

Chapter 2418

The vice-treasurer let out a cold laugh. "How embarrassing. You had such an ugly fight in front of all your fellow students. Do you think this looks good on you? Can't you just let your skills do the talking? What is the point of all these schemes?!"

Those words seemed to have a clear target. After the treasurer finished speaking, he shot a sharp look at Gilbert.

Gilbert could feel that burning gaze of his and his throat tightened.

Fane felt like laughing when he saw Gilbert's state. Before, Gilbert seemed utterly dauntless, and he acted like he was the strongest person in Heavenly Pills.

However, when someone who was actually important appeared, he shrank into nothing.

Gilbert truly was not worth mentioning.

Fane had beaten Gilbert up before and was already kind enough to show mercy. Fane should have just shown Gilbert who he could not afford to offend back then.

Gilbert must have felt a pair of eyes sharply staring at him for too long that he looked up, meeting Fane's condescending stare in the process.

At that moment, Gilbert felt like he had been slapped a few times. His face suddenly reddened as he looked like he wanted to rip Fane apart.

Fane, however, raised an eyebrow, unbothered. His relationship with Gilbert was impossible to fix, anyway. If they had the chance, they would definitely kill one another, so there was no need to maintain any sense of peace.

The treasurer said, "The Middle Kingdom Alchemist Alliance is the holy land of all alchemists, despite the fact that the one in Rosefinch City is only an off-branch."

"Nonetheless, we can't rush things. Being able to become a student of the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance is an honor.!"

When everyone heard that, looks of admiration appeared in their eyes.

However, Fane felt like something was strange. Doubt loomed over him.

The treasurer's words were hard to understand. The Middle Provin Alchemist Alliance truly was where all alchemists wanted to go, yet what they were doing was raising their own disciples to be sent there.

That was like spending money on someone else's baby. It was not worth it at all, yet why did the way the treasurer speak seem to imply that honor was the main thing behind everything?

Fane became even more confused at this point. However, he could not voice that question out at that moment, so he swallowed it back.

The treasurer continued, "I know what you're thinking about; don't think you've kept your thoughts that well. All your thoughts are written on your faces, and I can practically see that."

"I don't even have to put too much thought in it to see things clearly. Each of you wants to take the chance to fly, but that depends on your own skill."

The Middle Province Alchemist Alliance's branch is one of the better branches around. It's not somewhere you can easily go to

At that moment, the vice-treasurer paused as he sharply swept his gaze across everyone present, and that caught everyone's expression.

Fane looked very calm. That might have been what caused the vice-treasurer to look at Fane longer than the others.

Of course, Fane felt the difference as well, but he maintained his ignorant look.

The vice-treasurer took a deep breath and continued, "Since a selection has to be made, the most excellent one will naturally be chosen. Since you're bickering away like this, why don't I give you all a fair chance to compete?"

Chapter 2419

"All of you here can take part. The first person to condense three hundred pill runes will be sent to the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance."

All the students were stupefied at what the vice-treasurer had said, eyeing the man with dubious expressions. A short student took a deep breath before summoning up the most courage he had ever done in his life. "Vice-treasurer, we don't even know what the

Way of the Pill looks like. How can we condense three hundred pill runes? Of the eleven students, only the eldest has seen the Way of the Vermillion Fire"

However, he was interrupted before he could finish.

"You truly are brainless. Do you think everything you see is real?"

Those words stunned the short student. He stared forward with a look of confusion, looking at the vice-treasurer before he looked at the other students.

Fane sighed helplessly, immediately understanding what the vice-treasurer meant. He suddenly remembered how he met Gilbert the first time he entered the pill aura room.

Gilbert's lips curled up into a prideful smirk. Gilbert did not say anything, but the look on his face had given everyone their answer.

The disciple was stumped for a long time before he said shakily, "Have Gilbert and Andrew already read the Way of the Pill?"

The vice-treasurer nodded. He had already known that long ago. The two of them had done quite a lot because of that matter in secret, while he merely turned a blind eye to everything.

He had been forced to reveal everything at that moment, or he would have kept on turning a blind eye. The short student said, "But...isn't the Way of the Vermillion Fire Pill exchanged with merit points?"

Andrew let out a sigh as he looked at that student pitifully. "You poor thing. Someone has lied to you." Did someone tell you that the best thing to do when taking tasks was to pick the ones that were worth fewer points? The lower merit points meant that the difficulty was lower. Truth be told, he didn't say that for your benefit.

"He said all of that so he could claim all the high merit point tasks for himself. I already got two hundred merit points long ago, but I never announced it."

"Nonetheless, I never relied on petty schemes to get my points. I don't know about the guy next to me, though."

Once those words were spoken, Gilbert was once again on the complete defensive.

"What do you mean by that? Say it to my face! What schemes?!"

"He's only been in Heavenly Pills for a short time. Are you asking someone not that good at fighting, who hasn't been learning alchemy for that long, to claim the harder tasks? Aren't you just harming him?"

Andrew slowly turned his head when he heard that and icily retorted, "Harm him? Don't you feel guilty saying that? The others don't know this, but you should know that there are some easy tasks with high merit points. There aren't many of them, and the stewards would usually assign those tasks to the new students.

"If the students rejected it, then the task would be left without anyone to do it. After that, you'd just take it away and complete it yourself. Tell me, am I right? Am I, Gilbert?"

Those words caused Gilbert to choke and slowly turn purple. His hands shook, wanting to fight back with all his might.

At that moment, a look of realization crossed the ninth student.

Chapter 2420

The student suddenly turned his head and looked at Gilbert stiffly.

"Gilbert, is Andrew telling the truth? Those words you said earlier had never been for my sake! They were all so you'd get the good tasks to yourself!"

Gilbert's face darkened at the accusations. He hurriedly turned away, trying to save the situation, but Andrew seized the initiative. "That's why I said that your talents might be decent enough to turn into a student at the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance, but you'd still be representing Heavenly Pills."

"You have such a scheming, shameless mind. If you pull anything in the Middle Province Alchemists Alliance, won't you embarrass Heavenly Pills entirely?!"

At those last words, Andrew shot his gaze at the vice-treasurer. The vice treasurer was taken aback, and abruptly looked over at Gilbert.

Gilbert was scared stiff. He thought for a moment before he shook his head vehemently. "Vice-treasurer, listen to me. You can't believe this guy and his words. I You can't believe you've never done anything so selfish!"

"Even though there are some tasks that are easy but yield high rewards meant for new students, the difficulty is relative.

"If they fumbled in their tasks, it'd be a loss for Heavenly Pills as well!"

Gilbert became louder as he spoke, and even his confidence started to peak the more he talked. He felt as though everything he did was for the sake of Heavenly Pills. After all, most of the good tasks meant dealing with clients and helping Heavenly Pills refine pills.

They might be small matters, but handling them badly would lead to disastrous results. Gilbert forced out some tears as he spoke, as if he had been greatly insulted and slandered.

The ninth student's whole body trembled. He no longer believed in Gilbert and wanted justice for himself. He was meant to be able to get a lot of merit points, but it had been stolen away by a shameless man. The ninth student became more irate the more he thought about it, feeling like he had been schemed against.

If the vice-treasurer had not been there, he might have rushed at Gilbert to fight him.

The situation was looking like it was getting too chaotic to control, so the vice-treasurer shouted loudly, "Everyone, shut up! I didn't say all of that to have you fighting all over again! I'm just telling you obtaining the recommendation will need your own skills. Any schemes will be useless!"

After the shout, the vice-treasurer immediately raised his hand and pointed at the Serene Cloud Room. "Everyone, come with me to the Serene Cloud Room right now. Let your results speak for themselves!"

The vice-treasurer's words immediately silenced the chaotic area. Even though Gilbert was still at odds with Andrew, they did not continue fighting.

Fane merely followed behind them. He slowly walked toward the Serene Cloud Room, knowing the place like the back of his palm after being there so many times.

After everyone entered, the vice-treasurer did not stop at all. He reached out and opened the door to the pill aura room. It was completely pitch black inside. They looked on as the vice-treasurer raised his hands, shooting out waves of power. The pitch black pill aura room suddenly lit up, and light illuminated every corner of the room.

Chapter 2421

Fane's eyes widened. What surprised him was the fact that there was nothing in the

pill aura room at all; it was just a completely empty room.

Before, the darkness had always covered everything, but this time, the darkness dispersed and left nothing behind.

Thankfully, the space was large enough. Even after the vice-treasurer asked all of them inside, it did not feel crowded at all.

All of them stood in the pill aura room, and the dense smell of the pill aura assaulted their noses, encompassing them all.

Fane raised an eyebrow curiously. He wondered why the place was covered in darkness if it was so empty. It felt like they were hiding something.

At the start, Fane never felt anything about it because he did not understand enough to notice anything strange. After looking at it, Fane started to have doubts. Alas, he was unable to investigate anything even if he wanted to. All he could do was stand quietly by the side, making sure to not suppress all of his questions.

He would solve them one by one eventually.

The vice-treasurer turned toward everyone. "The same conditions apply. Whoever manages to condense three hundred pill runes will gain the right to be a disciple in the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance."

Everyone got a little excited when they heard the vice-treasurer's words. They all started to look at Gilbert and Andrew. They had already heard from the vice-treasurer that Gilbert and Andrew had already learned the Way of the Pill, and a long time ago at that.

Condensing a few hundred pill aura runes should be doable for them. The biggest hope for the students around was to learn the Way of the Vermillion Fire Pill and become a sixth-grade alchemist.

Upon that achievement, they would soar high up in the skies and be looked up upon by everyone.

However, they had never seen anyone condensing any pill runes, so they did not even know what pill runes looked like.

Even Raphael clenched his fists emotionally, taking a deep breath as he looked at the two.

The vice-treasurer raised an eyebrow as he pointed toward the east. "Whoever wants to condense pill runes can stand there. The rest of us will stand at the west to not interrupt you."

The moment he said that, Gilbert immediately walked forward toward where the vice-treasurer pointed to. Each step he took looked like he was about to take the final step onto the peak of the mountain, attempting to look impressive.

Fane pursed his lips speechlessly. The more Gilbert acted like that, the more Gilbert looked like he was just blowing out hot air. It was as if Gilbert thought that everyone would look down on him if he did not act the part.

Hilarious, those kinds of people were. They insisted on using such empty methods to make themselves look better, but it was completely useless.

Looking at Gilbert walking up front toward the east, Andrew smirked, unable to water down the disdain in his eyes. To Andrew, Gilbert looked like a clown walking toward the stage.

Gilbert stopped, and Andrew walked to the east as well, standing about a meter away from him. After the two of them stopped, everyone held their breath, except for Fane.

The competition would determine who the strongest was outside of the eldest disciple. In the Hestia Continent, there was competition everywhere. Even the smallest circles had people fighting to stand on top.

Every fight would cause immense excitement. Even though the others were doing their best to hide the excitement in their hearts, it was still obvious from their shining eyes that they looked forward to the fight.

Chapter 2422

Had the vice-treasurer not been there, the other students would have burst into yells and cheers in support of the one they were rooting for.

Fane speechlessly looked to the side. The vice-treasurer took a deep breath before he said in a low voice, "Start!"

With that cue, footsteps were suddenly heard next to him, and an unknown face had started walking toward the east.

Each step he took had been very steady, but he was not like Gilbert from earlier, who walked with a sense of emptiness. He did not seem to care about the baffled looks he received.

Gilbert's mouth hung wide open. "What are you doing here?"

Fane raised an eyebrow and calmly answered, "What about you? What are you doing here?"

He shot the words right back at Gilbert, angering Gilbert in the process. "I'm here to show this guy who's stronger and to obtain the right to enter the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance as a student!

"snapped Gilbert. Gilbert's words were filled with a clear arrogance as if he was just born naturally better than everyone else.

Fane nodded as he said very calmly, "I'm doing the same."

Everyone was stunned by Fane's words, and his response even rendered the vice-treasurer frozen on the spot. Everyone looked at Fane as if he was crazy. There were so many people present, but most of them had only seen Fane for the first time.

After all, he never actually appeared in front of everyone else as the eleventh student. He had spent most of his time in his room or the Serene Cloud Room, and he had rarely interacted with anyone else.

Fane just suddenly came out and suddenly stood next to Gilbert, claiming he would compete as well. He said he wanted the right to head to the Middle Province Alchemist Union, which completely puzzled everyone.

Everyone assumed Fane had gone bonkers, that he probably did not even know what the Way of the Pill was. He was probably thinking that he could condense pill runes just because others could.

Gilbert almost laughed from how angry he was. "Are you crazy? Do you even know what we're doing?"

Fane actually could not be bothered with Gilbert, but if he did not respond, the vice-treasurer might just kick him out and call him crazy.

That was something Fane was not willing to let happen, so he was forced to be patient. "What does whether or not I'm crazy have to do with you? I came here to compete, not to waste time with you. Didn't you hear the vice-treasurer's words earlier?"

"Let's prove whether or not we're right through our results. I came here to do just that. I won't affect you condensing pill runes by standing here, anyway."

Fane's words were quite reasonable, causing the vice-treasurer to not have any reason to question him. After all, Fane was a student as well, even though the vice-treasurer seriously suspected that the kid did not even know what pill runes looked like.

However, after Fane's explanation, he would be incredibly unfair if he did not give Fane a chance.

Moreover, Fane being there would not affect anything. It would just look like one more person was attempting to condense the pill runes.

Gilbert's lips twitched. He was, starting to hate Fane to the core.

Every time Fane spoke, Gilbert felt like he could say nothing in response. This was just like last time, with Fane practically stuffing a sock in his mouth.

Gilbert's hands started to tremble. If the vice-treasurer had not been looking at him, he would have rushed over and tried to choke Fane.

Even though he knew he was no match for Fane, he was far too angry. Despite his anger, however, Fane did not even spare him a second glance.

Chapter 2423

Fane remained unbothered by Gilbert's actions as he said, "You've wasted so much time with pointless words, and there's no point getting yourself worked up over something that won't affect you anyway. Isn't that right, Gilbert?"

Andrew burst into cackles at Fane's words. He might think that Fane was a nutcase, but the enemy of his enemy was still his friend. Since Fane was at odds with Gilbert, then he would side with Fane.

Moreover, Andrew did not think Fane had a chance to win. That would be all too bizarre if Fane won.

After a short silence, the students that were standing behind the vice-treasurer suddenly started to discuss among themselves.

Damien knew who Fane was. "This guy's name is Fane. There's got to be something wrong with his brain, I know it. He's only been a student for a short time, but he's actually trying to compete with Gilbert and Andrew. Where did he get that courage from?"

"I think he's crazy, too. I don't even think he knows what pill runes look like. Maybe he needs Andrew and Gilbert to show him? After that person said that, an uproar of laughter was suddenly heard all around. Some of them were even clutching their stomachs as they laughed at Fane as if they had seen a complete idiot."

The calmest person present was Raphael. Raphael let out a sigh of exasperation as he looked at the gold plate in his hand. He then focused his attention on the other students that were giggling and sneering. He helplessly held the gold plate in his palm, not saying anything.

Despite their constant laughter, Fane was not bothered by it at all. Fane remained standing upright as he said, "Aren't we starting yet?"

Gilbert felt like Fane's words were basically a challenge to the rest of them. Gilbert wanted to use his skills to prove that Fane was just a complete idiot.

Hearing those words, he averted his gaze as his hands constantly moved. A red glow was on his fingertips.

The pill aura around him was absorbed wave by wave as he slowly condensed pill runes one at a time. Staring at runes that were forming in Gilbert's hands, Andrew Was not going to allow himself to fall behind.

He adopted the same stance as he slowly started to form runes as well.

Fane glanced at the two of them as he sighed in exasperation.

He had not wanted everything to advance so quickly, but he had to win this no matter what. Thinking about that, he got serious as he fixed his gaze on his fingers. He separated himself from his surroundings.

He started to wave his hands as well, but it was a golden light that suddenly appeared in his hands instead. He rapidly absorbed the surrounding pill aura, and faint golden runes started to condense in the air one by one.

Fane's progress was incredibly natural to him, since he had already condensed them in the pill aura room numerous times. On the other hand, the others paled as if they had seen a ghost.

The vice-treasurer was especially shocked when he saw Fane's incredibly fluent motions. After Fane condensed a pill rune, his jaw dropped in shock, refusing to believe it was all real.

Fane's rate of condensation was far too quick, so much so that Gilbert and Andrew could not compare at all. For every ten pill runes Fane formed, Gilbert and Andrew could only form one.

Furthermore, from the glow and aura of the pill runes, Fane's pill runes were far better in quality than the other two.

Damien's face stiffened as he pointed at Fane. "What...?"

He was stunned for a long time, not able to say anything. If he had not pinched himself, he would have thought he was dreaming, that none of this was real!

The vice-treasurer was rendered just as speechless by the shock. Everyone had been submerged in a strange silence.

Not one student spoke as everyone quietly watched on.

Chapter 2424

There was no need to compete anymore. Gilbert and Andrew were no match for Fane as well.

The most essential thing to become a sixth-grade alchemist was the final refinement of the pill and pill runes.

Only a 50-percent and above refinement would be successful. The refinement depended on the quality of one's pill runes.

The quality of Gilbert and Andrew's pill runes could not compare to Fane's at all.

The pill runes that Fane condensed were not just glowing with energy, but each sliver of pill aura was distributed very evenly. There was no need to even look at it in detail. Just with their eyes, it was easy to tell that Fane's pill runes were of very high quality.

If he used them in refinement, it would absolutely reach 50 percent or above refinement. Even though the vice-treasurer was the only one there who had ever learned the Way of the Pill, it was still something visible to the naked eye.

Everyone was speechless at that moment.

The vice-treasurer stared at the scene with widened eyes. His lips constantly twitched, not daring to believe that what he was seeing was real.

Fane's hands constantly moved, and he controlled every sliver of pill aura perfectly. Those movements were not something any regular student could do.

Even the eldest student among them would not be able to compare to Fane. If the vice-treasurer did not know of Fane, he would have thought that a true sixth-grade alchemist was standing in front of him.

Only sixth-grade alchemists were able to control pill aura with such familiarity and condense pill runes with such ease.

"Is he really a student?" said the vice treasurer after being silent for a long time Raphael could no longer stand by the side silently. He nodded. "He is. He's the youngest among us, the eleventh student."

After he said that, Raphael took out the gold plate that Fane had obtained. He showed everyone the gold plate in his palm.

"This is the gold plate that Fane had gotten."

There was no one around that did not know the rules of the pill aura room. As long as anyone could condense 200 pill runes in the room, they would get a gold plate as a

reward. The gold plate could be used in exchange for three portions of materials for sixth-grade pills.

The vice-treasurer did not know what to say at that point. His lips twitched. "No wonder you barely had a reaction earlier. You already knew everything.."

After that, the vice-treasurer frowned as he looked at Fane, saying with some suspicion, "If he's new, he hasn't learned the Way of the Vermillion Fire Pill yet. What sort of Way of the Pill did he learn? After that, the vice-treasurer turned around to face that short student from earlier. "

"Go and look into who Fane is. I want every single detail of what happened since he stepped into Heavenly Pills. want every single detail of what happened since he stepped into Heavenly Pills. Leave no detail out in your findings!"

The vice-treasurer's tone was incredibly serious. The ninth student nodded earnestly after hearing that. Even though the ninth student was a bit naive, he was no idiot. He heard how serious the vice-treasurer was.

He would no doubt properly perform his task and leave a good impression with the vice-treasurer. It might gain him bigger benefits in the future.

The three of them who were condensing the pill runes did not even notice the ninth student leaving. They were lost in their own world.