, there is always the chance of accidents occurring." He turned and said, "Have everyone below the Blue Sea realm withdraw from the temple and wait in the square for the gambling fight's final outcome."

Although some people didn't really wish to follow this order, no one expressed any objections. They all began to walk out. After all, compared to the safety of their lives, watching for fun wasn't much in comparison.

Soon, the entire square was filled with people, hosting a cacophony of sounds and discussion. When the others learned that the sealed pagoda's fourth level was to be opened, countless cultivators were shocked.

The sealed pagoda...in the Black Demon Sect, it was an extremely terrifying treasure. Or, to be more accurate, it was something entrusted to the Black Demon Sect by a poison master of the demonic path many years ago.

Just how many poisons were inside the sealed pagoda? Perhaps not even the Chief Elder, Sect Master, or anyone else could answer such a question. But, this didn't affect the incomparably terrifying status that the sealed pagoda held in the hearts of the Black Demon Sect disciples.

3200 years ago, the Black Demon Sect encountered a sect-exterminating disaster. At that time, a group of sect powerhouses were being delayed outside of the sect. They watched as the sect entrance was almost broken through and their orthodoxy forever destroyed. But at this time, the acting Chief Elder of that era used himself as a sacrifice and forcefully broke open the seventh level of the sealed pagoda. It was rumored that a world phantom descended upon the world and remained for several breaths of time before vanishing. The Black Demon Sect was completely fine, but all the cultivators caught up in the world phantom had disappeared.

As for why these were rumors, it was because almost no cultivators who witnessed the battle that year had survived. For 3000 miles all around the Black Demon Sect, all lives had been extinguished.

"The sealed pagoda's fourth level! It is said that those poisons can easily kill a Blue Sea level cultivator!"

"That is too terrifying! The two grandmasters actually dare to use their own bodies to experiment with those fourth level poisons!"

"Splendid, this is too splendid!"

Soon, news of this spread throughout the entire Black Demon Sect. It was like a giant underwater bomb had exploded, causing massive waves everywhere.

Some of the sect's powerhouses that didn't care too much about this event also revealed looks of shock. After a brief moment they stood up and soared towards Heavenwait Temple. Today's gambling fight and the events that followed had already surpassed the significance of the gambling fight itself. For these two grandmasters to dare to touch the fourth level of the sealed pagoda, that in itself was enough to stir their attention.

"Elder Li!"

"Elder Nan has also come."

"Elder Hu, it has been a long time."

More and more people arrived at Heavenwait Temple. But, there were only some small greetings and nods before they all sat in their seats and quietly watched from the observing platform.

Elder Zhou's authority was insufficient. He had to request the leader and an overseer from the Internal Affairs Division for assistance. Only with the three people working together were they able to open the

seal of the fourth level. The speed of the unsealing was extremely slow. According to the current pace, it would take two to four hours before it could be opened.

Grandmaster Jiang could no longer bother with maintaining the pose and posture of a great expert. He sat down cross-legged and started to recover the damages he had suffered. Even if he had hidden cards in his hand and even if he was confident in dispelling the poisons of the fourth level, he still didn't dare to underestimate them...otherwise, if he made even the smallest mistake, then losing the competition was one matter, but there was even a chance he could lose his life!

He diligently melted away the damage the invading poisons had done to his heart and lungs. As the hot tingling feeling ran through his body, he thought about how he had been forced by that surname Yao to this step and his teeth began to itch with hate.

An hour later, Elder Zhou and the others revealed a dignified expression. They glanced at each other and each cautiously formed hand seals.

Hum –

The sealed pagoda slightly trembled and a sphere of deep green light appeared, covering it. Just looking at this green light made one's scalp tingle and fear rise from their bones.

Poison!

An extremely terrifying poison!

Within the temple, this was the first time that many Black Demon Sect masters saw the fourth level of the sealed pagoda opened. As they saw the green light appear, their pupils shrank. With their incredibly formidable divine sense, they could feel the potent destructive strength within this glossy green light. At this moment, if this green light were to explode...their chests tightened and their expressions became more dignified. They had an even clearer understanding of the sealed pagoda.

Elder Zhou let out a long breath, sweat drenching his back. "Alright." Perhaps it was because he had been too anxious just now, but his voice was a bit hoarse.

"This green light is the sealed pagoda's self-isolating barrier. It will prevent the poisons from leaking outside. But, just in case, we should speed things up." Elder Zhou said in a deep voice. "Grandmasters, there is still time for you to change your mind. Otherwise, I will take out the poisons."

Jiang Taishou coldly laughed. "I will absolutely not withdraw...Grandmaster Yao's little play has gone on for too long and become too big. He should be careful of accidentally sinking."

Without the numerous cultivators from the sect watching, there was no longer any need for him to conceal his manners anymore. After all, those that had the qualifications to stay in this temple all knew about the entangled benefits between him and this surname Yao.

Grandmaster Yao clenched his teeth. "You want me to admit defeat? Keep dreaming!"

"Good! Elder Zhou, please take out the poisons!" A cold chill rose in Jiang Taishou's eyes.

Elder Zhou no longer delayed. It was far too difficult to separate out the poisons. If a problem really occurred, then that would be a real problem.

He lifted his hand and the surface of the dark green sphere of light rippled like water. Two little rocks flew out. These two extremely ordinary-looking little rocks were each the size of a knuckle. They were dark gray on the surface and even had traces of weathering on them...of course, this was absolutely only just an external appearance!

Watching from the observation platform, many Black Demon Sect powerhouses held their breath. Magic power revolved in their bodies as they locked out their pores, separating their bodies from the outside world.

In particular, when Elder Zhou and the others took out the little rocks they immediately drew back several dozen feet and raised shields of magic power, their faces as if they were facing a perilous enemy.

“Hold on!” Grandmaster Yao suddenly said. “A mere single poison, even if it comes from the sealed pagoda’s fourth level, what could it possibly do? I am confident I can dispel it. But today, I have important matters to attend to so I don’t want to waste my time here any longer. Grandmaster Jiang, do you dare to take out another poison and swallow them both at once to find a decisive victor?”

As these words were spoken, everyone in the temple widened their eyes. A fourth level poison was horrible enough, but he actually requested another on his own initiative and wanted to swallow them both together...? Did this surname Yao want to commit suicide?

Grandmaster Jiang was startled but his complexion immediately darkened. This surname Yao was absolutely trying to force him to retreat. His thoughts raced and then he clenched, laughing in anger and saying, “Who cares about two kinds of poison? Does Grandmaster Yao dare to simultaneously take out three kinds of poisons to challenge me?”

Surname Yao, since you want to court death, let me send you along the way. This time, even if I must use up all my cards, I will make sure you die without a grave!

To die without a grave, this wasn’t a metaphor but a truth. If a corpse contained three kinds of poisons from the sealed pagoda’s fourth level, then no matter where it was buried, it would be a malignantly poisonous danger. The surrounding area for hundreds of miles around would suffer disaster. Only by being burnt to ashes, packed into a sealed container and then tossed into the depths of the vast sea could the corpse be processed.

Grandmaster Yao’s voice was sharp and high, “Jiang Taishou, you must not want your life! Good! Very good! Then let’s see which one of us will survive! Bring out all three poisons!”

Elder Xu said, “Do as the two grandmasters wish!”

Elder Zhou hurriedly bowed. He raised his magic power shield and carefully approached. Lifting his hand, four objects flew out from the fourth level of the sealed pagoda.

Two green grasses and two wild flowers...they were similar to the little stone. Their appearance was common and ordinary without anything unusual about them. Moreover, the two grasses were incomparably lush and green and the two wild flowers had traces of morning dew, as if they had just been plucked this morning.

A flash of surprise appeared in Qin Yu’s eyes. The fourth level of this sealed pagoda was extremely strange; it actually spit out such common-looking objects. If it weren’t for those in the temple taking

such extreme precautions against them and having such looks of dread on their faces, he feared he would have regarded this as some boring practical joke.

Looking at the sealed pagoda that was covered in a dark green light, Qin Yu's eyes flashed.

Grandmaster Jiang took a deep breath. He lifted the little rock, green grass, and wild flower near him. Then, as if feeling the aura of his life, the little rock, green grass, and wild flower trembled briefly before turning into three gasses that were gray, blue, and red. These three gasses flowed along his nose and mouth, instantly submerging into his body.

His body shook and a horrifying gray white color appeared between his eyebrows. Then, it spread across his body at an astonishing speed, covering him in the blink of an eye.

Jiang Taishou looked as if he had turned into a stone statue. If it weren't for the violent fluctuations of aura emanating from his body, everyone would have assumed he had died!

But soon, faint traces of a dark red color began to appear from his flesh and blood. His stiff gray and icy cold body began to shake.

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The dark red color was like little knives hidden in his body, cutting open his gray skin. Along the openings that were formed, dark red and viscous blood flowed out. But what was strange was that his blood didn't fall down, instead floating around him in drops. As more blood flowed out, the gray color of Jiang Taishou's skin gradually dissipated as he was restored to his original skin color.

Elder Xu's heart relaxed and he revealed a look of acclaim. Jiang Taishou was indeed worthy of being an alchemy grandmaster who was approved by the Sect Master; his strength was unfathomably deep. Disregarding all else, just the skill and method by which he forced out the three poisons from the sealed pagoda's fourth level was enough qualifications to have him rank first amongst the alchemists of the Black Demon Sect.

As for Yao Bin...Elder Xu's expression was faint and his heart filled with a bit of disdain.

This person had some strength and his origins seemed mysterious, but even so, so what? In these years his performance in the sect had been mediocre at best and he ranked at the bottom of the alchemy grandmasters. This time, he even dared to touch upon Jiang Taishou's benefits from spirit plant transactions.

Did he not know that this was something tacitly consented to by the Sect Master? Did he not know about the divisions of influence in the sect? Did he not know that the Chief Elder had received benefits? Did he not know that even he, Elder Xu, had received some benefits...? If he didn't know anything but continued onward recklessly, wasn't that the same as seeking death?

Did he really think that by relying on whatever unnecessary or mysterious background he had, he could run wild in the sect?

Within the temple, the Black Demon Sect powerhouses all revealed looks of admiration. Jiang Taishou lived up to his reputation. It seemed that today's gambling fight, as well as the first place alchemist of the sect, had been decided.

Some people glanced at Grandmaster Yao. He seemed to be frightened silly right now, looking at the three poisons in front of him without doing anything. Their eyes filled with ridicule. Was regret useful right now? The challenge had already begun, so it was already too late to admit defeat.

Looking around, no one was paying attention to him. He was someone that would soon turn into a corpse, so in their opinion he no longer held any value. But as for Jiang Taishou...what means could they use to form relations with him? This sort of alchemy grandmaster, this sort of poison dispelling authority, there was no one that didn't want to be on good terms with him.

14th minute.

Hu –

Releasing a long breath, Grandmaster Jiang's eyes shivered and he opened them with difficulty. His body had thinned considerably, his face was deathly pale, and his aura was extremely weak. But though his eyes were filled with exhaustion, there was even more pride in them. The reason was simple. This was because Jiang Taishou was now the only alchemist in the Black Demon Sect that could dispel three poisons from the fourth level of the sealed pagoda at the same time!

Around him, the floating beads of blood shook and screeched. They all self-destructed, turning into powder as the poison within them was destroyed.

Chapter 426 – Death by Poison

Jiang Taishou's eyes flashed with a sense of loss and heartache. But soon, he smiled and he turned around. "Grandmaster Yao, what are you waiting for? Even if you admit defeat now you will still need to swallow those three poisons. A gambling fight must be fair, right?"

Elder Xu rose up and said, "Grandmaster Yao, you were the one to propose this final challenge. Since Grandmaster Jiang has completed his side, there is no reason for you to refuse."

This was a stark naked threat.

There were immediately murmuring sounds in the temple. Everyone looked at Grandmaster Yao with indifference.

It was almost the deadline. This surname Yao would lose without a doubt, and in this current situation, loss meant death.

If this surname Yao died and gave them a turning point to be on good terms with Jiang Taishou, that would be perfect.

"There's one more minute." Elder Zhou quietly said, a bit of regret in his eyes. Yao Bin could be considered a decently strong alchemy grandmaster. For him to die due to internal conflicts in the sect like this was far too great a pity. But now that things had come this far, he could only maintain his silence about it.

Time slowly passed and the temple gradually fell silent. All eyes gathered here, the imperceptible oppression in the air so thick that it almost caused the air to turn solid.

Jiang Taishou continued to smile, but his eyes were cold to the extreme. He wanted to use Yao Bin's death today to sound the alarm for everyone.

The spirit plant transactions could only be his. Anyone that dared to meddle...deserved death!

The final 20 seconds.

Grandmaster Yao finally moved. He sighed, his appearance seeming a bit helpless. He lifted the little rock, the green grass, and the wild flower, and pulled them close. The three items transformed into gasses that entered his body through his nose and mouth. Slowly, his hands turned a deathly gray.

Elder Xu secretly sneered. This surname Yao was at least tactful enough to know what to do. If he persisted in not swallowing the poisons, they wouldn't be gentle when forcing him to do so. He coughed and said, "Grandmaster Yao can also be considered a man of his word. He used his life to complete the final gambling bet challenge. Then, I hope Grandmaster Jiang can show mercy and not bring disaster to Grandmaster Yao's relatives and old friends."

Jiang Taishou heaved a deep sigh. "I would not like to create casualties within our sect. It was just that Grandmaster Yao pushed things too far so I had no choice but to strike back. Elder Xu, rest assured. I guarantee that I will not implicate anyone in this. Let this matter conclude with Grandmaster Yao's death."

This was his intention. Since he had obtained the final victory and even put his enemy to death, why not demonstrate a little bit of mercy to arouse sympathy for himself? Moreover...this surname Yao was an eccentric loner. He had no relatives or friends to begin with!

Within the temple, everyone cried out in praise and expressed their admiration towards Grandmaster Jiang's benevolent nature. And some had already begun to issue invitations. For instance, some people just happened to have spirit medicines, and were willing to deliver them to Grandmaster Jiang's residence to help him recover.

The situation was peaceful and joyful. All of the killing intent and dense atmosphere was swept away by the bright smiles.

Elder Zhou shook his head. He waved his hand, indicating for Internal Affairs Division cultivators who had already put on the necessary protective clothing to process the corpse of Grandmaster Yao. There were too many poisons contained in his body so it was naturally impossible to bury him anywhere. Luckily the sect had previous experience in processing similar cases, so things should be fine as long as they were a little bit more careful.

Four cultivators in thick protective gear gulped and slowly reached out to grab Grandmaster Yao's corpse. At this time, the corpse opened its eyes and said without expression, "Just what are you planning on doing?"

"Ahhh!"

The four cultivators were frightened silly. They fell backwards and crawled away. A person that died from poison, would they turn into a zombie?

The sound of movement drew everyone's attention. As they looked at Grandmaster Yao who had suddenly been revived, their expressions were truly marvelous.

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The sand glass fell into Grandmaster Yao's hand. He looked down and nodded in satisfaction. "Not bad. There is still one more grain of sand. In other words, that means I haven't lost yet, right, Elder Zhou?"

Elder Zhou awakened from his daze. His face was full of shock. He sucked in a deep breath and said, "As long as there is still a grain of sand, that is within the time limit."

Grandmaster Yao swung the sand glass back around. At this time, the sound of the sand striking the glass within was particularly striking. "Fortunately, there was still one last grain." He looked up at the stiff-faced Jiang Taishou and faintly smiled, "Grandmaster Jiang, it seems as if you have been celebrating too early!"

"Impossible! How can you possibly be alive!?" Jiang Taishou had nearly gone insane. He had to use his greatest trump card in order to dispel those three poisons. How had this surname Yao done it!?

Grandmaster Yao lightly said, "But the truth remains that I am still alive."

The temple fell silent.

Everyone watched speechlessly. This sudden change had left them unable to find the words to respond.

Elder Xu's heart was shaken. He looked at Grandmaster Yao and squeezed out a smile. "Grandmaster Yao, what amazing skills you have! You were actually able to resist three different kinds of poisons from the fourth level of the sealed pagoda! I truly admire you! However, although grandmaster awoke within the time limit, your skin is still gray, proving that the poison has yet to disappear. If so, then this gambling fight should be won by Grandmaster Jiang."

Jiang Taishou sucked in a deep breath. He clenched his teeth, "That's right. I am still the winner!"

He hadn't been able to eliminate this surname Yao but had still been forced to use his trump card. Even if he obtained some compensation, the gains were completely outweighed by the losses.

Incredible losses!

Within the temple, there was a change in the words being spoken.

"Although Grandmaster Yao was defeated, it was still a glorious attempt!"

"To be able to suppress three poisons from the sealed pagoda's fourth level, this method is already astonishing enough!"

"For me to be able to witness such a fascinating match between two grandmasters, I really didn't make this trip in vain!"

He hadn't died and had suppressed the poisons. These two points alone were enough for many people to change their attitudes towards him.

Grandmaster Yao could also be invested in!

Jiang Taishou paled, his face so dark it seemed it would rain. How could he not feel the change in the attitudes of these people? Although he didn't say anything, he cursed inwardly a thousand times.

Grandmaster Yao said, "Elder Xu, I discovered that your eyesight isn't any good at all. You just said I died, and now you said I was defeated." Beneath the black robes, his expression was desolate. "As a Sect Elder you are supposed to handle internal sect affairs, yet your eyes are completely useless. I really worry about you."

The temple fell deathly silent!

These words were not just rude, it was a frontal slap in the face! And the one being slapped was Elder Xu! Who didn't know that he was the Chief Elder's trusted subordinate? Did Grandmaster Yao not fear provoking trouble for himself?"

Elder Xu's complexion darkened. He said, "I indeed didn't see correctly before, but the facts are before us. Does Grandmaster Yao wish to deny it?"

Grandmaster Yao chuckled. He lifted a hand, "Is this what Elder Xu is speaking about?" His fingers waggled around and the surface layer of skin instantly burst apart. Gray specks fell down to reveal the incomparably fair and clear skin below, skin that had no signs of being poisoned!

"Elder Xu, can you clearly see now? Of course, if you don't believe it you can have the Internal Affairs Division come forward to confirm whether or not I'm correct." Grandmaster Yao coldly said.

Elder Xu drew a deep breath and shouted, "Elder Zhou!"

An Internal Affairs Division cultivator walked forward...green light.

Grandmaster Yao said, "Elder Xu, I recommend you take a light-avoiding pill. Perhaps you might be able to treat your eye disease."

Those who had eyes but failed to see naturally feared the light. Even if their eyes were shut tight, they still cried tears.

The light-avoiding pill was named after such a reason.

"You..." Elder Xu was angered. It was unknown what he was thinking about, but he didn't fly into a rage.

Grandmaster Yao stepped forward. He wasn't as tall as Jiang Taishou, but at this time the feeling he gave off was that he towered over him.

Jiang Taishou's complexion stiffened. His body gently shivered as if he knew the words he needed to say.

Admit defeat...he could only admit defeat...this surname Yao bastard...this bastard was playing the role of a pig to eat the tiger!

Everything before this had been a lie. He could only laugh that he had been deceived. Not only did he deliver precious spirit plant seeds on his own initiative but he had even used the greatest card in his hand.

Jiang Taishou already expected that his reputation would sweep the floor. This surname Yao would regard him as a stepping stone!

Hate, unwillingness, loathing, all sorts of feelings wildly tore at Jiang Taishou's heart. But, he maintained his calm and didn't let the anger get to his head. He had to admit defeat no matter what. Even if he utterly lost, even if he was subject to ridicule, it was better than dying a miserable death here.

If he was prodded by this surname Yao and continued with the gambling fight, he would surely die.

Grandmaster Yao walked near. But before he could say anything, Grandmaster Jiang said, "I admit defeat."

His eyes revealed a mocking look. Even if you worked so hard to put on a play, so what? I am still alive!

As long as he was alive then there were infinite possibilities open to him. Who cared about a defeat every now and then? Let's see what happens in the future!

Surname Yao, are you stunned right now, are you disappointed?

But what left Jiang Taishou puzzled was that this surname Yao didn't seem disappointed at all. Instead, the eyes beneath his hood seemed to fill with a strange look. As if...he found something funny? This surname Yao bastard, was he still trying to goad him to do something? Laugh all you want, I won't be tricked!

Grandmaster Yao suddenly said, "Grandmaster Jiang, are you thinking that I will taunt you, prod you, provoke you, so that you will continue the gambling fight with me? Are you currently praising your own calmness and decisiveness? And you thought I had failed in my goal and wanted to see my disappointed expression?"

Jiang Taishou fiercely looked up. "What do you mean?"

Grandmaster Yao smiled. "What I mean is that, Grandmaster Jiang, I want to remind you to not be so confident in yourself. It's always best to inspect yourself to make sure things are alright."

A chill rose from the depths of his heart. Jiang Taishou stiffened and his eyes flew wide open. He viciously pounced onto an Internal Affairs Division cultivator and seized their poison-detecting magic tool, pasting it right onto his body.

Green light...Jiang Taishou clenched his jaw. Damned Yao Bin, you dare to play tricks on me!?

But at this moment, with three quick warning 'dings', the green light emitting from the magic tool began to rapidly flash, quicker and quicker. Then, a trace of blood red appeared and wiped out all of the green light.

Jiang Taishou grasped his neck with both hands. Breathing became incomparably difficult. Despair and hate filled his eyes and he struggled to walk towards Grandmaster Yao. But, he froze in place after several steps.

A profound icy cold and despairing gray overwhelmed his flesh and blood like an unstoppable tsunami, soon covering his entire body. Then, with light cracking sounds, his corpse shattered into countless blocks.

He had died...

The temple was utterly silent. Grandmaster Yao swept his eyes around and said, "Don't blame me for not warning everyone, but this poison can spread through the air while the host is still alive. So, anyone that approached Grandmaster Jiang a moment ago had best hurry and get examined, otherwise there won't be enough time."

There was a sudden wave of people retreating. As for those people who were closest and most intimate with Grandmaster Jiang just now, their faces nearly turned green with nausea.

Grandmaster Yao cupped his hands together. "Elder Zhou, please remember to inform the Internal Affairs Division cultivators to send the gambling stake I won over to my residence. Farewell."

Tuba and Tutou had excited looks. Their nostrils flared out into the skies. Seeing the chaos in the temple, their eyes filled with disdain.

The three of them swaggered away!

Chapter 427A – Super Storm Flow

The curtain dropped on the gambling fight at Heavenwait Temple. Grandmaster Yao had ended up being the one smiling at the end, and Jiang Taishou had faded into ashes. The entire Black Demon Sect was filled with sorrow and mourning. According to those responsible for statistics, on this day, several dao companions and families became bankrupt and turned to enemies. As for lovers who broke up, the number was simply uncountable.

And the chief culprit of all of this was actually receiving the largest speculative gains of his life.

"Greetings, Grandmaster Yao." A fat middle-aged cultivator said with a smile, his face jubilant and pleasant. He lifted a jade box with his hands. "This is the winnings that grandmaster made from the betting ring. There are a total of 857,250,000 spirit stones. I made a decision on my own end to collect a full 860 million spirit stones for grandmaster. I ask grandmaster to please look through it."

Qin Yu's heart leapt in his chest, a stunned expression on his face. Although he knew his gains would be incredible this time, he never thought it would be such a terrifying number.

A compensation rate of 1:5. Even if it rose five times over again, it would still be far from reaching this number.

"Grandmaster Yao, is something wrong?" The fat cultivator tensed up, bitterly regretting that his expression of respect wasn't enough and that Grandmaster Yao wasn't happy enough with him. But, this was already the limits of his authority. If he wanted to show even greater sincerity, he would have to send a request to the higher ups.

Qin Yu regained his composure and waved his hand. "It's not a problem. I was just thinking of something else. Since this is the case, I will accept it." Inside the jade box were nine pitch black cards. They were covered with runes that shimmered all over them and they released a mystical and majestic aura. This

sort of spirit stone card was released by the Demonic Path and had absolute authority throughout the entirety of the Land of Divinity and Demons. It could be drawn out and used anywhere; it was the most convenient kind.

Looking through with his divine sense and seeing that there weren't any problems with the amount of spirit stones, Qin Yu smiled. With this terrifying amount of spirit stones, it would be much easier to purchase high level monster beast souls and blood in the future.

The betting ring cultivator seemed simple and honest, but his thoughts were insightful and shrewd. He quickly said his goodbyes, "Grandmaster Yao, our trade is already cleared. If there is nothing else, I will excuse myself first."

"Be careful." Qin Yu played with the excellently crafted jade box for a moment and then placed it on a nearby table. "Tuba, come in."

Tuba walked in and fell to his knees. "Your Highness."

"Is this great amount of spirit stones because of you?"

"Yes, Your Highness."

"Where did they come from?"

Tuba said, "Your Highness knows that our titan tribe cannot use spirit stones. Through the many years we lived in the Infinite Realm, we slowly saved them up. The great priest bid me to bring them with me and give them to you in a time of need. Since there happened to be a betting ring this time, this subordinate acted on his own. I ask Your Highness for forgiveness."

Qin Yu smiled. "These spirit stones will indeed be useful to me in the future. I owe your titan tribe a favor."

Tuba was overjoyed. "Thank you, Your Highness!" Before he left, he had been given a reminder by the great priest to have His Highness develop a favorable impression of the titan tribe. This was the best way to save their tribe. Moreover, he was not to mention anything else, because that would only create pressure on His Highness and make him feel bothered instead.

Qin Yu knocked on the table and his eyes flashed. "Tuba, there is something I need you to do." A moment later, a puzzled Tuba flew out from the palace and directly soared towards Jiang Taishou's residence.

Although he didn't know why His Highness decided to give shelter to those who were with the surname Jiang, he didn't inquire because he knew that His Highness must have a reason for doing so.

Qin Yu put away the jade box. He leaned back against his chair and closed his eyes, muttering, "It seems that the Black Demon Sect hasn't come to a decision on how to carry out the agreement. But, this actually gives me a chance to understand the truth."

Three days later, as Qin Yu was cultivating, Tuba came in to report that the sect's Elder Xu had arrived. He opened his eyes, his eyes flashing. This was the reason he hadn't gone into seclusion.

"Have him wait in the main hall for a moment. I will tidy up and then come."

After a moment when Qin Yu finished washing up, he stepped into the main hall and said, "Elder Xu, I wonder what your reason for visiting today is?"

His attitude was a bit cold but at least he was calm and not aggressive or menacing. This caused Xu Song to relax a little. "Greetings, Grandmaster Yao. I came here today in hopes of having a discussion with you concerning the matter of the spirit plant material transactions."

Qin Yu nodded. "I already expected this. But, let's not be in a hurry. Let's have some tea before we continue speaking." He clapped his hands and two pretty maids walked in with bowed heads and small steps. They served up cups of hot tea.

Xu Song didn't know just what plot this surname Yao was scheming, but he maintained his composure and took a sip. Then, he commented with approval, "What great tea!"

Qin Yu said, "The tea isn't bad, but to have such flavor, I must thank these two maids. Their tea steeping method is excellent."

Xu Song had already put away his disdain of Yao Bin. He knew he wouldn't say these things without reason. He glanced towards the two maids.

Soon, the hand carrying the teacup slightly trembled and there was a trace of gloominess in Xu Song's eyes.

Qin Yu smiled. "You may leave." After the two maids left, he continued to say, "It seems that Elder Xu appears to know those two."

Xu Song slowly said, "Those two maids, I seem to recall that they used to serve at Grandmaster Jiang's side."

"That's right. At the gambling fight at Heavenwait Temple, Grandmaster Jiang lost his life. I often feel guilty when I think about this and find it hard to be at peace. Unfortunately, since things went that far, it is impossible to turn back. I could only give shelter to some of Grandmaster Jiang's old disciples and workers so that they aren't humiliated by others."

Xu Song was silent for a long time. He said, "Grandmaster is wise. I think you must have already guessed my real goal for coming here today. I wonder if grandmaster has an answer ready or not?"

Qin Yu laid down the teacup. "We will do as it's usually been. I will agree to the conditions that Jiang Taishou had in the past, and I can also give the Chief Elder an additional 10% of the profits."

As he spoke, his hand flashed and a card appeared in his hand. He placed it on the table. "This is just a bit of my sincerity. I hope that Elder Xu can accept and speak some kind words on my behalf."

Xu Song hesitated for a moment. He ruefully smiled, "Grandmaster Yao has such amazing methods; I am in deep admiration. I believe that the sect can accept this result. While I am here, I wish grandmaster good luck and great wealth in the future."

He casually received the card and swept through it with his divine sense. Seeing the amount, he was much more satisfied. It seemed that this surname Yao wasn't someone who didn't know what proper actions to take.

After speaking some more words, Qin Yu stood up and personally saw Xu Song out of the temple.

He turned back around and took a seat, continuing to drink tea. His eyebrows furrowed as he fell into contemplation. He had managed to temporarily suppress the matter of Jiang Taishou dying. But he knew it was a fact that because of this matter, he had offended the Chief Elder as well as a number of other people.

Compared to those people, he was still too weak. He should find some way to increase his strength. That way, even if some accident occurred in the future, he would have something he could rely on. Qin Yu didn't believe that he could rest without worries after the gambling fight event at Heavenwait Temple. In front of a genuine powerhouse, the strength he displayed wasn't anything at all.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. He left behind a message that he was going into seclusion and then entered the training chamber. He turned his hand and took out the storage ring. With a flick of his sleeve, light flashed and countless blue veins appeared, filling up a corner of the chamber.

These blue veins were the harvests that Qin Yu had obtained in the Infinite Realm after two powerful beings had killed each other. They were materials that could be refined into a Super Storm Flow. Those terrifying life forms in the mountain valley had been suppressed by the rules of the Infinite Realm and struggled to stay alive. Even so, they were horrifically strong. At their peak they must have been inconceivable formidable beings.

With materials provided by those terrifying life forms, he could refine a set of Super Storm Flow magic weapons. This was enough to become one of Qin Yu's terrifying hidden cards! Although he could use this card only one time, it should be enough to protect himself.

He lifted a hand and a blue vein flew over, falling into his grasp. A drop of blood fell from his fingertip and fused into the blue vein. A day later, a pale-faced Qin Yu looked at the several dozen refined blue veins and bitterly smiled.

The materials provided by those terrifying life forms were incomparably potent. He had now built up the Undying True Demon Body and his blood essence was exceedingly formidable. But after spending a whole day, he had only refined this much; the degree of difficulty far surpassed his imagination. Optimistically speaking, if he wanted to entirely refine this set of Super Storm Flow, he would need at least two to three months!

As he thought, a hidden card wasn't that easy to create.

Qin Yu shook his head. He swallowed down a pill and closed his eyes to restore his blood essence. Luckily, the Undying True Demon Body regenerated quickly. If it were anyone else, they would likely be hugging onto a pile of blue veins and crying out helplessly.

Chapter 427B – Exchanging for Souls and Blood

A month later, Qin Yu left seclusion in a hurry. He refined several furnaces full of pills to exchange for spirit plant materials, and then turned back and entered the training chamber.

In the blink of an eye, almost two more months passed.

Within the chamber, Qin Yu's hands rapidly moved as he formed law formulas with his fingers. Red light flashed on the surface of the blue vein in front of him and thick slaughter energy continuously tumbled around it. With a light hum, the tumbling energy in the blue vein settled down and stabilized. As it did, it turned pitch black, as if it were forged from some kind of metal.

He had finished!

Qin Yu's face was filled with pleasant surprise. He took a deep breath and flicked his sleeves, taking out the dense pile of blue veins. There just happened to be 1024 in total.

At this moment, these blue veins seemed to resonate with each other. They flew into the air on their own, circling around Qin Yu's head.

Hou –

With a vicious roar, the phantom of a giant beast appeared between these blue veins. It was that terrifying life form from the Infinite Realm's mountain valley. It reared its head back and roared. Even though it was only a phantom, the aura it released shook the heart. Space began to violently tremble as small cracks rapidly appeared.

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The walls of the training chamber began to shine as massive runes appeared. But then the runes shattered. The chamber's isolating array formation simply couldn't withstand the strength of this phantom!

Qin Yu's complexion changed. With a thought, the great beast phantom released a roar of unwillingness as its form distorted and vanished. After that, the 1024 refined blue veins were put away in the token space.

The terrifying aura rapidly dissipated. Qin Yu looked around at the chamber which seemed to have suffered a catastrophe and his smile widened. Finally, he laughed out loud, his joyous voice reverberating along the walls.

Super Storm Flow, this was really a Super Storm Flow! In terms of strength, it was far greater than what he imagined...it could actually summon a phantom that possessed a part of the might of that terrifying life form!

Although he couldn't experiment with it and find out the true strength of this Super Storm Flow set, he could still sense how ferocious it was. His intuition told him that once he detonated it, anyone below the Calamity Immortal realm who touched this would surely suffer a horrific death!

This was a great card! A super great card!

But after his brief moment of excitement, he began to worry. This Super Storm Flow set was different from those he refined before. If he wanted to detonate it, he would need to provide sufficient blood energy.

According to Qin Yu's estimation, if he really wanted to detonate it, he would be sucked dry. Although he wouldn't die, there was an over 90% chance that he would turn into a log of wood that wouldn't be able to move.

This made things a little awkward...it was true that the Super Storm Flow could maintain his life, but if he really used it to eliminate his enemy, he would then become a piece of meat on the block, able to be freely butchered by anyone around.

After thinking about it for a long time, Qin Yu still couldn't find a way to solve this dilemma. The only thing he could think about was promoting his Undying True Demon Body to the next level in a short period of time.

But that was obviously impossible.

"I used nearly three months and lost several buckets full of blood, but now you are telling me that if I use this weapon, there is an 80% chance I will die anyways..." Qin Yu had a sad and annoyed expression. He clenched his teeth and said, "Since I can't depend on this Super Storm Flow alone, I need to increase my number of methods."

He pondered for some time. Qin Yu discovered that even though he had many good things and even though his cultivation method was heaven-defying, these weren't things that could drastically increase his strength in a short period of time. Only the Monster Raising Mystic Art had that possibility. If he could obtain enough high level monster beast blood and souls and complete the first stage of cultivation, the strength of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants would drastically rise. Even if he stimulated the eruption of the Super Storm Flow set, he could at least rely on these ants to withdraw.

The Black Demon Sect had obtained a fake Monster Raising Mystic Art and had limited the purchasing of high level monster beast souls and blood. But now as the true number one alchemist of the Black Demon Sect, requesting some souls and blood for experimenting with pills shouldn't be a problem, right?

Qin Yu's thoughts raced. Soon, his eyes brightened as he came up with a plan.

The next day, Tuba brought several spirit stones cards given by Qin Yu and left the Black Demon Sect after changing his appearance. At almost the same time, Qin Yu arrived at the Exchange Hall and requested to purchase several portions of high level monster beast souls and blood.

Sure enough, one of the managing Elders of the Exchange Hall quickly moved, inviting him deeper into the hall to speak in further detail.

After the guest and host took a seat across from each other, the managing Elder smiled and said, "Grandmaster Yao, may I ask why you are exchanging for high level monster beast souls and blood?" His eyes flashed, then he seemed to inadvertently say, "If I'm not wrong, grandmaster should have come to the Exchange Hall not too long ago and asked about information related to high level monster beast blood and souls."

Qin Yu's voice was low and deep, filled with a bit of unhappiness. "I need high level monster beast blood and souls to experiment with pills. When I asked before, I was informed that the sect had forbidden any such exchanges. I didn't think much about it, so I sent people outside the sect to purchase them, but

then I found that I couldn't! Since I have no other way, I can only come here again and ask when you are planning to resume the exchange."

He had indeed sent Tuba, with his token, to leave the Black Demon Sect and purchase materials he needed to refine pills. If the managing Elder investigated it, this was what he would find.

Indeed, most of the caution in the managing Elder's eyes scattered and his smile warmed up. "So it was like this..." He hesitated and said, "I wish to be open and honest with grandmaster. Because of some recent matters, the sect needs to use up a massive amount of high level monster beast blood and souls. So, supplies will not be restored any time soon."

Qin Yu's voice was icy cold. "Then, my research must come to a stop?"

The managing Elder waved his hand. "Grandmaster need not be anxious. If anyone else were to come for an exchange, I wouldn't dare to allow them. But since grandmaster's strength is so outstanding, any breakthrough in research will surely be a great advantage to my Black Demon Sect. So, I will immediately send up a report. If grandmaster doesn't need much, I should be able to apply for some."

"Four kinds, I need at least four kinds of high level monster beast souls and blood! Otherwise, there is no way to carry on my experiments." Qin Yu finally said after a bit of hesitation.

The managing Elder had an awkward expression. "This...well, I can try my best."

A moment later, the managing Elder returned, a smile on his face. "Grandmaster Yao, the application has been made. The four different kinds of monster beast blood and souls are here. Their information and numbers are all within this jade slip." As he spoke, he placed a silver-white metal storage box on the table.

Qin Yu opened it up and inspected it. After determining there was no problem, he said, "I owe you a favor today. If you need any help in the future, feel free to ask."

The managing Elder's face lit up. "Then I'll have to thank grandmaster."

He didn't say any further. After paying for the exchange, Qin Yu left the Exchange Hall. He had a puzzled look beneath his black robe. He thought that some twists and turns would happen in the exchange process and that even if the Black Demon Sect finally agreed, they would surely reduce the amount. He never imagined it would happen so smoothly.

Did the Black Demon Sect really regard him so highly as the true number one alchemist? Or was there something else he didn't know about?

Qin Yu shook his head and suppressed this thought. After all, no matter what was said, it was fact that he had obtained the souls and blood of these four high level monster beasts.

...

Somewhere in a forbidden zone of the Black Demon Sect.

The Chief Elder cupped his hands together. "Sect Master, why did you agree to exchange high level monster beast souls and blood to Yao Bin? You must know that we are in the critical moment of the second step of cultivation and the sect doesn't have much stock left."

Demonic energy lingered about. One could vaguely see a sitting figure within. His eyes opened slowly, two sharp flashes of light coming from within them. "The hidden danger in my body has yet to be fully removed. I obtained a method long ago to eliminate it once and for all, but this method requires the use of several different types of poisons. With even the slightest mistake, the consequences would be dire. This is why I delayed it until now."

The Chief Elder was overjoyed. "Sect Master, are you saying you want to take advantage of Yao Bin and have him dispel any worries related to the poisons? That is too wonderful...if Sect Master can fully recover, my Black Demon Sect will be as stable as a mountain."

"There are still some preparations that need to be made concerning this matter. For the next period of time, don't disturb me." The Black Demon Sect Master's voice was gentle but allowed no refusal. "Look after Yao Bin well. Nothing must go wrong."

The Chief Elder bowed. "Yes."

He turned and left.

Chapter 428 – Cultivating the Purpleback Bluewing Ants

Steward Xu Sheng hadn't been himself recently. He rarely went out on patrol and delegated duties of interrogating prisoners. He would lock himself in his room for entire days, and when he occasionally came out he would seem to be in a trance. Many faintly guessed that perhaps this person who was normally cold, indifferent, and didn't care about women had suddenly started to have a revival of his springtime. Could the lord steward be lovesick? But no one had heard of him coming into contact with any girls these past days. Just who was the young lady?

His bewildered subordinates were full of random guesses. Of course, none of them imagined that their guesses weren't even close to the truth. He wasn't lovesick. Rather, he was thinking about something even more important. For instance, his future. For instance, his heart that had already accepted its fate.

During the gambling fight of Heavenwait Temple, if one earnestly calculated things, Xu Sheng should have been the most nervous person. Besides Qin Yu, he was the one who had profited the most from the Black Demon Sect cultivators who joined in the betting ring.

At first, when he learned that Jiang Taishou had mentioned the gambling fight, Xu Sheng had been frightened into a cold sweat. He thought that this surname Ning was finished and he would be buried along with him. Jiang Taishou might not have stirred many waves within the sect, but he was known for his cruelty and mercilessness. This was something that all veterans of the Black Demon Sect acknowledged.

After a bout of despair, after a spell of hate, Xu Sheng fired himself up and threw his entire fortune into the betting ring, gambling that this surname Ning would win.

This was his only choice. Otherwise if this surname Ning was eliminated, he would be buried with him. What would be the point of leaving behind so many spirit stones? But the result was...he had won!

Standing in the great square outside Heavenwait Temple, Xu Sheng could never forget that surname Ning reviving from death and finally turning the entire game around. He had sobbed tears of joy.

Only someone who was at death's door and managed to survive could understand how precious life was.

After receiving the spirit stones from the betting ring, Xu Sheng was only happy for several days. Then, he decided to ponder how he wanted to live out the rest of his days.

He originally thought that after being subdued and controlled by this dark star from the Giant Monster Sect, even if he managed to preserve his life he would still fall into an eternal dusk without light. But, he never imagined that he would actually be hugging such an incomparably thick thigh!

Tuba and Tutou, those two barbarians had strength comparable to a Blue Sea. And what was even more crucial was that Xu Sheng was well aware of Qin Yu's details and history. Just where had those two barbarians come from?

This surname Ning was covered with layers of secrets. Although secrets sometimes represented dangers, they could also sometimes represent good fortune. At the very least, he now knew that this surname Ning's alchemy skills beat Jiang Taishou's. Although he didn't know what his cultivation was, but if he could subdue two barbarians that were similar to a Blue Sea in strength, how could this person be weak? If he had the chance to thoroughly hold onto this thigh, there was a chance he could rise to the peak of his life and break through the shackles of his destiny.

When Xu Sheng thought of this, he would always be extremely excited. After careful consideration, he decided to bet his future on Qin Yu! But, what left Xu Sheng depressed was that after the gambling fight of Heavenwait Temple, this surname Ning had gone into seclusion without leaving and hadn't even called him in for a meeting. Thinking about it further, this was about right. After all, Xu Sheng was just a chess piece that was casually picked up. This surname Ning likely never considered how else to use him.

This caused Xu Sheng, who had been thinking of attaching himself to Qin Yu, to suffer great mental stress. He racked his mind until it hurt but he still couldn't figure out how to approach Qin Yu. Just as Xu Sheng was worried, he heard a knock on the door. His complexion darkened and he coldly said, "Come in!"

A subordinate came in with an uneasy look. Even an idiot could see that the steward was in a bad mood. But since he had been ordered, he didn't dare to delay any further. He braced himself and said, "Steward, Grandmaster Yao sent someone over. They said they had something to tell you..."

"What did you say!?" Xu Sheng stood up.

His body trembling, the subordinate cried out, "Grandmaster Yao sent someone over."

"Hahahaha! Good, too good!" He reached out a hand and slapped the subordinate's shoulder. "You did well, you have a bright future!"

After finishing speaking he nearly ran out, leaving the completely dumbfounded subordinate behind. Since when had the steward become subject to such swiftly changing moods?

At the entrance of his dwelling, Xu Sheng looked at the person who arrived. He frowned and said, "Aren't you Jiang Taishou's disciple? How come you came here looking for me?"

“Steward Xu, please do not misunderstand. I have been taken in by Grandmaster Yao as one of his followers. Today, the grandmaster assigned me the duty of coming here to request Steward Xu deliver some criminals for experiments.”

Xu Sheng’s heart leapt in his chest. He maintained his composure and said, “So that’s how it is. Brother has become one of Grandmaster Yao’s followers. That is truly enviable. Please wait a moment, I will immediately go to the dungeon and make preparations.”

Walking toward the dungeon, Xu Sheng’s thoughts raced. This surname Ning had replaced that surname Yao, so he simply didn’t need any criminals for experiments. Moreover, if he did need them, he wouldn’t do something so troublesome as sending someone here and directly informing him. If he simply sent a message, did he fear someone would refuse him?

There had to be another matter happening here, and it definitely wasn’t something small. Otherwise, that surname Ning wouldn’t be so careful. If that surname Ning thought about using him in this situation, could it be that he was actually highly regarded?

Xu Sheng’s spirits were lifted. He rushed forward like a tiger. This was a good chance to handle something beautifully and obtain the approval of that surname Ning.

An hour later, Xu Sheng led several criminals to Grandmaster Yao’s residence. As he recalled the chief steward’s dark and gloomy expression, Xu Sheng coldly sneered. Initially, the chief steward had forced him to deliver criminals here but now he was desperately trying to claw back that assignment so he could be on better terms with Grandmaster Yao...humph, all he said was that the grandmaster had personally assigned him to deliver criminals and that old fool almost choked on his words. Just recalling that scene left him hopping with joy.

As long as he could truly become one of the grandmaster’s people, there were sure to be more of these happy opportunities in the future. Xu Sheng took a deep breath. He absolutely could not miss out on this opportunity!

After passing a message and sending off the criminals, Xu Sheng really did obtain a chance to see Grandmaster Yao.

He quickly entered the main hall and then fell to his knees, displaying his supreme reverence and respect. “Subordinate greets master. I congratulate master for winning the gambling fight and becoming the number one alchemist!”

Qin Yu had a light expression. “Rise. The reason I called you here today is because there is something I need you to do. Take this jade slip outside the Black Demon Sect and crumble it. Remember, I don’t wish for a second person to know about this.”

Xu Sheng cupped his hands together. “This subordinate understands.” He received the jade slip with both hands and carefully put it away. “Does master have any other orders?”

“Just this. Now go.”

Xu Sheng bowed once more and withdrew several steps before turning and leaving.

The task that this surname Ning had given him was beyond his expectations. To just bring this jade slip outside the sect and crumble it? That was enough? This was much simpler than he expected. But, it was also likely that there was some massive peril hidden within it.

Just who was this surname Ning? He was a remnant from the Giant Monster Sect, someone who had a blood feud with the Black Demon Sect. Once he crumbled this jade slip, it might mean a storm of blood and death would come raining down.

But he had to do it...

Xu Sheng clenched his teeth. He wasn't some saint that would sacrifice himself to save others. Moreover, there weren't many people he had attachments to in the Black Demon Sect.

At the most, if a disaster truly occurred, he would find some way to preserve his most trusted subordinates.

"Bah! Xu Sheng you idiot, this is your best chance to survive! Once you handle this matter well, that surname Ning will definitely acknowledge you!"

Shua –

After a moment of hesitation, Xu Sheng's speed exploded and he soon arrived at the entrance of the sect. As one of the stewards of the dungeon, he was responsible for handling criminals from inside and outside the sect, as well as torturing them for information. He possessed considerable authority and was someone that no one wished to offend.

After all, no one knew whether or not there would be a day when they would fall into the dungeon. Even if they were fine, there was always a chance that their relatives or friends might be thrown in one day, right?

"Steward Xu, where do you plan on going?" A Black Demon Sect cultivator greeted with a smile.

Xu Sheng awkwardly laughed. "Brother must know that staying too long in a place like the dungeon is far too oppressing for the mind. I haven't been feeling too good recently so I decided to go out and vent a little, getting rid of the blood that's been rushing to my head."

"Haha, I understand, I understand. Steward Xu is responsible for interrogating criminals for the sect; that must be exhausting." The cultivator lowered his voice, "I know a good place that Steward Xu will surely be satisfied with."

The two people whispered to each other and laughed at the same time, a look of mutual understanding on their faces.

Xu Sheng cupped his hands together and bowed. "Fellow brothers, I will be headed out first. If there is a chance in the future, I will come back to have a drink with all my brothers."

He casually left the sect entrance and flew to a place where no one was. Xu Sheng took out a jade slip and then crushed it in his hands. After completing this matter, he let out a long breath and the last bits of worry in his heart dissipated along with it. In any case, he had already done what needed to be done. As for the consequences, he would just go with the flow!

But soon, after a moment of hesitation, Xu Sheng lifted his head and soared directly towards that cave of ecstasy he was informed of just now. Since he was putting on an act, he might as well act it out until the end.

And it just so happened that the pressure on him had been far too great, so great that his mind was all mixed up. He would take this opportunity to cheer himself up.

Hehe, you little seductresses, your great lord Xu is coming!

In the main hall, Qin Yu opened his eyes, a happy look on his face.

Xu Sheng was a considerably intelligent person. Just seeing the jade slip must have made him come up with all sorts of possibilities. But even if he was afraid of those possibilities, he still honestly completed his task. He could be considered a somewhat worthy person.

As for the jade slip, that was mostly just a test. Even if Xu Sheng had different thoughts, nothing would be revealed.

But it was best if things proceeded smoothly. Tuba should have received the message by now to avoid purchasing the same four types of high level monster beast blood and souls that he had received.

Once he collected six more kinds, that would be enough to cultivate the first stage for the Purpleback Bluewing Ants.

As for why he had Xu Sheng waste so much time and effort to leave the Black Demon Sect and do that, it was to make provision against any possibilities.

The Monster Raising Mystic Art was far too important. He had to be extra cautious and then add another layer upon that.

Qin Yu didn't dare to guarantee that his previous explanations had dispelled the Black Demon Sect's worries toward him in exchanging for high level monster beast blood and souls.

It wasn't wrong to be careful!

...

The Chief Elder didn't appear too old. Even if his temples were a little white and he had some wrinkles in the corners of his eyes, this still couldn't cover up his elegant demeanor. During his youth, he must have been an astoundingly handsome young man. At this time he was drinking tea. He lightly said, "How goes the monitoring?"

Below, a purple-robed cultivator knelt to the ground. He respectfully said, "Reporting to the Chief Elder, we have intercepted all messages transmitted through the sect at this time. Although there are many mentions of the Monster Raising Mystic Art, there has been nothing suspicious. You reminded us to closely monitor several regions, but while there were some anomalies, after further investigation we found that they weren't related to the Monster Raising Mystic Art."

The Chief Elder had a thoughtful look. "And Yao Bin's residence?"

The purple-robed cultivator said, "After Grandmaster Yao exchanged for the high level monster beast blood and souls, he went into seclusion. Besides summoning the dungeon's Xu Sheng to deliver some criminals for experimentation, he hasn't contacted anyone else. I have been monitoring Xu Sheng. That person seems normal, without anything unusual about him."

He stopped for a moment and then continued, "Because Chief Elder told me to pay extra attention, I found a way to obtain some trash from Grandmaster Yao's alchemy room. Within this trash that was supposed to be incinerated, I found several waste pills. After inspecting them, I found that they contained the four kinds of high level monster beast blood and souls that Grandmaster Yao exchanged for."

The Chief Elder furrowed his eyebrows together. "I understand. You can go on with your duties. Remember, you must not become lax in monitoring. As long as you discover anything strange, instantly report back to me."

"Yes, chief." The Black Demon Sect cultivator bowed and left.

The Chief Elder put down his teacup. He paced back and forth several times, muttering to himself, "Yao Bin...I don't know why, but I always feel there is something wrong with you..."

Soon, half a year passed.

Grandmaster Yao continued to purchase spirit plant materials. Not only did he pay a high price but the pills he paid them back with were all of an excellent quality. This caused everyone in the Black Demon Sect to be full of praise. Several times, Elder level masters from the sect came to visit Grandmaster Yao. Although it was unknown what pills they specifically asked him to refine, looking at the way they praised and treated him, it was easy to guess the result.

These days, the alchemy grandmaster Yao Bin could be said to have an illustrious reputation in the Black Demon Sect!

On this day, a travel-worn, yellow-faced, and sturdy-looking cultivator arrived at the entrance of the Black Demon Sect. He took out a token for inspection.

"Grandmaster Yao's token!"

The several guards suddenly smiled. After a few questions they simply let him pass. This cultivator entered the Black Demon Sect and after leaving the line of sight of those people, smiled happily. It seemed that His Highness hadn't encountered any trouble during this period of time and his status had become even higher.

This person was Tuba, who had been out for half a year on a mission of purchasing high level monster beast souls and blood.

Moments later, Tuba arrived in front of Qin Yu. His bones cracked and he grew back to his original height and appearance. As he did, an invisible energy and ferocious aura swept out through every corner of the main hall. An excited Tutou was stunned for a moment before he said with a strained voice, "Tuba, you broke through!"

Because of the mysterious purple moon hanging above his soul, Qin Yu had an extremely sharp divine sense. He could feel the terrifying blood energy fluctuations emanating from Tuba's body. Compared to how he was before, he was at least several times more powerful. If he erupted with all of his strength, he could even shake back a Revered Blue Sea master!

"Tuba greets Your Highness!" Tuba fell to his knees and lowered his head.

Qin Yu smiled happily. "Tuba, congratulations!" He was indeed happy. He knew that once Tuba and Tutou left the Infinite Realm and weren't suppressed anymore, they would grow at an astonishing rate. But, Tuba's drastic growth even surprised him.

Although the titan tribe only cultivated the mortal body, it was because of this one-minded direction that they were even more terrifying. Even his Undying True Demon Body might not be able to compare to Tuba anymore!

Tutou anxiously asked, "Tuba, how did you make a breakthrough? Tell me!"

He had also been stuck at a bottleneck for many years. After seeing his fellow tribesman make a breakthrough, how could he not be anxious?

Tuba was silent for a moment. He said, "I fought with others and experienced life or death perils. Being placed in desperate situations stimulated my potential, allowing me to take this next step. So, Tutou, I cannot help you with anything."

Tutou had a disappointed expression but his eyes were actually filled with admiration. "Tuba, you were able to make a breakthrough while being suppressed by your enemies, and knowing you, your enemies must have been dreadful. It would already have been difficult for you to survive. If it were me, I would have died."

Tuba smiled. He didn't say anything, though he knew Tutou was right.

Qin Yu sincerely said, "Tuba, you have worked hard this last half year. I cannot guarantee you anything, but as long as I am able to, I will definitely save your tribe!"

Tuba was overjoyed. Crash! Crash! His head banged against the floor. "Thank you, Your Highness! Thank you, Your Highness!"

Tutou also fell to his knees in happiness.

"That's enough. Stand up." Qin Yu's face turned serious. "Tuba, where are the souls and blood?"

Tuba suppressed his excitement and took out a storage ring from his chest. "Your Highness, these six kinds of high level monster beast souls and blood cost a total of 194 million spirit stones. They are in here."

Qin Yu received the ring and searched it with his divine sense. Several breaths of time later he nodded in satisfaction and said, "Very good, these souls and blood completely meet the requirements." He stood up. "I will immediately go into seclusion. You guard the hall; do not allow anyone to disturb me!"

"Yes, Your Highness!"

Qin Yu entered the training chamber and opened up every array formation. Thinking about it, he took out Ninth Province and had it isolate the outside aura. The Monster Raising Mystic Art was mysterious and formidable. During the process of cultivating the Purpleback Bluewing Ants, there was a chance he would summon the undying remnant soul of the ancestral monster from between the heavens and earth and stir up a storm as a result. It was always best to remain careful.

He clapped his hands and took out the imperial spirit bag. With a thought, the bag opened. Led by the ant king, a troop of Purpleback Bluewing Ants appeared. Their dense numbers were like black clouds. After swallowing up the cultivating pills, their auras were clearly more formidable!

Chapter 429 – Real/Fake Monster Raising Mystic Art

Qin Yu revealed an excited look. He lifted his hand and 10 jade bottles appeared. Each jade bottle was the same size, with ghostly runes etched on their surface. These were specially refined objects used to seal in the monster beast souls and blood.

Looking at the jade bottles, one could see the dark red monster beast blood essence contained within. And above that blood essence floated the soul of the monster beast! This blood was the essence of flesh and blood obtained from the body of the monster beast after specially refining it. As for this soul, it was the complete soul of the monster beast, without any damage to it.

To refine the complete blood and soul of a monster beast was extraordinarily difficult and also required tremendous good luck. It was because of this that the price was so high.

In order to collect these ten souls and blood in front of him, Qin Yu had gone to great lengths. As for Tuba, it was unknown how many life or death tests he went through.

It had to be known that everyone would eye something so precious. Once you obtained it, someone else would clearly covet it.

However, it was all worth it in the end. As long as the Purpleback Bluewing Ants could complete their first stage evolution, they would possess enough strength. Qin Yu had a solemn expression. He lifted his hands and the ten jade bottles flew up in the air together. Then, he formed hand seals. The law formulas quickened the runes on the jade bottle, causing cracks to appear on their surface.

Pa –

Pa –

At the same time, the ten jade bottles shattered together. As the souls and blood lost their suppression, the souls of the monster beasts reared back their heads and roared with joy, flying straight into their blood essence. In the next moment, ten blood essences simultaneously exploded, inflating into ten monster beast phantoms, each one releasing a potent aura.

Even if this was only the first stage of cultivation, in order to possess the necessary qualifications to have their blood and souls used, the monster beasts had to be at least at the Blue Sea level; in other words, they were monster kings. Although they only had the strength of initial monster kings, when ten of them were placed together, it was still an astonishing strength.

The Purpleback Bluewing Ants all emitted a threatening buzz. They revealed looks of desire in their eyes. After swallowing those cultivation pills, they instinctively knew that these monster beast phantoms in front of them were the key step to entering the next stage!

Qin Yu's divine sense comforted them, suppressing their restless movements. He turned his hand and took out the Soul Summoning Bell and gently shook it.

The ten monster beast phantoms all revealed looks of fear. They turned and tried to flee, but at this time an icy cold will arrived upon them.

Qin Yu's eyes brightened. His hand shook faster. Although there wasn't any sound at all, the monster beast phantoms became increasingly anxious.

Suddenly, ripples appeared in the void, as if an invisible pair of giant hands was passing through from another side, grasping the void and slowly pulling it open.

Then, through the hole that appeared, one could clearly see the boundless grasslands on the other side.

Among the verdant rabbits, one could see a gray bunny on the ground. Its thick and stubby legs were in front of its chest and it passed through the spatial channel with an arrogant posture.

Its pupils were incomparably deep and profound, like an inscrutable abyss. They emanated a vicissitudes of years so thick that it nearly condensed into essence. As the rabbit swept its eyes over the ten monster beast phantoms, the phantoms suddenly froze in place as if they were struck by some immobilizing technique, no longer able to move anymore. Then, without stopping, it turned its eyes towards Qin Yu.

It was hard to describe Qin Yu's mood at this moment. He never ever imagined that the ancestral monster – which was born from the heavens and earth and that had the capabilities to destroy the world – would be linked with a rabbit. And what he found even more unacceptable was that as this rabbit faintly gazed at him, he felt an inexplicable fear surge within his heart, making him no longer able to resist. It was a terrifying feeling as if he had been seen through, with no more secrets left to hide.

After a moment of hesitation, Qin Yu cupped his hands together and bowed, "Junior greets Lord Ancestral Monster."

The rabbit tilted its head and its little mouth pulled up in a taunting smile. "To judge others based solely on appearance, it disappoints me that your character is still stuck at such a low level." Its eyes flashed and it continued to say, "Moreover, I really am curious. Your Soul Summoning Bell hasn't even recognized a master and yet you dare to summon a fragment of my soul. Do you want to die?"

Qin Yu's heart leapt in his chest and beads of sweat formed on his forehead. But without waiting for him to say anything, the little rabbit said, "But since I have already awakened, the process cannot be stopped. Everything will depend on your good fortune."

The ten monster beast phantoms all wailed at the same time. Their condensed figures shattered, turning into countless tiny fragments that were sucked into the rabbit's body. The rabbit's hairs turned blood red and an inexplicable aura started to emanate from it. As the Purpleback Blue Ants smelled this aura, they fell into a crazed state.

Buzz –

They frantically flapped their wings, their aura instantly forming a connection with the rabbit. Blood red lines appeared from the rabbit's body, sinking into the Purpleback Bluewing Ants on the other side.

Overbearing, tyrannical, brutal, ferocious, ice cold – all sorts of intents nearly crushed the frail consciousness of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants in an instant. Qin Yu coughed out loud and blood gushed from his nose and mouth.

This was the will of the ancestral monster's remnant soul. Through the Purpleback Bluewing Ants, a terrifying suppression descended!

In that moment, Qin Yu became aware of what was happening. If he couldn't resist the crushing willpower of the ancestral monster's remnant soul, not only would this cultivation fail but he would be buried with this attempt.

Damn it! Why hadn't the Monster Raising Art contained any warnings about having the Soul Summoning Bell recognize a master? Qin Yu didn't have enough time to think about it. He roared inwardly, only able to transfer all his strength to resist the overwhelming impact of the ancestral monster's remnant soul.

The ancestral monster, the ancestor of 10,000 monsters, born from the precelestial land. Even if this was only a small soul fragment, it still contained an unimaginable might! Being crushed by this will, Qin Yu felt as if his entire body had fallen into a wild undercurrent deep beneath the sea. Just the slightest mistake and he would suffer a horrible death!

In his soul space, a little rabbit phantom appeared. It looked above Qin Yu's soul where a curved purple moon was hanging, and a trace of interest flashed in its eyes.

"This junior, he actually controls the Lunar Star Art. No wonder I felt something strange about his aura just now." The rabbit's little mouth twisted to the side. "But depending on this Lunar Star Art which can't even be considered as having crossed the initial threshold, this junior cannot resist the test of my will. What a pity."

As if to verify its words, just as its voice fell, cracks appeared on Qin Yu's soul. Because of the agonizing pain, his entire soul violently shivered.

The rabbit curled its lips. "After slumbering for endless years, I thought that I would be able to play for a bit longer after being awakened this time. I never thought this would only be a frail little kid."

It turned to leave.

But at this time, the rabbit's complexion changed. It fiercely looked up into the skies above Qin Yu's soul. Right next to the purple moon, a blue sun phantom appeared.

The purple moon and blue sun shined against each other, their halos fusing together and turning into a strange creamy white. Beneath this light, the cracks on Qin Yu's soul began to be repaired at speed visible to the naked eye. Even the aura of his soul became much more solid and strong.

"Solar Palace Secret Art!" The rabbit's eyes widened and it instantly vanished. In the next moment it appeared in Qin Yu's dantian sea.

Looking around Qin Yu's dantian sea, the rabbit saw the blue sun hanging in the skies above the vague Five Element Mountain. It fell silent for a long time before sighing with emotion and saying, "It looks like

I've been asleep for far too long. Lunar and Solar, changes have happened to these two super influences, otherwise how could their inheritance arts both simultaneously appear in one body?

"This brat is extremely lucky, but, he doesn't seem to know about the functions of the secret arts from the Lunar and Solar Palaces. He is only using their most basic functionality." The rabbit thought for a moment and then sneered. "This success can only be considered as his good luck. He simply hasn't obtained my acknowledgement, so I have no duty to warn him of anything. Moreover, one has to feel their way through their own path in cultivation, right?"

After an unknown period of time, Qin Yu's eyelids shook and he opened them with difficulty. His eyes were dark and listless and he looked utterly exhausted. The remnant soul of the ancestral monster had already vanished. As he glanced over at the sleeping Purpleback Bluewing Ants, his lips pulled back in an ugly smile.

At least he had managed to make it through. He thought he had reached his limit several times, but in the end he didn't collapse from the onslaught of will. He flicked his sleeves and received the Purpleback Bluewing Ants into the imperial spirit bag. Then, he took out several pills with black and red colors mixed on their surface and swallowed them down, restoring his strength.

These pills were demonic path pills. They were refined from the flesh and blood essence of living beings. Although their medicinal efficacy was a bit rough and overbearing, the effects were actually somewhat better than those of pills refined from spirit plants.

Two hours later, Qin Yu opened his eyes, an odd look in them. He was originally 90% sure he would succeed, but he nearly failed at the end!

"Soul Summoning Bell recognizing a master..." He thought about what the ancestral monster's remnant soul had said. A dark look crossed Qin Yu's face. It was clear that the Monster Raising Mystic Art simply didn't state this key step.

Could it be that the Monster Raising Mystic Art he obtained was also fake? But that didn't seem right. If it really was fake, how could he summon the remnant soul of the ancestral monster? The most likely possibility was that the Monster Raising Mystic Art he had was incomplete and it was missing the most essential part.

As Qin Yu thought of this, his mood became much worse. At this time, there was a fluctuation in the imperial spirit bag. The sleeping Purpleback Bluewing Ants had woken up.

With a thought, the Purpleback Bluewing Ants flew out. Their appearance was very different from before. Their wings had turned grayish white and another gray shell covered their fragile bodies. Their auras had risen by several levels.

But what caused Qin Yu's heart to sink was that beneath the crushing will of the ancestral monster, the consciousness of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants had been erased. They would only listen and move according to his commands now.

Now that they had lost the ability to move on their own, the capabilities of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants had fallen by a great deal.

Qin Yu's expression filled with uncertainty. He didn't think that after expending so much time and effort to complete the first stage of the cultivation, this would be the result he would obtain.

"Mm?" At this time, Qin Yu's complexion changed. He discovered that the Purpleback Bluewing Ants seemed to develop a mysterious connection with some existence. And, through this connection, it indistinctly took the Purpleback Bluewing Ants as the superior.

After a moment of hesitation, Qin Yu cautiously probed this connection with his divine sense. Then, he felt a cruel soul filled with a destructive aura.

This soul seemed to have not discovered the arrival of Qin Yu's divine sense. It was currently in a deep sleep.

As Qin Yu was surprised, some information spread out from this cruel soul. Qin Yu was startled, but a look of pleasant surprise soon crossed his face.

After several breaths of time, Qin Yu opened his eyes, admiration on his face. "What a wonderful Giant Monster Sect, you actually split the Monster Raising Mystic Art in two. The real one is real, but the fake one is also hiding the most essential part of the real one."

For instance, the method of having the Soul Summoning Bell recognize a master!