

Refining 61

Chapter 61 – Radiant Red Wood

Clouds drifted between steep cliffs. Rays of sunlight sprinkled down and reflected against the mist, adding a glow to the land that made it seem that much more quiet and tranquil. But at this time, rumbling echoed out from the clouds, ruining the quiet atmosphere.

Feathers fell down from the chicken overlord. Its red crown had been ruptured and fresh blood streamed down its face. However it didn't seem to care at all, and instead glared at its opponent viciously.

Across from it was a wild wolf that was two meters long. It looked like a blue-furred calf. One of its eyes had become a bloody hole and the other eye was bloodshot.

A corner of the valley had been tossed into upheaval in the battle. However, the medicine field behind the chicken overlord actually hadn't been touched. In truth, the chicken overlord had a very simple reasoning behind this; if it wasn't even able to eat those things, how could it let a barbaric beast destroy them!?

The wild wolf opened its blood-drenched jaws and a mass of blue energy started to emerge from its throat. Fear finally emerged in the chicken overlord's small and beady eyes, but it didn't choose to retreat. Rather, it fanned its wings about and took the initiative to attack, ruthlessly launching a strike against the approaching wild wolf.

A flash of cunning appeared in the wild wolf's eye. It suddenly lowered its head, allowing the chicken overlord to land its strike. Skin was torn and pale white bones were revealed, however, with a pained roar, the mass of blue energy was spat out and sent shooting towards the chicken overlord's head.

A moment ago, a mere scratch had broken the chicken overlord's crown of feathers. If it were to be directly struck, that was more than enough to kill it on the spot. The wild wolf had one of its eyes pecked blind by the chicken overlord and hated the chicken to the marrow of its bones. If it could kill the chicken, it wouldn't hesitate to pay any price.

The chicken overlord didn't have time to evade. It cried out in its hurt: My time has finally arrived! It's time I leave this mortal coil. My beautiful hens, I won't be able to visit you anymore!

Hu –

A strong wind suddenly swept up the chicken overlord, moving it out of the way of the ball of blue energy. With a loud bang, a large hole appeared in the ground.

The wild wolf felt all its hairs stand up on end. It pushed its legs upwards and leapt away.

"What a wonderfully vigilant beast. However, you intruded into my mountain valley and you still think you can leave?" Qin Yu flicked a sleeve and the wild wolf wailed as it was sent crashing into a cliff wall. The sounds of cracking bones continued for a long time, and it lost any ability to crawl back up.

After surviving an encounter with death, the chicken overlord sobbed with joy. It flapped over and grabbed onto Qin Yu's thigh with a heart-rending cry.

Qin Yu lifted his hand and sent some magic power into the chicken overlord's body. Its wounds stopped bleeding and its mind seemed to refresh itself.

"You did well. These pills are yours."

The chicken overlord untied the storage bag with great familiarity. Then, it beamed with joy, its eyes turning into crescent moons as it saw what was inside. It hid the storage bag between its wings and then turned around to glare at the wild wolf before flapping its wings high in the air. You stupid idiot, I have a backer here!

The wild wolf struggled to crawl up. It howled as it finally stood on its legs, clearly unwilling to die on the ground here.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed with surprise. He waved his hand, "Whatever. I will spare your life today. Leave."

The wild wolf lay prone on the ground. It bowed once and then limped away.

The chicken overlord anxiously stomped its feet, clearly not willing to let the beast go like this.

Qin Yu smiled. "You pecked one of its eyes blind and only lost a bit of blood in return. Considering everything, you didn't suffer a loss at all. Don't try to push things too far."

Although the wild wolf had obviously developed spiritual wisdom it clearly didn't have the ability to break through the array formation. So, how had it gotten in? Was it possible that...Qin Yu walked over to the edge of the valley. He flicked his sleeve and lifted up the ground, revealing light gray spirit stones that had long since crumbled.

He frowned. He inspected other areas and found that the spirit stones in these places had been severely damaged or perhaps they had lost a serious amount of spiritual strength.

Before he left with You Qi, Qin Yu had specifically inspected the array formation. It had been working perfectly fine when he left, so how had the spiritual strength inside the spirit stones been used up in such a short period of time?

After breaking into the Golden Core realm his divine sense had risen dramatically, giving him the qualifications to study the dao of array formations. If he had a chance, he would definitely keep an eye on this problem.

After replacing the spirit stones and making sure that the revolution of the array formation was unimpeded, Qin Yu returned to his wooden house and sat down on a round cushion, deep in thought. After his Demon Body was enhanced and he stepped into the Golden Core realm, his confidence had risen tremendously. He believed that it would be possible for him to walk throughout the Southern Empire without fear. But, when he went to kill Deepsea Demon, the appearance of the Seventh Slaughter Sect Master had left him feeling alarmed.

Though he had many methods at his disposal, he could only be overwhelmed by the power of a Nascent Soul. The 108 strange fish teeth that had been refined into the Storm Flow weapons had been used up. If he ran into another Nascent Soul realm cultivator, he might not be able to escape even though he possessed the Blood Escape Art.

Of course, there was an extremely small number of old Nascent Soul freaks in the Southern Empire, so the chances of him suffering from one were equally low. But, this event had sobered Qin Yu to the reality of things and had scattered the bits of arrogance he had started to gather in his heart.

After reaching Golden Core, what lay afterwards was the Nascent Soul great dao. And after the Nascent Soul great dao, there were rumored to be many other mysterious boundaries. The endless road of cultivation only just started here.

Qin Yu went into seclusion.

A month later he had thoroughly stabilized his Golden Core, and by this time he couldn't wait to leave. The reason was that once a pill-based cultivator had to start relying on themselves to cultivate, their speed would fall to that of a turtle. This was particularly true for Qin Yu, whose martial talent was horrendously poor.

With the Skythunder Bamboo in hand he could clear up the pill impurities. It also wasn't a problem with his foundation because he could rely on failed breakthroughs to purify his magic power. It was because of this that once Qin Yu embarked on the road of pill cultivation, there was no longer any turning back for him.

But soon, Qin Yu fell into a difficult position and had no choice but to pause his great cultivation plans.

The reason was simple: he didn't have any pills to eat!

The little blue lamp could strengthen raw materials and purify pills. With such heaven-defying abilities, it was laughable for someone to say that they didn't have pills they could take. But, this was the reality of things. While it was true that the little blue lamp could accelerate the growth of plants, with the mere foot of sea blue light it released, the quantity of spirit plants it could reach was actually extremely limited. It wasn't enough to provide Qin Yu with the materials he needed.

And, what was even more important was that Golden Core realm spirit plants were considered precious goods within the world of cultivators. People couldn't wait to use these things for themselves, much less recklessly sell them to others. Of course, exchanging pills for materials was still an available option, but if Qin Yu were to do that it would inevitably attract the attention of old Nascent Soul monsters from all around, eventually causing him to draw a disaster upon his own body!

With all things considered, Qin Yu discovered that only by purchasing his own seeds could he continue on this path. After determining this, he bitterly smiled. Whatever. If he needed to be a little slow, then he'd be a little slow; safety always came first. Perhaps after he reached the Nascent Soul realm he wouldn't need to worry about these things.

But with his current speed, who knew how many years it would take for him to reach the Nascent Soul realm. Moreover, Qin Yu's body itself acted as an invisible cage. If he wanted to step into the Nascent Soul great dao, he would need to find a drop of even more potent demon blood to help enhance his Demon Body.

Three days later, he poured magic power into the bamboo dragonfly and left the mountain valley. It was time to buy Golden Core realm spirit plant seeds.

....

Half a month later, after journeying through tens of thousands of miles, Qin Yu had eventually visited all the major cultivator cities. As he did so, his complexion became increasingly ugly. Golden Core realm spirit plant seeds were nearly absent from the market, and even the few that were sold were sold at mind-bogglingly high prices.

After some questions, he was able to ascertain the reason. The demonic path invaded the Southern Empire with staggering arrogance, placing the land in imminent danger. The number one immortal cultivation sect, Immortal Eclipse Valley, decided to meddle. They announced that all Golden Core realm spirit plants and seeds were now strategic reserve commodities and weren't allowed to be privately traded.

Right in front of Qin Yu's eyes, the last road available to him had been turned upside down. Though he was filled with anger he had nowhere to vent it. The reason that Immortal Eclipse Valley was respected as the greatest immortal cultivation sect of the Southern Empire was not only because they were an alchemy juggernaut, but also because it was rumored they had Nascent Souls guarding their sect, perhaps even more than one.

In a restaurant, Qin Yu sat in a corner, increasingly worried the more he thought about things.

"Hehe, Immortal Eclipse Valley, what a wonderful game they played this time!" Someone at another table sneered.

The complexions of the several other people with him suddenly changed.

"Brother Xu, be quiet!"

"There are many people and many mouths here. Even the walls have ears!"

"Don't speak reckless nonsense, or you'll just stir up trouble for yourself."

The cultivator surnamed Xu coldly sneered. "What is there to be scared of? If Immortal Eclipse Valley does something, could it be that we can't talk about it? They forbid the trading of spirit plants and seeds, saying that this was because of some strategic reserve, but it was clearly for them to suppress prices so they could purchase for themselves. This time, Immortal Eclipse Valley truly benefited!"

"Humph!" At another table, a cultivator angrily laughed. "Idiotic fool, I guess this is what they call blinded by money! If it weren't for Immortal Eclipse Valley providing pills and supplies to the Southern Empire's cultivator alliance, the war situation would probably be far worse than it is. I think that little fellow daoist here has strayed down the wrong path of greed and is a bit too dissatisfied!"

Bang –

The cultivator surnamed Xu slapped the table. "Brat, what are you saying!"

"I am saying you are as stupid as a pig!"

Seeing a fight about to break out, the cultivators at both tables immediately tried to drag their friends back, persuading them from doing anything. This was especially true from the cultivators at the Xu fellow's table, as if they began to curse loudly in their hearts. Wasn't it enough that he disparaged Immortal Eclipse Valley, but he even wanted to cause a ruckus? Did he want news of this event to spread out even further?

If you want to die, don't drag us down with you!

After this brief tussle, the atmosphere of the restaurant became much more heated. Many small rumors began to circulate.

"Hehe, speaking of Immortal Eclipse Valley, I actually heard a secret..." The man intentionally spoke in increasingly hushed tones, but it was hard for him to hide his satisfied smile. As he saw more people looking his way, he proudly proclaimed, "In Immortal Eclipse Valley, there is a guardian spirit beast, and it is said to be an ancient variation insect, a Purpleback Bluewing Ant..."

"Che. Who doesn't already know of this? And to think you want to show off with that!"

"What a waste of my time, I almost thought you knew some secret!"

"If you don't have anything to say then don't speak. You're just making a mockery of yourself!"

The old man was flushed red with shame and anger. "What do you know? I haven't even finished speaking! You know that Immortal Eclipse valley has Purpleback Bluewing Ants, but do you know why they are kept in Immortal Eclipse Valley?"

Sweeping a disdainful gaze around and seeing the confused looks of the listeners, the old man sneered. "This is because in Immortal Eclipse Valley, there is a Radiant Red Wood that has been passed down since ancient times! Do you know what a Radiant Red Wood is? It is an ancient spirit plant that is able to automatically draw in the strength of the heavens and earth to form Radiant Red Fruits!"

"Radiant Red Fruit! You meant the Radiant Red Fruit that can help Golden Core cultivators cultivate?" A person gasped.

The old man shot him a glance. "I didn't think someone would know about it. That's right, I am talking about the Radiant Red Fruit that is even more precious than pills to a Golden Core cultivator. This fruit contains a massive amount of the heavens and earth's spiritual strength. After eating it, it will directly enhance one's cultivation without any hidden dangers at all. The value of it is far above the sexual aphrodisiac pills used by Golden Core realm cultivators."

The restaurant fell utterly silent before conversation broke out once more.

"Old man, come to my table for a drink."

"Waiter, hurry and bring several dishes over. I want to ask this elder to drink with us."

"Old friend come here, let's talk."

The old man's smile almost spread to his ears. He pretended to refuse for a while before choosing the table with the best wine and food. He ate and drank with gusto, and this person's tongue was indeed fierce. The limits of his bragging were without end and everyone in the restaurant was left stunned. Then, he wiped his mouth and left, leaving everyone behind.

Qin Yu tossed down a spirit stone for his bill and left the restaurant.

Soon, in a narrow alley, he flickered out, blocking the way.

The old man frowned. "Unknown junior, you dare to block my way? Are you tired of living?"

With a deep shout, he did seem a bit imposing.

Qin Yu lightly said, "I come from Immortal Eclipse Valley, so I am quite interested in what you say."

The old man's complexion changed. "Stop talking nonsense. Do you know that pretending to be an Immortal Eclipse Valley cultivator is a great crime!?"

Qin Yu sneered. His Golden Core cultivation erupted, shrouding around him. "You old thing, you dare to carelessly spread rumors, it seems you are impatient to die!"

The old man collapsed to the ground, bowing again and again. "Senior, spare me! Senior, please spare me!"

Qin Yu threatened, "Where did you hear that there is a Radiant Red Wood in Immortal Eclipse Valley? Half a lie from your lips and I will make sure you suffer a life worse than death!"

The old man hurriedly said, "A mysterious person told me. He gave me some spirit stones to spread this news."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. "And how did you know that what he said was true?"

The old man said, "The mysterious person showed me a Radiant Red Fruit, a real Radiant Red Fruit. Although my cultivation is low I have worked with spirit plants for many years and my sight is quite keen for these things."

Qin Yu thought for a moment and coldly sneered. "Leave. I will spare your life today. If you dare spout nonsense in the future, there will be no more mercy!"

The old man was overjoyed. "I won't, I won't!" He fled.

Qin Yu rubbed his chin. Although he didn't know who wanted to spread news of the Radiant Red Wood, this matter was most likely real.

The Medicine Codex recorded information on the Radiant Red Wood and it also went into complex detail on how to raise it. If he could obtain a part of the Radiant Red Wood's root system then he could use the little blue lamp to cultivate it into a full-fledged tree, allowing it to blossom and bear fruit.

At that time, the matter of him lacking pills for the Golden Core realm would be easily solved!

Moreover, Immortal Eclipse Valley had Purpleback Bluewing Ants. And, his two Thousandgold Mulberries had already evolved into Greatsun Mulberries.

Qin Yu smiled in joy. Oh Immortal Eclipse Valley, Immortal Eclipse Valley. Since you made it so that I couldn't obtain spirit plant seeds, don't blame me for trying to take advantage of you.

Chapter 62 – Scabbard

Within the Southern Empire, the number one, largest immortal cultivating sect was Immortal Eclipse Valley...these words were spoken with great earnest but the reality was that this was only something said by the cultivators of the Southern Empire as a bragging point to enhance their own image. This was because Immortal Eclipse Valley was situated at the border of the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty, and in fact, the majority of its lands could be said to be located in the Northern Dynasty. Of

course, the cultivators of the Southern Empire would never acknowledge this, and if anyone were to ever dare challenge this fact, they would be cursed to death!

In particular, with the demonic path rampaging through the Southern Empire, the only reason the Southern Empire was currently able to hold their ground was because of the assistance of Immortal Eclipse Valley. Due to this, both sides found even more reasons to draw closer together.

The core region of Immortal Eclipse Valley was indeed a mountain valley, and the valley was where the people of the Eclipse Clan and other cultivators lived. However, things weren't as simple as this, especially for a sect known as the number one immortal faction and even more so for one that was obscenely wealthy due to their production of pills.

In terms of the mountain valley core region, it was over 50 miles wide and bordered by 17 mountains, all of them within the scope of Immortal Eclipse Valley's entrance and thus protected by a great array formation. Although the degree of protection couldn't compare to the core region, this level of display was already terrifying. Just the maintenance required to keep the array formation revolving consumed a mind-boggling amount of spirit stones every day.

Now, in the exterior region of Immortal Eclipse Valley, a massive amount of cultivators had gathered. They mostly originated from the Southern Empire and had come to avoid the flames of war brought about by the demonic path. Of course, these cultivators all had to pay spirit stones and also had to be examined by Immortal Eclipse Valley in order to prevent any spies from infiltrating their way in.

An Immortal Eclipse Valley disciple stopped and turned to say, "You can go in by yourself. Choose one of the stone buildings to live in as soon as possible. Here, dragons and fish are mixed together with both good and bad people. It would be wise for you to not casually walk around lest you provoke some disaster. Remember, in the scope of my Immortal Eclipse Valley, cultivators are forbidden from killing each other."

The disciple seemed a bit proud, but his helping in these arrangements could be considered dedicated work. He wasn't arrogant and even had an air of nobility to him.

The black-robed youth cupped his hands together. "Much thanks."

The Immortal Eclipse Valley disciple turned and left.

The youth looked ahead. This was a stretch of flat land on the mountainside with many simple stone houses built atop it. It was one of the residency spaces built by Immortal Eclipse Valley for outside cultivators.

Standing here and looking afar, one could see the lingering fog of the mountain valley. Pavilions, palaces, temples, halls, and all sorts of finely wrought buildings were partially visible in the distance. The light of the array formation occasionally flashed, exuding a vast and incredible aura.

The youth's pupils flashed. He whispered, "Immortal Eclipse Valley is truly amazing."

This youth was suppressing his aura to hide his cultivation. He was Qin Yu!

In the past, Ning Ling bestowed to him an aura restraining law formula and aura restraining pendant. With his current insight, he realized it was even more uncommon than he thought. It wasn't empty bragging when it was said to even be able to shield from the sense of a Nascent Soul cultivator!

But although the jade pendant was here, the woman who gave it to him had perished. Qin Yu suddenly seemed much more dispirited as he revealed a saddened look.

Several people arrived. One of them was a naïve-looking girl. She looked at Qin Yu and then said, "Senior-apprentice sister, look at that person!"

The senior-apprentice sister frowned. "That person? I don't recognize him."

The naïve cultivator hurriedly said, "If I'm not wrong, when we avoided the great demon and flew past the nameless mountain valley, that was the person we saw."

The senior-apprentice sister gave Qin Yu a careful look. She shook her head, "How can it be him? Stop making a big deal over nothing."

The naïve young cultivator stuck out her tongue, her cute expressions causing the eyes of the men beside her to brighten. Suddenly, Qin Yu was quite displeasing to their eyes. Who was this boy and where did he come from? Even Junior-apprentice Sister Qi took notice of him. He'd better screw off as far as he could!

Qi Jiao looked at Qin Yu and his pained expression suddenly caused her heart to tremble. Was he recalling his beloved? What a pitiful young man. She suddenly had an urge, and before she could compose herself she found herself standing right in front of him. She looked at him with a blushing face, timidly saying, "The dead cannot be brought back to life. Sorrow comes and goes. You have my condolences."

Qin Yu was startled. He cupped his hands across his chest. "Many thanks, miss. But do we know each other?"

Qi Jiao shook her head. "Three years ago me and my senior-apprentice sister saw you in a valley. But at that time you were immersed in your sorrow so you probably didn't notice us."

Three years ago...that should be when Ning Ling died.

Looking at this young miss in front of him, Qin Yu suddenly felt a bit closer to her. He smiled. "Thank you for the kind words miss. I'm fine."

Qi Jiao's face blushed even redder. She clenched her palms tightly. She discovered that Qin Yu's eyes were very black and very bright, and his smile left one's heart racing.

The senior-apprentice sister glanced over at the fuming senior and junior apprentice brothers and then glanced back at the oblivious Qi Jiao. She bitterly smiled in her heart. If this continued, she might provoke some disaster for this boy.

She stepped forwards and said, "Junior-apprentice sister, there are still matters to attend to. Let's go."

Qi Jiao was shaken from her daze. "Oh...I'm coming senior-apprentice sister!" She waved her hand and her lips moved, but in the end she didn't say anything.

The several men looked over Qin Yu with scorn-filled eyes, but they couldn't come up with any reason to attack him. They could only curse in their hearts that this boy had good luck.

Qin Yu smiled and walked away.

The mountainside settlement was over half occupied already. Most of these people came from the same sect, clan, family, or even knew each other. As they gathered together, it was a chorus of voices ringing out. A trading market had spontaneously formed in the open area between the stone buildings. Many people set up stalls, shouting out loud and bargaining back and forth. It was extremely lively.

But lively was lively. While it was nice, it wasn't a good place to live. He had already realized this and quickly moved further away. In the end, Qin Yu could only choose from the edges of the market where there were more unoccupied stone buildings.

He shook his head and casually chose one. At least the space was broad and it was more convenient here for him to buy or sell things he needed...well, this was all purely to psychologically comfort himself. The things in the trading market were already useless to him.

After tidying up the area and making sure that the building was fine, Qin Yu rested for two hours. Then he left to visit the market. As he thought, there was nothing here that he took a liking to. However, since he was currently under the guise of a young fourth level Foundation Establishment cultivator, wouldn't it be strange if he wasn't interested in visiting such a lively trading market?

Perhaps no one noticed his performance from beginning to end, but it was still best to be a little discreet.

After all, this was Immortal Eclipse Valley!

Strolling left, strolling right, bargaining back and forth, Qin Yu finally bought several 'good things' at a 'satisfied' price. Just as he was prepared to leave with a smile, he caught sight of a stained scabbard in a stall from the corner of his eye.

From within a storage bag, a fluctuation spread out. Although Qin Yu's thoughts stirred, he didn't reveal any of this in his heart. He squatted down for a more careful look.

Qi Jiao was standing behind the stall, looking pleasantly surprised. She also appeared a bit shy as her hands twisted together and she felt a little helpless. Why would he come here? Was it for me? If he speaks to me, what do I do?

Master said that in this world, there were few good people and many bad people. If master said it, it must be true. But, could he be a bad person? That didn't seem possible...his smile was so warm.

As Qi Jiao's head was in a daze, the several men next to her were like a pot of boiling oil with water tossed into it. They gnashed their teeth in anger!

Qin Yu looked up. "Fellow daoist, how do I buy things here?" He pointed a finger towards the rusted and stained scabbard.

But soon, he was stunned. "It's you?"

Act!

What an act!

The several men had faces of contempt. Little brat, no matter how wonderful your performance is, it still won't get past our ultimate golden fire eyes!

Don't even think of having any ideas about Junior-apprentice Sister Qi! That is just seeking death!

Qi Jiao's heart fell a little. "Hm? You want to buy that?"

Qin Yu hesitated for a moment and said, "The truth is that I only want to buy that scabbard. How much can you sell it to me for?"

Qi Jiao thought, he doesn't want to try and trick me!

Her eyes brightened. "That scabbard is something I accidently found in the mud near a riverside. Because it's a bit hard I kept it around until now, but it isn't worth anything at all. It's fine if you take it away."

Beside him, the several men had eyes red with envy. How could this boy be favored by Junior-apprentice Sister Qi? In terms of looks, cultivation, background, bearing, how was he better than us?

"Junior-apprentice Sister Qi!" A man quickly spoke up, "Our current situation is not like how it was in our sect. We have all sorts of expenses to pay and in addition to high master, she...we need spirit stones right now."

Everyone began to nod one after another. "What Senior-apprentice Brother Li says is extremely reasonable. If there is an opportunity to earn spirit stones, we cannot miss out on it." He coldly shot a glance over. "Moreover, since this is a trade between you and him, if he wants the scabbard it's natural for him to compensate you with spirit stones."

Qin Yu nodded, "What you two say is right. Miss Qi, please state your price."

Miss Qi...miss your head! Why are you speaking with her on such intimate terms?

Are you familiar with our Junior-apprentice Sister Qi!?

Senior-apprentice Brother Li sneered. "Although we don't know what sort of treasure Junior-apprentice Sister Qi's scabbard is, it's a fact that it is extremely hard. An opening offer of 100 spirit stones isn't too much, right?" He spoke with rabid hate in his voice.

Brat, since you dare to flirt with Junior-apprentice Sister Qi, I'll have you suffer! To a Foundation Establishment cultivator, 100 spirit stones is a sky high price!

Qin Yu thought for a moment. He slowly nodded, "Alright."

Senior-apprentice Brother Li's sneer froze on his face. He turned his head around, as if wanting to see if anyone also misunderstood this. What he saw was the stunned expressions of his several junior-apprentice brothers. 100 spirit stones, the opening offer of 100 spirit stones he had suggested out of malice, had actually been agreed to!

The faces of several men darkened.

Another person coughed, saying, "Senior-apprentice Brother Li, I seem to have heard high master mention that this scabbard is quite good. I think 100 spirit stones might be too low a price."

Senior-apprentice Brother Li was suddenly 'enlightened'. He said, "Right, right...it was my fault for not remembering!" he stared at Qin Yu and grew his teeth. "For this scabbard, we want...we want 500 spirit stones!"

Bang –

The surroundings suddenly burst into uproar.

The original price of 100 spirit stones already attracted a great deal of attention. No one thought that the price would suddenly rise to 500!

This price was enough to purchase a small top grade magic tool.

"Just what is that scabbard? He is actually being that greedy over it?"

"It might be the scabbard of a magic weapon level sword!"

"That's possible. If it really is part of a magic tool, the materials themselves will be worth over 500 spirit stones."

Amongst the discussion, Qin Yu frowned.

Suddenly, someone spoke up from the crowd, "500 spirit stones, I'll buy that scabbard."

Whoosh –

The crowd blew into an uproar once more!

The eyes of countless people widened and their chins nearly fell to the ground.

500 spirit stones! And someone actually wanted it!?

Senior-apprentice Brother Li was startled for a moment before he was overjoyed. "Okay." He turned and spoke up from a lofty position. "Someone is willing to pay 500 spirit stones. If you want it, you can raise the price."

For a fourth level Foundation Establishment, 100 spirit stones might be their entire fortune. Saying these words was purely meant to humiliate.

Qi Jiao was suddenly angered. "Senior-apprentice Brother Li!" She wrenched the scabbard back and handed it to Qin Yu. "I already said that it wasn't worth anything. I'll give it to you."

Senior-apprentice Brother Li and the others were stunned. At this moment, they felt as if their hearts would break into pieces.

Qin Yu thought a bit and said, "Miss Qi, this scabbard is indeed a bit uncommon. I cannot accept such a precious gift. I will buy it from you for 100 spirit stones."

Qi Jiao hesitated, "This..." But as she saw Qin Yu's earnest eyes, she hesitated and then slowly nodded.

Qin Yu received the scabbard, flicked his sleeve, and took out 100 spirit stones. They formed a small pile on the ground where they were a dazzling sight.

Many people gulped.

For cultivators below the Golden Core realm, unless they had deep backgrounds, 100 spirit stone was a considerable wealth.

As for Senior-apprentice Brother Li and the others, their complexions changed.

Storage bag!

This boy had a storage bag!

Qi Jiao was stunned. She seemed completely helpless.

Qin Yu swept his eyes around and softly said, "Miss Qi, please hurry and receive the spirit stones."

"Oh...oh!" Qi Jiao glanced around. A junior-apprentice brother took off his upper robes and wrapped up the spirit stones.

The cultivator who bid 500 spirit stones coldly glared at Qin Yu before turning to leave.

Qin Yu glanced at the man and frowned. This person's aura didn't leave him feeling too happy.

But this person didn't stay long and Qin Yu wasn't willing to create issues of his own volition. He cupped his hands and bowed to Qi Jiao, then took the scabbard and left.

After returning to his stone building, he took out several array discs and placed them in several different corners. Although they didn't possess much defensive ability, they were more than enough to conceal his aura. If someone wanted to spy on him, they would warn him ahead of time and give him sufficient time to respond.

With a flick of his sleeve, a brilliant light flashed and the scabbard appeared. Right next to it was a black short sword, the one obtained in the Land of Sealed Demons.

The black short sword shook and cried, as if it were weeping. It whistled and shot up on its own before inserting itself into the scabbard. Then, with a glow of black light, the rusty surface of the scabbard began to wriggle and change, eventually turning into a deep bluish black with bloodstains.

Icy coldness, a yin chill, ferocious, violent, all sorts of auras spread out from the black sword, as if it were slowly waking up from a deep sleep.

Chapter 63 – Hundred Nether Sword

Qin Yu's complexion changed. A bone-piercing cold invaded his body, soaring directly to his mind! Anxiousness, fear, despair, all sorts of feelings instantly flooded his mind. Memories that he didn't want to recall came surging back to the forefront.

All of this formed a horrifying psychological impact. If one was weak, their mind would fall into chaos and they would eventually destroy themselves. Sweat flowed out from Qin Yu's pores, causing his black robes to paste close to his body. His eyes began to turn bloodshot even as his face paled.

“Humph! As if something like this could shake my heart. Get out of me!” The divine sense of the Golden Core realm erupted. The ice cold aura was crushed apart and his mind returned to clarity.

Flicking a finger, a bead of blood fell onto the black sword. The surging black light shivered, as if it was trying to resist.

Qin Yu narrowed his eyes and coldly sneered. “Since I can bring you out of the Land of Sealed Demons, I can also place you beyond salvation. Make sure you understand this.”

The black sword whimpered. After it absorbed the drop of blood it fell into Qin Yu’s hand.

Hundred Nether Sword. Filled with demonic energy, it could swallow essence and souls to evolve to a higher level.

So, it turned out that only when the short sword combined with the scabbard could it be called a complete demonic treasure. Moreover, with its ability to evolve on its own, it could be called priceless. If he had a lucky chance in the future and this short sword advanced to a spirit treasure, its might would reach inconceivable realms. This was definitely a good thing.

Although a spirit treasure evolving was extremely difficult, that didn’t mean it was impossible. Just this tiny sliver of hope made the black sword invaluable.

If he considered this, then he owed that cultivator Qi Jiao a favor.

Qin Yu put away the black sword. He had to be careful in Immortal Eclipse Valley. The reason he was here was to wait for a chance to take action.

For the next several days, Qin Yu lay quiet, seeming completely common and unordinary. The attention brought about by buying the scabbard with a hundred spirit stones also gradually dispersed.

Although he didn’t leave the mountainside residence, Qin Yu was still able to observe that Immortal Eclipse Valley was becoming far more strict and there were often patrol groups wandering about. Without an accident, this should be because news of the Radiant Red Wood was beginning to spread out widely.

And as he expected, it wasn’t long before news of the Radiant Red Wood became a hot topic in the mountainside settlement. He knew that the chance he was waiting for would soon arrive. His actions became increasingly low key. Although he made a public appearance every day, he would soon return to his room without displaying any strange actions.

On his ninth day at Immortal Eclipse Valley, Qin Yu left his stone building as usual. Some people saw him and nodded in greeting.

Qin Yu smiled in return and started walking towards the trading market. After spending some time and just before he was about to leave, he heard a ruckus in front of him. This sort of event wasn’t rare at all. Even though Immortal Eclipse Valley forbade killing between cultivators, with so many people of various temperaments mixed up together there, it was inevitable that there would be friction.

Generally speaking, Qin Yu would walk away when he encountered something like this. But today, he hesitated for a moment and then walked towards the cultivators arguing in front.

Qi Jiao's eyes were wet with tears. She was holding a jade bottle. "You liars, this Condensed Jade Dew is fake, it isn't useful at all!"

The several people on the opposite side of the stall all had ugly complexions. Facing a naive-looking girl that was bawling her eyes out, they found it difficult to vent their anger!

A purple-clothed cultivator took in a deep shuddering breath. He said, "Little girl, you cannot say such irresponsible words. When you came yesterday you personally verified that there wasn't a problem before you purchased the Condensed Jade Dew for 100 spirit stones, so how can you say we are liars!?"

Qi Jiao froze and then her tears started flowing faster. "Stop trying to trick me, I'm not lying!"

One could see that her heartbreak and sorrow were real with a glance. The surrounding people looked at the stall vendors and their eyes started to fill with contempt. To think that a group of old masters actually decided to deceive a little girl, it was truly incredible!

The purple-clothed cultivator nearly choked on his own rage. If he didn't want his reputation to be ruined here, he really needed to do something. He reached into his chest and pulled out a jade bottle exactly like the one Qi Jiao was holding. He said, "Everyone, come and take a look. I accidentally gathered two bottles of Condensed Jade Dew. One was sold to this miss and the other bottle was left behind." He carefully opening the sealed talisman and waved his hand. "Everyone, please smell this. This is real Condensed Jade Dew. We do not sell counterfeit goods here."

"That smell really is Condensed Jade Dew."

"This sort of thing is always inspected during the purchasing process. It's hard to mistake it for anything else."

"Well, even if you say that, it doesn't look like this young miss is lying."

Qi Jiao didn't know what to say. She held tightly onto the jade bottle with a helpless expression.

The purple-clothed cultivator was worried. If he couldn't solve this problem it would be hard for him to sell anything else in the future. But then, someone behind him whispered something into his ear. The cultivator's eyes brightened. He quickly asked, "Miss, after the exchange yesterday, I cautioned you that the seal on the Condensed Jade Dew cannot be opened for too long, otherwise it will be polluted by the air and become useless. Did you follow my advice?"

Qi Jiao nodded. "I only looked at it during the inspection, but I never opened it afterwards. I passed the bottle to Senior-apprentice Brother Li to give to my master, but today he told me that the Condensed Jade Dew was fake."

Shua –

A considerable number of eyes turned their way. Panic flashed in Senior-apprentice Brother Li's eyes for a moment before he sneered, "You are clearly bullying my junior-apprentice sister and taking advantage of her naiveté to sell her fake goods, and yet you dare place the blame on the victims instead. How ridiculous! Let me tell you now, you'd better return my junior-apprentice sister's spirit stones, otherwise we won't be polite anymore!"

"That's right. Stop with the nonsense and return the spirit stones!"

“You want to bully our Junior-apprentice Sister Qi? How brave of you!”

“It’s like he really thinks we are easy to bully!”

Several people behind him began to shout and curse.

The purple-clothed man sneered. “I think you all came here deliberately stir up trouble? You want me to return the spirit stones? There are none!”

Although I cannot do anything to that little girl, I can still overturn the heavens with you several bastards!

Shua –

The several people behind the stall suddenly stood up together.

But everyone’s eyes still fell onto the purple-clothed man’s body. The aura of an early Golden Core was simply too dazzling!

No one imagined that this middle-aged man who kept trying to explain things was actually a Golden Core cultivator. Senior-apprentice Brother Li and the others were all immediately left panic-stricken.

The audience suddenly changed their opinion.

“What sort of status does a Golden Core realm senior have? Would he really do something that would impact his reputation so much like selling counterfeit goods?”

“That’s right, a mere hundred spirit stones isn’t anything at all.”

“It seems that these young people were intentionally trying to trick him. But their luck is too bad. They unexpectedly managed to provoke a Golden Core senior.”

“That little girl doesn’t really look like a liar at all. Hah, you really can’t tell a person’s personality based on their appearance!”

Pity for a beautiful woman? Sympathy? What was that? Everyone was willing to stand firmly on the side of a Golden Core cultivator!

The purple-clothed man sneered, “You all had better give me an explanation for today!” After being forced to reveal his cultivation, no matter how good his temperament was, he was still pushed to anger.

Senior-apprentice Brother Li and the others flushed red. Their words had been filled with too much bravado just now and there was no way for them to turn back. He looked at Qi Jiao with pleading eyes, hinting for her repeatedly to apologize.

This was a Golden Core! Although this was as common as dirt in Immortal Eclipse Valley, for these people, this was actually a mountain that could not be surpassed. This was especially true at the moment. Their sect’s only master had been heavily wounded and was recuperating. They didn’t dare to provoke such trouble.

Qi Jiao’s face flushed red. She knew that she couldn’t offend a Golden Core powerhouse, but at the same time she hadn’t been lying either, so why should she have to apologize? With grief, shame, worry,

and helplessness all pooling together in her heart, she tried to wipe her tears away but they smudged against her face.

“I’m s-s-sorry!”

The purple-clothed man seemed as if he couldn’t stand this any longer. No matter how good his temper was, he still had his own dignity. He would wait for them to give an explanation and then he would turn around and say that he was willing to not pursue the matter, but this young girl looked far too pitiful and sad; he just didn’t have the heart to do anything to her.

“Miss Qi, please let me take a look at the bottle of Condensed Jade Dew.” As he spoke, Qin Yu had already arrived by her side.

Many people still remembered the struggle for the scabbard several days ago and they instantly recognized him. After being startled for a moment, they all revealed helpless looks. It seemed he really was doing this for a woman. This lovestruck fool had been stupid enough to pay 100 spirit stones for trash, but now he was willing to provoke a Golden Core on his own initiative. He simply had no sense of how vast the heavens and earth was!

As Qi Jiao saw Qin Yu, she inexplicably felt at ease. Her grief also erupted once more for no reason; it was like she was crying a lifetime supply of tears.

“I...I...I’m really...not lying...I...I really didn’t...”

Qin Yu took the jade bottle. He opened it and then looked at and smelled it. He said, “This bottle of Condensed Jade Dew takes around eight hours to deteriorate.” As he spoke, he looked up at the purple-clothed cultivator.

For some unknown reason, the middle-aged man responded, “From the time the exchange was completed yesterday, it’s been around 16 hours.”

Qin Yu nodded. “Miss Qi, when did you hand over the bottle of Condensed Jade Dew?”

Qi Jiao sobbed. “As soon as I bought it I gave it to Senior-apprentice Brother Li.”

After this girl bought the bottle, she gave it to her Senior-apprentice Brother Li. And, the time it took for the Jade Condensed Dew to deteriorate was eight hours. If this were true, then if there was a problem it would be because of Senior-apprentice Brother Li.

Many questioning gazes moved over to Senior-apprentice Brother Li. He became even more flustered and angry. “What nonsense are you talking about? Eight hours? How do you know it is eight hours? Let me warn you, don’t speak nonsense!”

Qin Yu calmly said, “This is Immortal Eclipse Valley and there are countless alchemy masters here. if you ask someone, you’ll soon know whether or not I’m telling the truth.”

Shua –

Shua –

With a flurry of flashes, three Immortal Eclipse Valley disciples appeared.

“What is causing trouble here?”

The purple-clothed cultivator cupped his hands across his chest. “Three fellow daoists, this matter is related to me. I’m sorry to bother you.”

The three men bowed in return. “Greetings, Senior Wei.”

Even in Immortal Eclipse Valley, Golden Core cultivators were given their due level of respect.

A disciple said, “Senior Wei, what is the matter here?”

Wei Jing quickly explained the events so far. Then he pointed a finger.

“Condensed Jade Dew isn’t considered too precious. I can appraise it for you.” An Immortal Eclipse Valley disciple put out a hand. “Please let me take a look.”

Qin Yu handed over the jade bottle.

The Immortal Eclipse Valley disciple smelled it. He poured a little onto his hand and rubbed it a bit. He nodded, “That’s right, it is indeed eight hours. There is extremely little of the medicinal efficacy left.” He glanced over at Qin Yu. “This fellow daoist has sharp eyes.”

Qin Yu cupped his hands across his chest. “I only happen to know a little. I don’t dare show off my paltry skills in front of an expert.”

The Immortal Eclipse Valley cultivator smiled. He turned, “Senior Wei, how do you want to handle this?”

Wei Jing fell silent.

Senior-apprentice Brother Li started to stream with sweat. His face turned deathly white.

Qi Jiao angrily glared at her Senior-apprentice Brother Li for having been deceived by him. But in the end, they were still from the same sect. Since they had suffered a misfortune, she couldn’t just stand by and watch something happen to him. But for things to get to this point and for her to not be blamed, this was already rare enough. She glanced over at Qin Yu.

This was the subconscious action of a young girl who was helpless and nervous. She didn’t want Qin Yu to get into trouble for her; she really didn’t.

Then, she saw Qin Yu think for a moment and step forwards.

Qi Jiao’s eyes widened. What are you trying to do? Don’t do anything stupid, just hurry and leave!”

Qin Yu cupped his hands across his chest. “Senior Wei, we were the ones wrong in today’s events. I ask that you forgive us in your great benevolence and to not pursue this matter any further.”

When the senior-apprentice sister heard news of what was occurring, she already started to run over here. And when she arrived, she just happened to hear these words. Her complexion immediately darkened. In this sort of situation, shouldn’t you be kneeling on the floor and pleading for forgiveness? Instead, you directly asked them to not pursue this matter any further? Who do you think you are? If you enrage this Golden Core senior, that will be far too troublesome!

“Greetings, Senior Wei! My junior-apprentice sister and junior-apprentice brothers have no sensibilities at all and have offended senior. I ask that you be broad-minded about this! I am willing to offer spirit stones as an apology, and I also ask that senior spare them and not punish them too harshly. Please show mercy to them this time.”

Wei Jing glanced at her and then glanced at Qin Yu. He waved his hand dismissively. “Whatever. Consider it over. Just consider today a misunderstanding. You can all leave.”

Chapter 64 – Paying A Visit

Consider it over?

With these words, the audience was left stunned.

A good number of people cursed inwardly that this lucky bastard had stepped into dog shit luck. Some people also admired that Senior Wei was truly a generous and broad-minded individual. Though he had been accused of a false crime, he didn’t bother investigating it.

The Immortal Eclipse Valley disciple coldly said, “Since Senior Wei doesn’t wish to push the matter, then just leave. From now on, be more careful in your actions. You might not have the same luck next time.”

The senior-apprentice sister looked at Wei Jing with surprise and gratitude. She quickly pulled her junior-apprentice sister and junior-apprentice brothers away, bowing repeatedly as she did so. As for Qin Yu, this boy that jumped out of nowhere, he absolutely had impure thoughts. As they said, a gentleman’s desire was a fair lady, so this wasn’t out of the ordinary at all. But since he didn’t seem to know his own worth, it was best to keep as far away from him as possible.

Qi Jiao clearly wanted to say something but she was forcibly pulled away by her senior-apprentice sister. She looked at Qin Yu apologetically as she left, but he simply smiled, not caring much. The reason he helped today was because he felt he owed her a favor and didn’t want to be involved with her later. This could be called a perfect result.

Otherwise these people might be implicated in some future mess because of him.

With the liveliness gone, the crowd began to disperse. A good number of eyes fell on Qin Yu, all of them thinking he was too foolish. He had helped others with clear good intentions and yet those people didn’t care for him at all as they walked away. What a pitiful boy.

Qin Yu didn’t notice all these thoughts that people had about him. He turned to leave.

“Little friend, please wait a moment.” After Wei Jing sent away the three Immortal Eclipse Valley disciples, he called out for Qin Yu and jogged over.

Qin Yu cupped his hands across his chest, “What does senior want?”

Wei Jing glanced around. He said, “This isn’t a good place to talk. Little friend, would it be alright to come back to my residence for a brief chat?”

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed and he nodded.

Wei Jing was overjoyed. “Then come with me.”

After leaving the trade market, they followed a path halfway up the mountain until they reached a courtyard that stretched into the distance. This was a place that Immortal Eclipse Valley had set up for Golden Core cultivators and the scenery was quite beautiful.

Although the juniors behind didn't know why their great uncle was being so courteous to this boy, they were all well-educated in the proper manners for these times. They poured tea without asking any questions.

Wei Jing waved his hand. "Enough, you all can leave." As the disciples left, he revealed a sincere expression. "Little friend, I will get straight to the point. If I disrespect you in any way, I ask that you forgive me beforehand. So, may I ask whether or not you have some sort of thunder-attribute treasure on your body?"

Qin Yu's eyebrows furrowed together.

Wei Jing waved his hand. "Little friend, there is no need to think too much about this; I have no ill intent towards you. It is that the cultivation method I practice requires a thunder-type treasure to assist me. If little friend is willing to sell it, I can purchase it at a higher price." He paused for a moment and then continued, "Little friend should have noticed that I only come from a small immortal cultivation family. My breakthrough into the Golden Core realm was by accident to begin with, so I am not that wealthy. However, even if I have to borrow some wealth, I will still give little friend a satisfactory price."

This person, he was truly to the point!

Qin Yu asked, "How did Senior Wei know that I have a thunder-attribute treasure on me?"

Wei Jing responded. "It is related to my cultivation method. As long as a treasure appears that can attract it, a form of resonance will occur. Even if it is in a storage bag it cannot be completely blocked off."

Qin Yu shook his head, "So the reason Senior Wei decided not to pursue the previous matter was in order to take advantage of me?"

Wei Jing dryly laughed. "Little friend must have found it funny."

And he even admitted it!

Qin Yu thought for a moment and said, "Since Senior Wei generously forgave my friends, then by all reasoning, there isn't much I can say to refuse you."

Wei Jing nodded again and again, as if saying 'this is how things should be'. But, Qin Yu's following words made his face stiffen.

"But the item in my hands has other uses so I cannot give it up. I ask that Senior Wei also be open-minded about this too. Then, junior bids his farewells." Qin Yu rose up to leave.

Wei Jing frowned. Intuition told him that what Qin Yu said wasn't the truth, so why wasn't he willing to sell it?

"Great uncle, with your current cultivation why are you wasting your time talking to him? Just use a bit of force to make him agree!" A Wei Family junior indignantly sputtered.

Wei Jing coldly shouted, "Shut up! What do I normally teach all of you? You did not learn cultivation to oppress those smaller and weaker than you!"

Several juniors were left scared. They lowered their heads and apologized.

Wei Jing calmed down. "All of you need to remember that the world of cultivation is a world of hidden tigers and dragons. You can never know where powerhouses are hiding, so it is best to be careful in all things."

"Great uncle, are you saying that this boy is pretending to be a pig to eat the tiger?"

Wei Jing didn't reply. He beckoned with his hand, "Go and find out which building he is staying in. Tomorrow I will personally pay him a visit."

The juniors didn't dare to ask further questions. They all respectfully drew back.

Two days later.

Wei Jing combed his hair and tidied himself. Wearing his formal robes, he brought two of his family's more clever disciples and walked up the mountainside with gifts behind. This was a proper visit that placed Qin Yu on the same level as himself. In truth, Wei Jing wasn't sure if Qin Yu was some concealed great expert, but the feelings he gave off were unpredictable. In addition to how calm Qin Yu had been in yesterday's situation, it was always best to be careful than to be wrong.

Of course, all of this was also related to his moral character. Since he needed help from others, it was proper protocol to bring gifts.

Yesterday the junior disciples had already confirmed where Qin Yu lived. He had decided that no matter what price he needed to pay, he had to obtain that treasure. But, seeing as how Qin Yu seemed like someone who was particularly hard-headed and stubborn, he feared that he wouldn't change his decision to not sell. If it was too difficult to change his mind, what should he do then?

As he was deep in thought, his group was suddenly blocked by someone. Wei Jing looked up and his complexion darkened. He coldly said, "It's you again?"

The senior-apprentice sister and Qi Jiao both had flustered expressions. They quickly bowed and said, "Greetings, Senior Wei." These two people had rushed here to see him.

Their teacher's injuries were becoming increasingly heavy and they desperately needed Condensed Jade Dew to help suppress it. When they learned yesterday that Wei Jing had another bottle in hand they had wavered for a long time before coming back again. Even if the price was high, they had to purchase that bottle of Condensed Jade Dew.

But the two didn't know where Wei Jing lived nor did they dare to wander about aimlessly. They continued walking through the trading market, hoping to see him again, but after a long and fruitless search they left disappointed. However, just as they were about to give up, Wei Jing appeared with his group. They were both happily surprised and quickly went to greet him, thus creating this current scene.

Seeing the polite attitude of the two, Wei Jing's complexion became a little bit better. "What do you two want?"

The senior-apprentice sister's heart raced as she quickly explained how she wanted to buy the bottle of Condensed Jade Dew.

The two juniors behind Wei Jing coldly sneered. Although they didn't say anything, their meaning was clear to all. Yesterday you came to slander us and today you returned to buy the same thing; it's as if you think this is a game!

The senior-apprentice sister blushed red. She said, "The Condensed Jade Dew is indeed extremely important to us. We hope senior can agree to sell it to us for 200 spirit stones."

Wei Jing shook his head, refusing them. Right now all of his thoughts were on Qin Yu and he didn't have any free time to waste on them. But after taking several steps he paused and turned, "Do you know little friend Qin Yu?"

The senior-apprentice sister thought there was a favorable turning point for them, but as soon as the smile appeared on her face it vanished just as quickly. Qin Yu? Who was that!?

Qi Jiao was also flummoxed.

Wei Jing was also baffled. How did this situation occur? That young man helped you yesterday but you don't even know his name? However, Wei Jing was someone who was richly experienced in human affairs. After thinking a bit, he thought of a possibility. His expression became a bit more gentle, "He is the little friend who helped you yesterday."

"Ah!" Qi Jiao cried out.

Wei Jing asked, "Miss Qi knows him, right?"

Qi Jiao blanched. She bit her lips helplessly.

Wei Jing hurriedly said, "Miss Qi, there is no need to be anxious. I have no evil intentions in asking this, there are just some requests I wish to make. How about this. If you can help me convince little friend Qin Yu to agree with my request, I can gift you the Condensed Jade Dew."

He waved his hand. "Let's go. I was just hurrying over to meet him."

The senior-apprentice sister and Qi Jiao glanced at each other, both of them feeling faint at heart. Senior Wei Jing was actually hurrying over to see Qin Yu and he even had a request to make of him. What sort of mysteries did he have and what sort of abilities did he possess that even Senior Wei would be so careful that he would also be willing to gift them the Condensed Jade Dew.

"Senior-apprentice sister, what do we do?"

The senior-apprentice sister looked at Qi Jiao. She began to speak but hesitated. She clenched her teeth, "Let's follow him!"

Wei Jing stood firmly in front of the stone building. He waved his hand and ordered the two Wei Family juniors to go ahead and knock on the door.

Soon, the door opened. As Qin Yu saw his visitors, his complexion became much gloomier. "Senior Wei, what are you doing here?"

With the critical moments of the Radiant Red Wood soon at hand, he didn't want any attention on him at all. But Wei Jing's visit here today clearly turned all of his plans into a joke.

A Foundation Establishment junior was able to make a Golden Core cultivator personally come and pay a visit. No one would believe this wasn't suspicious!

Wei Jing's heart tightened. That inexplicable and elusive feeling rose up in his heart once more, and even made him feel a bit of fear and apprehension. He quickly laughed and said, "I had some free time today and decided to pay a visit to little friend. Also, I happened to meet these two young misses on the road, so we came to visit together. I hope that little friend Qin Yu doesn't mind our disturbance."

Qin Yu wanted to roar out loud and tell these people to stop being so needlessly polite. As he saw the shocked looks of his neighbors, he took a deep breath and said, "I welcome Senior Wei. Please come in so we can speak!" He glanced over at the two other juniors as well as the senior-apprentice sister and Qi Jiao who were standing some distance away.

Wei Jing turned and ordered, "Presents...oh, you can wait here!"

The senior-apprentice sister quickly said, "We will wait here."

Qin Yu could feel the stares on him. To even bring presents? Can you please knock it off! He couldn't let this old fellow continue to act so unreasonably, otherwise there definitely would be a problem!

Yesterday, he even thought this Wei Jing fellow was a kind and sincere man. It turned out Qin Yu was just too young and inexperienced.

"Senior Wei, please."

Bang –

The stone building door slammed shut.

Qin Yu's complexion was ugly as he said, "Senior Wei, what is the meaning of all this?"

Wei Jing felt an inexplicable sense of dread and his heart raced even faster. He gulped and laughed, "Little friend, I came for that thing I spoke about yesterday. I hope that little friend is willing to sell it!" He braced himself and continued, "The two young misses following me also hope that I can sell them my other bottle of Condensed Jade. As long as little friend is willing to part with your treasure, I will immediately give them the Condensed Jade Dew!"

Qin Yu chuckled in anger. He flicked his sleeve, "I have no relation to them so it's useless for you to use them as bargaining chips. I told you yesterday that I have a use for it, so I cannot sell it to you."

Wei Jing forced a smile, "Is it really no good?"

"No!"

Wei Jing sighed. "Alright. Then I will bother you again tomorrow."

Qin Yu stared at him. Where was the kind man who would just say okay and leave? Where was he!?

Even if I mistook you because I was too young, you still can't change so dramatically. You're even threatening me without doing anything!

"Senior Wei, don't push things too far!"

Wei Jing bitterly smiled. "I hope that little friend can comply, because there is no other option for me." He continued to say, "As little friend can see, I am at the Golden Core realm, so why would I run halfway up the mountainside for an exchange? It is because I have offended someone above me so I was pushed all the way down here. If I cannot make a breakthrough in my cultivation then perhaps my Wei Family will truly be over. Thus, I have no other option but to continue with this plan. I hope that little friend excuses my rudeness."

Qin Yu's face darkened to pure black. He clenched his teeth and said, "5000 spirit stones, not a single one less! Moreover, I must remind you that if there is any trouble in the future because of today, then don't blame me!"

Wei Jing was overjoyed. "Many thanks little friend! 5000 spirit stones is quite a lot so I will immediately head back to prepare them. I will come and bother you again tomorrow!"

Qin Yu frowned, "Are you really not afraid of attracting trouble?"

Wei Jing said, "My Wei Family is about to be over with, so what troubles would I be afraid of? Then, I bid my farewell."

"Wait!" Qin Yu raised a hand. "Tomorrow, come by yourself. This is too showy a performance. And don't forget to bring the Condensed Jade Dew."

Wei Jing was all smiles. "Little friend feel relieved, I will definitely remember."

Chapter 65 – Grand Alchemy Meeting

Two people pushed open the door and several eyes gathered on them. As the two Wei Family juniors saw Wei Jing's smiling face, they were left stunned. As for the senior-apprentice sister and Qi Jiao, they tensed up a little. They hadn't done anything at all, and in fact they didn't know what they should do. Even if Qin Yu agreed to anything it wasn't related to them at all.

Wei Jing's eyes swept over. He smiled, "Two misses, feel relieved that little friend Qin Yu has agreed to an exchange. To keep with our previous promise, please accept this bottle of Condensed Jade Dew."

This was the knowledge of an experienced man. Although the two young girls hadn't said anything at all, Wei Jing was still able to read the moment and change his tone a little so that everyone thought that the reason Qin Yu agreed to him was partially to show some face to these two. Little friend, little friend, this is the most I can do for you!

Seeing this happy fellow's eyes light up like a bonfire, Qin Yu's eyes twitched. Just what was this fellow doing?

Could he have awakened some playful mode!?

The senior-apprentice sister was incredibly surprised and overjoyed. Just as she received the jade bottle, she paused for a moment and turned her head.

Qi Jiao was blushing red. She looked Qin Yu in the eyes and quietly said, "Thank you."

Qin Yu cupped his hands across his chest. "There is no need to thank me, Miss Qi."

After the two young women left, Wei Jing chuckled. "Little friend sure has good judgment. That young Miss Qi is kindhearted and gracious. It's rare to find someone like that. Oh, you don't need to explain anything to me, I'll be on my way now."

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. What was with all these insinuations? He shook his head and avoided the surprised looks of his neighbors as he headed back into his stone house.

The next day, the two Wei Family juniors respectfully knocked on the door. After a moment they quickly hurried away.

Qin Yu had 5000 more spirit stones in his storage bag and the Skythunder Bamboo was short a branch. Although it was only a tiny section, it was still part of a 10,000 year Skythunder Bamboo; the price was absolutely undervalued.

Of course, everything that needed to be said was said. If Wei Jing was smart he wouldn't meddle in his business anymore.

Suddenly, loud noises rose up from outside and powerful fluctuations of strength transmitted from the distance.

Qin Yu's complexion changed. He flicked his sleeves and pushed open the house's doors. With several flickers of his body, he appeared halfway up the mountainside.

He looked towards the core valley with rapt attention. A divine red beam of light shot into the skies and illuminated the heavens. Rich spiritual strength spread outwards.

Three distressed figures rushed out with massive dark clouds chasing right behind. A horrifying buzzing sound from vibrating wings flooded the world.

"Purpleback Bluewing Ants!"

"My heavens, how could they be so terrifying!"

"Those are three Golden Cores and looking at their auras, the weakest amongst them is at the late Golden Core realm. But, none of them have the strength to resist!"

With miserable cries, the three Golden Core cultivators that snuck into Immortal Eclipse Valley's forbidden land were soon torn apart and eaten up as food by the Purpleback Bluewing Ants. Qin Yu felt his heart shiver and his mind raced. With a wave of his sleeve, several golden leaves appeared in his hands. These were the leaves of the Greatsun Mulberry.

In the distance, the mass of Purpleback Bluewing Ants that killed the three Golden Cores were about to turn back and head home. But suddenly they cried out in excitement and turned back around.

Qin Yu jumped in fear. He never thought that even though he was so far away and he had just taken out the Greatsun Mulberry leaves, the Purpleback Bluewing Ants would still be able to discover them. Moreover, their reaction was incredibly fierce, as if they had been starving for countless years.

After quickly putting the leaves back into his storage bag, Qin Yu copied the other cultivators around him and started to scream in panic and retreat. But by this time, the Purpleback Bluewing Ants had already flown close by. They circled in the skies, constantly emitting angry screams. Their speed was extraordinary; it was no wonder they could overtake and kill three late Golden Core realm masters!

Shua –

A silver-haired old man appeared in front of the mass of ants. His hands constantly formed mudras as boundless waves of magic power erupted from him, as if mountains were crashing and thunder was roaring.

The Purpleback Bluewing Ants howled again and again. But after losing their target, they eventually flew away and disappeared with the divine red light.

The silver-haired man turned around. His face was covered in a veil of mist so that no one could make out his features, but his eyes shone like great suns that could see through all things. Beneath his gaze, everyone froze, and panic began to swell up from deep in their hearts. Luckily, he didn't seem to notice anything and he disappeared as soon as he arrived.

Qin Yu was covered in a cold sweat. This man was absolutely a Nascent Soul cultivator; his strength was even above that of the Seven Slaughter Demon Sect's Sect Master, Heavenstar Demon.

Immortal Eclipse Valley was truly terrifying!

The red divine light proved the existence of the Radiant Divine Wood, and the temptation that the Greatsun Mulberry leaves held for the Purpleback Bluewing Ants was far greater than he had imagined. With Immortal Eclipse Valley being so dreadful, how could he approach the Radiant Red Wood?

As Qin Yu was worried about how to approach the Radiant Red Wood, there were also some people wondering about him.

Qi Jiao rubbed her chin, a bit distracted. If he really liked her, how come he didn't come looking for her?

As the senior-apprentice sister saw this, she hesitated for a moment before walking over. "Junior-apprentice sister, what are you thinking about?"

Qi Jiao blushed, "Nothing."

The senior-apprentice sister sat down. With a thoughtful look, she said, "Junior-apprentice sister, I will admit that I underestimated Qin Yu. If he can have Senior Wei place him in such high regard then there must be something extraordinary about him. But, this person is absolutely not a good match for you."

Qi Jiao's eyes widened. "Why?"

The senior-apprentice sister shook her head. "Honorable master said that if Qin Yu is so extraordinary and yet is willing to hide himself amongst the people and appear ordinary, then he must have some plan in mind. With the recent matter of the Radiant Divine Wood being spread everywhere, it's likely he came here for that reason."

Qi Jiao cried out in alarm. "That's not good, he cannot have any plans about the Radiant Red Wood. Just today, three Golden Cores were torn apart and eaten by those Purpleback Bluewing Ants, so how could he even think about it!?"

The senior-apprentice sister covered Qi Jiao's mouth. "Hush! Do you want everyone to know? This is only honorable master's guess, it isn't necessarily the truth."

There was also something else that the senior-apprentice sister didn't say. According to their honorable master, Qin Yu had no romantic affection towards her at all. Rather, the reason he helped them was because of the scabbard. Originally, the senior-apprentice sister hadn't believed this, but if Qin Yu really did have intentions towards Qi Jiao it would have been impossible for him to not appear for so many days.

The senior-apprentice sister wanted to inform Qi Jiao about this so that she wouldn't be further saddened in the future, but as she saw her heavyhearted and morose appearance, she couldn't bring herself to say it.

.....

The Radiant Red Wood was like a devilish temptation that wrapped itself around the hearts of all, causing their innermost feelings of desire to surge outwards. Even so, they were left suffering without any way to get close. But at this time, Immortal Eclipse Valley opened a door on their own initiative to allow people a chance to approach the Radiant Red Wood.

The demonic path was still rampaging through the Southern Empire. In order to rouse the morale of the cultivator alliance and help lift the banner of resistance against the demonic path, Immortal Eclipse Valley decided to hold a Grand Alchemy Meeting. Foundation Establishment and Golden Core cultivators were all able to participate, and the top ten participants were allowed to cultivate beneath the Radiant Red Wood for a month. This competition only compared one's alchemy skills and not their cultivation.

At the same time, news spread out from Immortal Eclipse Valley that the ancient Radiant Red Wood was gathering a massive amount of elementary heaven and earth strength. This created a natural domain, and within this domain a single day of cultivation would equal a month of cultivation outside. And, there was also the mysterious effect of breaking through bottlenecks.

The Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty began to seethe with excitement.

Some people said that Immortal Eclipse Valley's true goal was to formally declare ownership of the Radiant Red Wood. Taking advantage of the Grand Alchemy Meeting they wanted to warn everyone so that factions from all over would forget any ill intent they had. But no matter what the situation was, as the news spread out, dark undercurrents began to form.

There were far too many people registering and it was impossible for all of them to compete. Immortal Eclipse Valley set up three screening methods and only by passing all three could one register.

These were to choose the correct alchemy materials, choose the right pill recipe, and then refine a basic level pill that met all standards. With Qin Yu's performance he was able to smoothly register.

Half a month later, the Grand Alchemy Meeting began as scheduled. Immortal Eclipse Valley cleared out all their alchemist disciples from Alchemy Mountain to use the place as the competition field.

Alchemy Mountain was 3000 feet tall and countless holes were carved into the surface. All of these holes were caves that were opened by previous cultivators of Immortal Eclipse Valley, and it was one of the inheritances that helped Immortal Eclipse Valley reach the level they were at today.

The one managing the Grand Alchemy Meeting was a late Golden Core Elder of Immortal Eclipse Valley, a man named Eclipse Xin. He had a somber and humorless expression that was just a bit cold. "The Grand Alchemy Meeting prohibits any fraudulent methods; any offenders will be severely punished. Today, there is a limit of two hours. Those who create a qualified pill will pass and the rest will be eliminated. Begin!"

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

The participating cultivators had already been verified and were anxiously waiting. They quickly flew up Alchemy Mountain. For alchemy, two hours was too short a time period; none of them had the spare time to think of anything else.

In the crowd, Qi Jiao's eyes widened. She suddenly froze as she saw a figure in the flow of cultivators.

Qin Yu was unexpectedly an alchemist!

At this time he was flying up with everyone else, seeming completely ordinary. As she thought of what her senior-apprentice sister had told her, she anxiously bit her lips.

Could it be that you really came for the Radiant Red Wood?

Qin Yu seemed to sense something. He turned his head and their gazes touched. He briefly smiled and nodded and then flew up into an alchemy cave.

After entering the cave, Qin Yu didn't hurriedly start refining pills like everyone else. He slowly swept his divine sense across every inch of the room, and after making sure that nothing was wrong, he revealed a smile.

Immortal Eclipse Valley still kept to their rules. Like this, things would be absolutely safe for him. With the little blue lamp in hand, a top ten ranking was already guaranteed.

This wasn't fair to others, but did true fairness exist in this world?

By the time Qin Yu sat down, a fifth of the time had passed. Still, his expression was calm and tranquil. He leisurely glanced at the materials in front of him.

Ghost Lotus Flowers, Dry Thunder Branches, Clear Roasted Grass, Fuxi Burl...there were many different types of materials of different quality. Some were of extremely good quality, some had withered, and some were even fake.

For example, Dry Thunder Branches. They were the result of heavenly thunder striking mulberry willow trees and then taking the surviving wood. Because of this process, the price was extremely high. Many cultivators tried to profit from this and attempted to manufacture fakes using their thunder techniques, and some methods were incredibly subtle, making it hard to identify if they were genuine or not.

For a competent alchemist, identifying materials was the most important basic knowledge and this was being tested at the very start of the competition. This pile of materials included all sorts of qualities and varieties and many different types of pills could be refined. As for what materials were chosen and what pill was refined, that was up to the individual.

Qin Yu grabbed six different materials. They were all ordinary types. Compared to precious materials like Dry Thunder Branches, one wouldn't even glance at them. But, although it was true that Immortal Eclipse Valley was disgustingly rich, with over 500 cultivators participating in this competition it was impossible for them to waste precious materials like this.

Of course, there was likely an extremely small number of Dry Thunder Branches, but Qin Yu clearly didn't see any. What he wanted to refine was the Essence Augmenting Pill. Yes, that was right, the most ordinary pill that all Foundation Establishment realm cultivators could use, the pill used to enhance their magic power and cultivation.

Even if one successfully refined this pill, there wouldn't be any bragging rights at all. However, this competition only required that the pill meet the basic standards and didn't specify a higher level of quality.

Taking out the Fleeting Flame Furnace, Qin Yu poured in his magic power. The fire elemental within was activated and a burning hot heat was immediately released. As Qin Yu waited for the Fleeting Flame Furnace to heat up, he flicked his sleeve, tossing the first material into the furnace.

Several hundred people were refining pills at the same time and the rich medicinal smell filled the senses. This sort of scene could only appear in Immortal Eclipse Valley, but to an alchemist it wasn't necessarily a good thing.

Bang –

With a dull explosion, an odious smell rushed out from a cave. A cultivator howled out in pain and bitterness, "This Thousandgold Grass is fake!"

Soon, an explosion rang out from another cave. A disheveled cultivator rushed out, breathless with anger, "Which bastard caused me to fail in refining my pill? Come out and meet me!"

It was clear that the previous explosion had caused this person to fail.

The gloomy-faced cultivator walked out from his cave. "What are you shouting about? If your furnace exploded it's because your level is too low!"

"You bastard, I will teach you today why flowers are red!"

"I'm not scared of you!"

Just as the two people were about to fight, the Immortal Eclipse Valley cultivators intervened and forced them to leave. According to the rules set down by Immortal Eclipse Valley for the Grand Alchemy Meeting, as long as one didn't directly ruin another person's pill refining process, then there would be no punishment.

If a cultivator was affected by external influences, leading to the failure of your pill refining, that only meant that your heart and mind weren't calm enough and your skill wasn't high enough. There wasn't anyone to blame but yourself.

Chapter 66 – Not Enough Materials

For the next hour, there were people who would periodically fail in their alchemy refining. The most ridiculous one was someone who wanted to refine a Foundation Establishment realm Five Thunder Pill. To refine this pill, a Dry Thunder Branch was required as one of the main ingredients. Perhaps because his luck was good or maybe because he had sharp eyesight, but the Dry Thunder Branch he chose was the genuine article. However, his alchemy skill was lacking and in the process of refining the pill his furnace exploded. Not only did the fragments of the furnace strike him in the head, leading to him being covered in his own blood, by the erupting power of thunder swelled out for a hundred feet and drew four other bad luck fellows to fail together with him.

The most tragic part of this was that one of those alchemists was actually quite skilled. Just as he reached the final step in refining his pill, he was only able to watch helplessly as his nearly formed pill was crushed by lightning. His anger was so deep that he could eat people alive. If it weren't for Immortal Eclipse Valley stopping him, then that brother who tried refining the Five Thunder Pill might have been torn apart on the spot!

There was nothing one could do about this, it could only be said that one's luck was bad. But to cultivators, luck was an important concept. Through time, numerous illustrious supreme elders had bloomed amongst their peers, and what many of them depended on was luck. Alchemists were also cultivators, so even if one suffered a stroke of bad luck and failed, they could only blame themselves.

There was still a quarter hour until the time limit. Qin Yu opened his furnace and six ordinary Essence Augmenting Pills came out. Their quality was neither low nor high.

He rose up, tidied the area, placed the pills into a bottle, and left the cave. A disciple of Immortal Eclipse Valley came and took the bottle, whereupon it would be immediately judged on the spot. As Qin Yu obtained the qualifications to enter the second round of the competition tomorrow, not too far away another alchemist of Immortal Eclipse Valley sneered as he said, "You didn't use the materials that were provided for you. Men, lead him away!"

The alchemist that collapsed to the floor had a pained expression. Qin Yu's eyes flashed with pity as he looked at him. There wasn't anything that could be done about stupidity. Immortal Eclipse Valley had casually tossed a pile of materials in front of them so how could it be that they didn't have methods to identify if they were used? It seems this fellow would need to bring his brain with him the next time he came. As people were waiting for their pills to be judged, several alchemists clenched their teeth and withdrew with pale faces.

After the first round, less than 200 of the original 500 plus cultivators were left remaining. To have over half the participants eliminated so quickly could be called astonishing.

The night passed without event.

On the second day, the great alchemy competition continued.

Alchemists couldn't change which cave they used. They needed to use the remaining materials and refine three different types of pills. The time limit was two hours.

Once the rules were announced, the complexions of many people changed!

Qin Yu continued to look through the cave. But, he didn't waste his time. By the time he sat down he had already come up with an approximate alchemy plan.

He carefully looked through the remaining materials and easily found two types of pills that could be made: Blood Clotting Pills and Poison Cure Pills.

These two pills were slightly more difficult to refine than Essence Augmenting Pills. But with Qin Yu's alchemy skills it wouldn't be a problem at all. However, he soon frowned.

For the third pill, Qin Yu chose to refine a Minor Renewal Pill. This sort of pill was used to supplement magic power. However, he was short on a supportive material, Green Branch Buds. Of course he wasn't truly short on them, but the three Green Branch Buds in front of him were either fake or they were too young and unable to be used for medicine.

Qin Yu shook his head. He could only switch to another type of pill. Time slowly passed and his complexion gradually darkened.

There weren't enough materials!

Based on these remaining materials, only Blood Clotting Pills, Poison Cure Pills, and Minor Renewal Pills could be made altogether. Otherwise, no matter how he switched things around he wouldn't be able to refine three other types of pills.

This was definitely a coincidence because the three types of materials used to make the Essence Augmenting Pill could be matched up with several other materials to make different pills. It could only be said that Qin Yu had a stroke of bad luck when he decided to choose the Essence Augmenting Pill.

His eyebrows furrowed together. Could it be that he would fail because of such a problem?

At the foot of Alchemy Mountain, a daoist came walking over in a hurry. The disciples of Immortal Eclipse Valley quickly bowed.

The onlookers were surprised.

"Is that Immortal Eclipse Valley's Daoist Wang?" A cultivator shouted in a hushed whisper. His voice was filled with respect. "He doesn't have a position in Immortal Eclipse Valley but his status is higher than that of an Elder. It is said that because he failed to break into Nascent Soul, his alchemy breakthroughs have been continually slowed and delayed. Even so, when it comes to alchemy skill, he is ranked amongst the best in Immortal Eclipse Valley.

Eclipse Xin wrinkled his eyebrows. "Why did you come?"

Daoist Wang waved his hand dismissively, "I just wanted to enjoy the fun."

Eclipse Xin's eyes frosted over. "There are other factors in play during this Grand Alchemy Meeting. Don't stir up any trouble!"

Daoist Wang smirked. "Stop staring at me with such a disgusted face, I'm not scared of you. How long has it been since it started? Did I miss anything good?"

Looking at Elder Zhao's darkened face as he had to admit defeat, the several surrounding disciples couldn't even laugh if they wanted to. A person cupped his hands across his chest and said, "Reporting to martial uncle, it has been less than a quarter hour."

Daoist Wang smiled in satisfaction. "Good, good, I didn't arrive late."

Eclipse Xin coldly said. "Just what did you do? I'm warning you..."

Daoist Wang interrupted him. "Enough. When I was preparing the materials I played around a bit. Hey, stop staring at me like that, I guarantee that this won't affect the fairness of the Grand Alchemy Meeting. It's just that the little kids who chose the materials I prepared will be tested a bit more."

Eclipse Xin humphed and didn't speak again.

Daoist Wang beckoned with his hand and several people immediately brought over a chair and a tray of tea and snacks, taking good care in treating him.

As he drank tea and ate a pastry, Daoist Wang narrowed his eyes. "You young bastards shouldn't bother. Minor perks like this won't move the likes of me."

"Martial uncle, what are you saying? We disciples have no other meaning, this is purely from our sense of piety and respect."

"Right, right, martial uncle you have no direct disciples so just treat us as your own. It is our duty to respect you."

"Martial uncle, do you need anything? Is it too hot? How about I fan some air for you."

On the side, Eclipse Xin coldly snorted. The several flattering disciples blanched in pain and quickly fell back.

Daoist Wang continued to eat and drink in his chair, not caring about what happened.

Eclipse Xin lowered his voice. "You are already old, so why don't you take a disciple? You don't plan on taking your lifetime's knowledge of alchemy into the coffin with you, right?"

Daoist Wang shook his head. "It's not that I'm not searching but that I haven't found the right person. If I teach an idiot they will only end up mediocre and without any achievements at all. I might as well save myself the energy and not bother."

Eclipse Xin coldly sneered. "My Immortal Eclipse Valley has hundreds of outstanding disciples. There isn't a single one of them that catches your interest?"

Daoist Wang raised a finger, "Don't speak anymore, I've heard those words so many times that hearing them sends me into a coma. Today, I personally set up a little trap, and if a junior can break free of my trap and I find him pleasing to the eye, then I wouldn't mind taking him in as a disciple."

Eclipse Xin was shocked. "Are you serious?"

Daoist Wang impatiently said, "What advantage is there in lying to you? Just continue watching, you'll see for yourself." He turned and waved a disciple over. After giving him an order, the disciple appeared on edge and hurried away as if someone had slapped him on the butt.

An hour later, a young Foundation Establishment realm alchemist walked out from his cave, his face filled with resentment. "There aren't even enough materials, how can we refine pills?"

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Two Immortal Eclipse Valley disciples flew up and surrounded him. "Are you sure that there aren't enough materials to refine pills?"

The young alchemist shrunk back. "I'm certain..."

Before he finished speaking he was dragged away.

"What are you doing? What are you all doing? I still have to refine pills! You prepared insufficient materials so why should I lose because of that!?" The young alchemist struggled.

The crowd began to stir up. Although no one dared to say anything, they all had strange expressions on their faces.

Eclipse Xin shouted in a low voice, "What did you do?"

Daoist Wang waved his hand. "What are you in such a hurry for? I'll give you an answer in the end. But first, shut that boy up. And as for anyone else that says the materials are insufficient, bring them over here."

Several disciples left to follow his orders.

The crowd gradually calmed down. From the actions of Immortal Eclipse Valley, it seemed they had another plan in mind. Many people had their curiosity piqued.

Time slowly passed. Soon, two more alchemists were brought down from Alchemy Mountain. Without exception, all of them came out because of insufficient materials. There was even a proud and arrogant Golden Core realm alchemist who was extremely angry at Immortal Eclipse Valley's actions.

"This is the so-called Grand Alchemy Meeting? You haven't even prepared enough materials so you want to take away my participation qualifications? What a joke!" The Golden Core alchemist laughed as he fumed with anger.

His status was different so it naturally wasn't as easy to seal his lips. As the cultivators from Immortal Eclipse Valley heard this, their complexion became a bit more irritated.

With a cold face, Eclipse Xin lifted his teacup.

Daoist Wang's lips twitched. Old friend, you can't hide the blue veins sticking out from your hands. In fact, I already know you're angry! But he said, "Shut up. Your name is Zhang Yucheng right? For such a 'famed' alchemist, it's hard to believe your alchemy skill is at this level. It's best that you hurry back

home before you disgrace yourself any further. Are you still not convinced? Then you can quietly wait there until this ends and I will give you a fully convincing answer!”

Eclipse Xin set down his tea. “Fellow daoist Zhang, please calm your anger. My Immortal Eclipse Valley naturally has reasons for doing as we do.”

Zhang Yucheng’s face flushed red but he didn’t dare to say anything further. He flicked his sleeve and drew backwards. He wanted to see just what sort of explanation Immortal Eclipse Valley would give!

Two hours, one hour...

Some people had already successfully finished their refining and left Alchemy Mountain in a cheerful mood. Beneath the reverent looks of the crowd, they all maintained a calm and indifferent expression. They each believed that they would have a spot to cultivate beneath the Radiant Red Wood!

Behind Daoist Wang there were four cultivators, Zhang Yucheng included. These people had all been brought here because of insufficient materials. Although each one had a look of indignation, none of them spoke much as they waited for Immortal Eclipse Valley to give them an explanation.

Even someone like Senior Zhang Yucheng had said there weren’t enough materials so it was definitely Immortal Eclipse Valley that must have made a mistake in preparing them. Although they were forced to give up the competition, they still wanted to see what would happen afterwards.

Humph. Even if Immortal Eclipse Valley was a massive power, they still needed to give an explanation!

Another young alchemist was brought forwards. He cupped his hands across his chest and said, “Greetings great uncle, greetings Martial Uncle Wang.”

Eclipse Xin’s face darkened. “Eclipse Yu, you also had insufficient materials?”

Eclipse Yu bitterly smiled. “Reporting to great uncle, I put my mind to it for a long time but I still couldn’t figure out a method to solve it, so I could only give up.”

Daoist Wang shook his head. “I didn’t think that a little boy like you would fail too. It seems I was thinking too highly of these juniors. Hah, how boring.”

Eclipse Yu was dumbfounded.

Daoist Wang said, “You fall to the back. I’ll explain it to you afterwards.”

Eclipse Xin frowned. “How many of the materials did you prepare?”

Daoist Wang raised a finger. “30.”

Eclipse Xin’s frown dug deeper. “That is too few. Like that, how could you possibly choose a disciple that satisfies you?”

Daoist Wang smiled. “All things have a fate. If someone is destined they will be chosen, but if they aren’t destined then what reason is there to try to force it?”

Four hours later the contest came to an end. All alchemists were asked to leave Alchemy Mountain otherwise they would instantly be judged with defeat.

Qi Jiao carefully looked around but she couldn't find Qin Yu. Did he fail? She was momentarily overjoyed. If he failed, that meant he wouldn't be able to approach the Radiant Red Wood. If he couldn't find a chance, perhaps he would give up.

But for some unknown reason, she was also left a bit disappointed in her heart. In the eyes of this young girl, how could such a fierce and amazing person be defeated here?

Whoosh –

A black-robed figure rushed out from Alchemy Mountain, his face a bit white and distressed. Under the dissatisfied gaze of the Immortal Eclipse Valley cultivators, he fell to the end of the pill testing group.

Qi Jiao's eyes popped open.

Qin Yu wiped the cold sweat from his forehead and let out a long breath. He had made it on time!

Chapter 67 – Decline

The cultivators of Immortal Eclipse Valley all possessed an unquestionable level of alchemy skill, and those that were sent to manage the Grand Alchemy Meeting were all extraordinary individuals with fast appraisal speeds. The people in front of Qin Yu had their pills fully appraised in just several short moments, the results both accurate and concise. When the skills of Immortal Eclipse Valley's alchemists were displayed to the public once more, they drew innumerable gazes of awe.

And the last one.

The alchemist from Immortal Eclipse Valley felt his interest waning over time. Just why had all those great figures in the valley decided to hold a Grand Alchemy Meeting? With the level of skill that these outside people displayed, could they even call themselves alchemists? It was simply tarnishing the title.

He swept his eyes around. As he saw the youth with the fourth level Foundation Establishment in front of him, the last bit of anticipation he had also died down. Eclipse Wu asked, "What pills did you refine?"

Qin Yu cupped his hands across his chest. "Foundation Establishment realm Blood Clotting Pill, Poison Cure Pill, and Minor Renewal Pill."

Eclipse Wu was dumbfounded. After appraising dozens of people this was his first time seeing a Minor Renewal Pill. But, these three types of pills weren't too difficult and he didn't care much at all. He took the jade bottle and poured out three pills. As he lowered his head and smelled them, he wrinkled his nose.

The Blood Clotting Pill and Poison Cure Pill were of passable quality, but the Minor Renewal Pill was barely satisfactory; it could only reluctantly be called a pill. In Immortal Eclipse Valley, this sort of pill would almost surely be considered a waste pill. And this Grand Alchemy Meeting was an important event. If such a waste pill were to be considered enough to pass the second round...

Eclipse Wu hesitated for a moment and then said, "Blood Clotting Pill, Poison Cure Pill, middle, Minor Renewal Pill, lower."

Although it was lower quality, in the end it still passed.

An Immortal Eclipse Valley disciple recorded the result, and this result appeared in front of Eclipse Xin and Daoist Wang's eyes.

Qin Yu cupped his hands across his chest to express his thanks. He received the qualifications to participate in the third round and then turned to leave.

But before he stepped out too far, Daoist Wang suddenly jumped up. He roared, "Who refined the Minor Renewal Pill? Hurry and bring him out!"

Eclipse Wu was one of Daoist Wang's loyal fanboys. He had always held a deep level of reverence towards this alchemist who didn't share the same last name. As he heard this command his heart leapt a bit. Although it seemed a bit inappropriate, he thrust out a hand and hurriedly said, "Stop him!"

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Several Immortal Eclipse Valley cultivators surrounded Qin Yu.

In the crowd, Qi Jiao twisted her hands together. She shouted out, "Senior-apprentice sister! Senior-apprentice sister! What is going on?"

The senior-apprentice sister comforted her and said, "Don't be so anxious, it's probably just some misunderstanding." However, she didn't quite believe her own words.

Qin Yu revealed a confused expression even as he remained vigilant. "What's the problem?"

Eclipse Wu waved his hand. "Take him over!"

But before the cultivators of Immortal Eclipse Valley could do anything, Daoist Wang had already rushed over. He looked over Qin Yu, "You're the one who refined the Minor Renewal Pill?"

Peak Golden Core!

Qin Yu's heart chilled. He cupped his hands across his chest and said, "It was this junior who did that."

Daoist Wang's complexion became strange. He muttered a few words to himself as if he were disappointed, and then he turned and cursed, "Who was the one who appraised this pill? You couldn't even tell that it was made from outside materials? What trash!"

Eclipse Wu awkwardly said, "Reporting to Martial Uncle Wang, I was the one who apprised the pill, but...I cannot see where the problem is."

Daoist Wang scolded, "Trash, trash, trash! Just what cultivation does this boy have that he can possibly refine a Minor Renewal Pill? Since you can't see through something like this, just go back into your cave and never come out again. This is just a disgrace!"

Eclipse Wu cried out inwardly. For better or worse he was a relatively famed individual amongst the younger generation of Immortal Eclipse Valley, so he had never been publicly berated like this. In particular, since the one doing so was Daoist Wang, he didn't dare to speak back.

Eclipse Xin frowned. He coldly said, "That's enough. Just what sort of status do you have to be shouting like this in front of everyone? Aren't you afraid of diminishing your own honor?" He looked over Qin Yu and waved his hand, "Take him away. Give him the punishment for cheating!"

Whoosh –

The crowd was sent into an uproar. Many people had looks of contempt in their eyes. It had already been clearly established yesterday that outside materials were not allowed, and yet this fellow dared to use just that. It was like he had no idea of danger or death!

Hehe, the punishments of Immortal Eclipse Valley could be called terrifying. It was said that yesterday a person had to be lifted away!

Qi Jiao paled. "Senior-apprentice sister, what do we do?"

The senior-apprentice sister forced a smile. At this time, what could they possibly do? How could Qin Yu do something so stupid?

Qin Yu looked at the approaching Immortal Eclipse Valley disciple and frowned. "Senior, you haven't seen me refine the pills yet you have already determined that I have cheated in using my own private materials. Don't you think this is too excessively rash?"

Daoist Wang remained expressionless. "My face is already the best evidence. Are you not convinced?"

Qin Yu nodded. "I'm not."

Daoist Wang angrily chuckled.

Eclipse Xin coolly said, "Bring over the pills that this man refined. My Immortal Eclipse Valley has always been open and honest in our actions. We will make sure you are convinced in heart and mind."

Eclipse Wu jogged over. "Great uncle, Martial Uncle Wang, here are the pills."

Daoist Wang looked up into the skies, not even sparing a glance.

A helpless light flashed in Eclipse Xin's eyes. He took the jade bottle and poured out the pills. Soon, his face stiffened. With his cultivation and eyesight, identifying pills was easy. The Blood Clotting Pill and Poison Cure Pill were standard, and while the Minor Renewal Pill was a bit worse, it could still just reluctantly be considered a pill.

After a brief silence, he asked with a gloomy face. "Daoist Wang, can you tell me what's wrong with these pills?"

Eclipse Wu wanted to cry in relief. Even my great uncle cannot see a problem, I can finally clear my name!

Daoist Wang coldly sneered. "You can't even realize such a simple thing. Eclipse Xin, Eclipse Xin, has your brain become stone during these past years!?" He indignantly grabbed the pills and said, "Look at this Minor Renewal Pill, just how are the materials...mine..."

His words caught in his throat.

Daoist Wang's eyes widened as if he saw a ghost in the sunny afternoon. He mumbled, "How could this be, how could this be..."

The Immortal Eclipse Valley disciples watching paled. They coughed several times and drew back as one.

Eclipse Xin's face was so dark it seemed that it could drip water. When had Immortal Eclipse Valley lost face in such a public manner before? If they couldn't turn this situation around, he swore that he would make Daoist Wang understand just how creative the punishment methods of the sect were!

Daoist Wang jumped up. He grabbed onto Qin Yu with an excited expression. "Boy, tell me, how did you refine this Minor Renewal Pill?"

The Minor Renewal Pill wasn't a high rank pill; it was used at the Foundation Establishment realm. The crowd glanced at each other, not sure whether or not this great figure of Immortal Eclipse Valley had gone insane. Was he faking excitement in order to look for an excuse to make a graceful exit from this situation? Please, don't insult everyone by assuming they would fall for this!

Qin Yu struggled a bit but found himself still tightly grasped. He said, "I saw that there were three Green Branch Buds. One was damaged and had deteriorated and the other two hadn't reached the suitable age to be used to make medicine. However, my luck was extremely poor so in the cave I chose, there were only materials to refine a Blood Clotting Pill, Poison Cure Pill, and Minor Renewal Pill. There was no other choice available. I braced myself and took the mature part of the damaged Green Branch Bud that still had a bid of medicinal efficacy in it and then refined it with the two premature Green Branch Buds, and so I just barely managed to refine this Minor Renewal Pill."

Daoist Wang's face flushed red and his eyes brightened like he had uncovered a treasure. He laughed and said, "Brat, from now on you are my disciple. I guarantee I will pass down everything I know to you and allow you to become a great alchemist of your generation!"

At this time, the crowd cried out in shock and alarm. Not just that, but the disciples of Immortal Eclipse Valley also had their eyes turn red with envy.

But the key question was, why?

Eclipse Xin was pleased. He said, "Congratulations Brother Wang! But, you still owe everyone an explanation."

Daoist Wang shot a glance at the several people who had been brought down from Alchemy Mountain. "My student here has already explained the situation. The materials chosen for you were all carefully prepared by me. After refining an Essence Augmenting Pills, out of the materials remaining, you would only be able to refine a Blood Clotting Pill, Poison Cure Pill, and Minor Renewal Pill. There were three Green Branch Buds, one damaged and two premature that were lacking medicinal efficacy. My student here is only at the fourth level of Foundation Establishment and yet he can successfully refine it, so what excuses do the rest of you have to make?"

Zhang Yucheng was flushed red with embarrassment. He gnashed his teeth, flicked his sleeves, and left.

The others also scurried out from sight.

Daoist Wang turned around, a bright smile blooming on his shameless face. "Good student of mine, come with teacher!"

Qin Yu was left standing there awkwardly.

Eclipse Xin frowned. "What, you aren't willing?"

Qin Yu cupped his hands across his chest. "It isn't that I am unwilling, but that I already have a teacher, so I don't dare to throw him away."

Daoist Wang was stunned. The disciple he had found after so much hardship had already been taken in by someone else. He was immediately incensed. "Shit! Which bastard is so shameless that he already took advantage of you ahead of time! He's gone too far!"

All of the surrounding people, including the disciples of Immortal Eclipse Valley and Eclipse Xin all felt dark lines form on their faces. Aren't you the one being unreasonable here?

Daoist Wang composed himself. "What's your name?"

"Junior's name is Qin Yu."

"Alright. Qin Yu, listen to me carefully. The mysteries and secrets of alchemy are as deep and vast as the sea. A good teacher can empower you that much more. Although I am not an Elder in Immortal Eclipse Valley, if I wanted to I could immediately become a top ten ranked Elder and all the resources I receive from my status could be used in helping to cultivate you. As for alchemy skills, I don't know who your teacher is but it is impossible for them to be compared to me. So carefully consider whether or not you want to take me as your teacher."

All eyes fell on Qin Yu. Many gazes burned with envy. What was there to think over? Hurry up and agree! Many of the disciples who had been attentively serving Daoist Wang felt their hearts rip in two. Although they wanted to say something, all their words got choked in their throat.

Qin Yu was silent for a long time. Then, he cupped his hands across his chest and said, "I thank senior for the deep praise, but this junior cannot bear it."

Whoosh –

Rejected! He had been rejected!

If looks could kill, Qin Yu would have already been torn to shreds by the disciples of Immortal Eclipse Valley. They glared at Qin Yu with deep indignation even as they straightened themselves up. Martial Uncle Wang, look at me, look at me, please look at me! I am standing right here, and as long as you just nod at me I'll immediately become your student! This bastard that doesn't know right from wrong, he had better fuck off as far as possible, otherwise we disciples of Immortal Eclipse Valley will never forgive him!

Daoist Wang coughed. He offered up his ultimate ace card. "Qin Yu, as long as you take me as your teacher, you don't need to continue in the competition. There will be a place to cultivate beneath the Radiant Red Wood for you."

Qin Yu was immediately tempted. But if he really did agree, it was likely he would be exposed at any moment. Seeing his silence, Eclipse Xin said, "You don't have to doubt this promise. I will use my status as an Elder to guarantee that it will be kept."

All of the alchemists who passed the second round and received the qualifications to enter the third began to curse in their hearts. However, none of them dared to reveal anything at all. The Radiant Red Wood belonged to Immortal Eclipse Valley, so what complaints could they make if they wanted to take a spot and give it to a favored disciple of theirs? Moreover, everyone could see that Daoist Wang was extremely agitated at the moment. Anyone who spoke up would surely suffer a horrible fate!

Qin Yu coughed.

Daoist Wang's face darkened. "Brat, you should consider this carefully. It is impossible for me to give you opportunities again and again!"

What? Could this even be considered a threat? Some disciples began to feel their field of vision blur. For better or worse, you should consider your own status. How could he be completely shameless in trying to receive a disciple!

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "This junior cannot agree."

Daoist Wang was left breathless with anger. He hopped up and down and began to curse straight at Qin Yu's face. He called him a stubborn piece of wood that couldn't adapt, a young know-nothing that didn't know anything, a waste of talent that should be struck by thunder, a pitiful idiot that was wasting his future potential, and a villain for refusing to accept him as a teacher!

Qin Yu pinched his nose and accepted it. He could see that although Daoist Wang was angry, he didn't have any ill thoughts towards him.

After a long time, Daoist Wang stopped and panted for breath. He lifted a hand and thrust a finger at Qin Yu. "If there comes a day you want to go back on your words, my doors will be open wide for you at any time!"

This...the entire situation seemed to reverse on itself.

The disciples of Immortal Eclipse Valley cried out in their heart. Martial Uncle Wang, what sort of status do you have? How could you lack any sort of moral fortitude and just refuse to give up?

Please look at us! Just look at us!

After seeing his old friend away, Eclipse Xin could see the helplessness in his back. He coldly said, "Qin Yu, don't regret your choice today."

He flicked his sleeves and left.

Amongst the countless shocked and puzzled eyes, Qin Yu wryly smiled and left. Qi Jiao wanted to chase after him and say something but she was held back by her senior-apprentice sister.

If this Qin Yu could even refuse the temptation of being Daoist Wang's disciple, then he absolutely was aiming for the Radiant Red Wood. She couldn't stare helplessly on as her junior-apprentice sister leapt into the fire!

Chapter 68 – Demonic Attack

The third day of the Grand Alchemy Meeting.

When Qin Yu arrived at Alchemy Mountain he was informed by a disciple of Immortal Eclipse Valley that he no longer needed to attend today's competition. Once the meeting ended, he could join together with the other top nine ranking individuals to cultivate beneath the Radiant Red Wood for a month.

After explaining this, the disciple coldly coughed and sized up Qin Yu several times before turning around. Right now, if the disciples of Immortal Eclipse Valley held a poll to see who was the most unpopular participant in the Grand Alchemy Meeting, Qin Yu would be the absolute number one champion. Luckily, Qin Yu had experienced far too many similar situations and was long since immune to these types of attitudes.

This matter could only have been arranged by Daoist Wang. That person held an earnest love towards his talent, but unfortunately, whether it was because of the Radiant Red Wood or the little blue lamp which definitely could not be revealed to anyone, Qin Yu could only choose to decline his offer. Even so, he still felt a bit of guilt in his heart.

Shaking his head, Qin Yu drew to the side. Since he didn't need to participate, he was happy. But this happiness didn't last long. Daoist Wang arrived, coldly snorting and clearly flared up with a foul temper.

Hey, if you aren't happy, don't lean over here. If you sit so close it's hard for me to keep up an act!

Qin Yu rubbed his nose. He cupped his hands across his chest and said, "Greetings, Senior Wang. I thank senior for looking after me!"

Daoist Wang sneered. "The matter of having you directly advance wasn't because of me. Don't go thanking the wrong person."

Qin Yu froze for a moment. I haven't even asked anything, so aren't you just explaining things on your own initiative?

Daoist Wang's complexion was much better as he saw Qin Yu at a loss for words. The third day of the competition was no longer managed by him.

On the third day of the Grand Alchemy Meeting, the competition was still held at Alchemy Mountain. But because of an emergency change in rules the pill refining area was changed to the open field below the mountain.

The nine people that refined the most precious pills and of the highest quality would win.

Qin Yu's back was wet with a cold sweat. Luckily, he didn't need to participate, otherwise if he really had to compete with his alchemy skills he didn't know whether or not he could enter into the top 10. After all, this competition involved all the top junior alchemists of the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty. Even describing the talent here as hidden tigers wouldn't do justice to them.

In fact, Qin Yu's cold sweat wasn't in vain. There were only 84 participants on the third day, and many of them had hidden trump cards. Today, they no longer held back and put forth all their ultimate techniques. They could be called incomparably skilled.

Daoist Wang curled his lips. “The fourth boy from the left isn’t too bad. He’s a junior from the Northern Dynasty’s Flowing River Sect. He is refining a Foundation Establishment realm Soul Shrouding Pill. After swallowing it, it will form a barrier around the soul, and looking at it, it seems it should be around medium-grade quality. It should be able to resist the divine sense strike of an early Golden Core master.”

Daoist Wang curled his lips again. “The girl eighth from the left, she is refining a Nine Revolution Golden Pill. The effect isn’t as amazing as the name makes it out to be, but amongst Foundation Establishment realm pills it is one of the most difficult to refine. Her technique is quite accomplished and the pill is about to form. I estimate she will have a spot in the top 10.”

Daoist Wang curled his lips, yet again. “And the boy on the end, his aura is dark and gloomy. I don’t know where the hell he came from, but his alchemy is quite proficient. Right now he should be refining an extremely rare type of early Golden Core level pill, an Insanity Bug Pill. Hehe, to refine a Golden Core realm pill with a Foundation Establishment cultivation isn’t too bad.”

When Daoist Wang curled his lips, it wasn’t an expression of disdain, but one that showed ease. Although his words seemed thoughtless and spicy, he spoke straight to the point. And, although Qin Yu didn’t know just who he was speaking out loud to, he still felt as if he were benefiting. While he found it a bit funny, he had to acknowledge that Daoist Wang’s alchemy was truly at an exceedingly high level!

Qin Yu saw someone he recognized; it was the man that Daoist Wang said had a dark and gloomy aura. When Qi Jiao was selling the scabbard, this man had appeared and offered 500 spirit stones to compete with a bid. Qin Yu never imagined that he was also such a formidable alchemist. Looking carefully, he could sense that this person’s alchemy skills were strange, but as for how, he couldn’t voice the exact reason. But he could determine that this person was definitely not some good or noble person of his generation.

Two hours later, the Grand Alchemy Meeting ended. As Daoist Wang expected, all those people he spoke of made it into the top nine. They had managed to bloom from the hundreds of participants and were all outstanding individuals of their generation. It was natural for them to have a deep sense of pride in their heart, and although they didn’t say much to Qin Yu who had taken the ‘back door’ to victory, their gaze towards him held a touch of prideful disdain.

Eclipse Xin’s eyes were cold. He said in a deep voice, “The Grand Alchemy Meeting has ended. After some time, people will lead you to the Radiant Red Wood. Let me give you all a warning. Do not try your luck with some hidden plan, otherwise you’ll be buried there!”

The eyes of the 10 people all lit up together. The ancient spiritual plant, Radiant Red Wood, gathered a massive amount of elementary heaven and earth spiritual strength, forming a domain around it. A day of cultivation within was comparable to a month outside...all of them were impatient to go!

Countless people watched on with envious gazes. If there was a single flaw in this Grand Alchemy Meeting, it was that black-robed fellow in tenth place. His performance was average yet he had stepped into dogshit luck and was able to occupy one of the 10 spots. It was just ridiculously absurd!

“Immortal Eclipse Valley’s actions today are just too unfair!”

“That might be so, but these opportunities are all provided by Immortal Eclipse Valley. It’s fine if one is taken away.”

“That is exactly why everyone was able to remain calm, otherwise how would the participating cultivators ever agree?”

“That boy called Qin Yu is just too lucky!”

Everyone began to discuss amongst themselves. They didn’t speak too loudly, but for the ears of a cultivator it was more than clear enough.

The nine victors swept their eyes over, their gazes becoming even colder and more contemptuous.

Qin Yu lowered his head as if he wasn’t aware of anything. Since he had already obtained the benefits, there was no need to provoke everyone. They could look wherever they wanted.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Two Golden Core cultivators flew over. They greeted Eclipse Xin and seemed to be a bit irked by Daoist Wang. They swept over the area quickly.

“All of you follow us!”

As they spoke, the two Golden Cores turned to leave.

But suddenly, loud rumblings broke through the skies. Wind and cloud surged and turned dark. A pitch black hand reached down, its black scales billowing with demonic energy.

The arrogant and indifferent expressions of the two flying Immortal Eclipse Valley Golden Cores suddenly shattered. They cried out miserably as they were sent flying away like broken kites.

Bang –

The earth trembled. Seven beams of light shot into the skies, forming a seven star formation. A phantom of a golden eight trigrams soared into the heavens and collided with the black hand. Heaven-shaking explosions rang like thunder. Countless cultivators coughed and paled. Those with weaker cultivations felt blood flow out from their nose and mouth.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Three figures appeared in the high heavens, their bodies roiling with horrifying demonic energy. Each one emitted an earth-shaking aura, one that left the soul shivering.

These were Nascent Soul demonic cultivators, and there were even three of them!

“Immortal Eclipse Valley, you overestimate your abilities and dare to try and stop the momentum of my demonic path! Today I will have your blood form a river a thousand miles long, and not even a chicken or dog will be left!”

With the support of a powerful cultivation, the voice rumbled throughout the entirety of Immortal Eclipse Valley.

The three demonic Nascent Souls each raised a hand and pressed down together.

The pitch black hand erupted with horrifying might. The golden eight trigrams phantom trembled and cracks appeared on it as if it would soon collapse.

“Humph! My Immortal Eclipse Valley is not a place where you can act wild and recklessly!” A silver-haired old man appeared. His robes swirled around him and his aura seemed as if it could move mountains. He was the powerhouse who had dispersed the Purpleback Bluewing Ants a while back ago.

He formed mudras with his hands. A sword pierced through the skies and flew into his hands. He raised it towards the heavens.

Hum –

Hum –

A heaven-shaking sword sound reverberated through the world!

Countless sword shadows appeared, at least in the tens of thousands. They howled like the roaring of endless rivers, filled with overwhelming momentum.

Bang –

The golden eight trigrams phantom disintegrated. The black hand continued to press downwards, but the countless sword shadows shot up to meet it. They slashed against it, causing sparks to fill the air and leaving it unable to move.

The three Nascent Soul demonic cultivators roared out loud. The demonic energy surrounding the black hand stirred and expanded. The black hand violently swept away the countless sword shadows as its momentum continued to skyrocket.

The silver-haired old man’s pupils brightened. “Today I will show you all the inheritances of my Immortal Eclipse Valley! Great Five Element Sword Formation, rise!”

Between the heavens and earth, the sword phantoms increased multiple times over. They howled and surged as they began to burst out with divine lights of white, blue, black, red, and yellow. They spun together, forming a giant spinning wheel. Endless amounts of spiritual strength swelled towards it, forming visible tides in the air.

Weng –

The five-colored divine light swept forwards. The black hand stiffened for a moment before immediately collapsing.

Puff –

An arm fell to the ground and blood sprinkled down. It was unknown which Nascent Soul demonic cultivator lost an arm, but their pained roars reverberated in the world.

“Immortal Eclipse Valley! For the enmity of severing my arm, I will make sure to return this ten times over!”

Bang –

Demonic energy erupted. It tore through the encirclement of five-colored divine light and shot off into the distance.

The silver-haired old man coldly snorted. The sword in his hand flew away and the endless sword shadows and five-colored divine light vanished with it.

Shua –

The silver-haired old man disappeared from sight.

In a mere moment, a great battle between Nascent Soul level masters had come to an end.

Daoist Wang clenched his fists. Although his eyes blazed with excitement, there was a hint of melancholy in them too. Nascent Soul realm, this was the Nascent Soul realm! But what a pity...!

Eclipse Xin patted his old friend’s shoulder. He quietly said, “It’s fine. The demons have been pushed back by the seniors within the valley. Don’t worry about it.”

He waved his hand and Immortal Eclipse Valley disciples immediately ran out. They established order again and started to treat the injured cultivators.

In front of Alchemy Mountain, the previously arrogant victors all had heavy and dignified expressions. Although this Nascent Soul level confrontation had only lasted for an extremely short period of time, it had allowed them to experience what a genuine powerhouse was like. This level was still far too distant from their own.

This wasn’t the first time Qin Yu had witnessed the might of a Nascent Soul. But on that day, he had drawn support from the self-destructing capabilities of Storm Flow and also the Blood Escape Art to escape; he hadn’t fought at all. If he had even bumped into any of today’s shockwaves, he would have likely suffered a horrible death where he stood.

Nascent Soul!

He had no idea when he would be able to reach this realm.

Qin Yu took a deep breath as firm determination appeared in his eyes. The path of cultivation needed to be walked down one step at a time; there was no significance to aiming too high. With the little blue lamp in hand, as long as he diligently cultivated then he would surely be able to step into the Nascent Soul realm, no matter how hard it was.

Unconsciously, after experiencing this new storm, Qin Yu’s mind and mood had become just a bit more calm and tenacious.

The two Golden Cores had been heavily wounded by the blast of auras from the demonic path Nascent Souls, and were sent off to recuperate. However, Immortal Eclipse Valley acted according to their own pace. Since they said that the victors would be brought to the Radiant Red Wood today, even though there was just a strike from three demonic path Nascent Souls, there still wouldn't be any change to the plan.

Soon, new guides came to lead Qin Yu and the others to fly towards the core valley lands of Immortal Eclipse Valley.

After the terrifying event, this sight had a wonderful effect of comforting the minds of the people and stabilizing their panicked mood.

Immortal Eclipse Valley had strict and potent defenses; the Great Five Element Sword Formation just displayed was perfect proof of this. Even with guides leading the way and also with jade slips that allowed access, everyone could feel a dense chill surrounding them from time to time that caused their hair to rise up.

Shua –

Not too far away from the core valley lands, the group landed on the ground and began walking instead. A thick fog filled the air, making it difficult to discern one's direction. As they traveled deeper into the mist, one could make out the faint rumbling of thunder.

The Immortal Eclipse Valley cultivators that were leading the way cautioned, "Stay close behind and make sure you follow the steps that we take. Do not stray off the path, otherwise it will be much more troublesome."

There was no need for any reminder; the ten people behind them were all on high alert and extremely careful. Although they didn't know what lurked in the fog, none of them desired to experience it.

After a moment, they broke through the fog region. The guiding cultivators relaxed. "We're here."

Chapter 69 – You Don't Know Right From Wrong

In front lay a mountain wall with a narrow entrance inside. The walls were high and steep, as if they had been carved by a sword. The blackish blue rock exposed to the outside shone with a metallic luster. A stone tablet stood outside the entrance, a bit over 10 feet high, with a single phrase written atop it.

'Forbidden Land. Do Not Enter.'

Perhaps it was because Immortal Eclipse Valley was confident that no one would think about breaking into this area, but there were no cultivators standing guard. A guide walked forwards several steps and carefully took out a jade card from his chest. As if it sensed something, the jade card lit up and flew from his hand until it fell into the mountain wall entrance.

Ripples appeared in the empty void, as if a soft and gentle breeze were wafting across the surface of a quiet lake. Qin Yu felt a chill creep up his back and he froze where he was. If he had bumped into these ripples without preparation, he would likely have been torn to shreds and even his soul would have been destroyed.

An alchemist's divine sense was far stronger than that of an ordinary cultivator. At this time, the nine other people beside him all had stiff complexions. No...that was wrong, there was actually a single exception. The mysterious cultivator who was shrouded in a yin chill was incomparably calm, even calmer than before.

The ripples dispersed. The guiding cultivators turned and said, "The Radiant Red Wood is in the valley. After entering, do not use your magic power without permission. Make sure to remember this!"

The guide walked in first. Qin Yu followed at the very end of the group as they entered the narrow entrance. After passing a dozen meters or so, the surroundings began to light up and a five to six mile wide valley appeared before everyone. However, nobody cared to observe their surroundings at this moment; all of their attention was drawn towards the ancient heaven-towering tree in the center of the valley.

The tree was almost a thousand feet tall and as thick as seven or eight people standing side by side. The sturdy roots were like great hands that gripped the earth, and the crown of leaves nearly covered half the valley. A divine red light emitted from the tree's body, trunk, and leaves, filling everyone's line of sight. The dazzling red light seemed as if it flowed here from ancient times and the flickering flames that burned continuously on the branches made the dark red jade-like fruits even more beautiful.

A vast and ancient aura mixed in with the vicissitudes of time caused awe to rise in the hearts of all those present.

Radiant Red Wood!

This was the Radiant Red Wood!

The eyes of the guiding cultivators filled with envy. One turned and said, "This is a rare chance. You must all take advantage of this and make sure you don't miss such a wonderful opportunity."

Bang –

A violent aura suddenly erupted. A figure rushed out from the group. With a flick of his sleeve, black blood crows surrounded him like a swarm of locusts as he hurtled towards the Radiant Red Wood.

It was that person!

Qin Yu was shocked.

The guiding cultivator's complexion sank, but it soon turned into a sneer. He allowed the person to rush towards the Radiant Red Wood, not bothering to stop him.

Buzz –

Buzz –

The buzzing of vibrating wings rose up and winged insects began to fly out from the Radiant Red Wood. Because the tree was covered in the divine red light, they had been unable to see these insects. These were the same Purpleback Bluewing Ants that had eaten three Golden Core cultivators just a while ago!

After being awakened, the insects were enraged. They shot towards the black blood crows, tearing it apart and swallowed it. The person that rushed out frowned and then roared out loud. A blood red light ignited all over his body and his speed suddenly accelerated, allowing him to avoid the swarm of ants and strike the Radiant Red Wood.

With a loud explosion, terrifying fluctuations of strength erupted. The cultivator had actually blown himself up! The Radiant Red Wood's thick and sturdy trunk faintly shivered. A rich divine red light surged like streams of water, instantly melting away and dispersing the impact force. The power of an exploding Golden Core was actually unable to harm the Radiant Red Wood in the least!

The complexions of the guiding cultivators changed. After waiting for the Purpleback Bluewing Ants to fly back to the Radiant Red Wood, one of them said, "You all have one month. When the time arrives, leave on your own. If you exceed the time limit you will be attacked by the Purpleback Bluewing Ants. If that happens, you should know what will happen."

After speaking, the guiding cultivators turned and left. It was completely out of the ordinary for the Radiant Red Wood to suffer a suicidal sneak attack like this; they had to report it to their higher ups as soon as possible.

The valley fell quiet once more. Looking at the Radiant Red Wood, several people hesitated and gulped. They had watched as one of the people who came here with them had died without a grave. And although he had come here with sinister plans and had found death on his own initiative, it still caused their hearts to shake. Of course, their fear and awe towards these Purpleback Bluewing Ants was also one of the reasons they didn't dare to step forwards.

They had personally witnessed just how horrifying these spirit insects from ancient times were. As they all thought about how close they were to the Radiant Red Wood, they felt their scalps tingle.

"Everyone, don't worry. Since Immortal Eclipse Valley has arranged for us to come here, they should have made adequate preparations, so don't worry too much." Wang Zifeng of the Flowing River Sect slowly spoke up. He had a handsome appearance and an elegant bearing. In the competition, his Soul Shrouding Pill had ranked third.

"Well said. A month will pass in the blink of an eye. Since we came here, we can't just waste our time."

In the group of nine, two Golden Core realm alchemists glanced at each other and then stepped forwards, each sitting in a relatively spacious area beneath the Radiant Red Wood. As Golden Core cultivators they naturally couldn't shame their own statuses and dawdle with a group of juniors.

Wang Zifeng turned, "Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, should we go there together?"

Yun Xueqing shook her head, "I appreciate Senior-apprentice Brother Wang's good intentions, but I should cultivate by myself." The Nine Revolution Gold Pill had ranked seventh. Although her ranking was a bit low, her beautiful and refined appearance enabled her to be one of the most dazzling participants.

Wang Zifeng's smile didn't dim. "That's also good. Junior-apprentice sister should choose first then." He turned his head back and swept his gaze around. He coldly said, "Everyone, the two seniors have already chosen and Junior-apprentice Sister Yun is next. For the rest of us, how about we choose areas depending on our ranking? Of course, that person is last."

“Good, let’s do as Brother Wang says.”

“Sure!”

“That person is last!”

Wang Zifeng sneered with disdain. He found Qin Yu extremely displeasing to the eyes. This was not only because Qin Yu had gone through the ‘backdoor’ to get here, but also because he had once asked Daoist Wang to be his teacher but had been refused.

Yun Xueqing glanced at Qin Yu. When everyone’s gazes gathered on her, she said, “I thank fellow daoists for your kindness. Allow me to apologize in advance.” She flew beneath the Radiant Red Wood.

Wang Zifeng fell down not too far away from her. The other five quickly found their spots, nearly taking up all the good positions around the Radiant Red Wood.

‘That person’ quietly found a corner and closed his eyes in meditation as he cultivated. As for losing his temper, erupting in anger, and other such actions, sorry everyone, but he wasn’t in the mood to do so.

Closing his eyes, Qin Yu soon entered into a cultivating state. The pores around his body opened as he revolved his cultivation method, absorbing the strength of the heavens and earth.

For the first time, he felt the joy of rapidly absorbing spiritual strength by relying on his own ability. Of course, this rapid speed was only relatively speaking.

....

Immortal Eclipse Valley, core valley land.

In a hall, two figures sat facing each other. Fog wreathed their bodies, making them seem incomparably mystical.

“A disciple just sent in a message. A Golden Core managed to enter Immortal Eclipse Valley and launched a suicidal attack against the Radiant Red Wood.” The person on the left quietly said. After a moment he continued, “In addition, when combined with the matter of fellow daoist Jiang Li using the Five Element Sword Formation to repel the three demons from the demonic path, it is a bit strange. They don’t seem to have any intention of starting a prolonged war.”

Sitting across from him, a dark red spot seemed to form between the old man’s forehead, as if infernal blood energy was lingering there. “My Immortal Eclipse Valley has a thousand year long inheritance. What need have we to fear some mere evil demons? Pass down orders to strengthen the defenses. It is always better to be cautious. I want to see just what those small fries from the demonic faction are plotting!”

The person on the left nodded and said, “That seems to be the best choice for now.”

....

Rumble rumble rumble –

With a continuous low and deep rumbling, nine vortexes of spiritual strength appeared beneath the Radiant Red Wood. The two Golden Core realm alchemists had the largest vortexes, illustrating their

superior ability to absorb spiritual strength due to their higher cultivations. Besides them, Wang Zifeng, Yun Xueqing, and another quiet man were the fastest. The other three were a bit worse, but their performance wasn't too bad.

As for Qin Yu, he was pitiable. His vortex had only faintly formed, on a completely different level from the others. Everyone was able to see this from the corner of their eyes and their contempt towards him only increased. Indeed, this fellow had only made it here through the backdoor. Who knew why Daoist Wang took a liking to him?

A family always knew their family affairs the best. Qin Yu had long since abandoned any and all hope in his martial talent. After feeling a bit helpless about this situation, he calmed down. He detected the looks cast his way, but he didn't place them in his heart. If there wasn't an accident, then in a month he would be able to obtain a derived portion of the Radiant Red Wood's root system and he would be able to use the little blue lamp to cultivate it into a mature version.

At that time, he would be able to eat Radiant Red Fruits at his leisure and be able to rest beneath the Radiant Red Wood whenever he wanted. How could you fellows even compare to that?

Time slowly passed. The Radiant Red Wood formed a natural domain around it, and its function to accelerate one's cultivation could be called extraordinary. As time passed, people continued to make breakthroughs. Even the two Golden Core realm cultivators made a breakthrough in their cultivations. As everyone was immersed in their own cultivation and reluctant to wake up, countless little eyes lit up atop the Radiant Red Wood and the sound of buzzing wings filled the valley.

The two Golden Core alchemists opened their eyes in anger, but in the next moment they were scared silly. They noticed that high above their heads, an endless swarm of eyes were stubbornly staring at them. They quietly calculated the time in their heads and discovered a month had passed. This realization left them disappointed.

"It's unexpectedly been a month!"

"I didn't sense it at all!"

"It would be so wonderful if I could continue cultivating like this!"

Several people sighed in regret as they rose up. It could be seen from their actions that the Purpleback Bluewing Ants weren't a joke. If they didn't quickly leave, they would truly be torn into shreds and eaten up.

In a month, Wang Zifeng had continuously broken through three boundaries and had reached perfection of Foundation Establishment, only a sliver away from Golden Core. He was satisfied with his gains.

His figure flashed and he arrived at Yun Xueqing's side. He cupped his hands across his chest and said, "Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, congratulations."

Yun Xueqing had also broken through three boundaries and reached the ninth level of Foundation Establishment, just a bit worse than Wang Zifeng. Even for the normally aloof and apathetic Yun Xueqing, such a harvest still left her smiling. "Senior-apprentice Brother Wang, I congratulate you too."

Wang Zifeng's smile widened. "My father has already made an agreement with Immortal Eclipse Valley. As long as I was able to enter into the top ten, I could stay in Immortal Eclipse Valley for half a year and study alchemy. Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, do you also plan on staying behind?"

Yun Xueqing nodded. "I will be staying here for half a year too."

Wang Zifeng clapped his hands. "Very good. Later on, the two of us need to help each other."

From outside the valley, the voice of an Immortal Eclipse Valley cultivator rang in. "A month has passed. All of you need to quickly exit!"

Wang Zifeng smiled. He gestured with his hand, "Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, please."

Yun Xueqing nodded. But just as she was about to step forwards, she suddenly frowned. "That person..."

Wang Zifeng turned his head over and sneered. "It's impossible that he cannot hear the buzzing of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants. Since he isn't willing to wake up, this is also his choice."

Yun Xueqing thought about it and shook her head. "We're still acquaintances." She raised her voice, "Fellow daoist Qin Yu, a month has passed!"

Shua –

All eyes gathered on him.

Qin Yu suddenly felt helpless. If all of you don't leave, how will I have the chance to dig out a part of the Radiant Red Wood's roots and maybe take advantage of the Purpleback Bluewing Ants? However, since Yun Xueqing only had good intentions in reminding him, he opened his eyes and smiled at her before immediately closing them once more.

Wang Zifeng coldly said, "He doesn't know right from wrong! Junior-apprentice Sister Xueqing, since he wants to stay then let's leave him alone. Let's go."

Yun Xueqing glanced at Qin Yu one more time before nodding and leaving the valley. She had already reminded him, so if he still chose to stay, that was his choice.

With the two Golden Core realm alchemists leading the way, the group of eight left the range of the Radiant Red Wood. A strength suddenly emerged in the void and swept them up, pulling them out of the valley. One of the men who had guided them here initially stood waiting for them. He swept his eyes around and frowned. "How come you're missing a person?"

Wang Zifeng cupped his hands across his chest. "Reporting to Senior-apprentice Brother Qi, we have already reminded Qin Yu but he still chose to stay behind, so we had no choice but to leave him there."

Qi Jiang shouted out, "What insolence! He is just seeking death!" He formed a mudra with his hands and prepared to forcefully extract Qin Yu from the valley. But at this time, the sound of buzzing wings reverberated around them. Even though they were standing outside the valley they could hear the sounds and feel the demonic energy roaring towards them.

Qi Jiang sighed and lowered his hands. "There isn't enough time." The Purpleback Bluewing Ants were a cruel and vicious species. After being suppressed by Immortal Eclipse Valley for a month, they had reached their limit. After regaining their freedom they would tear Qin Yu to pieces.

The Radiant Red Wood had the power of accelerating one's cultivating speed, and to cultivators that weren't too fast at cultivating to begin with, this sort of temptation was ten times, or even a hundred times greater than any drug. Over the years, even Immortal Eclipse Valley had disciples that had entered and then weren't willing to leave on time, and were eventually eaten up by the Purpleback Bluewing Ants.

Qi Jiang shook his head, "Come, this place will be sealed soon."

The group stepped into the fog, and with a surge of wind, vanished from sight.

Buzz –

Buzz –

An invisible sealing strength erupted from the valley, sealing away the entire area for 10 miles!

Chapter 70 – Subduing the Ant King

A month passed. The cultivators in the Grand Alchemy Meeting who lost and all their relatives and friends had mostly left by now. They had already lost, so how could they just sit around and watch as others reaped massive gains in front of them? The overcrowded situation in Immortal Eclipse Valley was eased a little, but when a group of people flew out from the core valley region, countless cultivators were once again on high alert and filled with expectations.

"It's Senior-apprentice Brother Wang Zifeng! Heavens, he has reached perfection! He has reached perfection of Foundation Establishment!" A young girl cultivator from the Flowing River Sect cried out in awe and worship.

"Senior-apprentice Sister Yun Xueqing has also reached the ninth level of Foundation Establishment. Her aura surges like waves on a clear lake. That is exactly the signs of an upcoming breakthrough in my sect's cultivation method. A year from now, Senior-apprentice Sister Xueqing will definitely be able to reach Golden Core!"

"The Radiant Red Wood is indeed worthy of being known as an ancient spiritual plant; its effects are actually so amazing. These people can almost be called reborn after a month within, and the aura of those two Golden Core seniors has become even more formidable."

"Aiya! I was just a bit away from being one of those 10 people and obtaining that good fortune! I can't accept this, I just can't accept this!" Someone hatefully muttered.

"Humph, a bit away? You were eliminated in the first round!" Another cultivator coldly sneered.

To the side of him, an originally reverent female cultivator coldly snorted as she heard this, her face filling with contempt.

After being shamed and angered, curses began flying about. If it weren't for everyone being wary of punishment from Immortal Eclipse Valley, a fight would have already broken out!

As the crowd was in chaos, Qi Jiao didn't have any thoughts of joining in on the fun. She looked at the group that was flying out, her fingers tightly wrapped together.

Qin Yu wasn't with them...was there an accident? Could it be that his designs on the Radiant Red Wood had been discovered by Immortal Eclipse Valley!?

Shua –

The group slowly fell down. The cultivator from Immortal Eclipse Valley spoke a few words, explaining to them not to divulge any information about what happened within, and then turned to leave.

Wang Zifeng, Yun Xueqing, and the others were immediately swarmed by the crowds of people.

“Hah, so someone tried to destroy the Radiant Red Wood and even hid his Golden Core realm cultivation to do so. Too bad for him, even though he blew himself up he wasn't able to harm the Radiant Red Wood at all.”

“No wonder 10 people went and only eight returned. Could another one of them have been a helper and also wanted to destroy the Radiant Red Wood?”

“That's not it at all!” A Flowing River Sect cultivator said with a face full of disdain. “It was that Qin Yu who took a back door entrance to get in. He wasn't able to withstand the temptation of the Radiant Red Wood, and even after a month passed he wouldn't come out. By now he has likely been torn to pieces by the Radiant Red Wood's guardian insects, the Purpleback Bluewing Ants!”

“Ah. So that's what happened. He really deserved what he got. If he entered without the qualifications to do so, then he was only cutting down his own life!”

Qi Jiao stumbled and her face paled.

The valley land that was covered in dazzling red light was currently submerged in the loud buzzing of wings. The sounds linked together in an endless drone that caused one's scalp to tingle. The Purpleback Bluewing Ants flew in the air, forming a dense sphere, and in the center of this was Qin Yu who everyone assumed had already died.

At this moment he was holding a Greatsun Mulberry leaf in each hand. The leaves emitted a golden halo of sun-bright light, as if they were forged from gold!

The Purpleback Bluewing Ants were naturally cruel and vicious creatures. Although Qin Yu's forehead was covered in sweat, he restrained his aura as much as possible to not release even a hint of evil intent. He didn't know how long this impasse lasted, but the mass of Purpleback Bluewing Ants suddenly parted, allowing an ant with pale lines on its body to fly forwards. Although it was only a winged ant, the arrogance and might it displayed was beyond reproach!

This was the ant king!

The Purpleback Bluewing Ants were different from other ant species; they didn't have an ant queen that was responsible for the reproduction of the species. Once a male and female ant bonded together, they could breed descendants. The strongest Purpleback Bluewing Ant in a group was called the ant king. This ant king possessed the highest level of authority and all other ants had to obey its will.

One commendable point was that Purpleback Bluewing Ants would only have a single companion in their lives. If their companion died, they would soon commit suicide due to their heartbreak.

Even an ant king was no exception.

The ant king flew in front of Qin Yu, deeply staring at him, giving him a strange feeling as if his entire being was seen through. After a moment of hesitation the ant king landed on Qin Yu and began to chew on the Greatsun Mulberry leaf. It ate without pause, and after it finished it flew off and landed on Qin Yu's hand where it continued to eat.

After it ate the two mulberry leaves, the ant king's wings began to shiver with excitement. It was filled with an unprecedented level of joy and satisfaction! Unfortunately, there were only two leaves so before it had been able to carefully savor them, it had already eaten them clean away.

It looked up at Qin Yu. The ant king's wings vibrated as if it would fly away soon. Now, there was no longer a point to keeping this stupid human around.

Qin Yu cursed in his heart but he didn't reveal any panic outside. He flipped his hand, producing two more Greatsun Mulberry leaves. With a cry of excitement the ant king lowered its head and continued eating. Eat, eat, eat more! These Greatsun Mulberry leaves had a little something extra added to them. The more it ate, the higher Qin Yu's chances of success would be!

To a Purpleback Bluewing Ant, the aura of a Greatsun Mulberry leaf was ten times, a hundred times more enticing than any drug. As the crowd of ants saw the ant king continue to eat away, they began to grow restless. Several of the strong Purpleback Bluewing Ants were already stirring about, ready to cause trouble. These were all the rivals of the ant king and they weren't much weaker.

Finally, one of the rivals was unable to withstand the temptation. Its wings buzzed as it viciously hurtled towards the ant king to compete for the Greatsun Mulberry leaves. This was because its instincts told it that as long as it swallowed this mulberry leaf, there was a chance it could transform and evolve into a true ant king!

The ant king screamed in rage. It fanned its wings and flew out. In a moment, the two mighty Purpleback Bluewing Ants had engaged in a wild slaughter.

The mass of ants immediately quieted down.

This was a battle for the throne, a way for their species to determine the supreme ruler. Their instinctual awe suppressed all of them together.

Puff –

The ant king bit off its opponent's head, loudly chewing and eat it. Its body was covered in its blood and the blood of its opponent. It looked up and screamed, its callous and cold eyes sweeping around. All of its rowdy rivals lowered their heads together, once more expressing their submission to their king.

But at this time, the ant king's blood began to creep and wriggle about like a living creature. It formed threads that glowed like heated wires as they plunged deep into the ant king's body!

Qin Yu rapidly formed mudras with his hands, pointing towards the ant king. The ant king screamed in pain and agony as it glared at Qin Yu with thick hatred.

“Ah!”

With a burst of angry cries, the mass of ants stormed forwards. Countless Purpleback Bluewing Ants surged forth, and in just a single breath of time they would be able to tear Qin Yu to shreds. With an unchanged expression, Qin Yu cast out a pile of Greatsun Mulberry leaves. The ants froze for a moment as their instinctive desires overwhelmed their thinking and they began to wildly devour the leaves in a frenzy.

“Ahhhh!”

The ant king’s screams came sharper and faster.

The mass of ants had no choice but to stop their frenzied feeding. But by the time they began flying towards Qin Yu once more, it was already too late. With a final miserable cry, all of the blood that covered the ant king had drilled into its body. Its hatred-filled eyes and ferocious expression disappeared, replaced with a look of submission and intimacy.

The Purpleback Bluewing Ants that rushed towards Qin Yu with open jaws suddenly stiffened. They looked at this human with confusion and doubt. They couldn’t understand why he had an aura that belonged to their king, but this aura still left them awed, not daring to be even the least bit wild.

Qin Yu let out a deep breath of relief. His back was already soaked in sweat. If it had been but a moment more, he would have died in the stomachs of those ants! Luckily, the records within the Ancient Beast Dominion Art weren’t wrong. After mixing his blood with the Greatsun Mulberry leaves and feeding it to the ant king, all he needed to do was quicken the blood of the ant king and blend their blood together with a soul seal.

Once the soul seal entered the ant king’s body and their blood vitality blended together, the ant king would regard Qin Yu as its most intimate and important person, one that would obey his orders and never abandon him for as long as it lived. And by controlling the ant king, he could control the entire group of ants. This was the plan that Qin Yu had established from the very start.

The ant king landed in Qin Yu’s palm. Its body was as long as a finger and its skin was a hard carapace that felt cool like jade to the touch. Qin Yu smiled and gently stroked the ant king. The ant king emitted a deep and excited hum as it began to wriggle about in his palm.

As Qin Yu recalled how tens of thousands of Purpleback Bluewing Ants had chased after three Golden Core masters and instantly shredded them up into food, he smiled.

He raised a hand. “Go, let me see your strength!”

The ant king reared its head back and screamed. Countless Purpleback Bluewing Ants flew behind it, passing into the skies like dark clouds that could annihilate anything in their path.

The Radiant Red Wood’s natural domain could repel any approaching person. When the Golden Core cultivator from before blew himself up, he hadn’t been able to harm the tree in the least. From this, one could see how potent its defenses were. But now, Qin Yu had the best spies possible, and with these spies at his disposal, this ancient spirit plant could be called defenseless.

With another scream from the ant king, a group of Purpleback Bluewing Ants flew towards the Radiant Red Wood. When they returned, each one held a glowing red fruit that shined like a flaming gem.

Qin Yu sat down cross-legged. He brought forth a Radiant Red Fruit and took a bite. As the fruit entered his mouth it melted away, and the mellow sweet taste streamed into his stomach. A burning heat suddenly ignited in his body like a growing flame, but before any pain occurred, the burning heat dissipated into his organs, limbs, and bones, transforming into pure spiritual strength that flowed through his flesh and blood and gathered in his dantian sea.

The effects were superior to the pills that were purified by the little blue lamp!

Qin Yu opened his eyes, a look of satisfaction on his face. But, he didn't hurry to cultivate. He walked beneath the Radiant Red Wood; in the month of time here, he had worked out where to find a derived root of the Radiant Red Wood from the Medicine Codex.

The ant king led the ant swarm over. They pushed away the soil, revealing the thick and sturdy roots beneath. Qin Yu looked carefully for several moments – there it was!

He waved his hand and the ant king led the ant swarm over to tear at the surface of the roots. Purpleback Bluewing Ants could even tear apart the protective magic power of Golden Core cultivators, so it was clear just how incredible their destructive power was. Even so, it was still astonishingly difficult for the ants to bite through the Radiant Red Wood's roots. The sound of grinding metal could be heard as teeth gnawed at roots!

Moreover, what was strange was that no matter how much the roots were torn apart, not the least bit of juice flowed out.

As if...this was all a camouflage!

After some time when the ant swarm dispersed, all that was left over from the thick and sturdy roots was the core section. This part was a quiet flame-red color and had some small root hairs; this was the true growing root section of the Radiant Red Wood. Under Qin Yu's command, the ant king began to bite at this part of the roots.

Crack –

Crack –

Crack –

The Radiant Red Wood shivered and swayed. A rich red divine light erupted. Luckily, Qin Yu was already prepared and had moved far away earlier. The red divine light didn't injure the Purpleback Bluewing Ants at all, and after sweeping around several times, it dispersed with some unwillingness.

Buzz –

The ant king held a part of the growing roots and flew over. Qin Yu took a deep bluish green jade box and carefully placed it within. Next, he placed a seal on that would prevent vitality from leaking out. Only then did he feel truly relieved!

At this point, his main goal in coming to Immortal Eclipse Valley had been accomplished.

Qin Yu smiled. It was time to cultivate!

Within Immortal Eclipse Valley, this Radiant Red Wood had survived for an unknown period of time and the amount of heaven and earth spiritual strength that it had saved could be called terrifying. Even if only a tiny portion was contained in the Radiant Red Fruits, this was still a horrifying lucky chance. Moreover, this place was sealed away so there wouldn't be anyone to disturb him. There was no way he could miss out on such a good opportunity to cultivate!

And as for leaving? The Purpleback Bluewing Ants were the key to opening the seal. With the key in hand, Qin Yu could leave whenever he desired.