

Trillion Times 31

Chapter 31: The Next Auction

There were not as many patrons as before in the auction house.

Lin Mo had spread the news. Logically speaking, there should not be so few people.

“I thought that it would be more lively this time, but why is it the opposite?”

The person’s companion made a silent gesture and looked around. Then, he said in a low voice, “Isn’t the atmosphere a little strange?”

Although there were fewer people, the most important folks still came, such as Du Nanfeng.

“I’ve gotten some insider information. Apparently, there’s bad blood between the Miao family and Lin Mo.”

“Huh? Lin Mo just arrived at Qingyang City. How did he offend them already?”

“You’re out of the loop because you didn’t attend the first auction. The clash started back then. See for yourself. Miao Yan definitely came with ill intentions.”

Quite a few people had witnessed Miao Yan and Lin Mo’s conflict. Miao Yan had already provoked Lin Mo before. Nobody knew what he would do this time. However, judging by his expression, one could easily tell he was not here to make friends.

At this moment, Miao Yan had a dark expression on his face. He did not utter a single word and just sat on his seat. Everyone around him behaved very carefully. They were afraid to offend him.

Naturally, it was unwise to antagonize the Miao family. Their family had monopolized all of the medicinal pills in Qingyang City. These pills were important for one’s cultivation and it was difficult for ordinary people to get their hands on them.

So, even though they were tempted, most people dared not participate in Lin Mo’s auction this time around.

Of course, there were others who were not afraid such as the Huang family’s twin sisters, Wang Qing, and more.

“Why is the Du family’s patriarch here though?”

Upon seeing Du Nanfeng, many people revealed an astonished expression. Based on his status, there was no reason for him to be here.

“I heard that his demonic beast is about to have a breakthrough, so he’s here to look for high-level demonic beasts as fodder. The Du family had been searching everywhere. They won’t miss any opportunity. It’s probably why he’s here.”

“I see.”

“It’s possible that Miao Yan wants to kill Lin Mo. Moreover, Lin Mo has no support from his family. Miao Yan is definitely going to make a move.”

“The Miao family is so overbearing. Does Lin Mo know about this?”

“They had always been like this. The Chaos Pill that Lin Mo auctioned off earlier was already a slap to their faces. Lin Mo’s arrival has disrupted the order of the other factions that had long been established. No doubt, they will try to get rid of him.”

“Lin Mo should be aware. After all, someone tried to assassinate him earlier. It seems like he’s quite powerful.”

“So what if he’s strong? He can’t possibly take on the entire Miao family by himself.”

Just as everyone was discussing, Wu Jin walked up to the center of the stage.

“Welcome. There are three items up for auction this time.”

The crowd became quiet. All that mattered was the auction. As for the grudge between Lin Mo and the Miao family, it was none of their business.

“The first item up for auction is a tier 4 top-grade movement technique. Starting price is 5,000 low-grade spirit stones!”

A portion of the crowd revealed a surprised expression.

“Isn’t that the item that Lin Mo had spent over 20,000 spirit stones to acquire from the royal family’s auction house? I was there. It’s no mistake.”

???

Everyone was confused. They had no idea what was happening. In fact, Lin Mo’s starting price was much lower than the original.

“The technique must have been too difficult for him to cultivate. After all, it’s a tier 4 item that has the potential to become tier 5. That must be why he decided to resell it.”

Most of the people felt the same way. No one expected Lin Mo to successfully cultivate the “Dust Rising Steps” already!

Not to mention Qingyang City, even in the entire continent, barely anyone could learn and comprehend this cultivation technique in such a short period of time.

Miao Yan’s expression was somewhat disdainful.

He sneered and said, “I thought there would be something good, but it’s just a recycled item. This guy must be at the end of his wits. He doesn’t have anything valuable. That’s why he’s reselling things.”

Lin Mo was probably lacking in resources and could only come up with this plan. That was what most people thought.

One of Miao Yan’s lackeys tried to flatter him.

“Who cares. It’s fine as long as he’s not a threat to us.”

Miao Yan revealed a hint of killing intent.

“Even if he is a threat, so what? The Miao family can easily get rid of him.”

Huang Zhiyun and Huang Zhirou looked at each other. They were pleasantly surprised. Obviously, they were very interested in this cultivation technique.

The Huang family did not have a very good relationship with the royal family. As such, they did not attend their previous auction. They were aware that Lin Mo had obtained the “Dust Rising Steps”, but they never expected him to resell it. This was a great opportunity for them.

“6,000 low-grade spirit stones!”

“8,000 low-grade spirit stones!”

...

A number of people wanted this cultivation technique. The two sisters were determined to obtain it as well. In the end, they managed to get it for eighteen thousand low-grade spirit stones.

“Isn’t Lin Mo a little foolish? He’s reselling this cultivation technique so quickly.”

Of course, in terms of price, Lin Mo could not compete with the royal family.

It could be said that Lin Mo had suffered a great loss. Even his family would not be able to keep his business afloat if this went on.

Chapter 32: Beat Him at His Own Game

“Maybe he is just a fool with a lot of money.”

“He could have already mastered the technique. If so, he’ll only lose a few thousand low-grade spirit stones. That’s nothing.”

Meanwhile, the Huang sisters were overjoyed. They knew how much Lin Mo had originally paid for the cultivation technique. In a way, they had made a huge profit.

Everyone felt that Lin Mo was losing out.

Of course, only Lin Mo himself knew the truth. He may have had a deficit in terms of spirit stones, but he had benefited from other aspects.

[Ding! The host has successfully auctioned “Dust Rising Steps”.]

[Successfully triggered 3,000 times return!]

[Obtained a tier 7 top-grade movement technique, “Dragon Swimming Steps”!]

Lin Mo had already mastered the “Dust Rising Steps” and now, he received an even better rebate from the system. The spirit stones lost were nothing in comparison.

Even the royal family would covet such a cultivation technique. Moreover, it was exactly what Lin Mo wanted. Since he was being threatened by the Miao and Lin families, he needed a better movement technique.

The “Dust Rising Steps” was good but it was still a tier four cultivation technique, even if it had the potential to become tier five. Thus, it was still slightly lacking. With the “Dragon Swimming Steps”, it would make him difficult to be pursued once he mastered it.

Lin Mo did not like to underestimate his opponent. If he was not completely confident, he would not simply take any action. This was also the reason why he had yet to make a move on the Lin and Miao family.

Besides, these two families were huge and their foundations were deep. He needed to take things slow.

“The second item up for auction is a tier 4 top-grade demonic beast, winged python. Starting price is 8,000 low-grade spirit stones.”

A huge iron cage was lifted up. There was a pair of cold and cruel vertical pupils. The bucket-sized python coiled inside the cage, looking rather restless.

“Hiss...”

Its tongue flickered around restlessly. Upon seeing the mass amount of people, the python quickly entered an attacking state. Its upper body stood up straight and the tip of its tail slapped the ground.

Fortunately, this cage had a special seal on it. No ordinary cage could contain this demonic beast. Even so, everyone still felt a chill when they saw the snake.

“That’s a genuine tier 4 top-grade demonic beast.”

“Look, there are a pair of small wings on its back.”

There were two small bulges on the python’s back. It was close to its abdomen and there was a pair of wings. However, the wings were quite small. Realistically, the snake would not be able to fly. Furthermore, the snake’s body was huge.

Someone guessed, “I think it mutated. The wings may look unremarkable now but in the future, they will definitely grow bigger. By then, it would be even more of a threat.”

Snakes were reptiles, so they could only fight on the ground. If they had functional wings, they could expand their fighting capabilities. Their speed would also increase.

It took a lot of effort for Wu Jin to obtain the snake. He did his best to fulfill Lin Mo’s request.

The lowest grade of a demonic beast that the system had rewarded was tier five. Lin Mo was rather worried about this. If he auctioned off this low-tier demonic beast, the return might not be what he expected.

“Father, that’s a tier 4 top-grade demonic beast! Should we buy it?”

Du Nanfeng and Du Wan were quite shocked. They did not expect Lin Mo to produce results so quickly. Their faith in him was bolstered.

No doubt, the young man would keep his words. They believed he would provide them with a top-grade tier five beast soon.

Although a tier four top-grade demonic beast would prove the black-blood tiger with some growth, its effects would undoubtedly not be as good as a tier five demonic beast. Therefore, this python was not a must-buy for Du Nanfeng. Hence, he decided to take things slow.

Miao Yan overheard Du Wan's words. In recent times, wherever there were demonic beasts, the Du family would also be present. Normally, the Du family would instantly place their bids.

The corners of Miao Yan's mouth immediately revealed a malicious smile.

"10,000 spirit stones!"

After placing his bid, Miao Yan threw a provocative gaze over. A tier four top-grade demonic beast was not weak. If the Du family obtained it, their power would increase even further. After all, beast taming was their specialty. It would certainly threaten the stable position of the Miao family.

Additionally, the relationship between the Miao and Du families was not that good. Miao Yan would not allow them to gain the upper hand.

Unfortunately for him, he did not know about the deal between the Du family and Lin Mo. Otherwise, he would absolutely regret his decision.

Du Wan lowered his voice and said with dissatisfaction, "Miao Yan doesn't need the python at all. A higher-tier demonic beast had already been prepared for him. He's deliberately bickering with us."

Du Nanfeng was a shrewd old man. Obviously, he had seen through Miao Yan's plan. He said meaningfully, "Then, we shall return the favor."

Lin Mo and the Miao family did not have a good relationship either. If the Miao family found out they were helping Lin Mo, coupled with the existing conflicts, their fragile connection would falter even further. It was only a matter of time before they came for each other's throats. Thus, it would be better to do Lin Mo a favor.

The father and son looked at each other. Du Wan immediately understood Du Nanfeng's intentions and shouted, "12,000 spirit stones!"

Then, he glared back fiercely at Miao Yan.

On the other hand, Miao Yan thought that he had successfully provoked the Du family. He was very pleased with himself.

"15,000 spirit stones!"

"20,000 spirit stones!"

Chapter 33: The Fish Has Bitten the Hook

In the beginning, people were still competing. However, the price soared at a ridiculous rate and they could no longer afford it.

Eventually, only Du Wan and Miao Yan's voices were left.

Wang Qing and the Huang sisters simply watched.

"Who do you think will win?"

"I can't tell. Both families are not lacking when it comes to spirit stones."

"Even if the Du family won the bid, they would suffer a huge loss. The price is ten times higher than normal rates. Miao Yan is really ruthless."

Currently, the price for the demonic beast was forty thousand spirit stones. From the looks of it, neither side was willing to give up. The price would just continue to go up.

Du Wan looked a little anxious.

"Miao Yan, don't go too far! Our family is determined to obtain this tier 4 demonic beast. Why are you making things hard for us?"

On the other hand, Miao Yan had a confident look on his face. He was certain victory was within his grasp and replied pretentiously, "What are you saying? Are others not allowed to bid on the demonic beast? I need it as well. Let's go all out."

Everyone knew he was just trying to provoke the Du family.

If Du Wan actually needed this demonic beast, he would be enraged by him. A smile flashed across his face. Despite that, he hid it and pretended to be angry instead.

"Are you trying to challenge the Du family? In Qingyang City, we..."

"Enough!"

Du Nanfeng finally spoke. He looked calm on the surface, but everyone could tell that he was actually displeased.

"Since Young Master Miao wants to compete with us, we will be more than willing to play along."

Basically, he meant that they were going to fight to the end.

Miao Yan did not want to be overshadowed. So, he said, "Alright, let's see who's better."

Things were seemingly going according to Miao Yan's plan. There was no way he would let the Du family have the demonic beast at a normal price. He did not hesitate and continued his bids.

Du Nanfeng and Du Wan looked at each other. Then, they followed suit.

The fish had already taken the bait and the net was about to be reeled in.

Lin Mo saw everything that was happening. He could barely hold back his laughter. What the Du family did was an absolute power move. If he had not personally made the agreement with them, he would have also been fooled by their act.

Of course, Miao Yan was not aware of anything. He thought that he could strike a blow to the Du family. The price was getting higher and higher, which meant the Du family would need to expend a lot of spirit stones.

“50,000 low-grade spirit stones!”

When Miao Yan shouted out this sky-high price, everyone gasped.

“Did I hear wrongly? A mere tier 4 demonic beast is actually going to be sold for 50,000 low-grade spirit stones. This price is unheard of even in large auction houses. In fact, this price could buy several tier 4 demonic beasts!”

“Sigh, I really don’t understand what goes through rich people’s minds.”

Miao Yan also realized this price was too high. Even for him, it would be difficult to fork out such an amount. What if the father and son got frightened and stopped bidding?!

His heart skipped a beat. He tried to comfort himself by thinking about their previous purchase history. They should keep bidding.

The servant beside Miao Yan also looked troubled.

“Young master, we didn’t bring that many spirit stones. I’m afraid...”

Miao Yan said fiercely, “Stop blabbering. The Du family will definitely continue to bid. We won’t be the one paying.”

Although he said that, Miao Yan could not help but feel a little flustered. He subconsciously looked at Du Wan, hoping that the latter would place another bid. Then, he would stop.

Fifty thousand low-grade spirit stones were a lot.

There was a deathly silence in the air. Nobody spoke for a long time.

Miao Yan tried to provoke the Du family again.

“What happened? Is the Du family afraid? If so, why did you act like you were determined to win?”

As if his provocations had worked, Du Nanfeng opened his mouth. Miao Yan thought that he was going to call out a higher price, so he felt relieved and revealed a smug smile.

Unfortunately for him, that was not the case.

Du Nanfeng revealed a magnanimous expression. He did not look even a little bit displeased.

“Since Young Master Miao is so determined, I won’t compete with you.”

???

Was the bidding session over?

“Why didn’t you call out a bid?!”

Du Nanfeng and Du Wan’s acting were really superb. It was not surprising that Miao Yan got tricked. Not only him, but everyone else also thought the Du family would continue to bid.

Nobody expected them to stop.

Du Nanfeng smiled as if he had won the auction.

“Thank you for letting us win. Young Master Miao is really too kind.”

Du Wan also had a mocking expression on his face. He looked at the dumbfounded Miao Yan and urged, “Young Master Miao, why are you still standing there? Quickly take out 50,000 low-grade spirit stones. The tier 4 demonic beast is yours.”

He even emphasized the words “Tier 4”.

Du Wan then pretended to sigh and said, “The Miao family is indeed rich. They can afford to buy a mere tier 4 demonic beast for 50,000 low-grade spirit stones. We are no match for them.”

What he said was simply rubbing salt to the wound.

Miao Yan’s eyes went black and he almost fainted.

1

Chapter 34: It Is Your Fault

After hearing Du Nanfeng and Du Wan’s words, Miao Yan would be a fool if he still did not understand what was going on.

With a livid expression, he stood up from his chair and pointed at Lin Mo.

“It’s you!”

The sight of Lin Mo made him even more furious. Perhaps they had worked together to set up this trap.

“I didn’t expect you guys to be so despicable. You set me up!”

Du Wan put on an innocent expression on his face.

“Young Master Miao, you raised the price. Nobody forced you. The transaction was consensual. How could you say that we set you up? We even have to regretfully give up the demonic beast.”

What Du Wan said almost caused Miao Yan to vomit up blood. He was unable to speak for a long time.

A tier four demonic beast for fifty thousand low-grade spirit stones. Miao Yan would probably be scolded once he returned home. This thought caused him to feel even more depressed.

Lin Mo gave his order and Wu Jin announced, “Young Master Miao, please pay up.”

Miao Yan clenched his fists tightly. He really wanted to just leave. His expression looked as if he was going to eat someone. It was quite scary.

This did not affect Du Wan at all. He pretended to be surprised and said, "Young Master Miao, are you thinking of going back on your words? Your family owns such a big auction house. Don't tell me you actually can't afford it?"

Miao Yan was helpless. No matter what, he had to fork out the spirit stones.

Otherwise, it would severely damage the Miao family's reputation.

He forcefully suppressed his anger and said to his servant, "Go back and get the spirit stones for me."

Wu Jin deliberately added, "Alright, I'll wait here until Young Master Miao is ready to pay."

Then, he sat down beside Miao Yan and acted as if he was worried the latter would runoff.

Miao Yan had never suffered such humiliation before. All he could do was grit his teeth. His plan to harm the Du family had backfired. In fact, his own family would suffer the loss.

The people around him subconsciously moved away. Everyone could see that Miao Yan was about to blow up at any moment.

Soon, the spirit stones were brought over in an interspatial ring.

Miao Yan viciously threw it at Wu Jin. His rage level had reached its peak.

"There, 50,000 low-grade spirit stones!"

Du Wan clapped his hands.

"Young Master Miao is indeed magnanimous."

His compliment was nothing but sarcasm. Some people could not help but laugh out loud. At this moment, Miao Yan truly looked like a fool.

Simultaneously, the system notification sounded in Lin Mo's mind.

[Ding! The host has successfully auctioned a tier 4 top-grade winged python.]

[Successfully triggered 1,000 times return!]

1

[Obtained a tier 5 top-grade demonic beast, giant winged python!]

Lin Mo felt a heavy burden lifted off his back. He had managed to fulfill his promise to others. Once he sent the giant winged python to the Du family, their transaction would be completed.

Lin Mo's gaze shifted to Miao Yan. He had no plans to let the latter off easily. Besides, their relationship was already strained, so it did not matter if he offended him a little more.

"How would I know if there are 50,000 low-grade spirit stones in this ring?"

Miao Yan was so angry that his facial features became distorted. He asked in a low voice, "You dare to suspect me?"

His eyes were filled with killing intent. If there was no one around, he would have already launched an attack by now.

However, Lin Mo was not afraid at all. He shook his head and said, "I dare not, but 50,000 low-grade spirit stones is a lot. I have to be meticulous."

Lin Mo intentionally emphasized the words "50,000 low-grade spirit stones" just to provoke Miao Yan even further.

Miao Yan's gaze was dark. He was like a venomous snake. His facial expression was enough to instill fear in normal people.

"Enough. Don't go too far. I will remember everything that has happened today. In the future, I will definitely repay you a hundred times over!"

Lin Mo did not take Miao Yan's threat to heart. He merely smiled faintly and turned around to leave.

Miao Yan felt as if he was punched in the gut. Whenever he thought about the fifty thousand low-grade spirit stones, he could feel his heart bleed. Worse still, the people around were looking at him with either pitiful or mocking eyes.

He shouted viciously, "What are all of you looking at?!"

Everyone hurriedly withdrew their gazes. Of course, their inner thoughts were out of Miao Yan's control.

"The third item up for auction is a giant black scythe. It's a tier 4 middle-grade weapon. Starting price is 3,000 low-grade spirit stones!"

1

A giant black scythe appeared in the middle of the stage. It emanated an ominous black aura. The audience could also feel a chill down their spines. Clearly, the quality of this scythe was not bad.

Yet, most people had disappointed expressions on their faces. After all, the third item looked rather ordinary.

"It can't be compared to the first two items, but it's still good."

"This auction has already surpassed the other two auctions."

"That's right. Which auction house's tier 4 demonic beast can..."

The person who said that immediately realized he had misspoken. He quickly stopped talking. However, Miao Yan was already staring at him with his death-like gaze. The man was scared out of his wits.

As the saying goes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Wang Qing was delighted when he saw the black scythe. He liked its unique design. So, he opened his mouth and shouted, "4,000 low-grade spirit stones!"

"5,000 low-grade spirit stones!"

Chapter 35: All Escorts

In the end, the black scythe was bought by Wang Qing for eight thousand low-grade spirit stones.

Those who lost the bid could not help but sigh.

“I thought I’ll have a chance in this new auction house, but all the good items were still bought by the four great clans. It’s as if I’m just their escort.”

The rest of the people agreed. However, there was nothing they could do. The final price was extremely high and they did not possess so many spirit stones.

Obviously, the four great clans had powerful foundations. A normal person stood no chance against them.

“Forget it. Let’s just treat this as an experience.”

[Ding! The host has successfully auctioned a giant black scythe.]

[Successfully triggered 3,000 times return!]

1

[Obtained tier 6 top-grade weapon, wind-cleaving scythe!]

3

Lin Mo was slightly startled. His reward filled him with ecstasy. It seemed like the rewards from the system were increasing in terms of quality.

1

He did not know what triggered it, but that did not matter as long as he profited.

Things were going great for him.

The auction was nearing its end. To the patrons, their trip today had not been in vain. This was because they got to witness the clash between the Du and Miao family.

A tier four demonic beast was sold at a price that was equal to a tier six demonic beast.

Originally, Miao Yan wanted to cause trouble. However, it backfired and he had to suffer the backlash. This topic would be discussed by many people for a long time.

At the same time, it seemed like the Du family had formed an alliance with Lin Mo. How else would the event play out to such an extent?

“I didn’t expect Lin Mo and the Du family to get along in such a short period of time. Looks like he’s quite capable.”

“He has offended the Miao family but with the Du family’s support, who knows how the future will play out.”

“After this incident, the relationship between the Miao and Du family will become even tenser. At this point, they’re walking on thin ice.”

“The Miao family has dominated Qingyang City for years. They had also been fighting with the Du family over resources and benefits. This time, Du Nanfeng has managed to deal a heavy blow to them. I wonder what the Miao family will do next.”

“...”

“Looks like there is going to be a lot of trouble in Qingyang City again.”

...

Miao Yan returned home with a livid expression. Miao Jian and the others had been waiting for his return. Upon seeing Miao Yan, they hurriedly asked, “Yan ‘er, what happened? I heard that you used 50,000 low-grade spirit stones to buy a tier 4 demonic beast. Is that true?”

The Miao family was rich, but this was just a waste. Miao Jian could not believe what Miao Yan had done.

Miao Yan’s eyes turned red with anger.

“Father, they set me up! The Du family has already joined forces with Lin Mo. They tricked me into wasting so many spirit stones.”

Miao Yan recalled what had happened. Du Nanfeng and Du Wan should have lost, not him.

“Boom!”

As soon as he finished speaking, a loud sound could be heard.

It was Miao Jian. He had struck his palm on the table.

“This is too much!”

The table was made of a hundred-year-old piece of heavy wood. It was said to be indestructible. Yet, Miao Jian could destroy it easily. One could only imagine his cultivation level.

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Miao Jian furrowed his brows. Then, he gritted his teeth and said, “This is not your fault. They are simply too cunning.”

1

After that, a look of contemplation flashed across his eyes.

“I’m just wondering when did they start to work together.”

“Father, the Du family was so devious. We have been on bad terms for a long time. They must have planned this attack from the start.”

1

Miao Jian's expression was cold.

"We can't underestimate the Du family's strength. Nonetheless, they will be dealt with sooner or later. The real problem is Lin Mo. He'll definitely pay a painful price."

"Don't worry, I have already contacted the second elder of the Lin family. He has promised to help us," said Miao Jian sinisterly. His eyes were filled with killing intent.

If the two great families joined forces, they would definitely be able to deal with Lin Mo.

Miao Yan finally revealed a relieved smile.

"When the time comes, I will personally cut that brat into a thousand pieces. Only then will my anger be appeased!"

...

Once the auction was over, Lin Mo brought the tier five demonic beast over to the Du family's estate.

Naturally, Du Nanfeng and Du Wan welcomed him warmly.

"Did you like my gift?"

Lin Mo understood that Du Nanfeng was referring to the fifty thousand low-grade spirit stones.

"Of course. Thank you for helping me."

The tier four demonic beast should have only cost ten thousand spirit stones at most. Miao Yan was basically scammed.

Du Wan was laughing from the side.

"You should have seen Miao Yan's expression. It was so gratifying."

Lin Mo revealed a mysterious smile.

"I'm here to return the favor."

Du Nanfeng's heart skipped a beat.

"What do you mean?"

"Roar!"

A demonic beast's roar could be heard.

Du Nanfeng looked at the thick python in front of him. Its huge wings were strong and powerful. When the python flapped it, dust, sand, and stones on the ground flew everywhere. Every feather was extremely sharp as well. They flickered with a faint green light. Clearly, it contained a lethal poison.

This demonic beast was an advanced version of the winged python. The aura emitted was enough proof of it being a genuine top-grade tier five demonic beast!

Chapter 36: Beast Taming Secret Manual, Pattern Revealed

Du Nanfeng was ecstatic. He did not expect Lin Mo to be so capable. The latter really got him a top-grade tier five demonic beast in such a short time.

“Owner Lin, I don’t know how to thank you. You’ve really helped me out!”

If a person could not obtain top-grade medicinal pills, they could take their time to collect them. After all, one could still cultivate without them, just slower.

However, demonic beasts were different. They had violent personalities. Even if they were tamed and contracted, it would be difficult to change their bestial nature. If they did not receive their required vitality, they would not be able to suppress their demonic qi. This would cause them to explode and die.

The black-blood tiger was the most important demonic beast to the Du family. It allowed them to contend with the other three great families. In short, they needed its powerful combat strength.

Since they could not find any high-level demonic beasts, the Du family reluctantly gathered tier three or four demonic beasts to replace them. Of course, that was not enough for the black-blood tiger to develop further.

Tier five demonic beasts were not easy to find. Moreover, there were other families who were hostile towards them, especially the Miao family. They would definitely interfere and not let the Du family succeed easily.

If the black-blood tiger really broke through, Du Nanfeng’s strength would increase by a lot. There was no way the other families would just sit and watch.

Du Nanfeng seemed to have made up his mind.

“Owner Lin, if you want to learn how to tame beasts, I’m willing to give you the Beast Taming Manual.”

Even Du Wan was quite shocked to hear this.

The Du family was able to establish a foothold in Qingyang City because of their unique beast-taming abilities. The Beast Taming Manual was only passed down to the Du family. An ordinary disciple would not be able to learn it.

Du Nanfeng continued in a deep voice, “Owner Lin is our great benefactor. With this top-grade tier 5 beast, I think the black-blood tiger will be able to have a successful breakthrough.”

It might not be possible with an ordinary tier five demonic beast. However, this beast was top-grade! In fact, it’s almost tier six. It should be a sufficient meal for the black-blood tiger.

As the head of the family, Du Nanfeng’s words carried a lot of weight. He meant what he said.

“If this is the clan head’s decision, then we have no objections.”

This was a pleasant surprise for Lin Mo. He never expected Du Nanfeng to be so generous.

“Thank you for your good intentions.”

Lin Mo also handed over the interspatial ring that was on his hand.

“These are the things that you’ve asked me to collect previously. They are all stored in this ring.”

A look of surprise flashed across Du Nanfeng’s face as he took the ring. There were medicinal pills, strengthening ingredients, and all sorts of heavenly treasures inside. He did not expect Lin Mo to collect them so quickly.

“According to our previous agreement, I will heighten the lookout fish’s bloodline. To do so, for the next one and a half months, the lookout fish will have to stay here. It will be in my care.”

“No problem.”

Lin Mo was not worried that Du Nanfeng would go back on his words or harm the lookout fish. After all, the two of them had already made a deal and the latter was not a short-sighted person.

An ordinary person could only contract one life-bound demonic beast. The black-blood tiger had already expended a lot of the Du family’s resources, so nurturing the lookout fish was a small matter.

After a period of time, the lookout fish would complete its transformation and become even stronger. When that time came, Lin Mo could not wait to see it fight again. The lookout fish would definitely turn the tides of battles.

After Lin Mo left, Du Wan asked in a confused tone, “Father, even if you are grateful to Lin Mo, you can just give him some magic tools and elixirs. Why did you offer him the Du family’s precious Beast Taming Manual?”

Du Nanfeng narrowed his eyes and asked in return, “Do you think he is lacking in these things?”

Lin Mo had held auctions every so often and the items were frequently tier five or six. Clearly, he had an impressive stash.

“He probably doesn’t even need the manual. It’s meaningless to him.”

“Even so, to pass the Beast Taming Manual to an outsider...”

Before Du Wan could finish his sentence, Du Nanfeng interrupted him.

“You are still too young. We need to see the bigger picture. I’m doing this for our own good as well. If we build a good relationship with a strong person, the Du family will become even more powerful in the future.”

Du Wan did not expect his father to think so highly of Lin Mo.

Du Nanfeng could see that Du Wan was confused. So, he continued, “It has only been a short period of time. Yet, Lin Mo was able to bring us a tier 5 top-grade demonic beast. From this, I could tell that he’s not an ordinary person.”

“However, according to our investigation, he is not even favored by the Lin family. He might be a genius, but that was in the past.”

Du Nanfeng shook his head.

“No, you’re wrong.”

He added earnestly, “This world is full of geniuses. What makes Lin Mo different is that he fell to rock bottom, but he managed to get up again. It’s admirable. At the same time, people like him are the most terrifying.”

2

Chapter 37: The Dragon Swimming Steps and the Wind-Cleaving Scythe

After Lin Mo returned from the Du family’s estate, he began his closed-door cultivation. Before that, he instructed Wu Jin, “Don’t let anyone disturb me.”

Wu Jin was a little surprised.

“Young master, why are you in such a hurry to cultivate?”

“Miao Yan had suffered a huge loss in our last auction. He won’t let things go so easily. Although it was the Du family’s trap, he’ll definitely think that I was involved and put the blame on me.”

Lin Mo added, “Do you think it’s easier to deal with a family or just one person?”

Wu Jin answered without hesitation, “Of course, it’s easier to deal with one person.”

When he said that, his heart skipped a beat. The Miao family had always been hostile towards them and now, the situation had escalated.

Clearly, teaming up with the Du family was the best decision.

Lin Mo nodded his head. He looked into the air with a solemn expression.

There had been no news from the Lin family. No doubt, they would not let him off the hook. The next assassination attempt should be coming soon. Hence, he needed to increase his strength urgently.

“Also, pay more attention to what’s happening in the city these few days. Shut the auction house’s door tightly. Keep a low profile for the time being. We’ll discuss our next steps after I come out of seclusion.”

Wu Jin nodded.

“Don’t worry. I will handle everything.”

Hence, Lin Mo began his cultivation.

In the secret chamber, Lin Mo sat cross-legged and quickly entered a meditative state. He was very composed. Countless amounts of pure energy flowed through his body’s eight extraordinary meridians and various major acupoints.

They were like small agile fishes. These meridians were the rivers they relied on to survive. The human body’s meridians were extremely complicated. It was like a tree with countless branches.

Intersecting and interweaving, they were scattered all over the place. However, in the end, they all ended up in the same place. Then, they would converge into a boundless ocean.

If someone was able to look inside, they would discover a small vortex within Lin Mo's meridians. The cold air within that vortex was overflowing. It was due to the influence of the Frost Sword technique.

Some spots were ridiculously cold as if it was the land of the extreme north. Countless amounts of spiritual energy were absorbed and the vortex gradually became larger.

The qi around Lin Mo's body was also affected. There were traces of coldness. He breathed in and out with it a peerless rhythm. That caused the qi to enter and surround his body. Not long after, light blue crystals appeared all over the ground. Even the walls were covered with a faint layer of frost.

Soon, the vortex absorbed everything. Nothing could stop Lin Mo from breaking through the shackles within his body.

Suddenly, Lin Mo opened his eyes. A pale blue light flashed past. In an instant, the ice and snow disappeared. However, his limbs were filled with power. It was as if he could easily condense boundless energy.

Lin Mo had reached the fourth level of the spirit gathering realm! His speed was simply shocking.

1

With such strength, nobody in Qingyang City could compete with him. The only ones who were stronger than Lin Mo were the elders and leaders of the four great clans!

At the same time, he realized that in the spirit gathering realm, the first four realms corresponded to the four limbs. Thus, allowing the four limbs to achieve a temporary increase in strength.

However, to an ordinary person, this would more or less cause a certain amount of damage.

Since Lin Mo possessed the god-slaying body, it allowed him to survive in such a desperate situation.

With his special constitution and the high-grade cultivation technique, he would be able to fight even against a peak level nine expert!

"The clan's right-hand man is probably a peak level 9 expert. Perhaps the Miao, Wang, and Huang family's patriarchs are all at this stage."

Based on Lin Mo's memories, the Lin clan's patriarch had already reached this level a few decades ago. It was highly likely that he had already completed his breakthrough. Nobody knew what terrifying power he had achieved.

Still, Lin Mo was not afraid. His cultivation speed was truly monstrous. In the entire continent, no one could surpass him. He believed that with time, he would be able to catch up.

Anyway, he started to cultivate the "Dragon Swimming Steps".

Since he had a foundation from the "Dust Rising Steps", cultivating the "Dragon Swimming Steps" was not difficult. On the contrary, it went incredibly smoothly.

A golden dragon phantom appeared on Lin Mo's body, giving off an aura that could reach the heavens. As the phantom gradually solidified, the dragon's eyes were filled with an indescribable majesty. It felt like the dragon was about to come back to life.

This meant that Lin Mo's cultivation was a huge success. He was only one step away from perfecting it. Naturally, he did not forget about the wind-cleaving scythe.

1

A huge scythe appeared in the air. It looked extremely heavy but was actually exceptionally light. The blade was sharp. It could probably split the air in half.

The sound of sharp blades cutting through the wind could be heard. Most importantly, the wind-cleaving scythe could be adjusted according to the user's wishes. It was really handy.

Furthermore, the wind-cleaving scythe had AOE (TN: Area of effect) attacks. Lin Mo planned to use the Frost Sword if he was facing a single enemy. On the other hand, if he was surrounded by enemies, he would use the wind-cleaving scythe.

Most of the newly obtained items had been cultivated by Lin Mo.

"It's a pity that the auction return system isn't omnipotent. I can only use whatever the system gives. If only I could get what I want..."

1

Even so, Lin Mo was still satisfied. After all, the items given by the system were all good. Along with the god-slaying body, no matter what he cultivated, his speed would be much faster than an ordinary person.

Chapter 38: A Plan to Kill by Borrowing Someone Else's Knife

At the Lin family's estate, things were stirring up.

"What? Another failure?!"

The second elder had received the news from Qingyang City. He stood up from his chair and accidentally knocked over a teacup on the table.

"How is this possible? The assassins were very powerful. They should be more than enough to deal with Lin Mo. How did they fail? Is an expert secretly helping out that kid?"

1

The second elder was puzzled. However, before he could gather his thoughts, the clan leader sent someone for him.

"Did the clan leader say why he's looking for me?"

Could it be that Lin Mo's attempted assassinations were exposed?

Unfortunately, the servant shook his head. He had no idea.

“The clan leader only said that he wanted to see you and nothing else.”

Just as he reached the door, a strong spiritual power rushed over. It even caused him to have a hard time breathing. The second elder’s body subconsciously reacted and moved to the side. It was difficult to resist such strong power.

Half of his shoulder felt like it was crushed by a giant hand. He grunted and his face became extremely pale. Suddenly, he knelt on the ground.

“Clan leader, please calm down. What have I done to make you so angry?”

The clan leader spoke in a deep voice, “You still have the nerve to ask! How dare you attempt to assassinate Lin Mo!”

This caused the second elder’s heart to thump. His misdeeds were indeed exposed.

If Lin Mo died, there should be no evidence left behind. Hence, even if the matter was exposed, it would not have mattered. At most, he would only face a small punishment.

Regrettably, Lin Mo survived and the clan leader was furious upon hearing what had happened. Things had completely gone awry.

The clan leader stared at the second elder. He knew what the latter was thinking and released another strike of spiritual energy as he was unable to contain his anger.

“Our clan members are not allowed to kill each other. That rule had been long established. You have no regard for me as the clan leader.”

“I’m just thinking for the sake of our clan. Everyone knows that Lin Mo is good for nothing. Enemy clans use him to mock us. He’s just a dirt stain. That’s why I took such drastic measures.”

1

“...”

The second elder spoke with sincerity and passion. He was really thinking about the Lin clan. When the clan leader saw his expression, most of the anger in his heart dissipated.

1

“Are the assassins members of the Lin clan?”

The second elder was not so foolish. It would be bad if word got out.

“Clan leader, don’t worry. Those assassins are outsiders. I will never do anything that would tarnish the Lin family’s reputation.”

“If that’s the case, then I’ll let you off. Don’t do such foolish things in the future.”

The clan leader gazed into the air. There was a hint of contemplation on his face.

“Lin Mo has already recovered his strength. In fact, he’s even more powerful now. You absolutely must not send any more assassins. Otherwise, I won’t let you off so lightly again!”

The second elder cried out involuntarily, "He has recovered his strength?!"

Upon hearing that, the clan leader narrowed his eyes and his deep gaze landed on the second elder. His tone was rather unclear as he said, "You seem to be very surprised to hear this."

The second elder hurriedly lowered his head.

"No, it's not like that."

This was the reason why the clan leader had thrown such a huge tantrum. If Lin Mo was still good for nothing, then he would not mind it. However, things had changed.

Since Lin Mo had recovered his strength, the clan leader was somewhat tempted to bring him back to the family. On the other hand, this was bad news for the second elder.

"I can no longer turn a blind eye to your little tricks. The interests of the clan are the most important."

The second elder's heart sank.

"Understood."

He thought of Lin Mo's reputation as a genius in the past. At that time, Lin Mo was in the limelight. Others were considered dull in comparison to his brilliance. This also applied to the second elder's bloodline.

If Lin Mo was around, no one else could make a name for themselves.

A dark light flashed across the second elder's eyes as he probed, "If Lin Mo knew that the assassins were sent by me, I'm afraid that he would harbor resentment for the Lin family. When that time comes..."

He did not say anything further. The second elder was really good at manipulating others.

The clan leader pondered for a moment and said indifferently, "In any case, the assassins were not members of the Lin family. Lin Mo does not have any evidence. If he was smart, he would not pick a fight with us. Breaking off or becoming enemies with the Lin family would not be beneficial to him."

Those words were true, but how could Lin Mo just pretend that nothing had happened? He had to pay them back!

"Remember to put away those thoughts of yours. Lin Mo is still useful to the clan. If I find out that you've conspired behind my back again, I definitely won't let you off."

The second elder hurriedly agreed, "Got it."

As he walked out of the main gate, he could not hold it in any longer and immediately spat out large mouthfuls of blood. The clan leader had really struck him hard earlier.

The second elder sneered like a venomous snake in the dark. He might have agreed to back down, but that did not mean others could not attack.

All of a sudden, he remembered something. Recently, the Miao family of Qingyang City had sent someone to gather information. A brilliant idea began forming in his mind.

Chapter 39: The Biological Son of a Saboteur

A few days had passed and Lin Mo finally finished his training. Once Wu Jin heard this news, he immediately rushed over.

Lin Mo's aura had yet to be retracted. The moment Wu Jin saw him, he froze on the spot. It felt like he was facing an endless ocean with humongous waves surging towards him. A chill rose from the bottom of his heart.

Wu Jin lowered his head abruptly and the pressure was greatly reduced.

"Congratulations, young master. You've gotten stronger again."

Although he did not know Lin Mo's current level, it was clear that the latter had become more powerful.

"Has anything occurred in the past few days?"

Wu Jin shook his head.

"Everything is calm. Nothing much has happened."

Nothing happening could make a person more vigilant. The Miao and Lin families were probably coming up with a bigger plan. At the thought of this, Lin Mo immediately said, "I want to buy a cauldron. Help me look for one"

Wu Jin had a puzzled look on his face.

"Cauldron?"

Why would Lin Mo need a cauldron? He was not an alchemist, so he had no use for it. This was a really strange request.

"I don't mean to be disrespectful, but why do you need a cauldron?"

It turned out that Lin Mo had previously learned the method of refining demonic beasts' bloodlines from Du Nanfeng. A cauldron was an indispensable tool. Moreover, if he ever wanted to learn the art of pill refining, he would also need it.

Wu Jin was very efficient. He gathered a lot of information very quickly.

"Young master, when it comes to forging weapons, the Wang family is the best among the four clans."

This was true. For example, Wang Qing had extraordinary eyesight and he also showed a strong interest in weapons. He could easily tell the pros and cons of a weapon. Additionally, he was the one who bought the scythe at the auction.

“The four families are able to establish themselves in Qingyang City because each of them has their own strengths. Young master, if you want to buy a better cauldron, I think it’s best to start from the Wang family. They should have good connections.”

Lin Mo’s thoughts were similar to Wu Jin’s. Those in the market were all of medium-quality. The good things were all monopolized by the four big families.

“We shall make some preparations and visit the Wang family.”

Lin Mo did not have any conflict with Wang Qing. However, they did not interact either. Wang Qing had only bought items from him. Thus, he did not expect Wang Qing to show such enthusiasm towards his arrival.

“Father, this is the owner of the auction house that I mentioned to you earlier. His name is Lin Mo.”

Wang Zhong was sitting at the head’s seat. He was about forty years old. The man looked tall and sturdy. His eyes were somewhat cold and he had two curved eyebrows. He appeared to be mighty even if he was not angry.

After sizing up Lin Mo, he said, “I didn’t expect Owner Lin to be so young. It’s impressive that you’re managing the auction house.”

Wang Zhong’s voice was deafening like a loud bell.

Lin Mo also noticed the thick calluses on his thumb. It was probably caused by forging weapons.

“Clan leader, you flatter me.”

Wang Zhong ordered someone to serve Lin Mo some tea.

“May I know the purpose of your visit?”

Lin Mo did not beat around the bush and went straight to the point.

“I’ve heard that the Wang family is quite skilled in forging magic treasures and weapons. I’m here today to ask for a cauldron.”

Wang Zhong paused. The fragrance of the tea lingered in the air. No one could see his expression clearly. He slowly fiddled with the teapot’s lid and stayed silent for a while.

Wang Qing was a direct person who respected the strong very much. Lin Mo was about the same age as him, but he was able to set up an auction house in Qingyang City. Furthermore, he displayed extraordinary power when he killed the assassin. Hence, Wang Qing could not help but admire Lin Mo. He had wanted to befriend him for a long time.

Since Wang Zhong did not reply, Wang Qing could not help but say, “Father, Owner Lin personally came to request for our help. There are quite a number of good cauldrons in our house. Why don’t we aid him?”

Originally, Wang Zhong hesitated. Obviously, he knew about the enmity between Lin Mo and the Miao family. He was unsure if his family should get involved.

If he were to sell the cauldron to Lin Mo, the Miao family might think they were allied and get offended. Thus, he needed to think and be careful about this matter.

However, he did not expect his own son to instantly compromise his position.

At this point, there was nothing else he could say. He could not help but sigh and instructed the servants, "Bring out a few cauldrons."

Wang Qing was a linear person. He did not understand the twists and turns. When Wang Zhong stared at him with an aggrieved expression, he did not even understand it.

"Owner Lin, see if there are any that you like."

A few cauldrons were brought out. They were of different sizes and shapes. Lin Mo walked forward and saw the first cauldron. The entire thing was translucent like white jade. It emitted a lustrous jade-like glow. One could feel the rather gentle aura from within.

It was good, but not what Lin Mo wanted.

The second cauldron was green. It was like a treasure that grew in the mountains. Various plants were even engraved on it. There was a faint smell of faint medicinal fragrance. If this cauldron was used to refine medicinal pills, it would definitely produce fantastic results.

However, Lin Mo was mainly going to refine demonic beasts' bloodlines. Medicinal pills were not a priority, so this cauldron was not suitable either.

The third cauldron was burning hot. It even raised the surrounding temperature by quite a bit. At the same time, it gave off a tyrannical aura and seemed to have a rather powerful offensive nature. This was not common for a cauldron. It could even be used as a weapon. Unfortunately, it was still not what Lin Mo needed.

After looking through everything, Lin Mo shook his head.

"There's nothing here that I want."

Wang Zhong did not expect Lin Mo to be so picky.

"If that's the case, my cauldrons might not be suitable for you."

Chapter 40: The Strange Cauldron, the Intense Reaction of the God-Slaying Body

Lin Mo was extremely disappointed. Suddenly, Wang Qing said, "Father, you have forgotten about that strange cauldron!"

Wang Zhong's expression slightly changed. On the other hand, Lin Mo's interest was piqued.

"Strange cauldron?"

Wang Qing immediately answered, "That's right. Owner Lin, we have a very strange cauldron."

Wang Zhong had no choice and could only ask someone to bring the cauldron.

A huge dark cauldron appeared in front of them. It looked ordinary on the outside and was a little heavy, unlike the cauldrons which were overflowing with light and colors that Lin Mo had seen earlier. This cauldron did not even have any characteristics.

From afar, it looked like a big black furnace.

Lin Mo subconsciously stretched out his hand. His fingertips trembled slightly as if there was an electric current flowing through them. At the same time, there seemed to be a wave of hot air that was slowly rising from within his body. The god-slaying body was reacting intensely with this cauldron.

Then, Lin Mo calmly retracted his hand and suppressed the boiling spiritual energy within his body. There was a voice telling him to obtain that cauldron at all cost.

Lin Mo's eyes deepened as he probed, "Is this cauldron forged by the Wang family?"

Wang Zhong shook his head.

"I obtained it by accident. It was very strange, so I decided to keep it."

He continued, "I didn't take it out earlier because this cauldron can't be used for refining."

Lin Mo thought that it was odd.

"Can't be used for refining? Why is that? Is this cauldron broken?"

Wang Zhong had a complicated expression on his face.

"The moment someone attempts to refine something, this cauldron will erupt. Then, the mysterious power will devour all the energy of the item, turning it into nothing but trash. Medicinal pills or anything else, the results were always the same."

A cauldron was supposed to turn trash into treasure, but this thing was doing the exact opposite.

Wang Zhong had been studying this mysterious cauldron's power for quite some time but to no avail. There had to be a hidden secret. Nothing else could explain the peculiar phenomenon.

However, after spending countless resources, Wang Zhong still could not figure out the mystery. As time passed, he gradually gave up.

Wang Zhong sighed and said, "I've tried all kinds of methods, but nothing worked. Owner Lin, you seemed to be very interested in this cauldron."

Naturally, Lin Mo could not tell the actual truth. There were very few god-slaying bodies and even fewer people who knew about them.

"I want to study this mysterious cauldron's power."

Lin Mo had a serious expression on his face. It did not seem like he was lying. However, Wang Zhong was a sharp person. He knew that things were not so simple.

"I think this cauldron is quite compatible with me. Could you sell it to me for 10,000 low-grade spirit stones?"

Wang Zhong was a little hesitant. He looked at the cauldron and then at Lin Mo. Although he may not understand the profound meaning behind this cauldron, he did not want to sell it just like that either. On the other hand, Lin Mo's offer was very tempting.

For a moment, he was caught in a dilemma.

"Owner Lin, why would you spend so many spirit stones on such a cauldron? Isn't it a waste?"

Wang Zhong probed again to see if he could get more information out of Lin Mo.

If Wang Zhong found out that Lin Mo and the cauldron had formed a connection, it would be even harder for the latter to obtain it.

"Clan Leader Wang, I'm an auctioneer so I like to collect strange things. That's why I value this cauldron."

It was a solid response with no room for argument.

"Moreover, you've already researched the cauldron and there were no results, right? Let me give it a try instead."

Wang Qing spoke from the side again. It looked like he could not wait to sell the cauldron.

"Father, what are you waiting for? Hurry up and sell this strange cauldron to Owner Lin. It's just a waste of space for us. Almost no one would spend such a huge amount of money to buy it. Personally, I wouldn't even pay 1,000 spirit stones."

"..."

Wang Zhong was speechless. His son was incomparably honest. He was so angry that he rolled his eyes several times.

3

However, after thinking about it, Wang Qing's words made sense. This cauldron would only collect dust if he kept it. Selling it to Lin Mo would be way better. It would even earn him quite a lot of spirit stones.

"Alright."

The two parties quickly came to an agreement. Once everything was settled, Lin Mo prepared to leave.

"If there's an opportunity next time, I'll visit again. Thank you for your time today."

Wang Zhong did not know why, but he felt a little disappointed in his heart as he looked at Lin Mo's departing figure.

"Father, you've earned 10,000 low-grade spirit stones. Why do you look unhappy?"

Upon hearing these words, Wang Zhong immediately felt a burst of anger. He recalled all the times his son had pushed him into a corner. Since Lin Mo was present earlier, he could not say anything.

“Did you think you could control my actions?”

Wang Qing was totally confused. He scratched his head and said, “Father, I think you’ve misunderstood me.”

Wang Zhong sighed. The cauldron had already been sold. There was no point in arguing now.

“Lin Mo must know how to use that cauldron. I’m sure he wasn’t telling the truth and I don’t know how many tricks he has up his sleeve. Originally, I wanted to get more information out of him, but you completely messed up my plan.

“...”

His son was silly and sweet. Sometimes, Wang Zhong wished that he was a little more like Lin Mo.

Wang Qing did not mind.

“No matter how rare and precious a treasure is, it’s useless in the wrong hands. I think that selling the cauldron to Lin Mo was the right decision.”

These words made Wang Zhong proud. What his son had said was completely reasonable.

“Finally, you have said something sensible. Still, Lin Mo is quite sly. Don’t provoke him. We better not get involved with the matter between him and the Miao family.”

Wang Zhong was not a busybody and he knew his son’s characteristics very well. That was why he gave Wang Qing a reminder.