

Carefree 391

Chapter 391: Physical Test

It was nightfall and the bunk was stuffy and hot.

Fang Yuan was sleeping in a double-decker bed. In a big room, 23 orphans were sleeping together. Snores and scratching sounds were normal and there was the occasional gritting of teeth. All of these led to Fang Yuan recalling what the female teacher had rambled on and on for the whole afternoon: Ideological Education.

"I can't sleep, I can't sleep..."

He crawled out of his bed and squinted his eyes.

In that instant, the dark room became instantly bright.

"It's great that I can still keep my Fiery Golden Eyes..."

This was a form of consolation for Fang Yuan. With more focus, Fang Yuan could observe the effects of an X-Ray as he scanned across the skeletons lying on the beds. It was a scary scene.

"Hmm, it seems like my skill is evolving. Are my Fiery Golden Eyes able to see through things now?"

In his field of vision, he could see that every child was full of life and energy, glowing like fireflies.

"Eh?"

At this point in time, from the window outside, there was a small glow which attracted Fang Yuan's attention.

"Is there someone?! It's so huge! Could it be the teacher doing her rounds?"

He climbed down his bed nimbly and at that moment, he could see a suspicious-looking skeleton flipping over the railing and wall outside. Looking at how experienced the skeleton was, this would mean that this was not its first time doing it.

"Eh? How can a child have a stronger life energy than an adult?"

Fang Yuan stuffed a pillow on his bed and covered it with a blanket. With a piece of metal wire, he poked the lock of the door.

"Kacha!"

With the help of his X-Ray Vision, the locked door gave way and Fang Yuan darted out.

The night breeze was cooling and Fang Yuan felt free.

"Ha..."

His eyes focused on the suspicious shadow as he followed behind it.

Outside the orphanage, there was a small river stream. The small figure held a bamboo stick in his hand, stood by the river and observed it.

Suddenly, as he released his hand, the bamboo pierced into the river and through a big green fish.

Fang Yuan was startled. Such speed and force were rare even among adults. Although the green fish was being pierced through, its scales were shimmering and its tail was still flicking around.

The figure exclaimed in excitement. As it was about to retrieve the fish, it heard a voice from behind. "Hey, Zhao Daniu, what are you doing?"

"Ah!"

The figure shuddered and turned around slowly. With that, he gazed into the shadows as Fang Yuan emerged. Shocked, the fish in his hands slipped and fell to the ground.

"I... I... It was not on purpose, and I am not here to steal anything..."

Zhao Daniu had big eyes and seemed like an honest bloke but now, he was panicking to the brink of crying.

'He is only a pure child and would never think of killing me just because I found out what he was doing.....;'

Fang Yuan sighed before explaining himself. "I am not here for the fish, but for you. I've seen what you just did. Your strength is superb and your speed is remarkable! You don't seem like a normal person..."

"I... I am not a monster!"

Whatever Fang Yuan had just mentioned seemed to be his weakness. With that, Zhao Daniu shuddered and cried out.

"Hey, you're not a monster. You're a superhuman, a superhuman who would contribute to Chinese Country!"

Fang Yuan smiled. "Therefore... I want to give you up to the country!"

"Huh!?"

Zhao Daniu blinked furiously and gave a look of confusion.

Can they remain as friends? Their friendship was on the brink.

...

After a few minutes, in a bomb shelter.

This was originally built for the war but now, it was left alone. It was a mini base which Zhao Daniu had discovered for himself.

Fang Yuan lit a bonfire, descaled the fish, took out its organs and started smoking it over the fire.

Although he did not have salt and oil, the method of smoking was still able to remove the fishy smell from the fish. The fragrance of the smoked fish filled the air and made Zhao Daniu salivate.

"It's done! Let's share it!"

After roasting the fish, Fang Yuan split it into two pieces. He gave one to Zhao Daniu and started eating the other one.

Sigh... Without enough nutrients, his body would be extremely weak.

"Whooo... It's great! Delicious!"

Zhao Daniu did not care about the fact that the fish was still burning hot as he munched on it happily. "If I knew that roasted fish would be so nice, I wouldn't have eaten it raw last time..."

Fang Yuan was speechless. What kind of life did Zhao Daniu lead in the past?

Of course, after threatening to hand Zhao Daniu over to the country, Zhao Daniu had to come to an agreement with Fang Yuan and promise to share any fish with him in the future.

This secret had stayed long with Zhao Daniu and he felt relieved the moment he opened up to Fang Yuan.

"When I was 8, my appetite grew and I became stronger. My eyes have also evolved to be able to see many things..."

"Booohoooo... I am not a monster. I am only out here looking for food because there isn't enough food in the canteen..."

"All the kids don't want to play with me, and they even bullied me... I dare not retaliate... booohoooo..."

.....

"Alright, you are also a pitiful person!"

Looking at the sobbing Zhao Daniu, Fang Yuan was speechless.

However, he had no intentions of protecting him. "Come over and let me take a look!"

It was rare to see someone with powers. How could Fang Yuan let this chance slip by?

"Hmmm... Your body is normal and seems like everyone else's. Your muscles are slightly larger and you are much stronger than an adult. However, you don't seem to have any additional organs..."

With his skill in Medicine and his Fiery Golden Eyes, Fang Yuan gave him a detailed checkup before remaining silent. "Other than the fact that your mindset is slightly more mature than that of the people in your age group and that you are stronger, you don't seem any more different than the others... It seems like the magnitude of your evolution is not big enough?"

The only explanation was that this was a special case in itself.

To Fang Yuan, it was simply because Zhao Daniu was too mature for his age which was why he was frightening himself.

"I can't even detect any problems with him. I'm afraid that we will not be able to see any results during tomorrow's physical test..."

After eating, he brought Zhao Daniu back to the orphanage. Fang Yuan laid on his bed and was deep in his thoughts. "Furthermore... I can't even detect any abnormalities. It seems like I need to learn the science of this realm... I'll have to show my knowledge off and learn as much as I can."

...

"Children, put in your best effort in this physical test and make our orphanage proud!"

On the second day, thousands of children gathered around the field. Everyone looked at the proud-looking principal trying his best to shout into the microphone. From this scene, Fang Yuan knew that he was oversimplifying things.

"... This physical test is in place to select the best few to join a special organization of the government. All of you must perform well. If you are selected, you will be able to eat buns, meat, noodles and barbequed pork every day!"

In front of them, the teacher-in-charge used a microphone as well.

"Rumble!"

Everyone was swallowing their saliva.

Barbequed pork was very tempting in such times of hunger. In fact, even the simplest buns were enough to tempt not only children but adults as well.

"Alright! The test is beginning soon. Everyone, please queue up according to your classes. Please come forward if I read out your name!"

"We will first measure your height and weight followed by your physical fitness!"

...

On the few, doctors draped in their cloaks surrounded a few trucks as they meticulously started setting up their medical equipment.

It was extremely organised which made Fang Yuan suspect something. "Could this be the military? ... Furthermore, in this era, everyone would be made to draw blood for blood testing. The price for one such equipment is already not cheap. It seems like the country is determined..."

Fang Yuan generously walked forward to allowed his blood to be drawn. During the eyesight test, Fang Yuan had effortlessly outperformed everybody to get a perfect score of 2.0, which would qualify him to be a pilot in the military.

"Alright, next up will be the physical fitness test!"

Of course, these doctors seemed to know that their test would not have any results and they seemed to have a final deciding factor.

"1-kilometre run, 100-metres sprint, high jump, weightlifting, push-ups, sit-ups... everyone needs to do it!"

"If your performance is good, you will be selected to join the Special Group and the Gifted Group. You will get better treatment there!"

"If anyone of you can enter these groups, you would have done the orphanage proud. Children, do your best!"

...

"Fang Yuan, we've got news!"

Beside him, the two children, Wang Aiguo and Guo Jianjun gave him a suspicious look and spoke in a serious tone. "Teacher has said... The country is choosing athletes. We can even join the Olympics in the future and do the country proud!"

"Yes!"

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes and examined the children around him.

Under the temptation of material gains, honour and glory, although he knew that he was different from, how could he hide his desire for such gains?

He gazed over to look for Zhao Daniu, only to find him standing in front of a shot put with a look of unwillingness.

In a few moments, Zhao Daniu's expression changed. He mustered all his strength and threw it to around 400 metres?

'Alright... his acting skills resembles mine...'

Fang Yuan broke out in sweat.

"Whoosh!"

Suddenly, from the track, there were exclamations.

"11.7 seconds! 11.7 seconds!"

A doctor in a white cloak screamed. "Are you Liu Fei? Do it another time!"

On the track, a tanned and skinny boy ran like the wind and ran past the finish line for the second time.

"11.6 seconds!"

With this, there was a huge commotion among the doctors. All of them started to surround Liu Fei.

"You're good... This is the standard of the national sprinters! He's only 13 and this is unbelievable!"

"Alright! Liu Fei, you're doing good!"

Zhang Haiman rubbed the child's head, her face flushed with excitement.

Fang Yuan had a feeling that Liu Fei was about to be brought somewhere else.

Chapter 392: Three Years

"Fang Yuan is once again the top student. Let us congratulate him! Everyone, follow his as the role model and work hard!"

Teacher Zhang Haiman was full of emotions as she announced the results on stage. With that, she pinned a small red flower on Fang Yuan's chest.

In her eyes, Fang Yuan was a delinquent who had understood the teachings and finally found his way. Now, he was a model student who was obedient and hardworking. By achieving the position of top student every year, he was a role model for all of them to emulate.

Teacher Zhang Haiman was filled with a sense of accomplishment as she felt that she was successful in turning Fang Yuan into a changed boy.

Hmm, if Fang Yuan, who was once a troublemaker, was able to change for the better, everyone could do the same!

Teacher Zhang had a look of excitement on her face, and Fang Yuan's friends shudder as their hair stood on its ends.

"Pa! Pa!"

Amidst the applause, Fang Yuan took a deep bow and returned to his seat with a composed look.

Really! He was already a matured adult and yet he was here, bullying the children and students by becoming the top student. How different was this to snatching sweets from children? It was despicable!

The good thing was that in these few years, he had become increasingly thick-skinned and paid no attention to Wei Xiaohong's murderous look.

Mmm, it was important to mention the fact that the child who had snitched on Fang Yuan three years ago used to be the top student.

It was unknown if she felt a tinge of regret for creating such a strong opponent for herself after that incident.

Three years had already passed since the physical test.

Fang Yuan and his friends had grown to become youths and they were now studying in junior high school.

Of course, the impressive 'Liu Fei' was being transferred to somewhere else the day after the physical test. He was being brought to the city, which was the dream of the many orphans in the orphanage. He was living the life that they could never imagine.

Fang Yuan had a new best brother, Zhao Daniu. Because he had an additional meal every night, his build became bigger. He grew taller and his chest became wider. Coupled with the fact that he was a good basketball player and had good results as well, he was the most attractive male in the school and had received many love letters from young girls.

The good thing was that Fang Yuan was resolute and therefore, he did not taint his reputation.

"Alright, students, let's open our history textbooks and revise our Modern History..."

As the school bell rang, the history teacher took out her pointer. "Fang Yuan, summarise about Modern History!"

"Yes!"

Fang Yuan stood up, cleared his thoughts and started to recall the history of this realm. "Historians agree that the exploration of the oceans is completed. We have 3 continents, and there is a consensus that Modern History begins from the moment the world map was charted out. That year is known as 1."

"In the next 1,000 years, countries started to develop their navies. Civilisation slowly wiped out ignorance and barbaric practices, pushing the world to greater heights! However, due to the inconvenience of ancient ships with sails and the slow rate of production, the progress of the world came to the lowest point. This was known as the dark ages and lasted for 750 years..."

"In the year 782, Professor Thomas Newcomen from the West Continent, Golden Eagle Federation discovered the power of the steam and coal. From there, he created the first ever steam-powered engine and used the force generated by steam to leapfrog on the world stage. The Industrial Revolution happened and in the span of a hundred years, civilisation had progressed more than the collective progress of the past one thousand years!"

"In the year 867, a citizen of the Golden Eagle Federation, Mr Wheatstone perfected the first steam-powered generator, welcoming a new age with the introduction of electricity. With the steam-powered engine and electricity, the industries of the world took off and the world had the power to change..."

At this point, Fang Yuan was a little shocked.

Although this realm had petroleum as well, they did not have as much. Instead, they had an abundance of coal. The efficiency from combusting this coal was much higher than the type that Fang Yuan had seen before. Together with technological advancements, the improved steam-powered generator was now comparable to an internal combustion engine, which allowed the steam-powered generator to remain relevant and coexist with the introduction of electricity.

The present day was the combination of the discoveries from the first and second Industrial Revolution.

"The Golden Eagle Federation started to colonise countries through their sturdy ships and strong cannons. They became the most advanced country in the world. With the uprising of their economy and their banks, together with conflicts among the higher powers, finally..."

In the year 994, a world war broke out!"

"The leader of the Golden Eagle Federation was usurped and the federation now started to trade with the people of the Middle Continent and East Continent. They were the Golden Eagle Federation of West Continent, Chinese Country of Middle Continent and Blue Star Alliance of East Continent. Around these three big countries, there were many other smaller countries with their own resources and own technologies. Some of them were much poorer and less developed, and these are basically the countries on Planet Earth..."

"Very good!"

The teacher gave him an applause. "Fang Yuan is very familiar with Modern History. Students, take note of the important points for they will be tested in the upcoming test..."

As soon as the teacher finished her sentence, there were scribbling sounds everywhere.

Even the few troublemakers seemed serious.

"It's the promotional examinations!"

Fang Yuan sat down and remained speechless. "Who would know... even after dream-traversing, I still cannot escape this!"

...

It was nightfall.

Everyone around him had fallen asleep. Like an agile cat, Fang Yuan slipped out of the orphanage and arrived at the bomb shelter.

"Fang Yuan... I'm lucky today, I've caught a few fishes!"

Zhou Daniu sat next to the bonfire. He pierced a wooden branch through the fishes and roasted them over the fire.

In a short span of 3 years, this child had grown quite a lot. He was still an honest bloke. Along with him were bottles of salt and condiments and he would occasionally rub them on the fishes.

After the development of Chinese Country, the standard of living of the people had improved considerably and there was no more need to sneak out and catch fish to supplement their protein.

The roasting and catching of fishes now were more for entertainment, especially now that they had salt and other spices.

Zhao Daniu was still reminiscing for Fang Yuan's roasted fish. Unfortunately for him, Fang Yuan, being a lazy person, had not roasted another fish ever since he taught Zhao Daniu how to roast it.

"Mmmm, Daniu, your culinary skills are getting better and better. You can open a stall and sell roast fish for a living!"

Fang Yuan munched on the fish and smiled before whipping out a bottle of alcohol. "Don't say that I am lazy, for I am taking out my prized possession."

"Ahh... there's alcohol!"

Zhao Daniu's eyes glistened and he quickly scrambled to find cups.

Since they were still young, their tolerance for alcohol was not that high. After a few cups, Zhao Daniu's tanned face became flushed. "The promotional examinations are about to begin. Fang Yuan, your results are good and you will surely be sent overseas to further your studies. It won't be too good for me. I've heard that those who fail will have to make a living for themselves outside..."

This was normal, for the orphanage could not possibly take care of them for their whole life.

However, it was still shocking for them to leave this place, which they had already regarded as their home.

"What's so good about it?"

Fang Yuan sipped on his alcohol and smiled. "Do you need to worry about this? Just look for the teacher and tell her that you want to be like Liu Fei. Looking at your physical test, I'm sure you will have no problem in becoming an athlete... The previous time Liu Fei came back to visit us, he had a luxurious treatment and even had a personal car to send him here!"

2 years ago, Liu Fei returned to the orphanage to visit all of them. It was a big thing for the orphanage and it even made some young girls cry as they appealed for another new physical test to be conducted. However... they were disappointed.

Fang Yuan knew that Zhao Daniu had the potential.

After all, he had the strength of about 3 adults which could be trained further. It could be attributed to his natural talent.

"However... After 3 years of observation, the mysterious force in this world still confuses me..."

Fang Yuan shook his head in disappointment.

Since Fang Yuan had a matured mind and Zhao Daniu was a simple guy, it was only normal that Zhao Daniu treated Fang Yuan as his best friend. There was nothing he would not share with Fang Yuan.

With a look of uneasiness, Zhao Daniu spoke. "My father once told me that I cannot accept free things!"

"Wow! Who would've thought that you would stick by your principles so firmly..."

Fang Yuan felt interested. "Then why are you drinking the alcohol that I have offered?"

"It's different! I've traded it with fish!"

Zhao Daniu had his own logic and was extremely stubborn. Fang Yuan could only roll his eyes and could do nothing about it.

"What about you? What do you intend to do in the future?"

In Zhao Daniu's mind, Fang Yuan was a remarkable person. Although he could not explain why Fang Yuan was remarkable, he could just feel it that way.

"Mmm, I want to be a noble doctor and cure thousands of people of their illnesses!"

Fang Yuan clenched his fists and gave a look of nobility.

In reality, he only wanted to investigate the human body and understand the differences between the bodies of humans here and the bodies of humans in other realms before searching for a path to become superhuman.

For that, he had to study hard and dominate his junior high school. Ah... A highly-skilled person was destined to be lonely.

"Mmm, Fang Yuan, you can do it!"

Zhao Daniu nodded his head furiously.

"However, I prefer Traditional Chinese Medicine more. Now it's your time to contribute. Stretch out your hand for me!"

Fang Yuan smiled and took out a few silver needles.

"Can I pass?"

Zhao Daniu gave a look of uneasiness. He was afraid of nothing but Fang Yuan's attitude. Unwillingly, he stretched out his arm.

"Relax, I am very accurate in acupuncture!"

Fang Yuan heated the needles and smiled. "It will not be like the previous time where I almost paralysed you for half a day..."

'Who would believe you!'

With a single needle, Zhao Daniu's face became stale. His eyes turned white. Before he could express himself, he had lost all strength and fell to the ground.

Chapter 393: Investigations

"The body composition of the humans in this world is indeed different from that of other worlds, albeit it being minute differences..."

As Fang Yuan executed his acupuncture, he mulled to himself.

Although he had lost all his cultivation, he still had his experiences from other worlds. Together with his skills in Medicine, he should be doing quite alright in this realm.

However, before he could do anything, he realised the hostility of this realm.

Although his acupuncture technique was good, the pressure points of the bodies here were already different, rendering his skills useless!

Therefore, in the past few years, he had sourced for bodies during his free time to practice. Finally, he had improved his skills and re-learnt the different locations of the pressure points of the humans in this realm and in the process, integrating into the realm.

Zhao Daniu, the guinea pig, was the unfortunate one. There were many instances where he was paralysed for almost half a day, causing him to fear needles the moment he sees them.

Of course, he did not sacrifice his body for nothing.

At least, with the help of Fang Yuan, he now knew how to control his strength and therefore, no one realised that he was a bit special.

"I am finally restoring my special traits! However, I have already looked after him for 3 years before finally getting a grasp of Medicine in this realm, sigh..... As a dream-traverser, I am really a failure..."

Fang Yuan secretly did something to make Zhao Daniu fall asleep.

With that, he closed his eyes and used the needles and his mind to finally detect traces of Zhao Daniu absorbing energy.

These traces were very small. Even with Fang Yuan's current spiritual will, he found it extremely hard to detect and he could only make use of his possessed body to try and sense it.

However, as long as there were traces, it would be akin to finding an oasis in the desert and it was still good news.

"Although this world is the desert of energy sources, there are these kinds of droplets... Although extremely rare, from how Zhao Daniu has matured, I can confirm its existence and the fact that it is slowly strengthening... Regardless, it is still very weak."

Without any other consideration, Fang Yuan named this source of energy 'Spiritual Droplets'!

This had to be the mysterious force that Elder Extreme Darkness was talking about.

However, based on what Fang Yuan had learnt, such spiritual droplets were limited.

The weapons of this realm were highly developed. Although Zhao Daniu had a strong body which was even further strengthened by Fang Yuan, against a machine gun, he would still die.

Even if one was highly skilled in martial arts, one would still fear a knife. After 10 years of training, one would still die under a single shot from a gun!

This was the reality of this realm!

"Notwithstanding others, if I were to don an armour on him and equip him with a weapon, after some training, it would be different... at least normal security guards will not be able to take him down..."

Fang Yuan's hands were swift as the needles flew about. In a moment, Zhao Daniu's entire body was covered in needles.

If Zhao Daniu were to wake up now, he would realise that he had become a 'Needle Man' and would take it out on Fang Yuan - Not that he could win Fang Yuan in a fight, that was.

"I've finally succeeded after so long and have discovered a quicker way to absorb the spiritual droplets!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glistened.

On Zhao Daniu's body, he had done all that he could. He had not only allowed Zhao Daniu to have full control of his strength, he had pushed him to the possibility of gaining full autonomy of his own body.

After many failures, it seemed like there was finally an outcome.

To speak the truth, although Fang Yuan had devised this acupuncture activating technique for a year, he was still not sure of its effectiveness.

Until now, that is. There was no more doubt.

"Hmmm... Without my help, Zhao Daniu's strength will be comparable to two adults. Although I've only increased his strength by another 0.5, it is still stronger than what he was. I wonder if I can execute this technique on other normal humans."

Fang Yuan kept his needles. He knew that Zhao Daniu would only wake up after another hour and therefore, brought himself out to take a shower under the moonlight.

"Home is where the heart is... Unfortunately, everything is mixed up now!"

He heaved a huge breath, crossed his legs and faced the sky.

Retrieving his own silver needles, he started to pierce at his own acupuncture points. With the guidance of external forces, he started to force his body to react with the spiritual droplets in the air.

"It's a good thing that I have experience of cultivation from other realms. This means that I will at least be able to achieve an initial breakthrough!"

Fang Yuan was clear about one thing.

According to how Immortal Cultivators cultivate, Zhao Daniu had a favourable body to begin with as it could absorb spiritual droplets by itself. However, Fang Yuan was possessing a normal body and it would be difficult for him to achieve a breakthrough to begin absorbing the spiritual droplets.

However, with his strong mind, he gritted his teeth and pierced another needle in his Baihui Acupuncture Point.

Within seconds, blood started to gather at his forehead, forming a red hue there.

"Whoo... I feel like I'm burning all over!"

Fang Yuan used his skills in Medicine to allow his blood to gather. Focused, he forcefully increased his Essence and Spirit. If he were to fail, he would become crippled!

Under an intense pressure, every minute felt like an eternity. Finally, after a long time...

"Chila!"

Fang Yuan heard a crisp sound coming from his forehead.

A strong mind power made Fang Yuan feel as though a river with clear spring water was flowing through his forehead.

"Haha..."

Although the number of spiritual droplets was negligible, Fang Yuan still smiled. "Finally... It's done!"

With this step, Fang Yuan had officially entered the world of cultivation for this realm. Although he was still far behind those with favourable bodies, he could slowly catch up through his cultivation in the future.

His journey of becoming supernormal began here!

...

"This is... energy sense!"

Fang Yuan took in a deep breath. As he focused on the inside of his body, he could feel a warm stream of energy flowing about.

This force, compared to the elemental force of Da Qian, was but a firefly's glow and was insignificant.

However, in this world where physics governed the rules of reality, it was already hard to cultivate this force.

"Since I've started on my journey of cultivation, there should be changes in my stats!"

Full of emotions, Fang Yuan gazed at his stats window:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 0.8

Spirit: 0.2

Magic: 1.0

Profession: ???

Cultivation: ???

Technique: [Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell (Grade 1 (1%))]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)], [Fiery Golden Eyes (Level 1)]"

"Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell - Using the Guiding Skill as a foundation, together with acupuncture and breathing techniques, you will be able to change your physical body and increase the rate of absorption of spiritual droplets. Currently at Grade 1!"

It was a very normal and general explanation.

In fact, even the name 'spiritual droplet' was coined by Fang Yuan himself.

Basically, it meant that Fang Yuan would use some complicated means to cover up for his weaknesses by absorbing energy from the spiritual droplets. After a prolonged period, he might be able to cultivate something.

"At such a stage, Grade 1 is already considered complete. At most I would have restored more than half of my Medicine Skills, right?"

Fang Yuan thought to himself before he woke Zhao Daoniu up.

"Ah..."

He forcefully supported himself up and was drenched in sweat. "I had a nightmare, a nightmare that I was in the operating theatre and many needles were poking me!"

"That is your own hallucination! Imagination!"

Fang Yuan didn't even blink. "Also... Why are you still worried that others might discover your special ability? Didn't I go through this with you before? Even if you were to be taken away by the government, you will be fine. Look at Liu Fei. Look at how luxurious his life is!"

Taking the orphanage as an example, in a thousand people, only two of them had awakened their special abilities. It was a 1 in 500 chance! What did this mean?

This might even be an overestimation, and the real probability might be 1 in a 1,000 or even 1 in 10,000... Looking at the population of Chinese Country, the outcome would still be a scarily big number of mutants.

These mutants would form the foundation of the society. However, no one would risk trying to deal with them unless they feel that their power is under threat.

Therefore, Fang Yuan predicted that in the future, it would be likely that others would try to establish good ties with these mutants and forcefully deal with those who would cause trouble.

Although there would be an increasing amount of experimentation done on these people, it would not result in the loss of their personal freedom as would not be as direct as wheeling them into the operation theatre.

What special abilities would these people be displaying?

Would they run faster? Would they lift heavier? Although it would be hard to believe, how would normal people understand the concept of the limits of the human body? They would be convinced with any simple explanation that the scientists could cook up.

Looking at the trend of the world, Fang Yuan could generally guess what the people in power would be dealing with.

"In the new era, humans are evolving... It is such an ideal situation! As long as these mutants remain and the stage there are at in the present day and do not display any surprising traits... they would be able to integrate with the normal humans without being detected and from there, unleash the potential of the human body."

Zhao Daniu's reaction of shock was only an exception and could not be taken into account for Fang Yuan was partly responsible for him as well.

"But..."

At this point, Fang Yuan smiled. "Such a mutation... or should I say evolution... will it stop here?"

According to Fang Yuan's theory, although there was a scarcity of spiritual droplets in this realm, there seemed to be a trend pointing towards the increase in the concentration of spiritual droplets.

...

In the mountains not far from Mountain Ocean City.

At the foot of the mountain within the depths of the forest, many buildings were concentrated in an area, forming a base.

In an office, A middle-aged man wearing white robes had the vibes of a military personnel. He was reading a report intently. "... In conclusion, I believe that these 'evolvers' will not have a substantial impact on the society. Therefore, our actions need not be too extreme and we should remain in observation as much as possible."

"The transformation of their genes is something very hard to predict... For instance, that witch-lady who is indestructible during the war..."

An old man raised his glasses.

The middle-aged investigator froze.

The records of that witch-lady were in the top-secret files of every country. Only the people of authority would have access to these files.

"This is the main point of our investigation... Furthermore, I cannot give assurance of the stability of these evolvers because according to a 3-year-long study on 100 of them, it seems like they are getting stronger and stronger..."

The middle-aged investigator turned solemn. "Therefore, I hope that this plan will be approved!"

He took a step forward and carefully placed a document on the desk.

Under the glare of the desk light, the huge words of were illuminated, making it feel mysterious.

Chapter 394: The Gifted

After the promotional examinations, Fang Yuan's batch of students was allowed to do whatever they liked.

Those who always had good results were doing their own self-revision, striving towards their goal of a better life in the future.

As for the majority with average results, they were constantly worrying and trying their best to establish ties in the outside world so that they would be able to find a job and make a living for themselves.

Finally, those with consistently poor results had already given up on themselves and were ready to enter society in whatever state they were in as soon as the results were back.

Amidst all this chaos, Fang Yuan remained calm.

Other than training himself every day, he also read some history books.

At this point, he was reading a fantasy Wuxia novel about a protagonist fighting against ghosts and demons.

In the history of Chinese Country, there were accounts of Daoist Swordsmen and Mages. They were all-mighty and awe-inspiring.

However, they soon disappeared from the face of Planet Earth, which was known as 'The End'.

"Hmmm... It seems like there were traces of spiritual droplets since the early years. However, it seemed to have weakened and now, it is making comeback... Is this the fixed cycle in this realm?"

Fang Yuan knocked his own forehead with his palm. "Looking at how things are... It is rather obvious that every country has their own secret inheritances. From there, I would be able to find traces of these supernormal forces..."

Unfortunately, it would not be applicable to him.

The body which Fang Yuan was possessing was a normal person. Even if he were to find any secret manual for cultivation, it would still be unable to cultivate anything from it.

On the other hand, Zhao Daniu was a prime example of a person with the potential to perform cultivation. If he were to do it, he might even be able to cultivate a special skill.

"My Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell is exactly for times like this..."

Fang Yuan thought to himself silently. 'After achieving Grade 1, my physical body should be no different from that of the evolvers and I can be considered as a cultivator. I will then be able to benefit from the spiritual droplets and alter my spiritual body. After which, I should start searching for the secret techniques of cultivation in this realm and quickly improve myself...'

His Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell was a foundation to change his body's potential. Fang Yuan placed more emphasis on the techniques to harness the power of the spiritual droplets using the cultivation techniques of this realm.

Only with these two aspects would Fang Yuan be able to achieve something and increase his cultivation.

"Fang Yuan!"

At this point in time, Wei Xiaohong walked towards him.

"What's up?"

Fang Yuan casually pushed the history book aside and replied.

"Teacher Zhang is looking for you!"

Wei Xiaohong had an uneasy look. Suddenly, she spouted something. "I am preparing to be a specialist, after which I will be able to enter the workforce directly!"

"Oh!"

Fang Yuan casually replied as he gazed at this lady, who had a complicated look on her face. "That's very good! Which kind of specialisation are you intending to go for?"

"Hmmm... Nursing!"

The young lady softly replied which made Fang Yuan feel that something was wrong.

Everyone knew that Fang Yuan wanted to be a doctor in the future. What would it mean for Wei Xiaohong to tell him all these?

Now that he paid more attention to her, Fang Yuan realised that Wei Xiaohong had already matured. She had a tanned skin, energetic look and was a beauty.

"What... what are you looking at?"

Wei Xiaohong was embarrassed to the point where she almost fainted.

"Nothing much, let's go!"

Fang Yuan stood up, approached her and whispered into her ear. "I'm sorry that I didn't say this earlier... I am more interested in Traditional Chinese Medicine!"

Wei Xiaohong was in a daze. Satisfied at his little joke, Fang Yuan made his way to the office.

"Good day, Teacher Zhang!"

Politely, he greeted Teacher Zhang before realising that there were a few other teachers in the office.

There was another teacher in a green shirt. He was middle-aged and wore glasses, making him seem gentle and elegant. Another two teachers stood by Teacher Zhang and appeared solemn and serious, making the entire atmosphere tensed.

"Ah, it's Fang Yuan. Come in!"

Seeing her model student, Teacher Zhang Haiman was all smiles. "Teacher He, he is Fang Yuan!"

At the same time, she introduced Fang Yuan to Teacher He. "This is Teacher He Tianming from the capital! He is a professor from the most prestigious school and is in charge of the selection throughout the country. He is spearheading a project to start a gifted class in a university!"

"Good day, Professor He!"

Fang Yuan politely greeted him and faced him squarely.

"Hmm... Your results are not bad. However, the students I need for my class are the smartest of the smartest. These students would advance 3 levels and would start on the university curriculum. The workload will be very heavy!"

Professor He raised his glasses. "Your results topped the entire Mountain Ocean City, but they are not enough!"

"If I were to enter university directly, there should be requirements for Senior High School. I shall start my self-study..."

Fang Yuan smiled.

"Oh?"

He Tianming's eyes glistened. "Which levels are you intending to self-study?"

"I have already completed the self-study for the next 3 levels. You can test me on anything within the syllabus. Furthermore, I have already begun in Calculus and other topics taught in university!"

Fang Yuan spoke calmly.

It was too slow to follow the flow and sometimes, risks would need to be taken.

Furthermore, why should he constantly remind others that he would want to become a doctor in the future? It was all in preparation for the future so that he would be able to join the government to conduct research on the human body!

It was too slow for him to conduct experiments on his own. How could it compare to having the assistance of the entire country in conducting the experiments and research?

Since he had arrived at this realm filled with technology, it would only be wise for him to leverage on it as well as the support of the country.

It was a wise choice to enter the government.

"Self-study? The modules in university?"

Zhang Haiman was stunned but soon after, she smiled. "Although I know that you have the habit of picking up used books from the rubbish bin, I am still stunned that you are able to reach such a stage."

"We need to prove it. I will now prepare a test for you!"

He Tianming raised his glasses and smirked.

Those who knew him would know that this was his reaction whenever he was interested in something.

In a few moments, within the office, Fang Yuan scribbled writings as he rushed to revise. His ears twitched and the conversation from the other room was distinctly heard in his ears. With that, he revealed a sneaky smile.

Although the teachers were very far and they were separated by walls, Fang Yuan was still able to hear all of it.

...

"Director, what do you think?"

In an office with sealed windows, He Tianming held a few documents in his hands and frowned. "This Fang Yuan... He was once the troublemaker in the orphanage. Now, he has suddenly turned hardworking and consistently topped the class. This does not seem normal..."

"Through the few physical tests, we have found out that other than his brain which we cannot directly measure and test, everything about him is normal!"

A cadre which was attached to the director flipped a few documents and retorted.

With the control the country had over its people, as soon as they took notice of Fang Yuan, the government was able to fish out all the documents and information regarding Fang Yuan's past.

"He might be simply a gifted child or an evolver with a highly developed brain. Why would all this matter? What we need is his contribution to the country! After all, he will still be raised through a university education and we will be able to know more about him in a few years time to come. If he is

really gifted, then we can allow him to join the government. Otherwise, we can still let him become a normal technology developer to build the foundation for our country!"

Director Zhou made a decision.

"Hmmm, then let's make a decision after seeing his results for this test!"

With this sentence, He Tianming was filled with even more anticipation. "After going about through more than ten cities, the number of gifted people can be counted with my fingers. Hopefully, this one will not disappoint me..."

"Director Zhou, Professor He!"

A teacher knocked on the door. "Fang Yuan has already completed the test and wants to submit his script!"

"What?"

He Tianming shook his head. "How is this possible? I gave him two hours but only 10 minutes have passed!"

"Could he have failed to complete the test and leave a few questions blank?"

Director Zhou witnessed He Tianming while he was setting the paper, and knew that even university students would not be able to answer some of the questions.

With that, He Tianming laughed. "In the previous few cities, the few gifted students who are boastful, aren't they all like that?"

"Let's take a look!"

He Tianming sighed as he entered the office.

"Good day, Professor He!"

Fang Yuan handed his script and his writing filled the entire paper. However, they were neat and tidy, and as He Tianming read through, he nodded his head.

Even if the answers were not correct, the tidiness of his handwriting and presentation had already left a good impression on He Tianming.

With that, he took the script and started marking. His expression started to change. "Your logic is clear and your methods are correct... full marks... Fang Yuan, did you do all these?"

"I believe this invigilator will be able to testify for me!"

Fang Yuan replied without any reservations.

With his colleague's affirmation, He Tianming's face was filled with happiness. "I'm sorry, what I meant was that you are only fifteen, right? Considering your age, this is unbelievable!"

"Most of them are content from the textbook. Only a few questions would require me to do some additional interpretation, but that is all!"

Fang Yuan placed his hands in his pocket. "How's that? Have I passed?"

"Of course... I believe that Xijing University will be very pleased to have you as their gifted student!"

He Tianming exchanged glances with Director Zhou and was elated. "What about you? Do you have any requests? We can consider acceding to them..."

"I prefer to study Medicine, especially the combined theory of ancient and present-day study of the human body...."

Fang Yuan thought for a while. "Also, I would like to recommend a few of my friends for their preferred jobs!"

"Medicine?"

He Tianming took out a notebook and quickly recorded it down with his ballpoint pen. "Also, to help your friends get their jobs... that's fine, we can do all of that."

"If there's nothing else, when can I report to Xijing University?"

Fang Yuan came straight to the point.

"September of Year 02. That is when the new school term starts! Call us before you board the train. We will send someone to pick you up from the station. Don't worry about your accommodation and your necessities!"

Director Zhou finally spoke and sounded amicable.

Regardless, he admired Fang Yuan for the fact that he remembered about his friends.

Anyone would feel at ease when interacting with someone with a good personality.

"Alright, Fang Yuan, I'll see you at the university!"

He Tianming stood up, shook his hands with Fang Yuan and left the school.

"Alright!"

From behind, Teacher Zhang Haiman approached Fang Yuan with tears in her eyes. "It's Xijing University, the most prestigious university in Chinese Country. Fang Yuan, you are the pride of our orphanage! I have decided to start an assembly this afternoon and you shall prepare a speech... and be a role model for your juniors!"

Fang Yuan remained speechless.

Chapter 395: Antiques Deal

"Choo! Choo!"

Accompanied by the rhythmic noise of the steam engine and the billowing white smoke, the train slowly arrived at the capital's station.

Once the train doors opened, an ocean of green and grey swarmed out the train carriages. Large amounts of passengers dragged their luggage and carried their bags as they squeezed towards the exit.

Outside the train station, it was bustling with activity. There were numerous stalls selling snacks and maps and the hawkers were enthusiastic touting away at each passenger. All sorts of dialects could be heard and the area was filled with life.

Fang Yuan carried a haversack and still appeared like a child. As he saw the boisterous scene in front of him, he felt slightly lost as he felt he could not fit in.

Soon enough, he saw a guy in a large military coat and red scarf raising a piece of cardboard and walked towards him.

"Are you schoolmate Fang Yuan?"

The guy warmly introduced himself, "I am Sun Jian, Professor He's student!"

"Hello!"

Fang Yuan shook his hand. Immediately, Sun Jian's face turned slightly surprised, "You came over by yourself? Where's your luggage?"

"This is sufficient, let's go!" Fang Yuan replied while patting his backpack.

"Oh, great! There's also another schoolmate, he arrived earlier!"

Sun Jian was very friendly. He then brought Fang Yuan to a green coloured jeep at the carpark.

"The capital is very big, there are many fun places to go! Once you all settle down, I will bring you all around!"

"Thank you!"

Fang Yuan sat at the back and saw another teenager seating beside him as expected.

The teenager's skin was abnormally pale, he was skinny and his face was ice cold, as though he did not want anyone to get close to him.

"Hello, I am Fang Yuan!"

Fang Yuan reached out his hand.

"Lin Xing!"

Lin Xing had his arms crossed and an "I don't want to talk" look on his face.

"Lin Xing has very good hands-on skills! The machines he upgraded even won the top prize in a national level award!" Sun Jian added cheerily.

"Well... geniuses are haughty I guess!" Fang Yuan thought to himself and rolled his eyes.

Fang Yuan then began looking at the buildings and scenery outside.

Although there were no modern skyscrapers, there was still a unique charm to the Chinese courtyard houses mixed with cement buildings.

One and a half hour later, the jeep drove into Xijing University, the number one institute in Chinese Country.

As it was the start of the new school year, many new students could be seen busily doing their stuff in the beautiful school campus.

"Here we are!"

The jeep parked below a dormitory. Once Fang Yuan and Lin Xing got out of the car, they were welcomed by He Tianming, "The dorm is already prepared and it is a double bedroom! As you all are still young, the school specially granted you all exemption from military training! I will be your class' form teacher."

"Greetings, Teacher He!"

Fang Yuan immediately greeted He Tianming after he got out of the car.

"It's great that both of you are here! There's no lesson these few days, you all can take this time to get used to the new environment!"

He Tianming handed them a stash of meal coupons and cash as he continued, "Both of you are independent since young, I hope you all will remain disciplined here! Don't let down the school's contribution to you all!"

"Yes!"

Fang Yuan solemnly promised, while Lin Xing nonchalantly agreed, which made He Tianming feel speechless. In Fang Yuan's eyes, Lin Xing was like a rebellious teenager.

"Also, technically, your Gifted Class will not be split into faculties during Year 1. You all will be taking culture classes together to build up your foundations! For Fang Yuan, I have already spoken to them and you will be allowed to listen in classes from the Biology Faculty and Medicine Faculty!"

"Thank you!"

If not for these conditions, Fang Yuan would not have come here.

From now, Fang Yuan would amass knowledge for two years and complete his own knowledge base before amazing others with his next move.

.....

First of all, they went to the canteen to have a meal together. As He Tianming had some urgent matter to attend to, he quickly left first.

Fang Yuan was taking big bites out his steamed buns and swallowed the whole bowl of pork vermicelli quickly. His massive appetite and kiddish appearance attracted the looks of many seniors.

Whereas Lin Xing had already hidden at a corner as though he felt ashamed to be associated with Fang Yuan.

Fang Yuan ate his last steamed bun, rubbed his stomach contentedly and looked towards Lin Xing, "Do you want to tour around outside?"

"No need!"

With a cold expression on his face, Lin Xing left immediately.

"Sigh... kids should be cheerful and smile more..."

Fang Yuan sighed begrudgingly like an old man which made Sun Jian laugh, "Fang Yuan, aren't you only just 15 too?"

As Sun Jian spoke, a tinge of pity could be seen in his eyes, "... Also, you were not well fed last time? Don't worry, many university students who just entered were like that too, you will get used to it!"

"I wasn't mistreated or abused last time..." Fang Yuan thought to himself as he secretly rolled his eyes.

Fang Yuan then immediately steered the conversation towards sightseeing.

"Haha... Fang Yuan, you are so energetic, where do you want to go?" Sun Jian was a bit surprised and asked.

"I heard there are three antique markets here! Let's not talk about the Glaze Factory market and Pan Family Gardens market first, let's go take a look at Sambhogakaya Monastery first!"

Fang Yuan wiped his mouth.

"Oh, didn't think you would be interested in antiques! Are you interested in majoring archaeology too?" Sun Jian smiled.

"It's just that I heard it's bustling and since the jeep doesn't have to be returned so quickly, we can still utilise it... Sorry for the trouble, senior! I will treat you to mutton hotpot at night!"

"That's great!" Sun Jian merrily agreed.

Sambhogakaya Monastery was a renowned Zen Buddhist temple in the past. After Chinese Country was formed, the temple underwent restoration and was not only a famous cultural attraction now, there were also many stalls selling numerous stuff.

Although there were rare antiques, there were also many counterfeit goods. The environment was very good too.

As Fang Yuan arrived, he saw many grand trees providing shade and large groups of people walking along the corridors of the inner courtyards. There were also hundreds of small and large stalls that sold all sorts of rare or weird items. The accents from every part of the country could be heard too.

"We are just taking a look this time, right... eh? Fang Yuan, you are really interested in buying?"

Right after Sun Jian sighed, he saw Fang Yuan squatting at one of the stalls and was flipping through the stuff sold. Fang Yuan appeared very interested in the items.

"Eh... this looks interesting!"

Fang Yuan picked up a ceramic doll and a strange smile could be seen on his face.

The ceramic doll had a large head and round feet, which was similar to a roly-poly toy. It was painted with colourful oil paint and had a simple look. Sun Jian could easily tell it was definitely not some sort of antique, but a toy used to cheat children.

However, as he saw Fang Yuan was so intrigued by it, he was momentarily speechless.

"My friend, your taste is so good, my ancestors have lived in the Imperial Palace in the past dynasties before... this..."

The stall owner was a smooth talker and immediately started to persuade Fang Yuan after he saw him came to his stall. He tried to convince Fang Yuan further, "This is an item played by those ministers in the past, it's exactly the same! It would be so joyous if you buy back a pair!"

"I will sell it to you for ten dollars!"

"Forget it!" Sun Jian could not stand it anymore, "If you go to West Industrial Zone, you can buy back a whole cart of it with ten dollars!"

"Haha!"

As the stall owner was met with someone who knew the real deals, he laughed and retorted, "It's not the same! Not the same! My goods are specially made from machines! Look at the paint, its added with many of that... chemical compounds!"

"What!"

Sun Jian could not contain his laughter after hearing such but felt sad after a while.

The notion that such machine-made products were better than handmade products and the idea that added chemical compounds meant that it was good was truly ridiculously stupid and laughable but also made Sun Jian felt at a loss.

Fang Yuan could not help but laugh too, "Nevermind, give me three! I will give you three dollars, how about that?"

Fang Yuan eyes sparkled and he quickly picked three of them.

Although the dolls were rather simple and crude, a mysterious charm could be felt from the area between their eyebrows, which meant they were not possibly made from machine moulds but were definitely handmade.

"Three dollars is too low..."

The stall owner's expression changed slightly, "These are passed down from my ancestors..."

"Wait a minute, didn't you just say they were made from machines?"

Sun Jian pulled Fang Yuan and said, "Nevermind, let's go to other stalls!"

"Ah... wait!"

The stall owner immediately shouted, "Nevermind, I will take it as I'm blind today, three dollars will do!"

"Three dollars is still too pricey!"

Fang Yuan was still slightly undecided and he randomly picked up another ancient book from the stall, "I like to read, so if you add this on, I will buy for three dollars!"

"Deal!"

The stall owner quickly glanced at the book and saw the book was grey and drab and there were also many small holes on it. The book did not have an appealing appearance even compared to the other random miscellaneous items he was selling. Furthermore, even the cover of the book was stained with dirt and half of it could not be seen clearly already, thus the stall owner readily accepted the deal.

"Sigh... Fang Yuan, you are too wasteful."

As Fang Yuan spent his own money, Sun Jian could not say anything else and could only sigh.

"Money can't buy happiness! I will treat you to mutton, senior!"

Fang Yuan could not contain his smile as he looked at his ceramic dolls carefully.

With Fang Yuan's Fiery Golden Eyes, it was super easy for him to make a small fortune.

Although the dolls appeared normal on the surface, their insides contained many precious materials. He already saw a piece of agarwood and a few pieces of jewels inside the doll.

Fang Yuan should be able to fetch a decent price with the current market prices.

After all, Fang Yuan just started cultivating, he had to earn some extra income to supplement his consumption.

The ancient book in his pocket was an even more surprising gain.

"This ancient book has a secret layer in it... Furthermore, just from the words on the outside, hints of magic are hidden in it, it is not so simple... Just with that, I can confirm the majority of what's hidden inside must be something related to cultivating in the past. Looks like the stall owner did not lie, his ancestors must have mixed in the Imperial Palace before and got many good things out from it..."

Fang Yuan turned around and looked at the large building of Sambhogakaya Monastery and suddenly pondered, "Let's not talk about the rest... this place is a worthy investment! With my the power of my eyes, I will be really profitable next time! The resources I need for cultivation are settled..."

Chapter 396: Fist Technique

"<Green Capsule Scripture?"

After dinner and parting ways with Sun Jian, Fang Yuan returned to the university, found a quiet corner and started to examine his loots.

The ancient scriptures in his hands were torn and dirty, but he could vaguely tell where it came from.

"I've read about it in the history books before. This <Green Capsule Scripture was recorded by a cultivator in the ancient times known as 'Yellowstone Duke'. In the scripture, he described the dao of Fengshui and Yin and Yang... Looking at this handwriting, it seems like it was written by a person skilled in calligraphy and this must be rather valuable..."

Without paying too much attention to the handwriting, Fang Yuan opened the scripture and flipped to a few pages which felt abnormal.

"Hehe..."

These pages were thin like a dragonfly's wings. They were smooth and words cluttered on the page, describing the scripture.

"Just the words alone, I can tell that every word is full of meaning and energy. By looking at it often, I will be able to cultivate my energy..."

Fang Yuan flipped open the abnormal pages and the words of <Green Capsule Scriptures Additional Recordings filled his vision.

"Is this... a scripture on Medicine?"

Examining it, Fang Yuan was pleasantly surprised.

The <Green Capsule Scripture was a recording of the dao of Fengshui and the dao of Yin and Yang and there were a few ancient cultivation techniques within it. This <Green Capsule Scriptures Additional Recordings was a developed version of the <Green Capsule Technique penned down by a reverend doctor as he used it to cure patients and lengthen his lifespan!

"Or should I say that... this is a combination of Medicine and cultivation? This is rather suitable for me..."

The foundation of Fang Yuan's physical body was still on the Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell. However, the Green Capsule Scripture Additional Recordings placed emphasis on the technique and the usage, which could complement his body.

"However, it is still a pity... Although I can now absorb spiritual droplets, my progress is still too slow and I can only awaken my energy sense. It is still too hard for me to perform acupuncture solely based on the energy of a body!"

Fang Yuan took a quick glance at his stats window:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 0.8

Spirit: 0.3

Magic: 1.0

Profession: ???

Cultivation: ???

Technique: [Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell (Grade 1 (13%))]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)], [Fiery Golden Eyes (Level 1)]"

"I still have a lot to learn about the absorption and manipulation of spiritual droplets!"

Fang Yuan clenched his fists and sighed.

He had made progress in his 3 years of training and familiarisation. Considering his knowledge in warfighting, he would still be able to defeat 2 Zhao Danius at the same time.

Unfortunately, that would only place him at the level of a special forces soldier in the military.

"Bang!"

Without consider, he smashed a ceramic doll, revealing the treasures hidden inside.

In the ceramic doll, there was a figurine of Aquilaria Maitreya[1]. The materials used to make it were already valuable, and Fang Yuan could tell that the workmanship to craft the figurine was top-notch. Together, it made the figurine a real treasure and Fang Yuan could earn many times more than what he spent to buy the ceramic doll.

In the other two dolls, gold and jade were stuffed in them. There were also coins from other countries and it seemed that they were the backup of the government during the tumultuous times of developmental years of Chinese Country.

However, it was a pity that the inheritance did not pass on. The descendants of the founding fathers had long forgotten about all these fortunes, which in turn benefited Fang Yuan.

"I shall keep this Aquilaria Maitreya first... As for the foreign coins, I shall sell them directly in the black market and gather capital for my cultivation..."

Since the time where Fang Yuan had begun to absorb spiritual droplets, he realised that his appetite had grown.

The resources which He Tianming had given him was not enough, and it would not be nice to trouble him further.

"It is a rewarding day to be able to reap all these treasures! What else can I be unsatisfied about?"

Fang Yuan took in a deep breath. He kept his treasures in his bag and started his training.

A technique which resembled a Guiding Skill was slowly being executed.

At the same time, the weak energy sense in his body started to trigger, activating the few acupuncture points and meridians to increase the rate of absorption of spiritual droplets.

As he progressed, he could feel that his technique and his physical body was slowly being strengthened. All of these were satisfactory.

"Sha! Sha!"

After a long while, Fang Yuan finally opened his eyes and breathed out a heavy deep breath. His ears twitched. "Is there someone around?"

He raised his head and gazed at the sky. The bright moon had already risen up into the dark sky. "It is already so late. Why would anyone come here at this time? They are also not making out..."

The place which Fang Yuan had chosen was a secluded lakeside of the university, within a forest.

If it was a couple coming here at this timing, then it would be logical.

However, Fang Yuan could clearly detect that there was only one person.

"This person must be crazy!"

After coming to a conclusion, Fang Yuan grabbed his bag, hid behind a tree and appeared excited.

"Whooo! Whoo!"

A regulated breathing sound was heard as a university student ran across the forest. He seemed like he was in his twenties and was cleanly shaved. He did not seem to be afraid of the cold as he was running half-naked, revealing his muscles. He seemed like a leopard.

"The training in daytime is not enough..."

The young man mumbled to himself. As he readied himself, he started to practise his martial arts as though there was no one around.

"Whoo! Whoo!"

His feet were quick and in his punches, there were vague roars of beasts, which would surely startle anyone who would hear it.

"He is a normal person, but this is... martial arts?"

Fang Yuan knew that he was a normal person from a single look. However, his muscles were well-toned and it seemed like he had learnt martial arts since young and at this point in time, he seemed as though he was stuck at a certain stage.

In the dark forest, there were roars of tigers and lions, chirps of cranes and screams of monkeys. After a long while, there was a sigh.

"This is still not enough!"

"My Five Beasts Fist is still lacking something. I cannot focus the strength in my entire body together to achieve the 'Strength Opening' Realm... Grandfather told me that all the highly-skilled youths are in the university. Why haven't I met a single one of them?"

As the moonlight poured down, the young man gazed up with a look of determination. His facial features were distinct and his appearance made him seem like a person with animal instincts.

"I, Chen Bo, did not come to the university to study! From tomorrow onwards, I shall challenge the martial artists of the capital and make my family's Five Beasts Fist famous!"

'What age is this already? Why is his thinking still so archaic?'

Fang Yuan stood by the side and remained dumbfounded. 'This young man had read too much Wuxia novels and no one can save him. However, this Five Beasts Fist is still rather interesting.'

With Fang Yuan's Fiery Golden Eyes, Fang Yuan could not only observe his martial arts technique, but also the flow of his strength in his body.

This young man was clueless. Now that he had performed his martial arts in front of Fang Yuan, he would have unknowingly taught Fang Yuan the entire Five Beasts Fist.

'Are the martial arts from these martial arts family still useful?'

Fang Yuan observed and could identify the foundation of the Five Beasts Fist. It was a technique focused on imitating five types of beasts found in the natural environment. It was a technique which would allow one to strengthen one's bones, harness blood energy and breakthrough one's physical limits.

'Of course, without the nourishment from spiritual droplets, he would only abuse his own blood energy and will still not be able to breakthrough for his whole life. Furthermore, after 40 years old, the condition of his body will start to deteriorate... No wonder these ancient martial arts are not being passed down. Looking at things, Chen Bo seems to have caught this prime time...'

Although the Strength Opening Realm was nothing in Fang Yuan's eyes, he could still predict the future path of this set of martial arts.

At the peak of cultivation for the Five Beasts Fist, one would have the potential to harness energy from the external surroundings and absorb spiritual droplets to start one's journey to become supernormal.

"Of course, anyone in the Strength Opening Realm would already be considered highly-skilled. The stage which I have predicted would require one to be the master of the arts and is extremely difficult! Difficult!! Difficult!!!"

Fang Yuan shook his head. "Even if one were to attain True Strength and would be able to absorb spiritual droplets to begin the journey to become supernormal, they would only be at the initial stage of the Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell. To put in bluntly, it is a low-levelled version of cultivation. Of course, I'll have to admit that it is still rather useful in strengthening one's physical body..."

Chen Bo was clueless that by simply performing his martial arts, he had exposed his heritage and that even the secret parts of the technique which his grandfather was unaware of were already being discovered.

'Hmm... It seems like I have fate with this capital, or it might be an accumulative 3 years of good karma that is expended in a single day...'

He had benefited from buying the ceramic dolls and scripture and now, he had the chance to witness an impressive martial arts technique. All of this made Fang Yuan felt satisfied.

'Since I've benefited from looking at your family's martial arts, I shall help you!'

Thinking about it, Fang Yuan folded his collar up, shielding half of his face. As his leg became slightly bent, he bolted out like a cannon.

"Who's that?"

As soon as Fang Yuan moved, Chen Bo could immediately detect it and was utterly shocked.

As a martial artist, his reaction was to counter-attack. His fists became claws as he struck towards the small black silhouette with a tiger's roar.

It was a cardinal sin among martial artists to peep at someone else practising their martial arts and was even considered reasonable to cripple the peeping tom.

However, the black figure didn't dodge but returned with a fist.

"Roar! Roar!"

In that instant, an explosion came from the small silhouette. As his fist flew in the air, roars of lions and tigers could be heard.

'Five Beasts Fist! The voices of the tendons and bones! The unified lion and tiger roar! Strength Opening! This is impossible!'

Chen Bo's eyes were wide open as he was stunned.

Such a scene would mean that this person would have already combined the strength of his entire body and releasing it out in a single punch. The power of the punch would increase by folds. Even before an elder of the martial arts world, such a punch would mean that the person was worthy enough to be regarded as highly-skilled.

"Bang!"

Without a doubt, Chen Bo flew backwards.

Although he was only a step away from the Strength Opening Realm, it was a huge step for him!

"Why do you know my family's secret martial arts technique, the Five Beasts Fist!"

Even though his body felt like shattering apart, he knew that he had to ask the question as he thought hard about who this person before him could be.

Unfortunately, the moonlight in the forest was too dim and the person had intentionally covered half of his face. With a hoarse voice, Fang Yuan spoke. "The Strength Opening Realm of the Five Beasts Fist would require one to tame the dragon of the spine and have delicate control over one's blood energy in the forehead. Be careful not to go on the wrong path... and focus on training your Crane Form!"

The voice echoed in the forest. In an instant, the silhouette disappeared.

Chen Bo was still in a trance as though streaks of lightning struck his head. "Crane Form? Dragon of the spine? Forehead?"

"Who is this person? Why is he so familiar with the Chen Family's Five Beasts Fist? Could he be an elder of the family?"

He laid on the floor in an ungraceful position for a long while before forcing himself up. He did not know whether to laugh or cry. "Grandfather is right. These highly-skilled people are everywhere!"

[1]: Aquilaria Maitreya is a type of Buddha.

Chapter 397: Opening a Shop

After military training, university education officially started.

Fang Yuan's life in Xijing University was very happening.

The faculties which Fang Yuan were in were not surprised at his arrival. They were at most curious about his age, but that was all.

Fang Yuan had long heard stories about encountering beautiful girls as well as people from wealthy families. However, he had seen none of these and was a little disappointed.

"To think about it... those of them here are the smartest in their cities and would compete with each other in their academics. Why would they think of other distractions... As for any events that they would organise, they would surely not look for me... I am too young..."

Fang Yuan felt a little depressed. With that, he paid attention during his lecture and took down notes... he would look for his class during their self-revision time.

Professor He was indeed influential enough to get a special classroom for the gifted class so that he could provide supplementary lessons for those who were weaker in their foundation.

Because Fang Yuan had been verified of his knowledge of the Senior High School syllabus, Fang Yuan was one of the rare ones who was not required to attend the supplementary lessons. As soon as he entered the classroom, he rolled his eyes.

'Hmph... this is how a class should look like... otherwise, it would be too boring...'

"Hey! Lin Xing!"

Fang Yuan went about his own business and sat across Lin Xing. Looking at a piece of electronic gadget he was fiddling about in his hands, Fang Yuan quipped. "Do you find the history and geography they teach in Senior High School hard? Do you need my help?"

As soon as Fang Yuan mentioned this, Lin Xing's face became black.

Although he was capable in many aspects, he was the perfect example of someone with high IQ but low EQ. Therefore, he had difficulties in handling humanities subjects, not to mention pure literature.

"Haha..."

Seeing Lin Xing in this state, Fang Yuan's mood was lifted.

Looking at Professor He lecturing in front, Fang Yuan felt a little pity for him.

Sigh... gifted children, to put in bluntly, were problem kids. It was hard on him to be able to put all these problem kids together and have everything under control.

"Professor He!"

"Fang Yuan! What's the matter?"

He Tianming had a few more strands of white hair. However, as he looked towards Fang Yuan, he forced a smile out.

Compared to the other gifted children who were troublemakers, Fang Yuan gave him the least problems.

"I feel that the content I am learning now is still too general. I hope that I can enter more faculties... The best would be for me to enter the laboratory to start experimentations straight away!"

Fang Yuan laid out his request.

"Pfftt!"

He Tianming was drinking a cup of tea but almost spat it out. "The content taught in the university is too general? Are you looking at directly becoming a professor?"

"If that is possible..."

Fang Yuan nodded his head.

"... I cannot promise you anything now. It is unlikely that you will be allowed to observe other professor's experiments in the laboratories. However, I can allow you to join more faculties. I can even get you a special identity card which will allow you to borrow books and resources from the library. You will be unrestricted by the borrowing limit and the duration of borrow as well!"

After much thought, He Tianming replied Fang Yuan.

"This is great, thank you, teacher!"

Fang Yuan knew for himself that he still did not have the rights to become a laboratory assistant and that his deal was already rather good. With that, he took a bow.

"This child..."

As soon as he left, He Tianming stared at his cup of tea before wiping his fogged-up glasses with a handkerchief.

Among all the gifted children, Fang Yuan was the smartest and the one which he had to worry about the least.

Additionally, there were many physical tests as soon as all of them entered the university, but there were no special findings.

This was a normal accelerated development of his brain, which could be commonly seen in many scientists alike.

However, this student gave He Tianming a feeling of mystery...

...

After settling all of these, Fang Yuan was not interested in revising the Senior High School syllabus with these children and left the room.

The clear breeze brought a chilly vibe. There was a thin layer of fog and as the sun rose, there was a feeling of serenity.

At the lakeside of the university campus, there were many people training their physical fitness and taking a stroll. Majority of them were young students, but there were a few white-haired professors or even residents who lived nearby.

A few old men and women were practising martial arts in their white robes. They slowly lunged their swords in the air and were one with the movement of the sword, forming a beautiful scene like a painting.

'Unfortunately... how long can days like this last?'

Fang Yuan clenched his fist.

He could finally feel that his cultivation was accelerating.

"After a few hundred years of scarcity, are the spiritual droplets finally becoming increasingly concentrated?"

As he thought to himself, Fang Yuan found an empty spot and started to execute his Guiding Skill.

With the memories of the Five Beasts Fist from Chen Bo and the Green Capsule Scripture Additional Recording, Fang Yuan felt enlightened. His became more and more familiar with his Guiding Skill, and there was the occasional spreading of crane's wings and the posture of a lion.

'I might be able to alter this Guiding Skill and name it Five Beasts Guiding Skill... By practising it, I will be able to lengthen my lifespan and it is better than any other physical exercise...'

Fang Yuan focused on his dantian. As he completed the executing of his Guiding Skill, he realised that an old professor was staring at him for a long time.

"Student... your Guiding Skill is interesting!"

Seeing that Fang Yuan had glanced over, the old professor chuckled. "Could this be a set of martial arts passed down by your family?"

"Haha... Professor Tian, this is only a normal Guiding Skill which I have learnt from the history books. Now, I am only casually executing it..."

"Oh? You know me?"

Professor Tian was around 60 years old and his head was filled with white hair. He seemed energetic and lively. Now that he examined Fang Yuan, he felt that Fang Yuan was vaguely familiar.

"Mmm, I have attended some of your lectures on Traditional Chinese Medicine and have learnt a lot from you!"

Fang Yuan smiled.

"Oh, I see"!

Professor Tian nodded his head. "Nowadays, there are only a handful of students who are still interested in Traditional Chinese Medicine. Are you from He Tianming's gifted class? Although his intentions are good, how could he ever think of letting a group of kids study in a university? Sigh... This is a little too extreme..."

The study of Traditional Chinese Medicine tended to follow the natural flow of things. Therefore, Professor Tian was against what He Tianming had done.

However, Professor Tian had a different impression of Fang Yuan and felt as though they understood each other after the exchanges. "Fang Yuan, does your family specialise in Traditional Chinese Medicine?"

"Hehe... I am from Mountain Ocean City Orphanage. I've learnt all these from reading books and practising it myself!"

Fang Yuan rubbed his nose.

"Oh, I see... I'm sorry... It's a pity. Considering your abilities, you can be a researcher. However, on the path of Traditional Chinese Medicine, you would face difficulties for the first ten years, and is extremely hard to hone your skills..."

The study of Traditional Chinese Medicine was one which relied heavily on experience. Experienced doctors would always be more skilled than the inexperienced ones and there was no two way about it.

Professor Tian took a few steps forward and gave a look of pity. "It's a pity... I currently do not have any research topics in my hands. Otherwise, I would surely ask you to be my assistant."

In this age, it was already the norm for lecturers to conduct researches and hire assistants, paying them the salary of assistants.

Upon hearing this, Fang Yuan thought to himself, smiled and remained silent.

Seeing how humble Fang Yuan was, Professor Tian's eyes glistened. They spoke for a while more before parting ways. He had decided for himself that he would invest all he could in this child.

"I should leave!"

Fang Yuan walked around the perimeter of the lake. Unintentionally, he bumped into a teary-eyed Chen Bo.

Ever since Fang Yuan had advised him, Chen Bo's martial arts took a huge leap forward. In a few days time, he would surely be able to achieve a breakthrough in the Strength Opening Realm.

Of course, as a young man, he could not swallow his pride. Coupled with the fact that his family's secret martial arts were possibly leaked, Chen Bo was certain that the person who assaulted him was in the compound of the university and therefore, he remained here to look out for the person.

Even if Fang Yuan were to walk under his nose, this teary-eyed Chen Bo would not be able to tell that it was him. Chen Bo was only letting his efforts go to waste.

...

"Junior, this pavilion shall be yours in the future..."

In Sambhogakaya Monastery, Sun Jian and Fang Yuan walked into a shop and there was a hint of envy in Sun Jian's voice. "Now that Chinese Country is being developed and that the economy is booming, even if we just collect rent from this shop, we will be able to earn a lot..."

"It's a waste to just collect rent. How about we open a shop to try things out!"

Fang Yuan caressed the glass cabinets and smiled. "To speak the truth... Never would I have thought that that Suet Jade would be so valuable..."

Other than the Aquilaria Maitreya, Fang Yuan had sold all of the treasures he obtained from the ceramic dolls.

The silver coins and gold ingots were normal and Fang Yuan used them to tip waiters in restaurants. As for the Suet Jade, it was a crystal clear jade piece which fetched a high price since it was considered an antique.

In good times, the value of antiques would go up while in troubled times, people would prefer the stability of the value of gold. At this point in time, the price of antique skyrocketed and even though Fang Yuan had sold it in exchange for this shop, he still felt that there was more value to it.

Ultimately, it was just a simple trade and he would do whatever he wished.

After all, he still had an extremely valuable Aquilaria Maitreya with him.

"Open a shop? An antique shop? There's a lot that we don't know about!"

Sun Jian felt that he no longer understood this junior of his.

"I've attended a few lectures on antiques and believe that my taste is good... Furthermore, we have the most valuable treasure of all, right?"

In any antique shops, there had to be at least one or two real antiques to attract people. To Fang Yuan, the Aquilaria Maitreya seemed like a suitable antique.

Furthermore, he felt that on this wooden-carved figurine, there was a mysterious spiritual aura. He could possibly use it as a bait to bait something bigger.

"Senior, I would like to hire one or two people to look after the shop. Do you have any idea how I can go about doing it?"

Thinking about it, Fang Yuan laughed.

"Oh, why not look of university students? In the city, there are still quite a number of students who would work part-time while studying to support themselves."

Sun Jian replied.

"Mmm, I will pay them 30 dollars per month, and they can rest on the weekends. On weekdays, they are only required to come for half a day... I will only need two people!"

Fang Yuan waved his hands like a rich boss.

"Hehe... Such a good deal! Even I feel tempted to help you. Don't worry, I will surely find you two honest helpers."

Sun Jian nodded his head. Even the salary of a highly-skilled manufacturing job could not compare to this. Therefore, he promptly accepted the job of looking for helpers for he could also benefit from it.

Chapter 398: Laying Foundation

Seasons came and went by; it was now the Year 1003.

The chilly winter was not fully over yet. In the middle of the night, even the most hardworking student would not be able to withstand the coldness and would have climbed into their warm beds.

Fang Yuan had long convinced Professor He Tianming to allow him to move out of the dormitory.

Currently, he was at a random spot in a small forest as he prepared to check his progress this past year.

For Fang Yuan to change his normal body to one with the properties of spiritual droplets, in the words of Wuxia novels, it would be like a normal person giving birth to a "spiritual root" from nothing. It was extremely difficult.

Furthermore, the laws of this realm were too harsh. Although the concentration of spiritual droplets was recovering, it was still as rare as a spring in the desert. Even Fang Yuan had to spend a year plus to complete his foundation-laying process.

That was even after the increased concentration of spiritual droplets in the past one year. Else, Fang Yuan estimated it would have taken him at least three years instead to completely form his first grade of Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell.

"Breathe..."

Accompanied by Fang Yuan's deep breaths, even the moonlight in the skies blurred slightly for a while as they were warped and sucked into Fang Yuan's dantian.

A clear stream moved around Fang Yuan's body and immediately, on his stats window, the 99.99% behind his Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell increased by one point and was fully completed.

"Rumble!"

Instantaneously, Fang Yuan felt his body vibrate as a mysterious change occurred inside his body and a circulation was formed at once.

His blood flow became faster, his face turned red and large amounts of sweat were squeezed out from his pores along with a smelly impurity.

"I guess this... is the same as the ancient method of marrow cleansing as recorded in the Classic of Changes?"

Fang Yuan took out his shirt quickly and jumped into the small river without any fear of cold. He then washed away the filth on his body.

Moments later, he climbed up and wiped dry his body before looking at his stats:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 1.0

Spirit: 1.0

Magic: 1.0

Profession: ???

Cultivation: ???

Technique: [Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell (Grade 1 (Completed))]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)], [Fiery Golden Eyes (Level 1)]"

"1st Grade of Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell completed — body transformation completed, transformed into Spiritual Droplets Affined Body! Energy sense increased!"

"Spiritual Droplets Affined Body, this actually means I'm an evolver now..."

Fang Yuan closed his eyes slightly. He no longer needed guiding needles to guide him, with just a thought, he could sense the spiritual droplets in the air. Unfortunately, there were way too little spiritual droplets, they were as rare as an oasis in the desert.

"At least I have managed to cultivate some spiritual energy which I could use. My medicine skills have recovered by more than half!"

Fang Yuan tilted his head and thought. He then suddenly waved his hand.

"Swoosh!"

Silver light shined, a row of silver needles flew out and struck the surface of the pine tree neatly and impressively.

Within a few yards, this hidden weapon technique that was impossible to guard against was even already better than firearms. Other skilled martial artists in this realm would all die to this technique.

At this stage, Fang Yuan had some ability to defend himself.

Fang Yuan could not help but gave a wry smile at such.

The reason why Fang Yuan initially moved out of the dormitory was because he felt he was tailed and spied on a few times. Thus, he could only bear patiently for a few months before the monitoring became less tight. But till now, the monitoring was not completely gone.

To put it nicely, it was a form of caring and prevention. After all, Fang Yuan was just a 16 years old teenager that had to be slightly looked after.

This was a necessary price he had to pay after being allowed to move out of the dormitory.

"Nevertheless... it's about time!"

Fang Yuan tried to figure out his body's transformation, "I have already accumulated sufficient knowledge! If I do or say something unexpected, although it would be eye-catching, at least it would not shock the world nor arouse suspicions..."

"If I don't attract attention, how would I be favoured by the superiors? How would I be able to enter the core research laboratory?"

In this past one year, Fang Yuan managed to be on a few projects through Professor Tian's connections and earned some extra income through being their assistants. He even had the chance to use the laboratory equipment occasionally. However, he was still thousands of miles away from his aims.

Last time, Fang Yuan had to be more reserved and restrained, but now, since the first grade of his Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell was completed, he had fewer scruples.

...

Sambhogakaya Monastery.

After a night of martial arts training, Fang Yuan mixed into the group of people who were doing morning exercises. He then bought a cup of soy milk and a few donkey sandwiches before going to his own shop.

"Morning, Little Boss!"

Fang Yuan's antique stall, named "Heart Questioning House", had already opened for business. One of the shop assistants was a 20 something years old student. When she saw Fang Yuan, she immediately greeted him brightly.

"Didn't I say before, call me Fang Yuan or boss..."

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes and went into the shop and was very satisfied as he saw how clean and spotless the shop was.

Sun Jian recommended Fang Yuan two stall assistants, Ding Qiuyu who worked the morning shift and Zhao Lihong who worked the afternoon shift. Both of them were students from the nearby universities who wanted to earn some extra income. As they did shift work, they only worked for less than half a day which was not very tiring.

Ding Qiuyu was a northerner and had the bright and forthright attitude of a northern girl. As Fang Yuan was younger than her, she liked to tease him and Fang Yuan was used to it after a while.

"Why are you free to come to the shop today, Little Boss?"

Ding Qiuyu held the broom and asked while smiling.

She was curious about this young boss who was not only specially invited to enter Xijing University, he also opened a shop in the capital. Furthermore, she heard he used to be an orphan.

Just that point alone made her very respectfully of Fang Yuan, as the soft spots in her hearts felt moved.

"I was just having my morning exercises nearby, I brought you some donkey sandwich!"

Fang Yuan smiled and placed the sandwiches on the table, "Eat first and continue later!"

"I'll finish up before I eat, anyway it's nothing much!"

Ding Qiuyu was deft in her work and her mouth could not stop moving too, "Lately, there aren't many customers visiting. There were a few who wanted to buy the Aquilaria Maitreya though, but once they heard the price, they rolled their eyes and walked away. Boss, do you want to drop the price?"

She felt this Little Boss was not good at doing business.

Although the shop was opened, after one whole year of hard work, there was not much profit left after deducting the capital costs and labour costs. Fang Yuan might as well rent the shop out which he would earn similar amounts from the rent.

"No need, remain at that price! They'll buy if they want to buy!" Fang Yuan replied with a smile.

Fang Yuan drank the soy milk and felt the smooth and rich taste glide pass his throat.

Fang Yuan obviously knew the market value for the Aquilaria Maitreya, just based on its price as an antique, it was worth around 20,000 to 30,000 dollars. With how Fang Yuan priced it at 300,000, it was obvious he did not want to sell it.

Firstly, it was a display meant to attract customers.

Secondly, due to the spiritual aura on the Aquilaria Maitreya which even Fang Yuan could not understand, Fang Yuan was displaying it as a bait to catch those who could see it.

Of course, the stall assistants did not have to know about these reasons.

"Qiuyu, are you busy?"

At that moment, a youth walked into the stall and his eyes lit up the moment he saw Ding Qiuyu, "I'll help you!"

"It's ok, no need! My boss is here!"

Ding Qiuyu was a bit shy, which was rare for her, and she smiled while hitting the youth, "This is my friend from the same village, Chen Bo! Boss, it's your first time meeting him right?"

"I guess not."

Fang Yuan smiled and greeted, "I never expected... our school's boxing champion to come to my humble shop!"

This Chen Bo was the one with the Five Beasts Technique whom Fang Yuan spied on previously.

Fang Yuan observed the way he walked and could tell he had already reached the Strength Opening Realm and was one of the more highly skilled masters in the capital.

"Oh, both of you are from Xijing University, no wonder all of you know each other!" Ding Qiuyu realised.

"My junior!"

In front of the woman he loved, Chen Bo did not have any hint of fierceness left in him unlike when he was practising his martial arts. He smiled in a friendly and loving manner and said, "Qiuyu and I are good friends. I heard about you from her many times, thanks for taking care of her!"

"It's nothing!"

Fang Yuan smiled and then placed a few medicine bottles on the table, "Eh... some business matters. I made some Opening Point Incense, you can burn one every day to observe its effects and sell the rest."

"Opening Point Incense?"

Ding Qiuyu picked up one bottle, opened the lid and took a sniff, "The aroma... is so unique!"

"This incense is specially made by me, it can invigorate and keep the mind awake, and also balance your energy and blood flow! There's definitely a market for it!" Fang Yuan narrated.

In reality, for Fang Yuan to really earn money, it was sufficient for him to just tour around the Sambhogakaya Monastery every day.

This stall, the Aquilaria Maitreya, the Opening Point Incense and such were all baits.

Furthermore, being called a "boss" felt quite good to Fang Yuan, although the title of "self-employed person" still did not sound as nice.

"Ok, I should leave now..."

Chen Bo felt weird acting all friendly in front of the stall's boss and left first.

Shortly after that, Fang Yuan also left Heart Questioning House too and he went back to his house.

Fang Yuan was now residing in a small courtyard house which was not far from Xijing University. The house was large enough and had a small yard.

The moment he stepped into his front yard, he could smell a herbal aroma from the herbs he planted.

The ingredients of Opening Point Incense were all from here.

With the special ability of botany, these medicinal herbs had decent medicinal properties which were comparable to wild herbs grown deep within the forests and mountains. Furthermore, the formula was found in an ancient book, people who understood the goods would naturally be attracted.

"After preparing for one year, I should finally do something."

Fang Yuan packed his stuff and went to Xijing University to look for He Tianming.

"What? You are preparing to apply for graduation?"

He Tianming looked at Fang Yuan and his forehead frowned into numerous creases.

"Come, take a seat first!"

The request gave He Tianming a headache and he asked Fang Yuan to sit down first.

"How come you are thinking of graduating? I was preparing to send you straight for a direct master's degree!"

"I have already heard most of the graduate school's lessons and learnt most of it myself."

Fang Yuan placed his hands on his kneecaps and calmly replied.

"But a master's degree is different! Although an undergraduate degree can land you a job, the difference between an undergraduate degree and a graduate degree's treatment and future potential for progress is night and day..."

He Tianming tried to convince and persuade Fang Yuan but Fang Yuan would not budge at all. He Tianming had no choice and shook his head, "Fine... have you thought about your thesis?"

"Yes, I will be writing about Traditional Chinese Medicine and modern medicine!" Fang Yuan answered.

"Ok, I will give a call to arrange you to join this term's thesis defence!"

He Tianming nodded his head and sent Fang Yuan off. He then went back to the sofa and ruminated.

Half an hour later, He Tianming finally made up his mind and picked up his phone.

Chapter 399: Stalking

"Let us celebrate for our national athlete, Liu Fei has clinched the gold medal once again and broke the world record at the same time..."

"Yesterday, the mayor visited our school and gave a speech to encourage all the students and teachers of the university..."

"Next up, let us enjoy the song ..."

...

The sweet voice of a lady blasted through the loudspeaker in the school campus.

Fang Yuan laid on the field and squinted his eyes.

"Hey... I've heard that you have applied to graduate!"

Turning his head around, he realised that Lin Xing was next to him with a look of unpleasantness.

"Yeah..."

After a period of interaction, Fang Yuan knew that Lin Xing was not a snobbish person but was merely less sociable.

"It's a pity..."

Lin Xing laid on the field as well and was in a daze.

"Don't think about it too much. Although you have never beaten me in school, you might just do so when we work outside..."

Fang Yuan chuckled.

To think about it, the students who were studying in Xijing University were unfortunate.

If you think that you were a smart person, the university was filled with gifted people! There were even smarter ones above the smartest! To those who were less confident, this would be a heavy blow.

"Go f*ck yourself..."

Lin Xin rolled his eyes and left.

"Fang Yuan... why are you still here!"

Sun Jian rushed his way towards the field. "Quickly return to your shop. Someone is willing to buy your treasure!"

"Oh!"

Fang Yuan lazily stood up and stretched himself.

"How can you be so composed?"

Sun Jian was stunned. "This is a business of 300,000 dollars!"

"What else can I do?"

Fang Yuan replied in a calm voice. "You ran all the way here? You're too nervous. You should calm your nerves whenever something big happens."

"I... I tried to calm down, but it's 300,000! Just by thinking about it alone would give me the shudders..."

Sun Jian's voice shook as he spoke.

"Alright, I'll go now!"

Fang Yuan shook his head and arrived at Sambhogakaya Monastery with Sun Jian.

His originally empty Heart Questioning House was now surrounded by a group of people, clogging up the entrance to the shop. Most of them were crowding around to see what was inside.

"Come, move aside, the boss is here!"

Sun Jian cleared a path for Fang Yuan. Some of them recognised him as the boss and automatically gave way.

"Boss, you're back!"

Ding Qiuyu ran towards Fang Yuan. "A foreigner came in and was attracted to the Aquilaria Maitreya. He insisted on buying it!"

"I know, it's been hard on you!"

Fang Yuan entered the shop and noticed a blond-haired foreigner peering through a magnifying glass. He wore white gloves on his hands as he was examining the Aquilaria Maitreya with a serious look.

Behind him, there were two bodyguards in black western attire. There was another female translator as well.

Coincidentally, Chen Bo was also there. He now had the responsibility to ensure the security of the place as he glared at the bodyguards.

He had to be careful! If the wooden figure was broken or stolen, his girlfriend would not be able to pay for it. Therefore, he had to get himself involved.

In the Heart Questioning House, Fang Yuan prepared a wooden chair and sat on it. With that, Ding Qiuyu served him his tea.

The old foreigner noticed Fang Yuan and mumbled something to the translator.

"Mr Thomas asks, are you the owner of this shop? He wants to talk to the real owner of this wooden figurine."

The female translator translated it word for word, but her sentence structure was too rigid and she did not feel local.

'Overseas Chinese? Or another yellow-skinned race?'

Fang Yuan squinted his eyes and the surroundings became translucent and illusionary.

Everyone looked normal except for Chen Bo who had a mild glow in him, signifying that he had the cultivation at the Strength Opening Realm.

The body of the female translator was normal. However, she had black streaks around her body and her lively face started to appear pale and green. A black fog gathered around her forehead.

'From the angle of a cultivator, this lady is either living with an evil being or that she herself has cultivated in evil spells...'

The female translator lowered her head and mumbled a foreign language to her boss. With that, she smiled. "You are lucky. Mr Thomas said that he is willing to buy your Aquilaria Maitreya for 200,000 Chinese Dollars."

"Oh!"

Fang Yuan dug his ear with his fingers and gave a look of suspicion. "Why did I hear that his highest offer was around 50,000 Dollars from the forex?"

Forex meant that through the foreign exchange rate, Mr Thomas was willing to pay a price equivalent to 500,000 Chinese Dollars in his foreign currency.

Of course, the price of this Aquilaria Maitreya could potentially skyrocket in the black market.

"Cough..."

The female translator choked. "Do you know our language?"

"Mmm... I've learnt it through a few lectures!"

Fang Yuan gave a wide grin and revealed his white teeth, replying with a fluent Federation language.

Of course, the female translator wanted to kill him so badly at that moment.

"Gentleman, you surprise me! Could you have stayed at boarding school overseas before?"

Mr Thomas was shocked to be able to hear such fluent Federation language in Chinese Country and even suspected that Fang Yuan had grown up in his hometown.

"Nope, I have only learnt it from a lecturer who was from the Golden Eagle Federation..."

Fang Yuan waved his hands. "Mr Thomas, it is unfortunate that you have revealed to me your best offer. Therefore, my price will change to 50,000 from the forex. After all, your assistant had lowered your quote by 50%!"

Hearing this, the face of the female translator turned black and her fierce glare seemed as though it was able to set Fang Yuan in flames.

"Hehe... Ms Night is only joking with you! However, I will agree to the price of 50,000 from the forex!"

Thomas smiled and glared at his translator. With that, he ordered his bodyguards to bring a case forward. From the case, he took out wads of cash. He knew that he had to get his hands on the Aquilaria Maitreya. Glancing at the incense burner at the side, he spoke once more. "Chinese Country is an amazing country. Look at this incense... I have smelled a similar fragrance from a soul master in my country. This fragrance is able to calm one's mind."

"Is that so?"

Thinking about it, Fang Yuan's heart wavered. After talking to Thomas, he gifted him a bottle of Opening Point Incense.

"Haha... I will have to take my leave now!"

Looking at the increasingly crowded shop, Thomas stood up and gave an unusual smile. "Fang, you are a gifted child. May our paths cross again!"

"See you again!"

Fang Yuan sat in his chair while Thomas took his leave, walking with a cane. As he walked out, he was surrounded by other passionate stall owners who were looking to clear their stock.

It was impossible for Fang Yuan not to extort such a rich person!

As Ms Night took her leave, she glared fiercely at Fang Yuan.

"Let's close the shop!"

Looking at the passionate and greedy stall owners gathering around Thomas, Fang Yuan shook his head. "Chen Bo, stay behind with Sun Jian."

"Hehe..."

After closing the shop, Sun Jian stared at the stack of cash on the table before looking at Fang Yuan with a look of suspicion. "Junior, when did you pick up their language?"

"I learnt it after hearing it a few times. It's normal!"

Fang Yuan gave a look as though he was a genius kid and could do anything he wanted, which made Chen Bo depressed.

They were already the top students of the society to be able to enrol into Xijing University. However, they would still need at least a month or two to master a new language from scratch.

This kid in front of them managed the same feat after a few lessons and was even more fluent than the translator.

Although everyone knew that there were gifted people in the society who would make the others question their own existence, one would only feel fear when standing in front of an actual gifted child.

"Alright, let's split the profits. This should be considered doing justice for our country!"

Fang Yuan smiled and split the stack of cash into four piles, handing over a pile each to Ding Qiuyu, Chen Bo and Sun Jian. "Thank you for your help today. This is a small reward!"

"This..."

Each stack was at least a thousand dollars and Sun Jian could not believe his eyes.

"Little Boss... How can I take your money?"

Ding Qiuyu quickly replied.

"This is your performance bonus! Since this is your bonus, just take it!"

Fang Yuan forced the wad of cash into her hands. "The two of you as well, please don't be afraid to accept this money! I am a rich man now!"

"Yes... compared to you, we are still poor!"

Sun Jian was filled with regret.

If he knew that there was so much potential in selling antiques, he would have chosen to specialise in archaeology.

...

It was nightfall.

Like a nimble cat, Fang Yuan flipped over the walls and left the school compound, smiling cheekily to himself.

Fang Yuan had done something to the figure of Aquilaria Maitreya, making it traceable.

Otherwise, why would Fang Yuan stupidly place such a valuable treasure in the shop with a single shopkeeper to look after it?

"Are there still stalkers? Is my behaviour out of the norm?"

He flipped over another wall, crossed an alley and lifted a piece of roof tile. With that, he noticed a middle-aged person leaning on the window outside, observing Fang Yuan's door diligently.

However, he appeared tired and bored as he yawned continuously.

'After all, I am only a student and not an evil murder. I also did not reveal any special ability and it would, therefore, be a waste of resources if they were to send a soldier from the special forces to stalk me. Where did this person come from?'

Thinking about it, Fang Yuan flicked his finger and a puff of powder was scattered into the house.

The well-built man started to shut his heavy eyelids. Not long after, he started to lean against the wall and snored loudly.

All it took was just a little sleeping powder.

After settling the stalker, Fang Yuan arrived at his own shop. Twitching his nose, he could detect a clear fragrance.

"Little pals, it's up to you guys now!"

Fang Yuan opened a bamboo container, releasing a few bees.

These bees were larger-sized than normal bees and were a little confused at first. After a while, they became focused and flew in a pattern in mid-air. With that, they headed towards a certain direction.

"It's working!"

With an excited look, Fang Yuan quickly followed the bees.

Chapter 400: Earthbinding Spirit

It was nightfall.

The huge city was silent except for a few lampposts giving off a warm orange glow.

In a guest room of a hotel, a window remained lit.

"Hmph... such detailed carvings... and such an invigorating fragrance..."

Thomas caressed the Aquilaria Maitreya in his hands and commented. "Chinese Country... such a magical place. I believe prophet will be extremely interested in this place..."

After admiring it for a long while, he finally kept the wooden figurine in his safe before taking out another ceramic bottle. "This incense as well... Night, do you have any explanation for what had happened today?"

"Very sorry, Mister, I was only thinking of securing the best price for you!"

Night took a deep bow and bent over 90 degrees.

"You do know... I hate it when my subordinates take their own initiatives. Make sure this is the last time it'll ever happen!"

Thomas rubbed his forehead. "Now... get out! I want to sleep!"

"Yes, Mister. Good night and sweet dreams!"

Night took another bow and took her leave.

Seeing her leaving the room, Thomas frowned. He initially requested a Chinese translator. What was the company thinking to send such a person? If not for her pretty face, he would have fired her on the spot.

"Stupid white person! How dare he order me around!"

After returning to her own room, Night's voice suddenly sounded ferocious. Her forehead became black and there was a red glow in her eyes. "It's a magical equipment! That Aquilaria Maitreya must be a magical equipment! It is mine! Mine!"

As she exclaimed, her voice became hoarse as though she was an entirely different person. It was an eerie sight which would shock anyone who witnessed it.

"Hehe... and that despicable Chinese as well. How dare he offend me, a Yin Yang Master with noble blood! I will personally ensure his death!"

Night snickered eerily and retrieved a black leather box from the closet.

The leather box was locked. Unlocking it revealed many mysterious looking talismans and bottles, as well as a black-coloured notebook.

Night caressed her white fingers across the objects in the box and finally took a purple bottle with a long neck. Opening it released a stench of bloody smell with a blend of mysterious fragrance.

"Hehe..."

Night's original pale face was now flushed red with excitement. She took a purple brush, dipped the blood-red ink from the bottle and started to draw a pentagon-shaped array on the clipboard.

"Sh*t... The disturbance in this world is too strong!"

As she drew, there were a few times where the pen came to a halt. With a depressed look, she had to take out her knife and slice a wound on her arm every time that happened, dripping fresh blood on the paper.

It was a weird thing for every time she dripped her fresh blood, her pen would move again and with much difficulty, she finally finished her final stroke.

"As Little Night of the Plains, I am calling for the spiritual body which lies between hell and reality... Come out, my God!"

Little Night of the Plains placed her palms together and the light in her room dimmed.

On the ground, a Pentagon Array emitted a soft purple glow. On each of its five corners, there was a ball of white fire burning.

"Whooo! Whooo..."

A sinister wind blew across and there was a faint cry in the wind.

...

In Thomas's room.

As the night breeze blew, an agile black silhouette climbed to his window. Unknowingly, it managed to open the window.

Like a nimble black cat, the silhouette's glaring eyes started to examine the room. "How did grandmaster's treasure end up in the hands of a foreigner... It's a pity that I've led my life honourably but now, I have to resort to being a thief... Eh?"

With his senses, he managed to find the safe. Looking at the passcode lock, he was puzzled.

"Who's that?"

With a chilling vibe, the old daoist leapt away from the safe and froze. He could see the door to the bedroom slowly opening.

"Thomas... no, he's being possessed!"

Thomas was in a weird state as though he was half-awake and half-asleep. He had a scary expression and it was as though he was dream walking.

Walking towards the safe, Thomas was oblivious to the surroundings. He entered the passcode and with a 'kacha', the locked safe which troubled the daoist was unlocked.

A hint of fragrance filled the room as the Aquilaria Maitreya appeared. Wads of cash were stuffed around the figure in a neat fashion.

"As a daoist, I am not after riches. I shall just take the magical equipment!"

The old daoist stretched out his hands and with that, the Aquilaria Maitreya landed in his palms.

"Aw! Aw!"

Seeing this, Thomas's eyes started to glow green. He leapt towards the old daoist as though he was a crazed corpse.

"Hmph! Such a small manipulative spell... how dare you show off in front of me!"

Without a second thought, the old daoist took out a yellow talisman and pasted it on Thomas's forehead.

"Bang!"

With a yellow glow, the foreigner stood there motionless as a grey fog was forced out of his head.

"Boss!"

All the commotion in the room finally attracted the attention of the bodyguards outside. After a few knocks, two big-sized bodyguards barged in. "Who the hell are you!"

"The older I get, the more unlucky I become! Run!"

The old daoist made his move.

Through the old daoist's spiritual eye, the grey fog started to come together, forming an illusionary shadow which leapt at him.

Such an Earthbinding Spirit would be filled with emotions and aggression to seek vengeance.

Now, it was being summoned out. Since it was within the vicinity of where Thomas died, it still had supernatural powers and was almost indestructible. Even if it was injured, it could recover quickly.

Alas, the old daoist was still too slow. As the Earthbinding Spirit leapt on him, he could feel a chill all over his body and could no longer move.

"How dare you attack boss! Call for backup!"

The two bodyguards leapt forward and used the most basic martial arts to pin the daoist on the ground.

"Jobson, I've got him!"

'I've been fighting against these lowly-skilled people for over 30 years and yet, I am caught by one of them today!'

The old daoist was helpless as the other bodyguard shouted and went to look for the switch to on the lights.

The thought of being sent to jail as a thief and a trespasser made the daoist even consider the option of death.

"Chila!"

At this point in time, the lights flooded the room before blowing out, throwing the entire room into darkness.

"What's happening!"

"It's a power trip!"

"Oh, sh*t!"

"Call the cops and look for torchlights!"

...

The entire hotel was in chaos. Very quickly, a few torchlights were shining, illuminating the room.

"Hmm? What's happening?"

In the other room, Little Night of the Plains shuddered. A hemp rope in her hands started to burn without reason, signalling that there was an incoming danger.

"Wuu! Wuuu!"

A white fox with bloodshot eyes appeared.

"Is someone intruding my array?"

Little Night squinted her eyes. "If it isn't that daoist, who else could it be?!"

"Whoosh!"

In the darkness, there were a few sliver flashes.

"Wuu! Wuuuuu!"

The white fox exclaimed and its spiritual body was shaken.

"Who are you exactly?"

Little Night quickly retreated. In the corner of her eye, she could see a black silhouette approaching. There were cracking noises coming from the silhouette's body and as it struck a fist towards Little Night, there was a frightening roar of a lion and a tiger.

"A highly-skilled martial artist?"

She nimbly dodged the fist and struck her leg covered in poison silently.

"Bang!"

Unfortunately for her, the black silhouette was prepared. With its left palm, it sliced downwards.

"Kacha!"

The distinct sound of bone fracture was heard and Little Night turned pale and fell to the ground.

"Strength Opening?"

"Bang!"

With that, another fist slammed into her face and her nose started to bleed. She fainted in that instant.

"Buy one get one free! With an Aquilaria Maitreya, I have attracted a Yin Yang Master and another daoist. It's a good deal!"

Fang Yuan smiled and kept his silver needles. Rummaging through the leather box, he became irritated.

"There is indeed nothing good here. The only thing valuable might be the notebook which I can take some reference from!"

Without hesitation, he took the notebook and scrubbed the Pentagon Array with his shoe.

In the other room.

The Earthbinding Spirit started to lose its power and slowly disappeared.

The old daoist exclaimed and golden rays came out of his eyes. At that moment, the bodyguard felt that he was no longer pinning down a person, but a few bulls!

"Bang!"

With a humongous force, the bodyguard flew out. In a flash, the old daoist quickly escaped through the window and disappeared on the streets.

Of course, the chaos in the hotel was none of Fang Yuan's and his business.

"Alright... you've stalked me for quite a while. How about you show me who you are!"

The old daoist weaved in and out on the streets and finally entered a park before stopping by a brightly-lit lakeside.

"Who would've thought... that I would encounter another cultivator in the city. And that the cultivator had robbed a hotel! Hehe..."

Fang Yuan walked out of the shadows. His young looks shocked the daoist.

At this point in time, the daoist's appearance was also revealed under the moonlight.

He had handsome facial features, a tall nose and distinct eyebrows. With small lips and a black-framed glasses, he seemed scholarly.

No matter how Fang Yuan looked, the daoist could only remind him of the lecturer which taught political science in the university and looked nothing like a daoist.

"I am Guo Jing. Thank you for your assistance!"

Guo Jing gave an ancient greeting.

Of course, if not for his shattered glasses and his swollen nose, he would still resemble a highly-skilled cultivator.

"You're welcome! I am Fang Yuan..."

Fang Yuan waved his hands. "The Aquilaria Maitreya in your hands was bought from my shop..."

"What?"

As soon as he heard Fang Yuan, Guo Jing's mouth was gaping. With an embarrassing smile, he continued. "I see, I have been reckless. Sigh... Little Master, why did you sell this to the foreigner?"

Would Fang Yuan say that he had sold it to bait Guo Jing?

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes and sounded unjust. "I don't have enough money!!"

It was a strong reason and there was no reason why Guo Jing should doubt him, making Guo Jing speechless.