

## Daily life 111

### Chapter 111 Unwitting Spark That Triggered An Era

When Yang Qing made his way out of his abode he met Mao Yunru waiting for him by the main pathway of the blue valley.

Yang Qing who was busy thinking up all sorts of free services he would score from Dean Zhu Lao the moment he had him hooked with the clay tablet couldn't help but pause when saw Mao Yunru.

Her hair which hung loosely in the back was now hung on the front which somehow managed to make her purple limpid eyes stand out which added more levels to her otherwise exquisite look.

Just like Yang Qing she chose something a little ceremonial but not official. She had on a white inner robe and coat that had images of a purple vine flower sparsely spread about.

Yang Qing had decided to go with her to Dean Zhu Lao's welcoming party since she was there when Meng Chao extended the invite. Yi Jie and Su Jinjing could have come too since they were there but Yi Jie was about to start preparing for his seclusion and eventual breakthrough to the palace stage so he had to get all his work affairs in order before he left. Su Jinjing mentioned something about celebrating the quenching birthday of her spear so she could not make it.

So that only left Mao Yunru. She and Yang Qing decided to head off together hence she had come to fetch him in his abode once she was done with her preparations.

Her cheeks turned red once she saw Yang Qing's dazed look. However, instead of looking away for some reason she decided to be bolder and stared at Yang Qing straight into his eyes.

In his short but eventful life over the years, Yang Qing had gained various skills and perfected various crafts one of them being talking out of his nose, mouth, and ears. He could speak on cue and make any nonsense seem righteous as evidenced by his early years as an outer core court judge when he run both overtly and covertly a few protests to make the Order add some more benefits.

He may have failed thunderously in those endeavors but none could deny he had phenomenal skills when it came to flapping his gum. It was a skill he thought would never fail him except now.

The moment Mao Yunru dead-eyed him, the words he wanted to say evaporated along with the saliva on his tongue. All he was left with was a dry tongue and sweaty palms and back.

"Yang Qing say something, It's Mao Yunru. Gossip hoarder Mao Mao. You have worked with her for countless months besides if you chicken out now she may mock you endlessly...say something, say something, anything will do," Yang Qing internally psyched himself but the more he stared at those big purple cloud eyes the less his internal voice had any sway over his body.

It finally reached the tipping point when his mind completely blanked for a few seconds. When he came to, he found Mao Yunru staring at him strangely and with the clay tablet in his mouth for some reason almost as if he was chewing on it.

Despite the tablet looking like even a small gust of wind would blow it away to dust due to its aging look, it once again proved its mysteriousness by almost chipping Yang Qing's tooth. Every part of a cultivator's body could be considered a tempered weapon. From their hands and feet down to their eyes, ears, teeth even nails. In Yang Qing's case if he wanted to he could chew through sky-grade weapons like they were biscuits but when it came to the tablet it didn't budge an inch even though he took a bite out of it subconsciously and not with intent.

Though he wasn't sure, he seemed to have heard a minuscule sound of disgust coming from the tablet. But he quickly dismissed that thought as he had other matters to address like why he ate a tablet in front of Mao Yunru instead of just saying hello.

With things having already reached this point, he decided to pull a page out of the celestial nesting weaver's book.

"Mmmh the chefs didn't lie. This clay tablet cake really is sturdy enough to deflect even a sky-rank weapon. I even feel reluctant to give it away. Oh well a junior must do what he must to celebrate their seniors," said Yang Qing as he looked reluctantly at the clay tablet. He even made his stomach grumble and made the most sincere 'I want to eat it' look so he could sell the ruse.

It seemed to have worked as Mao Yunru's earlier look of confusion and a little shock had changed.

"That cake seems so lifelike, I wonder what ingredients they used. Should I start taking recordings of cooking too....Mmmh that wouldn't be a bad idea. I can sell some to Yang Qing and Feng Xin for a good

fee and keep some to myself. Win Win, I get additional funds for my ho.. research while adding a little versatility to my collection," thought Mao Yunru as an excited glint flashed in her eyes which confused Yang Qing as he didn't know what to make of her reaction.

"Now the only problem is how do I get the restaurants to agree to me recording them cook?"

There were a lot of factors Mao Yunru had to consider when making the recordings. For one it was quality. She would only be able to exploit Yang Qing and Feng Xin for all their spirit stones if the chef being recorded was skilled in their craft. But this presented another problem. Chefs of this caliber will have already set their path on cooking as their dao, to them cooking was no different than cultivating, and recording them was no different than recording a cultivator practicing their precious technique.

It was for this reason that most chefs especially the seasoned ones who had touched upon their own form of cooking dao would have a separate secluded room for cooking with the only people being allowed to those rooms being their disciples or those whom the chef has deemed worthy to be there such as their peers. Not even the restaurant owners or managers had any right over who was allowed into that room.

This was just one of the problems Mao Yunru had to consider. Another was the restaurant refusing due to a potential leaking of food recipes. A long list of problems kept piling up the more Mao Yunru thought of it but instead of throwing in the towel at the end of it, she seemed even more pumped with her clenching her fists with a valiant aura surrounding her.

"What's up with her?" Yang Qing worriedly wondered.

What he or Mao Yunru didn't know was this was the spark that ignited the cooking era from innovative recipes, competitions, and continent-wide accolades that transformed what chefs could do. Frying mountains, making soups of rivers, and plucking the stars as condiments. What chefs could do turned endless to the point Soul formations experts who proved their dao through cooking rose from this era something that was completely unheard of, as only those mainstream dao could help someone reach the soul formation stage.

There were soul formation experts who were chefs but they only dabbled in cooking as a hobby or secondary occupation while their true dao lay in something else. It was usually difficult for non-mainstream dao to reach the peak as it was an unwalked road where the users would have to pave it themselves which for most led to nothing but endless darkness as was the case with cooking dao that

was until Mao Yunru with her thirst for entertainment cooked up a storm that she never saw coming. But that ladies and gentlemen is a story for another day.

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"Mao Mao, hey Mao Mao? Are you listening?"

...We are going to be late for the party. We don't want to keep supervisor Lei Weiyuan waiting for long otherwise if he leaves without us we may miss the party altogether," Yang Qing said as he waved his hands in front of Mao Yunru's eyes.

"Oh sorry about that," said Mao Yunru who suddenly came to as she smiled in embarrassment.

"By the way where did you have that cake made? It's really lifelike," said Mao Yunru with two parts interest and two parts trying to deflect so the embarrassment from losing herself to her hobbies AGAIN could quickly dwindle away.

Yang Qing who had turned to continue walking paused mid-turn at Mao Yunru's question.

"Did she figure it out?" Yang Qing couldn't help but wonder as he nervously turned to face Mao Yunru but on seeing the sincere expression on her face he quickly dismissed the thought.

"Eeh it was a commission job I asked one of the wandering chefs to make. One of the chefs from soup soul restaurant introduced me to him," Yang Qing said as he nervously laughed.

"We will be late Mao Mao. Please hold on tight."

Yang Qing hurriedly said quickly grabbing her before she could dig holes in his story.

Mao Yunru who was about to ask more questions quickly froze when Yang Qing grabbed her hand and the next minute she knew they were up in the sky flying at an alarming speed toward the junction where the roads that led to the four different valleys met.

Within a few minutes, they were already at the junction where Lei Weiyuan was calmly standing with his hands behind his back waiting for them. He seemed to have detected them from miles away as his eyes were already in their direction before they even appeared.

"Sorry for keeping you, supervisor Lei Weiyuan," said Yang Qing as he landed with Mao Yunru in tow.

"You haven't kept me waiting. I only just arrived a few minutes ago. Let's set off then," Lei Weiyuan calmly said as his gaze paused briefly on Yang Qing and Mao Yunru's hands that were still clasped together.

It was only when the duo noticed Lei Weiyuan's glance did they realize they were still holding hands which they hurriedly let go with Yang Qing showing a guilty expression that had a mix of pleasantness hidden in there as for Mao Yunru well there was not much time to figure out what was going on in her mind as Lei Weiyuan covered them with his domain before they disappeared off in a silver streak in the direction of the dark valley, the home of the domains.

Chapter 112 112: Paragon Domains?

The dark valley was different than either the blue valley which housed Order employees in the core formation realm or the gold valley which housed the palace realm employees.

One of the key differences was, for one to get in there if they were not a resident of the valley they required a domain-level expert to escort them within the valley. It was the reason both Yang Qing and Mao Yunru needed Lei Weiyuan to guide them in.

If the two of them had tried to go by themselves at best they would get lost in there forever and at worst they would die. Unlike the other two valleys where as long as you had someone's token you could get in their abode while the main road was free for anyone to use, things at the dark valley were vastly different. There was no main path to use and the environment changed in the short time it took to blink. Everything from the weather to the time of day, down to the landscapes changed every second.

It was because of this unique feature that the dark valley was also known by another name, the infinity domain valley. The rapidly changing environment and layout were because what was being reflected in the dark valley was someone's domain.

Rumor had it that there was a top-tier saint-grade treasure that was being used as the anchor treasure of the dark valley. Other than improving the qi density of the place it had another function which was to mirror the domains of the domain experts within the valley.

Even though it was just a reflection and thus the domain being produced had less lethality than the real thing, its lethal presence was still there, especially to those who were below the domain realm. They risked getting trapped in the reflected domains and suffering its effects. The reason the treasure still remains in the dark valley despite its threat factor is that to anyone but a domain-level expert it may be lethal but to them, it's a boon as the treasure helps every domain expert present experience different types of domains which may provide them with insights for strengthening their own domains.

The treasure became a central hub for comparing notes and storing every new domain that comes its way going back to the first day it was placed in the dark valley.

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The moment Yang Qing and Mao Yunru were covered by Lei Weiyuan's domain they felt like they had been thrown into a silver plateau that was in the shape of a sword. The temperature was mild with no wind just stillness while the sky within the domain seemed to be the domain's window to the real world.

Yang Qing and Mao Yunru got to see the dark valley's different domains interchanging without being sucked into it thanks to the protection from Lei Weiyuan's own domain.

They saw different things as they went along from mountains to rivers to tall trees that reached the sky to different animals from birds, mammals, reptiles, and fishes down to amphibians. However, unlike normal animals, each of the animals here was about the size of a whole town with weird runes and features surrounding them such as a peacock bathed in lightning and blue flames or a swan that was as radiant as the sun that seemed to burn even the very air.

However, there were a few domain reflections that really stood out that even made Yang Qing and Mao Yunru almost fall under their powers despite being under the protection of Lei Weiyuan's domain.

One of them was a massive eye that covered the whole valley. Inside the eye was a cluster of stars revolving around a purple pupil like it was a vortex. The moment the eye appeared both Yang Qing and

Mao Yunru felt like their bodies and souls were being sucked into the vortex. It was only when they felt a cool sensation flood their minds did they come back to their senses with pools of sweat on their backs.

After the eye experience, the duo tried to be cautious in their view of domains however after nothing happened to them for almost twenty minutes they soon forgot themselves as they admired the different domains that was until a book domain appeared. At first, the book didn't seem anything special but it soon enlarged so that it even seemed to house the whole world as its cover while its pages seemed like they housed all sorts of knowledge from antiquity. When the pages started turning a sage voice uttered a single syllable that made Yang Qing and Mao Yunru's mind buzz as an ocean's worth of knowledge threatened to flood their mind in an instant.

It was only due to Lei Weiyuan's timely intervention that their minds didn't break from that exposure.

"I don't know if your luck should be considered good or bad for running into two paragon domains on the same day," Lei Weiyuan's voice trailed over as Yang Qing and Mao Yunru were shaking off the buzzing sound from their head. They felt extremely dizzy and nauseated just from that brief contact.

"Paragon domain?" Yang Qing couldn't help but groggily ask as he heard something he was unfamiliar with.

"You're still a fledgling palace realm cultivator, learn to walk first before you ask certain matters. Wait until you have firmly placed your feet in the core palace stage then you won't have to ask because the institute's chancellor and a few members of the spirit council will seek you out and you will then find out what you want to know and then some.

But until then focus on your cultivation and cases. Sometimes knowing certain things earlier may not be a good thing. Cultivation is a journey of never-ending steps just pace yourself little by little," said Lei Weiyuan.

Lei Weiyuan's statement did little to assuage the curiosity in both Yang Qing's and Mao Yunru's minds moreso the former compared to the latter since Mao Yunru was just in the seventh stage of the core formation realm so such matters were too far away from her but in Yang Qing's case it was close. He was already in the palace stage albeit in the first stages still well within the outer palace stage.

Fundamentally the palace realm was divided into three stages i.e. the outer palace, the inner palace, and the core palace. Each of these three stages was further divided into four stages making the total of the stages, twelve. Yang Qing was in the first stage of the outer palace realm.

"The chancellor and the spirit council," Yang Qing silently muttered as a look of awe appeared on his face.

The two names could be considered the very topmost figures in the whole of the Order. The chancellor was the head of the Institute. She was hardly ever seen, with the vice chancellor being the nominal head in charge of everything institute related. Even during the institute's important ceremonies such as graduations, she has never made an appearance. The only thing Yang Qing knew of her was her name, Su Liqiu.

But despite never being seen everyone had a lot of respect for her. One of the reasons being some of the deans were once her students when the Order was starting up and another was her cultivation realm. With the vice chancellor already being a confirmed soul formation expert though Yang Qing didn't know which stage it was safe to assume the chancellor could only have a cultivation base that was at the very least in the soul formation realm and it could only be higher than the vice-chancellor not lower.

As for the spirit council. This was the defacto ruling authority of the whole Order with the identity of its members unknown. The only thing that was known about its members was that every member was at least a soul formation expert.

Their authority superseded the two vice presidents of the Order and was equal to the president of the Order whose identity was shrouded in even more mystery than the chancellor.

Yang Qing couldn't help but wonder what information required the two big wigs to personally deliver and what it had to do with the paragon domain.

After a few minutes of ruminating through all sorts of speculation, he decided to throw the matter to the back of his mind and leave it to time. When the time came he would know then for now he was too far from the core palace realm.



It took them almost two hours before they finally arrived at their destination and in that while another paragon domain got featured. It was a mountain filled with swords and at the top laid a single long sword that seemed to use the mountain as its sheath that only the grip could be seen. The grip was covered by a white ribbon with the words all equal imprinted on it.

The moment it appeared Lei Weiyuan's reaction had been more drastic than before as he closed off their view in his domain before they could see even further. But that brief glance knocked out Mao Yunru who woke up a few seconds later pale-faced like she had seen the scariest thing in her life while Yang Qing was panting as he looked like a cornered animal with his green hair transformed into hair that was half white half orange as one eye resembled a moon and the other the sun.

Even when Lei Weiyuan had told them they had arrived as he dispelled his domain, the two kept warily looking around afraid the mountain of swords would appear.

#### Chapter 113 113: Snow Peach Blossom Abode

Lei Weiyuan didn't say anything after seeing their reactions and just kept silent as he led them forward. The mountain of sword domain would even affect someone in the core palace realm let alone them, where one of them was just in the early stages of the palace realm while the other was in the core formation realm.

Once Yang Qing had mustered enough courage to not glance back he asked the question that had been bearing down on his mind ever since those paragon domains showed up.

"Supervisor Lei Weiyuan who do those domains belong to? Especially the mountain of sword one?" asked Yang Qing with his voice having faint tremors.

Mao Yunru also tried to forcibly forget her fears and experience once she heard Yang Qing's question as she too was equally curious.

"I guess it's only reasonable that you'd be curious. All who have visited this place would get curious about the owners of the domains that get reflected during their visit.

The eye domain you saw first belongs to the chancellor, and the mountain of swords you just experienced belongs to someone you met during the week," Lei Weiyuan mysteriously said.

It didn't take even a minute before a name surfaced in Yang Qing's mind.

"Meng Chao?" Yang Qing shockingly asked.

He couldn't reconcile the genial, gentle person he met in the courtroom to the tyrannical soul-shaking domain he was exposed to.

"Yes, it's his....Otherwise how else do you think he could witness a battle between quasi-saint experts despite only being in the seventh stage of the domain realm himself? Only those with paragon domains can ensure their lives in that situation," Lei Weiyuan calmly stated.

"What about the book?" Yang Qing asked as he recollected the massive book that seemed to house the knowledge of the whole world.

It may have seemed the least dangerous but he still couldn't forget the sage voice that was produced by the rustling of pages. He couldn't help but wonder what would happen if the book was opened and the pages were fully exposed.

"That one belongs to Zhu Ling," Lei Weiyuan said as he sighed.

Both Yang Qing's and Mao Yunru's pupils froze when they heard that name. Yang Qing's reaction was even more drastic as he stammered the name over and over.

This was one of the names featured on the top ten names on the merit wall. The name Zhu Ling calmly sat in the fourth position.

But the reason for Yang Qing's drastic reaction wasn't because of the merit wall but because of why he was there. Zhu Ling was the creator of four purple-grade cultivation arts. Something that hasn't happened in over 50,000 years even among the holy lands.

It was said it was easier to find 100 saint-grade treasures than to create a single purple-grade cultivation art.

The gap between cultivation arts grew the higher up it went from red, orange, blue, gold, and finally purple grade. The gap between gold-grade art and purple-grade art even though it was just one grade was the difference between heaven and earth.

A purple-grade art would guarantee a dynasty better than a soul formation expert would because as long the art was around you were always guaranteed to have soul formation experts. So long as there were those who could cultivate the art. Even holy lands would shed all cordiality for the sake of a purple-grade art, so Zhu Li's value as a creator of four, not just one purple-grade cultivation arts couldn't be underestimated.

Yang Qing couldn't help but wonder what the top three did to outdo Zhu Li on the merit wall.

"Supervisor Lei Weiyuan, do senior Zhu Li and Dean Zhu Lao have any relations?" Yang Qing quickly asked. In his excitement, he had even overlooked Lei Weiyuan's subtle reaction at the mention of Zhu Li's name.

"They are brothers with Dean Zhu Lao being the older one," said Lei Weiyuan.

"Really?!!!! So will he also be in attendance?" asked Yang Qing as his eyes glittered.

"No, he is currently preoccupied with other matters as you have well noticed he has never made any public appearance ever since you joined. He is in indefinite seclusion. We don't know when he will come out," Lei Weiyuan patiently explained though a strange light flashed in his eyes.

"Oh," Yang Qing said with a downcast expression before he perked up once more. Dean Zhu Lao had not created a purple-grade art but he was just as equally skilled. Creating gold-grade art was no small feat either. He couldn't help but marvel at the talents shown by these two brothers.

As they were walking, Lei Weiyuan suddenly paused as if remembering something.

"Though there was one person who didn't want to know the identity of the owners of the domains he saw. He got exposed to five paragon domains during his visit. To date, it's an all-time record.

The saint-grade treasure responsible for the reflection has no rhyme or reason towards the domains it displays. Sometimes a single domain may be reflected the whole day other times it would change sporadically every few minutes like it did today.

But despite all that, when it comes to paragon domains they get reflected once or twice a year. It's rare for more than one to appear on the same day.

To date ever since the establishment of the dark valley, the number of times more than one paragon domain has been shown on the same day is eight. Now I guess it should be nine seeing how three showed up during your visit," Lei Weiyuan paused as he did the calculations.

"Luckily you were exposed to three, unlike your friend who got hit by five paragon domains. By the time the fifth one arrived, his eyes had rolled backward as he bled from every orifice. He didn't even get to do what brought him here Hehehe what a poor kid," Lei Weiyuan lightly chuckled as an amused glint flashed in his eyes.

Yang Qing was flabbergasted as he rarely sees Lei Weiyuan laugh. The only times he did were when he was dishing out punishment to Yang Qing.

"Old geezer Weiyuan might be more of a sadist than I thought," Yang Qing thought as he warily eyed Lei Weiyuan.

"Yang Qing did you just think of something improper about me?" said Lei Weiyuan as he coldly stared at Yang Qing.

"Supervisor Lei Weiyuan I'm deeply hurt by the accusation. All I hold is deep veneration for your sage presence that I even burn incense sticks to you in the morning before I go to work. It's the only reason my attendance record has been spotless the past couple of years," Yang Qing pitifully said showing an aggrieved look of a pious believer who got doubted.

Of course, it wasn't all a lie. His attendance record had been spotless the past couple of years if one ignored the trick he pulled by lying about the time it took him to break through to the palace stage.

He did arrive on time all for the sake of his promotion scheme where he will get to work less the higher up the Order ladder he moved and he did burn an incense stick to Lei Weiyuan's picture frame but it wasn't out of reverence. He hexed Lei Weiyuan's picture every morning and it became a routine he couldn't do without as it always left him refreshed and in a chipper mood.

"So who was the unlucky visitor?" Yang Qing hurriedly asked.

"It was your friend Kang Huilang,"

"Him? HAHAAHHAHHAHHAHHAHHA...I wish I was there to see it...Where are Mao Mao's recording talismans when you need them. Serves that welcher right..," Yang Qing said as he ragingly laughed till he even had to clutch his stomach as a few tear drops escaped his eyes.

"How did he get to that point, didn't the domain expert guiding him shield him from the effects like you did with us?" Yang Qing curiously asked.

Despite him occasionally relishing in Kang Huilang's misfortunes he knew the person's capabilities well enough. It was almost as good as he knew his own team if not better. They were rivals when in the institute and there were a couple of areas though few which even Yang Qing had to admit he fell a little short of him. The primary one being combat.

He was a monster who mastered three different types of intents and could use almost any weapon as though it had been part of him from his womb. His skills in combat made him even get approached by the roaming inquisitor's deputy director in charge of coordinating the palace courts before he had graduated. His talents were better suited to be an inquisitor than a judge which was a disappointment to them when he decided to be a judge instead of an inquisitor despite the great benefits they offered.

Yang Qing couldn't fathom how someone of such a caliber had such a severe reaction not unless he was exposed to even more tyrannical paragon domains like the mountain of swords. If Yang Qing were to endure four more domains that resembled the mountain of swords he wasn't sure he would be conscious by the third domain.

"He was an early-stage core formation expert then and he had arrogantly mentioned how he could weather through any domain and even made a bet. The domain expert who was with him indulged him and the rest is as I've mentioned.

There was even a betting pool among the residents to see how far he would reach without passing out. Who thought he'd end up facing five paragon domains..hehehe.....Actually, the host Su Liqiu was about the only one who bet in his favor. She netted a pretty good sum," Lei Weiyuan enviously said as he stroked his beard.

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After walking for a few minutes they saw a wooden board with the words 'Snow peach blossom abode' written in beautiful calligraphy.

Yang Qing could detect a valiant spirit in that calligraphy like one of a seasoned general which went in contrast with the beautiful calligraphy or the name.

Lei Weiyuan urged them to move forward past the board. The moment they took a step past the board it was as if a new world had opened up before them. A Snow landscape filled their view with small mountains, rivers, and at the center was the largest peach blossom tree he has ever seen that was easily a few kilometers tall with wide-spread branches and peach blossom flowers that were the size of his head.

Single petals would fly with the wind around the area giving the area a breathtaking beauty with the snowy backdrop.

Just as Yang Qing and Mao Yunru were busy admiring the view, one of the petals floating by them suddenly transformed into someone.

"You must be Yang Qing, my daughter has told me a few things about you," a cheery humorous voice sounded as a valiant-looking middle-aged lady with deep pink hair appeared before them.

Chapter 114 114: The Yu Family

Yang Qing nervously looked up at the newcomer who just appeared in front of their eyes especially when his name got mentioned. Over the years whenever he heard his name had been mentioned, it was never in a good light. He couldn't help but worry about what news of him had spread this time around.

"It was not anything bad," the valiant-looking lady in pink lightly chuckled once she saw Yang Qing's subtle reaction.

Now that Yang Qing got a clear look at her the more her visage seemed oddly familiar. Her hair was haphazardly tied together into a bun with a lot of loose strands everywhere as she wore sleeveless yellow robes and coat. Even with her careless appearance, her look didn't wane one bit, especially her lively eyes and matching beauty, and a cheery personality to follow.

"You are Yu Huifang's mom?" Yang Qing couldn't help but ask once he noticed how closely the middle-aged lady oddly resembled his friend Yu Huifang.

"Yes I am...it seems she doesn't speak about me much, that unfilial child. Maybe I should ramp up her training some more," the middle-aged lady who seemed to be Yu Huifang's mom vengefully said.

Lei Weiyan had to cough multiple times so he could drag Yu Huifang's mom back from that vengeful spiral.

"Oh sorry," Yu Huifang's mom said as she awkwardly laughed.

"Oops, where's my head, I even forgot to introduce myself. My name is Yu Hong, Yu Huifang's mom and also the deputy director of the roaming inquisitors in charge of coordination in the domain courts.

I heard from Lei that you will soon be moving up to the palace courts, Yang Qing?" Yu Hong suddenly asked.

"Yes I will," Yang Qing eagerly answered once he heard her job title. Maybe with her pull, he might end up with three roaming inquisitors attached to his court instead of the standard two who will also be constantly rotated to other places such as branches despite being attached to his court.

"Sadly I can't pull any strings to help you have more roaming inquisitors attached to your court. Maybe the director could do it but sadly I'm just a tiny deputy director," Yu Hong teasingly said as she enjoyed Yang Qing's change of emotions from glee to distraught.

"Another sadist. How can she be Yu Huifang's mom? Other than their looks they are nothing alike," Yang Qing thought once he noticed that happy glint in Yu Hong's eyes from his distraught appearance.

Yu Huifang has always been the compassionate, gentle but sometimes stern and meticulous sort, the complete opposite of her mother who seemed like a wild spirit who did things on the fly.

"While I may not be able to help with your numbers, I can put in a good word for you with the deputy director in charge of coordination in the palace courts and have the roaming inquisitors attached to you to not be rotated so much.

He is my junior and he owes me a favor or two. Though you should know that status can only be maintained for two months at most and even then something unexpected may happen within those two months that may result in the roaming inquisitors under you getting reassigned.

So if your luck is bad be prepared to do both the role of a judge and inquisitor for a while there before your team has the necessary requirements to handle palace court cases.

Your cases and schedule will be sporadic so you will have to be adaptable to the changes, especially in the palace courts. It's filled with much more unpredictability compared to other courts. So prepare yourself, young judge," said Yu Hong with a rare air of seriousness.

Yang Qing nodded solemnly in gratitude at her good intentions.

"Well if being a judge gets too tough you can always join our roaming inquisitors. We would gladly welcome a palace realm expert who had a purple core in the core formation stage.

We are severely undermanned and overloaded with work and with our strict requirements on enrollment it ensures our recruitment numbers are always severely low.

Think about it Yang Qing. With what my daughter told me about you, you are definitely a sure in. You too miss, seeing that you are a purple core expert too.



You may still be at the late stages of the core formation realm and are thus ineligible to join us but I would be willing to save a spot for a talent such as yourself.

We pay well and we have the most freedom than any other department as well as access to most of the Order's specialized facilities and artifacts.

Think about it, it's not a bad deal right?" Yu Hong expectantly said as she eyed both Yang Qing and Mao Yunru.

"Hong, don't you think you are being too forward trying to poach members of my team in front of me?" Lei Weiyan coldly said.

"Mmmph so what ...We both know how many people we set our eyes on that your fancy courtroom's poached especially that Huilang kid," Yu Hong contemptuously said.

"Thank you very much for your consideration Auntie Yu but for now I think I will retain my role as a judge plus I don't think I'm particularly suited for combat," said Yang Qing as he smiled apologetically. He had decided to use an informal tone to try and soften the rejection. He still needed her good word with the roaming inquisitor's coordinator of the palace courts.

"Shameless as advertised. To think someone nicknamed the balance extremist would label himself as a non-combatant. What would that make everyone else?" said Yu Hong. Even though she seemed to be chastising him, the mildly pleased expression on her face showed being called Auntie Yu had worked.

She soon turned her gaze towards Mao Yunru who seemed nervous at being put in an uncomfortable position. Despite not having the thick face for it she decided to follow Yang Qing's steps in her response.

"I'm sorry Aunt Yu I will have to politely decline too as I'm not confident in doing anything else," Mao Yunru softly said as she cautiously eyed Yu Hong.

"Fine your loss...You won't find any other job that pays better," Yu Hong derisively said as she specifically eyed Yang Qing when she mentioned the latter part of her sentence.

"What did Yu Huifang tell her mother?" thought Yang Qing as he noticed her not-so-subtle look.

"Don't be such a sore loser, Hong," Lei Weiyuan smugly said saving the duo from the awkward pressurizing moment.

"Lei you know your way around, take them over, I have other guests to greet," Yu Hong's voice echoed over as she disappeared from her spot with a peach blossom petal taking her place.

"Take one of these and pour your qi into it. It will transport us where we need to go," Lei Weiyuan said as he grabbed three of the petals floating about and handed two to Yang Qing and Mao Yunru.

The petals were cool and soft to the touch almost like soft fur with a refreshing fruity smell. Both Yang Qing and Mao Yunru did as they were told.

The moment they poured their qi into the petals they felt their vision change and in the next moment they were in a large round room filled with unfamiliar guests.

Both Yang Qing and Mao Yunru curiously looked around trying to gauge where they were. Above them, they saw a blue night sky filled with a cluster of stars which was strange since just a few moments ago it seemed like it was daytime with accompanying snow that was currently absent.

By their feet were orange fresh wooden floorboards that had the smell of peach. But what shocked both of them was how dense the qi was. Even the celestial nesting weaver's nest with the enormous treasures Yang Qing poured into it couldn't match a tenth of the qi in this place.

"You're inside one of the flowers of the 108 space weaving snow peach tree. Just like its name, it creates a habitable space in 108 flowers each with a unique environment. So far the tree has only unlocked 62 flowers with the remaining 46 still in their budding phases," Lei Weiyuan calmly introduced when he saw their curious gazes.

"A space attribute tree," Yang Qing muttered in awe as he expanded his gaze. His monarch sense seemed to be sealed within the flower's space which Yang Qing attributed to being one of the unique features of the flower they were in.

His eclipse tree was also a space attribute natural treasure though it had not yet unlocked its space-related features. It would require astronomical resources and time. Though Yang Qing could faintly detect over the past year it was close to unlocking a part of its attributes.

"Yang Qing, Mao Yunru, Supervisor Lei Weiyuan welcome," a soft pleasant voice sounded before he saw the owner of the voice, It was Yu Huifang. She had a cloudy pink robe that perfectly melded with her hair as she came over with a sweet smile on her face.

She was accompanied by a slender and handsome middle-aged man. He was wearing a black robe that matched his long smooth flowing black hair that had reached his back. Both he and Yu Huifang had faint resembling features.

"Vice dean Yu Long, Yu Huifang, How are you?" Yang Qing cheerily greeted both of them once they reached them.

He may have not known Yu Huifang's mom since her post made it hard for one to know her with their circles not being the same and she was usually not around due to her posting but he knew her dad, Yu Long.

He was the vice dean of cultivation art history and dissection. He became the interim head of the department when Dean Zhu Lao was in absentia from his 50-year forced seclusion.

Mao Yunru also followed up with her greetings.

"Lei," Yu Long gently nodded toward Lei Weiyuan who nodded back.

"Yang Qing, Mao Yunru, nice to see my students flourish after the institute. By the way, I told Dean Zhu Lao about you Yang Qing, he is interested in meeting you," Yu Long gently said as he smiled admiringly at the two.

"Yang Qing when you meet Dean Zhu Lao later please don't mention his brother," said Lei Weiyuan as he communicated with Yang Qing via his domain sense.

Chapter 115 115: The Requiem

Yang Qing was surprised by Lei Weiyuan's sudden request. He turned to question him but he had already disappeared from the spot and was already mingling with the other guests.

Yang Qing could only shelf his question as he continued his small talk with vice dean Yu Long and Yu Huifang.

"Well Huifang, I will leave you with your friends, I still have to play the role of a dutiful host because we all know your mother won't. That lady.... she can never just stick in one place," said vice dean Yu Hong as he weakly smiled with Yu Huifang patting his back in consolation.

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"So Huifang what did you tell your mother about me?" Yang Qing quickly asked the question that had been eating at him ever since his interaction with Yu Hong.

"Nothing much, just the normal stuff," said Yu Huifang as she chuckled with a mischievous glint flashing in her eyes.

"I thought you were nothing like your mother but you're definitely your mother's daughter alright," grumbled Yang Qing.

"Mmmph what do you know...So where do you want to head first?" asked Yu Huifang.

"I'm in no hurry. By the way, how come Dai Chen isn't here?" Yang Qing curiously asked as he didn't seem to spot him around. Considering his relationship with Yu Huifang he was sure he would be here too.

"He is afraid of my mother so he decided to stay away," answered Yu Huifang as she smiled in exasperation.

After Yang Qing's brief interaction with her mother, he could understand why. If he were in the same spot he would put a wide berth between himself and her.

"I bet you are wishing you had a few recording talismans on you, Mao Mao. You can't get a better scenery than this then add the numerous big shots around, it's a recorder's dream," Yang Qing teasingly said which landed him a fierce elbow to his gut from Mao Yunru.

"I didn't expect there'd be these many bigshots around though. It seems Dean Zhu Lao is well-liked," Yang Qing said as he gazed around.

Among the guests around there were those he was familiar with and none held a small title.

There was an old man in a light brown robe who had a hunched back and seemed to be at death's door. However, his gaze seemed youthful and filled with unparalleled wisdom. He was the Chief librarian and was in charge of the institute's main library.

The library was one of the institute's most treasured facility as all sorts of cultivation arts and techniques ranging from red grade down to purple grade were stored in there. It wasn't only restricted to cultivation arts, but history, painting, tea brewing techniques, and beginner guide to all sorts of instruments be they for entertainment or not. Anything that could be categorized as knowledge was stored in the library, making it one of the largest facilities in the whole of the Order. It was bigger than even some minor branches, about the size of a small town of 30 square kilometers housing scrolls and books that easily numbered in the millions at most and hundreds of thousands at the least.

As the man in charge of such an enormous library, his position in the Order wasn't small. His name was Xu Ning, he also went by another nickname, the thousand faces shifter. He was a master of disguise. Very few people knew his true looks and rumor had it he may not even be human. When not in the library he usually disguised himself among the students or random passersby in the restaurants and inns in the Order's compound.

Luckily or unluckily he was not one of the only oddities in the Order as there were many others just like him who had weird temperaments or hobbies.

Yang Qing always wondered if it was the Order that made people weird or did it specifically attract people of a certain quality. Of course, he always thought he was one of the few normal people in the Order completely oblivious to his nature.

Throwing those thoughts to the back of his mind, he turned his attention to the rest of the guests whose titles were just as illustrious as the Chief Librarian Xu Ning. There was the director of spirit stone mining operations, the vice head of auditing, a few assistant directors of the administrative hall, hall master of the beast hall, the vice-captain of internal security, and the vice head of the commissions' hall.

Those were but the few Yang Qing could recognize. He had to seek Yu Huifang's guidance to know the rest. Among those whom Yu Huifang helped with there was one Yang Qing paid special attention to, the vice warden of the requiem. He had a youthful look of someone in his early thirties. He had short dark purple hair with matching eyes and pale white skin. He had a cold handsome appearance as he calmly took everything in.

The requiem was the ironic title given to the Order's prison. Usually, when cultivators were found guilty they would be put to work like the Shen brothers or Cheng Yuan and Peng Zhen. Still, there are certain cases where the crimes are so heinous that labor isn't enough to mete out justice or their mental states are too erratic to leave them outside or they're too dangerous to be left outside.

Whatever the reason, all who were thrown into the requiem were guaranteed anything but rest. Everything within the prison was geared towards breaking them over and over rebuilding them back and breaking them over again. Worse was, thanks to the cultivator's longevity and vitality it ensured that the loop was almost infinite.

A weaker mind would not be able to survive there that included even the guards. It was for this reason that their entry requirements were the strictest in the whole of the Order even compared to the roaming inquisitors whose requirements were also demanding.

For one every guard had to have an abnormally powerful soul which would be a boon for training spiritual techniques for strengthening their mind, they also had to have an equally strong physique to handle the baleful qi produced in the prison that would corrode even someone in the core formation realm if they stayed in there for a year. Their skills in combat, formation arrays, medicine, and defense had to be a cut above the rest. Most special inquisitors were either former guards or were trained by them.

If most people outside were to be asked which was the most fearsome entity in the Order they'd say the judges and the inquisitors of the main headquarters but those within the Order knew without a doubt it was the custodians of the requiem. Their base talents were a cut above the rest even by the Order's standards not to mention the vice warden who was a quasi-saint cultivator.

But the real reason Yang Qing paid special attention to him wasn't his cultivation realm but because from what Dai Chen and Zhang Qingge had told him, one of his duties as a palace realm judge was the supervision and rehabilitation of a prisoner from the Requiem. The prisoner would serve under them and it was the judge's duty to constantly evaluate them and at the end of three years decide if they were redeemable or not. If they are not they will be sent back to the Requiem but if they are they will serve under the evaluating judge for a couple of years. The specific duration is left to the monitoring judge's discretion. If their evaluation at the end of those years is stellar the prisoner would be released during which they would then be constantly monitored by the Shadow hawks, the intelligence branch of the Order.

Just as Yang Qing was contemplating how he would make his approach to the vice warden, the hall room went quiet as four figures made their appearance. One of them was Yu Hong and the remaining three were a single woman and two men.

The other lady's beauty wasn't overshadowed even when standing next to a wild picturesque beauty like Yu Hong. However her beauty was different, she had an aura of a reserved, meticulous scholar.

As for the next two gentlemen beside her one of them had a pristine white robe and a shiny bald head that reflected the light of the room. Everything about him screamed extreme cleanliness down to even his walking, as even though he was walking his feet barely touched the ground.

Yang Qing recognized both him and the lady immediately as they were the dean of survival and adaptation and the hall master of the formation hall respectively.

He was extremely familiar with both of them as he had classes with the former when he was a student in the institute and also the dean was the domain expert who got trapped in the glowing respite valley when it was the waste dumping ground of the Myriad beasts sect and later got saved by the members of the Order.

As for the formation hall master, they have had frequent interactions, mostly reprimands to him for trying to tinker with the arrays in his carriage and courtroom.

It was only the rotund gentleman with amber hair tied in a topknot that he didn't seem to recognize. Though with the sudden change of air in the hall it wasn't hard to guess his identity which was soon revealed by Vice dean Yu Long's welcoming words.

"Good that you are finally here brother Zhu Lao, the party can finally start," said Vice dean Yu Hong as he thunderously clapped hands with the rotund gentleman as they both uproariously laughed.

Chapter 116 116: Fellow Practitioners

"The duo seem more like brothers than colleagues," Yang Qing noted as he took in the interaction between Vice dean Yu Long and Dean Zhu Lao.

The group soon made their way to the center of the hallway where with how these things go, Dean Zhu Lao was expected to make a speech so that the party could officially start.

It was only when talk of the commencement of the party began did Yang Qing notice there was something crucial missing in the room which he had grossly overlooked. In his mind, without it, the party might as well have not existed. It was more important than the host, the reason for the party, or even the guests or the venue. It was the one thing that held everything together. But try as he might he didn't spot an iota of it.

His brows creased as he started feeling hot all of a sudden with his palms getting sweaty.

"How could it miss? Isn't that 90% of the reason I came here? No, No maybe it will be brought in once the party officially kicks off but just in case.." Yang Qing decided to confront the issue after his internal debate.

"Huifang, is there no food?" Yang Qing gently asked with fearful apprehension.

"Ppsch, the dean is about to speak. Other than food can't you think about anything else?" Yu Huifang mockingly said as she ignored Yang Qing's languid look.

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Center of the hallway

"Other than discussing dao I'm not very good at these things. So I will keep the speech short and simple like a breakthrough to the qi cultivation realm," said Dean Zhu Lao as he dryly laughed eyeing the crowd.



His cultivation humor had met a tough crowd as none laughed along with him with some only giving perfunctory smiles such as vice dean Yu Long and some of his former students who were within the crowd.

In the whole crowd, there were about three people who seemed to be genuinely enjoying it albeit for two of them it had nothing to do with the joke. The one who genuinely enjoyed the joke was the cold handsome vice warden which came as a shock to Yang Qing and Mao Yunru but the rest of the guests were none too shocked, they seemed to have expected it.

As for the remaining two, one of them was Yang Qing of course. His laugh wasn't because he found the joke funny but with the food situation potentially in jeopardy he might as well do his all to ensure his goal of milking Dean Zhu Lao's services for free succeeded.

His years of being a proud practitioner of fawning dao and shameless dao had come in handy. He knew the perfect balance of a laugh that wasn't too exaggerated but wasn't too low either but just enough to make the recipient of that laugh think they may actually be good.

It seemed to have worked as Dean Zhu Lao's shrinking figure perked up to his and the vice warden's laugh. Though the majority of the room threw Yang Qing mocking looks.

He was well renowned for his shamelessness. The actions of a shameless person could never be trusted especially the good ones. There was usually a catch and with Yang Qing's stingy history, it didn't take them long to guess it except for Dean Zhu Lao who had been in seclusion for the past 50 years even before Yang Qing joined.

As for the last figure who laughed, it was the hall master of the formation hall. However, her laughter seemed to be of someone gloating at another's misfortune.

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"Ahem as I was saying, I'm thankful that you all came for my welcome party, especially with the busy schedules and all. I'll make sure to repay back your kindness at a later date.

And a special thank you to brother Yu Long and sister Yu Hong for hosting it in your magnificent abode, I couldn't have wished for a better venue.

As you all know I was in seclusion because I had sudden insights that I wanted to focus on. I didn't expect it to take 50 years but as you all have personally experienced you never know with these things sometimes it lasts a day and other times it may last more than a century.

But all in all, I made plentiful gains which I would like to share with you all. Think of it as my gift of gratitude to you all.

Now let the party begin," Dean Zhu Lao cheerfully said as he raised his wine urn to the rest who raised theirs in cheers and gulped their wines down.

Yang Qing on the other hand couldn't help but reevaluate this absentee dean once more and he wasn't alone in this as both Yu Huifang and Mao Yunru threw strange looks the dean's way.

"I didn't think it was possible but there's actually someone who matches Yang Qing in shamelessness," Mao Yunru said in shock.

"I know...I didn't expect a renowned senior like him would be of the same ilk," Yu Huifang said equally shocked.

They found it hard to reconcile the creator of the gold-grade cultivation art, the shadow void steps, and the person before them. Everyone here had heard of the tales of why he was really absent for the past 50 years. It had nothing to do with getting a sudden burst of insight and had all to do with him getting caught by his wife sneaking out from their courtyard in the middle of the night and coming back late from gallivanting with friends.

But here he was perfectly acting with a straight face and an accompanying air of righteousness that showed a studious dedication to the dao. He didn't even flinch despite everyone present knowing the real story.

Yang Qing had a complicated expression as a frown formed on his face. If Dean Zhu Lao was as shameless as he seemed then that complicated matters. Only a fellow shameless dao practitioner would

know the moves of a fellow daoist in that regard. It may not be easy to score free consultation among other things from Dean Zhu Lao as Yang Qing had planned. He may have to reevaluate his approach.

"Did he figure out my earlier laugh was a fake and went along with it to deflect the attention to me?" Yang Qing curiously thought.

It was at that moment he noticed Dean Zhu Lao throw a quick glance his way before he turned back to greet the guests around with a warm smile.

That glance though brief gave Yang Qing all the answers he needed. That glance had a cunning glint in it that seemed to say,

"Thanks for the save fellow practitioner."

"I was too careless. It was all so clear but I overlooked it. There is no way someone who created a cultivation art with the sole purpose of sneaking out is someone honest..tsk. I guess it will have to be a give and take with the sleazy dean," Yang Qing grumbled as his mood further sank when he noticed there was still no food.

"Huifang is there really no food at this party just wine?" Yang Qing pleadingly asked. Both his agendas for the day seemed to be going down the drain.

"I thought your true hunger was for the dao, not food. Isn't that what you told me yesterday?" a gentle teasing voice sounded.

When Yang Qing turned to the source he saw Meng Chao and another youthful-looking man with ocean-blue hair next to him. He had on white robes that had a faint assortment of herb smell on it.

"Senior Meng Chao, vice hall master Ren Shu nice to see you," Yang Qing hurriedly offered his greetings as he cupped his fists and warmly smiled. The earlier dejection and dread were erased instantly from his face.

"My hunger for the dao is what made me ask for food. By personally experiencing the mundane affairs such as enjoying food, I'm clearing my heart by making sure I'm in touch with my roots," Yang Qing righteously said as he puffed up his chest a bit.

"I don't know if you know this.." Yang Qing lowly whispered as if he was revealing some grand secret.

"But my ancestor's ancestor was quite the voracious eater which was where our body-refining ancestry started. We Yangs eat to pay homage.

In my family we always say to deny oneself is to blind yourself to the truth. I've stuck by that saying to this day," said Yang Qing as the Meng Chao and vice hall master Ren Shu had amused expressions on their faces.

"I didn't know there was something like that. I will have to ask your grandfather when I go back to the medicine valley," said vice hall master Ren Shu.

"There's ....THERE'S NO NEED to bother an old man with tales of the old days I'm not sure how much he can remember from back then with his waning age and memory problems," Yang Qing hurriedly said.

Vice hall master Ren Shu chose to ignore the blatant excuse Yang Qing came up with and not call him on it. His grandfather was 200 years old and was a peak foundation establishment expert who bar the unexpected usually had a life expectancy of 1,200 years.

Yang Qing's grandfather could probably remember the meal he had the day he crawled with exceptional detail due to the high memory cultivators had.

"Fine I won't ask...so have you placed any more thought on joining the medicine valley?

The hall master has said we can be flexible in your mode of payment and also we can come to an arrangement on your working schedule. All you need is to say yes. It's such a shame for your innate attribute of the peerless jade physique to be wasted in a courtroom. The medicine valley is where your talents will shine," said Vice hall master Ren Shu.

Chapter 117 117: Peerless Jade Body

Meng Chao didn't intervene and just remained silent. He had read Yang Qing's file and some part of him agreed with Ren Shu. With the type of peerless jade physique Yang Qing unlocked, his talents would bloom in the medicine valley better than in any other place.

However, the Order was a free place where their members could choose the post they'd like to go to as long as they met the requirements and there was an opening. No one in the Order would stop them even if they would be suited to another place. They'd give their suggestions but it would only stop there.

Yang Qing couldn't help but guiltily sigh at Ren Shu's request. It was not the first time he had made the request. Just like Kang Huilang who was recruited by the roaming inquisitors when he was just a student, the same offer was made to Yang Qing too except in his case it was from the medicine valley.

The reason for the invite for both Kang Huilang and Yang Qing had more to do with their peerless jade physiques.

The Blue origin planet was home to countless phenomena, one of which came in the form of physiques. There were cultivators who were born with special physiques that put them at an advantage compared to the rest as they could directly skip the body refining stage.

Those physiques came with special innate attributes for example Mao Yunru was such a person as she had the purple cloud mist physique that granted her a natural immunity to illusion techniques of a certain level. Unlike most cultivators, she didn't have to train in illusion-breaking techniques.

Just like cultivation arts, natural-born physiques had a similar grading. It moved from; white grade- red grade- orange grade- blue grade- gold grade- purple grade.

The white grade was the lowest natural physique with the purple grade being the highest. Mao Yunru's physique fell in the purple grade.

Natural physiques were usually hereditary being passed down from parent to child however there are special exceptions where they can either be derived from a natural treasure and an accompanying cultivation art. that draws out its effects Most sects with a special physique lineage pass it down this way.

Natural physiques though powerful are a rare occurrence among cultivators. Most cultivators are born without one sometimes even children whose parents have a special physique may be born without their hereditary physique which puts them at a clear disadvantage to those who do.

To bridge the gap between those who have a natural physique and those who don't, body refining arts were created which eventually became a whole complete system that resulted in the body refining stage.

With a specialized training routine, cultivation resources, and tireless effort, those without natural physiques could excavate their own bodies' potential and even catch up to those with natural physiques.

However, despite the grounds body refining made, there were still some shortcomings that made it hard for them to compare to those with natural physiques. One of them was the copious amounts of resources you would burn through to refine the body, the other was time.

Those with natural physiques can naturally skip the body refining stage and the time and costs that come with it and break through to the qi refinement realm while those without a natural physique can't skip the body refinement stage otherwise their bodies would not be able to sense, handle or circulate qi from their surroundings.

For those without sufficient talent or resources, the body refining stage is a pitfall that they can never overcome. It's why there are few cultivators out there compared to the mortal population. There are mortals who don't have the talent to even refine their bodies or those who have the talent but lack the resources, so their talent ends up buried in the dust of time.

The last disadvantage was the innate attributes that came with natural physiques. Even the lowest white grade physique which in terms of sturdiness couldn't even compare with a silver body of the body refining stage, had an innate attribute whereas, in the body refining stage, you had to at least have a diamond body to unlock an attribute. From the iron body up to the gold body what you got was a sturdy body, and improved vitality with strengthened meridians and organs all around but there was no innate attribute.

Very few people could reach the gold stage of the body refining realm let alone reach the diamond body or the elusive peerless jade body. With the endless time and resources, it would surely consume to reach that far most decide to quit while ahead and prepare for the qi refinement realm.

However, those who endure and eventually succeed in this arduous journey get rewarded, more so the peerless jade body.

The peerless jade body is like nature's gift and recognition of those who went above and beyond. It's not the highest level of the body refining stage for nothing. For one it grants the user 500 years of lifespan which is higher than what even someone at the qi refinement gets and its advantages will follow the user throughout their whole cultivation life never growing irrelevant.

The innate attributes are more pronounced in the peerless jade body to the point it's considered advantageous to have a peerless jade body compared to the purple-grade natural physique. However, that opinion varies from person to person.

However, what is undeniable is those with a peerless jade body are a cut above the rest with their numbers being so pitifully few, as breaking through to the peerless jade body is five parts effort and five parts luck.

No one breakthrough is similar which is why the peerless jade body manifests different attributes from person to person. You may find some that are close but not completely similar.

Each peerless jade body is unique to its user however there is one area where they are similar which is how their attributes manifested themselves and their bodies' base immunity to a vast array of poisons though not all.

The innate attributes manifest themselves in their bones which eventually affects their whole physique.

For example, Kang Huilang's peerless jade physique is called the harmonious cataclysmic jade bones, while Feng Xin has the ice soul jade bones and Yang Qing developed the nature's Yin Yang bones.

Each of these bones grants them a natural advantage when it comes to a particular area. Kang Huilang is skilled in different weapons and intents in part due to his harmonious cataclysmic jade bones, while Feng Xin is gifted in both spiritual techniques and ice-related cultivation arts because of his ice soul jade bones while Yang Qing has a deep affinity to nature and balance.

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It was because of his attributes that the medicine valley continuously sort him out. His peerless jade body was a natural build for practicing medical arts down to his universal qi that could be transferred to any plant or person without fear of rejection.

They even went so far as to gift him the green flame tree which at its peak would reach the upper ranks of the ascendant grade and if it gains sentience it would be guaranteed to be a peak domain expert.

However, despite their efforts, Yang Qing refused citing it wasn't the right fit for him and how he would let down the medicine valley and harm lives due to his own shortcomings and incompetence.

But the real truth which Yang Qing kept to himself for fear of getting a beating, poisoned, or cursed by the medicine valley hall master and deputy hall master was he didn't like their work schedule, payment plan, and security.

With how dangerous the cultivation world was and the nature of the Order's jobs, work-related injuries were guaranteed from the students to the inquisitors, to those who got injured while on commission, the list being endless, especially from the Order's policies. The Order opens its medical doors to outsiders for a subsidized fee if they get injured while in the commission of the Order's contract works.

With the never-ending workload and the high danger levels of said works it ensures the number of patients in the medicine valley is never small and the injuries hardly ever light. The workers in the medicine valley are always working no matter the rank down to even the hall master.

Yang Qing was being worked like a dog already he shuddered to think how tougher it would be in the medicine valley.

The other reason was the payment. Those from the medicine valley were usually majorly paid in herbs. Yang Qing couldn't accept this. Yes, the value of those herbs were most likely high but he liked the feeling of seeing the pile of spirit stones he got at the end of the month. They were not much but they put a smile on his face better than what herbs could do, which would more than likely induce the trauma he had from childhood because of his clan's experiments.

Out of principle Yang Qing would never accept herbs as payment. Food maybe, a spirit beast that produces food definitely, weird rock with absolutely no use maybe but definitely not herbs.



And lastly was security. The workers of medicine valley had one of the highest work-related injury records that were even slightly higher compared to the inquisitors. Yet unlike the inquisitors they never left the comfort of their valley.

Treating a cultivator was a battle of its own because for them to be admitted it was never just a simple ailment that they could recover with a cultivator's high vitality. It was usually a dire case and some of those cases may harm even the medical expert themselves such as a hidden curse masking itself as a wound that rebounds to whoever tries to heal the wound, unknown poisons, erratic patients that attack you out of the blue in confusion. The dangers were endless.

No way was Yang Qing going to step in there either as a worker or a patient.

"This..." just as he was about to come up with another flimsy excuse, he was saved when Vice dean Yu Long waved over as he came with Yu Hong his wife, Dean Zhu Lao, the hall master of the formation hall, and the bald Dean of survival and adaptability.

Yang Qing heaved a sigh in reprieve as he saw them make their way over.

Chapter 118 118: Meng Chao's Bait

Deputy hall master Ren Shu noticed Yang Qing's relieved look and couldn't help but shake his head bitterly at this.

"It seems I'll have to tell the hall master it was a bust this time too. Maybe we will get lucky and find good seedlings in this year's second entrance examinations." Ren Shu thought to himself.

"Meng Chao, Ren Shu, thanks for coming to my party especially you Ren Shu. I didn't expect Lu Guiren to let you off," Dean Zhu Lao cheerily said as he greeted the two.

"I won't be staying for long, I only have half an hour before I have to head back so let me give my apologies in advance and toast for your forgiveness," said Ren Shu as he raised his wine urn to Dean Zhu Lao and gulped it down.

"I will also have to give you a toast for forgiveness too brother Zhu Lao as an unexpected matter showed up that requires my attention. I won't be staying for long either," said Meng Chao in apology as he took a gulp from his wine urn.

Dean Zhu Lao's eyes flashed with a mysterious glint once he heard Meng Chao's statement and the seriousness in his tone when he said it.

"Is it about that other matter? Did you finally get solid leads?" Dean Zhu Lao tentatively asked.

"Yes I did, finally, though it involves putting a friend's child in front of the fire otherwise the rats would not leave their burrows," said Meng Chao as he sighed with embers of guilt in his tone.

"Little Fu?" asked Dean Zhu Lao.

"Yes, him. He should be breaking through to the palace realm which is why they are about to make a move.

He agreed to be the bait to draw them out but I can't help but feel guilty. If there was a way I could do this without involving him I'd gladly do it but alas, sadly there isn't.

I don't know how Jiang Chen would take it. Using his son as bait to draw in possibly the same people who took his wife and destroyed his clan," said Meng Chao as he ruefully smiled.

"Some things can't be helped and I bet little Fu would have done it with or without your intervention atleast this way you can keep an eye on him and ensure his safety.

Sad what happened to that sect and such an exquisite technique buried along with it," said Dean Zhu Lao.

"Little Fu? Sect? Could they be talking about Jiang Fu and the crystal palm jade sect? As I thought, there really may be a connection between Jiang Fu and Deng Chao," Yang Qing thought as a million other conjectures flashed in his mind.

"Actually that person didn't die it turns out he is alive albeit in a weakened state but he is still alive. He appeared yesterday in our young friend Yang Qing's court," said Meng Chao as he pointed to Yang Qing who was still lost in contemplation.

"Oh, now that's a pleasant surprise. I guess the rumored saint-grade treasure may have had something to do with his survival," said Dean Zhu Lao as he lightly smiled.

"It seems brother Meng Chao has beat me to the introductions....this is the promising young judge I was talking about. His name is Yang Qing and was one of the finest students I've had the pleasure of teaching.

He shares your same passion for lost arts and cultivation art dissection. He has made improvements on a few red-grade arts that transformed into orange-grade arts there was even a low-rank blue-grade art in his repertoire of upgrades.

It is the brilliant ray fist cultivation art, right, Yang Qing?" asked Vice dean Yu Long after he had made his introductions.

"Right, right it was that one," Yang Qing confusedly answered after hurriedly coming out of his stupor.

"That's pretty impressive young friend. I don't think I made such achievements when I was your age. The young shall soon surpass the old.

I hope you will all push the Order into greater heights than us old foggeys," Dean Zhu Lao kindly smiled as he addressed the trio of Yang Qing, Mao Yunru, and Yu Huifang with appreciation in his eyes.

"That they will," said Vice dean Yu Long as he looked lovingly and with pride, at Yu Huifang who blushed once she saw her father's gaze.

On seeing the reaction of Yu Huifang and her father Vice dean Yu Long, Dean Zhu Lao and the blue-haired lady who was the hall master of the formation hall shared a brief nigh imperceptible complicated look which then turned to some sort of firm agreement.

Yang Qing in the meanwhile didn't take Dean Zhu Lao's modesty to heart. Dean Zhu Lao was a rare gifted prodigy when it came to cultivation arts. Though he was famous for the gold-grade cultivation art the shadow void steps it was not the only gold-grade art that he had created or improved not to mention the blue-grade arts under his belt and his strides of conversion of ancient beast tongue and abilities into cultivation arts.

Yang Qing may have one blue-grade cultivation art but it was in the lower ranks and he didn't build it from scratch but instead made improvements from a high-rank orange-grade cultivation art and even that took him a decade of countless hours and research to make that leap.

While his efforts couldn't be discounted since this was a blue-grade cultivation art that would ensure the sustainability and promulgation of a rank 3 and even rank 2 organization, the difference to make up between a blue-grade art and high-rank orange-grade art was not as huge as compared to making a blue grade art from scratch or improving it from a white grade or red grade cultivation art. He already had a huge foundation to work from.

Most blue-grade arts circulating around the continent were from upgrades made to high-rank orange-grade arts. It is because of this that some high-rank orange grade arts may sometimes be even more expensive than lower rank blue grade cultivation arts. Its potential upgrade under the right hands makes them extremely valuable.

The Order built its enormous collection of blue-grade cultivation arts via this route.

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Vice-dean Zhu Lao then proceeded to make a quick introduction of the dean of survival and adaptability and the hall master of the formation hall. It was mostly for Mao Yunru's sake, who though knew the dean of survival and adaptability since it was a mandatory course, had no clue about the formation hall's, hall master.

The institute had a formations faculty but that and the formation hall were two completely different entities. The formation faculty was in charge of training the students in arrays while the formation hall was in charge of the laying down, maintenance, and improvement of all formation arrays in all the Order's facilities. So it was rare for her to have any interaction with the members of the formation hall and on the occasion she did, it was never with those high up.

The Dean of survival and adaptation was called Chu Zhen while the formation hall's Hall master was called Ling Meimei. She was also the wife of Dean Zhu Lao, the culprit behind his 50-year seclusion.

Yang Qing and Mao Yunru threw strange looks her way once they discovered she was the wife of Dean Zhu Lao which resulted in an awkward dry laugh from him. Even though he had a thick face there were still limits.

"Yang Qing, your courtroom and carriage are due for an inspection in a few days before you move to the palace courts.

I hope we won't find any evidence of tampering like last time though some part of me actually hopes I do find something. My hall has been rather short of funds of late and we have a staggering increase in areas where we need it.

Your kind donations will be highly welcomed," said formation hall master Ling Meimei as she lightly chuckled with an amused glint flashing in her eyes.

"Formation hall master Ling Meimei you are always a pleasant sight. I Yang Qing have many faults but learning from my mistakes isn't one of them.

I humbly realized I was inviting humiliation by overestimating my paltry skills in front of a behemoth like the formation hall.

I bow in apology and also to your blinding awe-inspiring excellence. I welcome a thorough inspection of my courtroom and the carriage. You won't find a single script out of place but as an avid admirer of the selfless efforts the formation hall does to ensure we are safe and comfortable, I am willing to make a humble donation as a token of my gratitude," said Yang Qing with a righteous and selfless air about him which drew questioning gaze toward him from those present and a look of approval from Dean Zhu Lao.

Internally Yang Qing was crying. When he broke through to the palace realm, riding the exhilaration of his newfound power he decided to try and fiddle with the arrays in his carriage AGAIN for his longtime ambition of sleeping more to work.

He failed again and damaged some of the arrays in the process. He decided to offer a donation first to soften the blow later.

Deciding to distract himself with other matters, he decided to go ahead and confirm the guess he made during Meng Chao's and Dean Zhu Lao's conversation.

"Seniors the little Fu you were talking about is it perhaps Jiang Fu from the thousands flavors restaurant," asked Yang Qing.

"Yes, it is. It seems you noticed it too, their hands," said Meng Chao.

"Mmmh," nodded Yang Qing. For as long as he had known Jiang Fu, he has always had jade-like hands. Yang Qing never asked anything as it seemed like a sore subject to Jiang Fu. Yang Qing always assumed it was because it made him look ladylike.

But he had to reevaluate that assumption when Deng Chao one of the founders of the crystal palm jade sect appeared in his courtroom.

He may have been in an incorporeal form but his features were clear and distinctive. Yang Qing noticed that he too had jade hands. He couldn't help but wonder if he had any relations to Jiang Fu because those Jade hands seemed something they were born with rather than a side effect of a cultivation art. It was why he asked Deng Chao if that was his real name.

Yang Qing's pupils suddenly froze.

"Senior Meng Chao don't tell me you suspect the destruction of the Crystal palm jade sect had nothing to do with the saint-grade treasure they found and more to do with Deng Chao?" Yang Qing shockingly asked.

"As of now it's just a guess but with Jiang Fu's help, it's only a matter of time before I confirm it. I know you have a lot of questions but that will have to wait till later for now let's celebrate Brother Zhu Lao's return. I'll find you before your ceremony to fill you in on the details," said Meng Chao as he offered a polite smile.

"Okay," Yang Qing agreed to shelf the matter as he too agreed this was neither the time nor place.

"I don't know if I should tell Zhang Qingge. With how close she is to Jiang Fu she will have to know," thought Yang Qing.

Chapter 119 119: Gift Giving And The Appearance Of The Phoenix Ash

Just as Yang Qing was thinking about how to broach the subject he caught Dean Zhu Lao sizing the clay tablet in his hands.

"You have quite the interesting item there, little Qing," said Dean Zhu Lao as his eyes glowed while remaining glued to the tablet in his hands.

What Yang Qing didn't realize was that almost everyone present from Meng Chao, medical valley deputy hall master Ren Shu, Yu Huifang's parents, Chu Zhen, Formation hall master Ling Meimei and finally Dean Zhu Lao had all been scanning that tablet the moment they saw it in Yang Qing's hands. This was before they even came to say hello.

"Sorry, Dean Zhu Lao I almost forgot, I brought this as your welcoming gift. Forgive me for my poor manners and even poorer wallet, this is all I could afford," Yang Qing humbly said as he passed the clay tablet over with both his hands in a subservient attitude.

As if on cue the rest started giving their gifts.

Meng Chao pulled out a black oval-shaped gem. Within the gem was a grey smoke that occasionally transformed into a blind grey whale with silver wings.

"I found this gem in the churning sea and it seems to have been nourished with the aura of the silver streak whale for close to 50,000 years. The silver streak whale may not be a sacred spirit beast but judging by its aura it was one that was just at the cusp of reaching the soul formation realm.

If it's you, I know you will be able to make a plentiful harvest from it," said Meng Chao as he handed over the black gem.

"Many thanks, brother Meng Chao. I too should give you something. It seems during my seclusion you managed to take half a step into the soul formation realm. I need to put in a little effort otherwise I might soon get surpassed," said Dean Zhu Lao as he fished a small wooden writ from his storage ring.

"Surely you jest, brother Zhu Lao," said Meng Chao as he lightly smiled.

It was common knowledge among their circle that Dean Zhu Lao would have broken through to the soul formation realm anytime he wished to. He already had the qualifications to do so over 100 years ago, he just chose not to but instead decided to further refine his domain to the utmost limit he could. Exploring the never-ending mysteries the domain realm had to offer.

"Here, you can have this. It will help strengthen your spirit the more you cultivate alongside it," said Dean Zhu Lao as he casually handed the small black wooden writ with the words 'the sea quakes and the land remains undaunted'. The writ seemed like it was incomplete as one of its ends seemed to have broken off something.

It didn't take long for Yang Qing to realize what the wooden writ does, as the moment it appeared he felt his spirit renewed and his mental sea started to churn excitedly with his soul getting cleansed a bit and that was just from a cursory glance of the wooden writ.

Meng Chao's pupils froze when he saw it. Other than Yu Huifang, Mao Yunru, and Yang Qing, the rest all had brief complicated expressions when they saw that writ.

"Are you sure brother Zhu Lao?" asked Meng Chao with a worried look growing on his face.

"I'm sure. It's just a tool and if it can help someone I would be glad to part with it. He would have wanted it like that besides I have tonnes of other things to remember him by. Though I don't know why I've been feeling his reemergence is close for the past decade.

When he comes back we will just go scavenge other mysterious realms, the millions treasure ocean, or probably sneak into the holy lands," Dean Zhu Lao said as a mischievous grin was plastered on his face.

"Okay then. Many thanks, brother Zhu Lao," Meng Chao solemnly said as he took the writ.



The other domain experts had mildly shocked expressions at Dean Zhu Lao's words with most even having a hint of excitement and anticipation especially Vice dean Yu Long.

The trio of Yang Qing, Mao Yunru, and Yu Huifang were completely clueless about what just happened. But they all decided not to pry as they detected the somber atmosphere that had appeared in that brief moment.

Next to give out his gift was the Deputy hall master Ren Shu. He took out a bamboo scroll that was wrapped in banana leaves. There was an incomplete cultivation art recorded in the scroll along with a seal that was placed on it via the banana leaves.

Dean Zhu Lao's eyes glowed when he saw it, like a little child who had gotten a new toy. But he held himself back as he stored it away. The rest of the guests seemed to have noticed gifts were being given so they too came along and soon the area Yang Qing was, became the center of the party.

From the interactions, Yang Qing discovered that some of the palace stage members present at the party were former students of Dean Zhu Lao. Most of them were in the later stages of the palace realm.

The vice warden had made his way too at some point. Yang Qing was shocked to discover he had a gentle tone despite his cold look. His name was Shao An. He seemed to be very close with Dean Zhu Lao and Meng Chao.

Among the list of shocking discoveries, he was also one of the youngest quasi-saint experts in the whole of the Order. Having just reached that realm in 300 years.

If the requiem didn't need his services so badly he would have been tapped to join the spirit council.

The moment he revealed his gift even the peach blossom flower they were in started to quiver. He had a small red wooden square box and the inside of it was half filled with grey ash.

The ash had faint heat coming from it but what stood out was the misty auspicious qi it produced when the box was opened. A faint regal bird cry was produced along with the auspicious qi. It also had an astronomical amount of vitality in it.

Yang Qing came to discover it was phoenix ash. The ash is produced during a phoenix's rebirth from its flames. He didn't even know how Vice warden Shao An got such an invaluable thing. For one he was always stationed in the Requiem prison and another was knowing about phoenix ash and actually acquiring one were two completely different things.

A phoenix just when hatched has the base strength of a palace stage expert and that is even discounting all its other abilities like its flames that can burn through everything even the soul, the feathers, and talons that are harder than any monarch-grade artifact, and its natural affinity to different daos.

So just getting its ash is thought to be an impossible task since only phoenixes that have grown into adulthood can undergo a flame rebirth and every time they do it's either when they are breaking through to a higher cultivation base or healing from grievous wounds. Either of these scenarios ensures the phoenix is always on high alert and tense in such a situation that snagging even a milligram of ash is thought to be an impossible task with a high fatality risk. Yang Qing couldn't help but wonder how Vice warden Shao An got his hands on one as even a seasoned soul formation expert would be hard-pressed to get their hands on one.

However, despite the many difficulties and dangers of getting phoenix ash, many cultivators would still risk their lives to get their hands on it. One of the reasons is its ability to pull someone even at the brink of death back to life due to its high vibrancy. It's considered the highest panacea one can get As long as you have a breath in you no matter what injury you have suffered, with the phoenix ash you can guarantee your life and a full recovery. And that is only one of the uses that most people know of as there are many other hidden uses that a select few groups of people know such as inducing the phoenix flames of rebirth through those ashes and using them to undergo a cleansing like a phoenix.

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"This..brother Shao," Dean Zhu Lao didn't know what to say as he even wanted to return the gift back before he was stopped by Vice warden Shao An.

"There's no need for that. I have no use for it and unlike others, it's not as difficult for me to get it. Just like you said if it can help someone else why not use it though I'm not sure it will be of any use in his state, a try can't hurt, and if it can speed up his reemergence all the more reason you should have it.

But if you still insist on giving it back then I may as well donate it to brother Ren Shu and let the medicine valley use it as fertilizer and cultivate precious ascendant-grade herbs with it," said Vice warden Shao An as he scoffed.

Dean Zhu Lao went silent at this as he knew Vice warden Shao An wasn't kidding he really might do it.

"Then I will have to be shameless and accept. Many thanks, brother Shao An," Dean Zhu solemnly said.

The gift-giving went on for quite some time before everyone present had given theirs. Dean Zhu Lao was practically beaming towards the end as Yang Qing was green with envy and when he looked around and still noticed no food present his mood sank even further.

"Now then, young friend Yang Qing this is an interesting object you have here," Dean Zhu Lao said as he scrutinized the logo syllabic scripts on the clay tablet.

The other gifts he received were already stored in his storage ring, this was the only gift still in his hand. Other than some mechanism that prevented it from being stored in storage rings, Dean Zhu Lao still held it because he was rather fascinated by it.

"Where did you find it, little Qing?" Dean Zhu Lao asked

"In some cultivator's stall during the cultivators' open-air market," Yang Qing answered choosing to ignore why Dean Zhu Lao kept calling him little Qing.

"REALLY!!!" Dean Zhu Lao asked wide-eyed.

"Yes, really?" answered Yang Qing confused at Dean Zhu Lao's dumbstruck reaction.

"Tsk..some people really have good luck out there," Dean Zhu Lao enviously said with some resentment in his tone.

"Well little Qing it seems you stumble onto a remnant of the ancients," said Dean Zhu Lao as his eyes glowed with strange runes as he examined the clay tablet.

Chapter 120 Legacies

"The ancients?" asked Yang Qing with a puzzled expression.

What he knew about the word was very brief and he had only stumbled onto it during his archeology and history research.

Various cultivation practices seemed to have originated from them and what Yang Qing surmised from the brief notes he read through, their identities and race were unknown.

Other than that he didn't know much which was why he looked quizzically at Dean Zhu Lao.

"He wouldn't just say something and leave it hanging all for the sake of adding mystery would he?" Yang Qing wondered as he had used that move a couple of times earning the ire and hatred of those who were listening to him at the time.

Luckily Dean Zhu Lao didn't do that as he continued on whilst still closely examining the clay tablet with deep interest.

"You may have noticed there is usually very little information concerning the ancients whether it's the library books or the course curriculum at the institute.

That wasn't accidental but rather it is by design and is something that is observed by other organizations not only us," Dean Zhu Lao said as his gaze turned solemn.

He turned towards some of the domain realm experts present including Meng Chao, Ren Shu, Vice warden Shao An, Yu Huifang's parents, Dean Chu Zhen, and a few other late-stage domain realm experts.

They all exchanged glances as they all raised their palms to the sky.

The cohort of Yang Qing, Mao Yunru, and Yu Huifang all had dumbfounded looks at what their seniors were planning.

Complex seals were produced from each of the domain experts' hands which then joined together eventually forming a starlight water curtain that rose to the roof enveloping the whole hall room like a dome.

Only after the dome was fully formed did Dean Zhu Lao resume his explanation.

"With this, we can safely talk," said Dean Zhu Lao in a casual demeanor completely absent of his earlier solemn air a few seconds ago.

"Now where were we...The ancients, well in an overly simplified explanation you can consider them as long-lived races," began Dean Zhu Lao.

"Are you really not going to begin the explanation about the dome currently over our heads that required several late-stage domain experts acting together to create?" thought Yang Qing as he occasionally tried to use his eyes as a hint to Dean Zhu Lao to start with the dome first.

However, his signals went ignored as Dean Zhu Lao leisurely continued with his explanation like it was a classroom lecture, and Yang Qing and the rest were his students who had no option but to listen till the end before they could ask any questions.

"The basic lifespan of a human who is not a cultivator, and has an adequate supply of the basic necessities is 90 years and if they take care of themselves well they may reach 120 years.

Now with cultivation thrown into the mix that lifespan gains an astronomical increase the further up the cultivation realm you move.

Let's take you as an example little Qing. When you broke through to the palace realm you got a lifespan of at least 10,000 years though for someone like you who had a purple core, the lifespan you got when you broke through was higher at 15,000 years because of the special peculiarities of the purple core.

The same thing will happen to my young friend Mao Yunru here and you too Yu Huifang even though you won't get 15,000 years, gold-grade cores receive additional years to their lifespan too.

Dean Chu Zhen, I think you got 11,186 years when you broke through to the palace stage right?" Dean Zhu Lao suddenly asked the clean-shaven neat freak, Dean Chu Zhen.

"Yes, it was that range," Dean Chu Zhen nodded in affirmation.

"For gold grade cores, the life expectancy number isn't fixed like the purple grade cores as I'm sure your father has told you, there are variations among gold cores. I can see yours is a six-striped gold core, the very best among gold cores mmmh is that a faint purple coat hidden in there?" Dean Zhu Lao paused as he detected something within Yu Huifang's core with his domain sense.

"It seems you missed just a tiny step otherwise you would have ended up with a purple core too. But not to worry, purple cores give slight advantages but as long as your understanding of your dao and your techniques are firm and stellar you can defeat even someone with a purple core and have the same lifespan advantages when you break through to the domain realm.

From the palace stage onwards is your familiarity with your cultivation arts and the dao that matters. Proof of that is the instructors at the Institute.

The majority of the instructors in the Institute had blue-grade cores but you have all experienced their might personally. With their foundations and achievements, they can topple those of the gold core and even hold their own against those with a purple core.

At the end of the day it depends on how you use what you have," said Dean Zhu Lao.

Yang Qing, Mao Yunru, and Yu Huifang both shuddered at the mention of the instructors, especially Yang Qing. He had been at the receiving end of their thrashing more than a couple of times with the intensity increasing with his cultivation realm.

Even with his present cultivation base, he wasn't sure he could soundly defeat some of the more senior instructors.

Yu Huifang seemed to have had a new flame ignited in her from Dean Zhu Lao's words. She may not show it but she had a competitive spirit within her, especially with the identity of a legacy looming over her, it was a shackle she couldn't escape.

Legacies was the nickname given to children who had parents that were employees of the Order. They were the equivalent of sect saints and saintesses or direct bloodline or main descendants when it came to clans and royalties.

With all the advantages Yu Huifang had especially being a legacy and with peak domain experts parents at that, she felt ashamed like she had disappointed her parents by not getting a purple grade core, and with the likes of Yang Qing, Kang Huilang, and Zhang Qingge having purple cores in their group she couldn't help but feel inferior. This was despite the fact that even with the enormous talent pool the Order fished from those who eventually ended up with purple grade cores were few and far in between due to the stringent requirements required to form one.

Forming a gold core may not have as many hurdles as a purple grade core but it was not an easy endeavor either as even rank 2 organizations or rank 1 may be hard-pressed to have more than 50 in their ranks. And that is counting the number since they were founded.

Since the inception of the Order, the combined number of those with gold grade and purple grade cores may be around 200 on the generous side.