

Daily Life 1161

Chapter 1161: Wang Ling's Fan Club, Founded!

It was actually none other than Xia Ming who came up with this idea, and most of the team members eagerly supported it... There was in fact some opposition, such as from Super Chen. For one thing, he thought that setting up a fan club or whatnot was too eye-catching, and for another, he had the vague feeling that Wang Ling didn't like this sort of conspicuous attention.

It had to be said that as the “emperor of truth,” Super Chen was indeed the sort of good brother that was hard to come by. The problem, however, was that the majority of the team members were Wang Ling's fans... As the minority, Super Chen was naturally overruled.

“Wang Ling's fan club. What is this... Who is Wang Ling?” Nan Yixiu was befuddled. Searching his memory, he realized that he had no information at all on Wang Ling.

“It's that lucky student with the dead fish eyes,” Zhu Hanyun said at that moment. He would never forget Wang Ling's appearance, since it was because of Wang Ling that he broke one of his arms. At his reminder, a lot of people recalled who Wang Ling was.

“Oh, it's him...”

“I remember him. He's No. 60 High's mascot.”

Some people gathered round to have a clear look at the rules for joining Wang Ling's fan club written inside the paper airplane.

Everyone: “...”

“Exams and matches won't go well? Can it be that evil?” Someone questioned the veracity of the rules.

“What should we do? Should we join or not?”

“There's no other way. We can't ignore Brother Zhu's arm injury — let's join first. Classmate Lotus Sun from No. 60 High is the young miss of Huaguo Water Curtain Group, and knows how to mix medicine; she should be able to help Brother Zhu's arm injury heal quickly,” said Nan Yixiu.

While there were some who were still unwilling to join the club, only the team captain of each school could make the final decision. Everyone followed the team captain's lead, and if a problem arose later, it was also the team captain who would shoulder the responsibility.

It was only the first day of the survival battle, but many people had already been quickly eliminated.

The team captains of the four schools thus used magic a few minutes later to send the signal for their surrender via Morse code, before the group immediately started up the mountain.

Most people in this group of over forty members didn't take the rules seriously, especially Nan Yixiu, who saw it as nothing more than just playing house. Once they had rested and reorganized their troops, they could immediately surround No. 60 High and swallow them up.

At that time, Nan Yixiu actually didn't realize how serious the issue was...

These rules had been personally drawn up by Gu Shunzhi; as the keeper of cosmic order, what he valued most were rules.

This might seem like an unimportant game, but the context of the rules was real.

In other words, betraying the fan club would really lead to severe consequences.

Wang Ling knew that setting up this fan club was in fact one of Gu Shunzhi's ploys.

It would be too obvious if the Almighty in their team took direct action

But they could cast some simple bad luck curses.

They could use this curse to eliminate those who disobeyed the rules, and nobody would notice anything at all.

What was more, this even saved on them needing to put up special defenses.

...

That first night, No. 60 High, along with the four-school alliance led by South Sea Sky High and Titan High School, successfully occupied Fire Peak.

But it clearly wasn't a very peaceful night.

Lotus Sun helped to wrap Zhu Hanyun's arm with a bandage smeared with a herbal paste which she had produced with the automatic pill maker. She first made pills out of the medicinal ingredients, and then pounded the pills and mixed them with water to create the herbal paste.

"This is a special bone recovery paste. Your injury will have completely healed after six hours." Lotus Sun patiently helped change Zhu Han's bandages, causing the surrounding boys to become green with envy. As the future successor of Huaguo Water Curtain Group, Lotus Sun paid more attention to her image in front of outsiders.

Since they had decided to form an alliance, they should help each other out.

Zhu Hanyun had thought at first that Lotus Sun would be an aloof young lady, but after this encounter, he found Lotus Sun much warmer than he had imagined.

What should he do? Could he join another fan club?

He wanted to join Lotus Sun's fan club.

"Brother, don't overthink it — our team captain treats everyone the same." At that moment, Super Chen came over and patted Zhu Hanyun's shoulder. When he saw how Zhu Hanyun's thoughts seemed to be running wild after Lotus Sun redressed his wound, he knew this guy must have misunderstood something...

As the school's goddess, Lotus Sun indeed treated everyone with basically the same degree of warmth. If there was someone she was more passionate about... it would be Wang Ling.

But Super Chen felt that he understood what Lotus Sun and Wang Ling's relationship was like.

After all, the both of them had experienced that assassination attempt together at the Xiao Family Compound; they could be said to have gone through life and death together.

A friend in need was a friend indeed — only those who had experienced this for themselves truly understood how it felt.

Zhu Hanyun wasn't a fool. Looking at Super Chen, who seemed to be pondering something, he felt that this was a man with a story to tell. "You... are you also chasing Classmate Lotus Sun?"

"I was."

Super Chen said lightly, "But I realized later that Classmate Lotus Sun has too many pursuers, so I gave up. People should be more pragmatic. Furthermore, people often fall in love in a fit of sudden impulse. After calming down and thinking about it, I realized that Classmate Lotus Sun might not really suit me."

"You're so pragmatic..." The corner of Zhu Hanyun's mouth twitched. "So, Classmate Lotus Sun has someone she likes?"

"Did you watch the video from the other day?" asked Super Chen.

He was referring to the video of Xia Ming and Wang Ling's duel. However, this video was later blocked online, and was no longer available now.

"Video? What video?"

"It's nothing... It's fine if you didn't watch it. In any case, I think Classmate Sun probably does have someone she likes." At that moment, Super Chen's gaze shifted to Wang Ling. While he didn't say it directly, the implication was clear.

"So it's like that."

Zhu Hanyun stood up with a disappointed expression on his face.

Super Chen was taken aback. "Are you going to duel him?"

“No.” Zhu Hanyun shook his head. “I’ve already joined the fan club; how can I be so rude to Classmate Wang Ling? Since Classmate Sun likes him, he must be an outstanding person. I’ve decided — I’ll protect Classmate Wang Ling at all costs! At least, I’ll make sure that he survives this competition and make it through to the end!”

Wang Ling: “???”

At that moment, Wang Ling abruptly had a feeling —

It seemed that this competition... had already gone off track thanks to Gu Shunzhi and his gang...

Chapter 1162: Number of Remaining Survivors: 421

That first night could be considered fairly peaceful. All participating schools had found allies, and fighting had broken out on the nearby mountain peaks in the contest for resources. After one day, four hundred and twenty one participants remained.

As Wang Ling had expected, all the schools had chosen to form battle alliances on the first day of the competition. Each alliance consisted of four to five schools, and all the nine peaks were occupied. As for the remaining schools that hadn’t entered an alliance, even if they managed to get through the first day, they would be eliminated sooner or later during the competition if they didn’t find another team or group to give them enough resources to survive.

It was only the first day, and it wasn’t really smooth sailing. No. 60 High and the other schools could be eliminated at any time. After all, on the last day of the survival battle, they would be ranked by the number of casualties they had, so the school with the most survivors would be the winner.

Anything could happen before that. Even if they had chosen to form an alliance, they had been forced to do so in the current situation; there were no true allies at all.

At least, this was what Wang Ling thought before “Wang Ling’s Fan Club” was established...

...

There were altogether five schools in No. 60 High’s camp.

They had currently adopted a defensive position, but that wasn't enough, as people still needed to be sent out to gather both resources and information.

Hence, Lotus Sun suggested that each school pick two members to form a ten-person team every day that would go out to gather resources and scout for information.

No. 60 High had a natural advantage when it came to this matter. Thanks to Mysterious Sea's 3D water screen map, they had a panoramic view of the whole of Nine Dragon Mountain. Furthermore, they now had Nan Yixiu's perception ability, so a life detector function had been added to the map; any human movement within a radius of thirty li would be displayed on the map.

So that no one would get lost while they were out looking for resources, Lotus Sun even created temporary "map talismans."

Whenever necessary, these talismans could be used to project locations with water on the map for thirty seconds.

But it would take too long for Lotus Sun to draw all these handy devices on her own, so a temporary talisman team had been set up in No. 60 High's alliance camp that was dedicated to drawing these talismans.

And Wang Ling was a member of this team.

"Brother Wang, it's too dangerous outside. You just sit tight here and draw talismans." Standing in front of a makeshift table in the camp, Zhu Hanyun gazed reverently at Wang Ling.

Wang Ling: "..."

Compared with the various dangers of gathering resources and intelligence, drawing talismans was certainly ideal for Wang Ling; he could help the team out as well as lay low at base as a little nobody, which was great!

But Wang Ling never expected that the decision to keep him on the talisman team was something that everyone had directly decided on after discussion.

Apart from the “map talisman” which could display a map, there were in fact a lot of other types of talismans.

For example, “enhancement talismans” could be used to enhance weapons.

This was a spell which could temporarily change a weapon’s essence. In other words, if you didn’t have any weapons, you could use a branch or a bamboo stick; with the enhancement talisman, it would turn into steel for the time being.

This would give a person some combat capability.

And if the talisman was used on a spirit sword or magic treasure, it would become twice as lethal.

Furthermore, there were various other types of talismans for protection and scout work, such as “fireball talismans,” “smoke talismans,” “water dragon talismans,” “invisibility talismans,” and “aura-concealing talismans” and so on.

Drawing talismans certainly wasn’t difficult for Wang Ling.

But the problem was...

No matter how hard he tried to curb his power...

The talismans he drew were significantly more powerful than what a normal Foundation Establishment student produced...

...

Sunday, November 16th.

It was the second day of the survival battle. The number “421” on the main mountain dome hadn’t changed.

Wang Ling was guessing that in the next day or two, each school would focus on secretly scouting for information; there wouldn't be any large-scale battles, nor would the number of participants decrease as significantly as on the first day.

On the second day, No. 60 High drew lots, and Super Chen and Wang Zhen were chosen as their representatives to go out and gather resources and intelligence.

The person in charge of the team was Nan Yixiu.

"We'll divide into two teams, one to collect resources and the other to scout for information. The team collecting resources will be safer since it'll only be operating nearby. Make sure to use talismans to shield your location, and it'll be difficult to detect you. On the other hand, scouting for intelligence will be very dangerous. Who's willing to come with me?" Nan Yixiu asked as he looked at the ten people in front of them.

Since Nan Yixiu had decided to join the scout operation, the other student from South Sea Sky High would naturally follow him. It was a guy with glasses and a watermelon-shaped haircut, who looked very stuffy to Super Chen; he inwardly nicknamed the boy Four Eyes for the time being.

"We're in," Super Chen volunteered.

This was a rare opportunity to be part of a national competition, so laying low at base was utterly meaningless to Super Chen. Wang Zhen felt that this was very much in keeping with Super Chen's hot-blooded personality – in any case, it was Gu Shunzhi who had rigged the outcome when they drew lots.

With Wang Zhen following Super Chen, there basically wouldn't be any sort of danger.

Besides, Wang Zhen was actually very curious to see what Foundation Establishment cultivators on Earth could do in actual combat.

Hence, Wang Zhen directly agreed with Super Chen. "I have no objections."

Since scouting was a more dangerous task, Nan Yixiu thought it would be hard to make up the numbers. He never expected Super Chen and Wang Zhen to volunteer, and he was delighted.

A four-person scout team was just nice, since it would be hard to coordinate if there were too many people.

After happily deciding on the division of tasks, the two teams acted separately.

The closest peak to Fire Peak was Mist Peak, which Nan Yixiu had already been eyeing since early on.

“There’s a very familiar aura on Mist Peak,” Wang Zhen said probingly as he followed behind Nan Yixiu; he could more or less guess Nan Yixiu’s true purpose.

“I learned yesterday that No.1 Demon-Subduing High’s Gao Tianming has formed an alliance with four schools, and they’ve occupied the peak,” said Nan Yixiu.

“Do you have a grudge?” Wang Zhen asked again.

“No, I just feel that this guy is a little harder to deal with; since he’s very close to us, he might launch a surprise attack at any time. Also, given Gao Tianming’s personality... my guess is that the other schools were forced to become his allies.” Nan Yixiu furrowed his brow. He was worried about No.1 Demon-Subduing High’s Virus Puppet Spell, which was an extremely powerful control spell – the critical point was that it was hard to defend against.

Nan Yixiu had fought Gao Tianming before.

He knew very well what Gao Tianming’s personality was like.

The guy was insane!

To him, there was no such thing as real allies at all!

Because no ally could be more reliable than turning them into puppets that he could control!

Chapter 1163: Wang Zhen’s Use!

“Know yourself and your enemy, and every victory will be yours.” Scouting for information was one of the most important tasks in a battle for survival. Each alliance camp would have different

means of gathering intelligence. Generally speaking, all the advantages an alliance camp had should be combined to maximize the results of a scout operation.

The camp on Fire Peak, which was represented by No. 60 High, basically obtained a natural advantage when it came to scouting for intelligence after South Sea Sky High joined them. Nan Yixiu was proficient in the “study of perception.” Furthermore, he knew how to use some of the power of nature, and with the survival battle taking place in this natural environment, he was completely in his element.

After approaching Mist Peak’s border, Nan Yixiu, Wang Zhen, Super Chen and Four Eyes hid themselves. The wild pheasant which they had caught en route would play a critical role at that moment.

Nan Yixiu cast a spell as he looked into the pheasant’s eyes. “Mental Assimilation Spell!”

“What’s this?” Super Chen was puzzled.

“This is the spell Senior Brother Nan is best in. He can assimilate mentally with a living creature and control its brainwaves, ultimately sharing their sight, hearing, and sense of smell. The bird’s brain is now completely connected with Senior Brother Nan’s,” Four Eyes said as he pushed up his glasses.

“I see.” Super Chen nodded. He finally realized that Nan Yixiu’s purpose for catching the pheasant wasn’t to eat it.

But why a pheasant?

Super Chen was still puzzled.

“Pheasants are the least eye-catching. If you choose an insect, most of them have very unusual vision, and it isn’t easy to learn about the enemy through them. On the other hand, high-ranking creatures are too big to capture and control,” Four Eyes continued.

So, to summarize, the pheasant was indeed the most ideal target for assimilation in the current environment. Furthermore, this sort of wild pheasant which lived on Nine Dragon Mountain wasn’t any ordinary bird. They had spirit qi and excellent vision, almost as good as a hawk’s, and could see far into the distance.

At that moment, Nan Yixiu was controlling the pheasant. He had it fly onto a branch overhead as it stared at a distant location.

But then something unexpected happened. A sharp arrow shot out through the clouds from the summit of Mist Peak and directly pierced the pheasant! The pheasant had barely flown into the tree when it was torn apart by an arrow on the spot and turned into minced meat.

Nan Yixiu was unable to react in time to such a horrifying scene, and his Mental Assimilation Spell was interrupted, leaving him deathly white and drenched in sweat, which were the repercussions of the spell. Nan Yixiu would usually stop the spell right away once he knew it was dangerous, but what happened just now was so sudden that the dying pheasant's pain was also transmitted to him, making it hard to bear for a moment.

"They have pretty quick reflexes." Super Chen was also petrified at this scene. It had been no more than ten seconds after the pheasant was sent up, when an arrow had been launched from the distance to kill the pheasant with pinpoint precision.

Super Chen examined the arrow. It had a simple, self-made wooden arrowhead coated with some deadly poison. If a person was shot, the golden talisman would determine right away that they were about to "die," and burst forth with a shield of golden light.

But this couldn't be the power of a Foundation Establishment cultivator.

It had to be pointed out that they were at least five li away from Mist Peak!

In the absence of bow-like magic weapons, a self-made wooden arrow could actually be launched over such a far distance... This was practically impossible!

At that moment, Wang Zhen said, "Terrain advantage."

At these words, Super Chen immediately reacted. "So, it's the terrain!"

If it had to do with the terrain, this super long-distance shot was indeed possible!

Mist Peak was the most difficult mountain peak to reach. The peak could generate invisible drafts of wind that would blow away any living thing that tried to get to the top. Combining this terrain's unusual wind pressure with good archery skills, a long-distance shot wouldn't be difficult. Conversely, the wind pressure was the lowest on the top of the mountain.

At that moment, Nan Yixiu came back to his senses after his fluster. Everything had happened so suddenly that he hadn't been able to react for one moment.

But he was already doing his best to adjust his mood. "Gao Tianming chose Mist Peak since it's easy to defend and difficult to attack, and basically has a natural advantage. The problem, however, is replenishing resources. They can't stay on top of the mountain the whole time; they also need to send out supply teams to gather resources. We can ambush these small teams."

But just as Nan Yixiu was done speaking, Super Chen detected new movement.

Super Chen noticed that someone on the top of Mist Peak had actually released what looked like kites... Buoyed by the air pressure at the top of Mist Peak, these kites flew in various directions. Tied to each kite was a flat puppet with a bamboo basket on its back. When each puppet opened its mouth, a long, thin tube with a long hook on the end of a silk thread extended outward.

"He's actually taking advantage of the terrain, and using a fishing method to collect the spirit fruits and plants nearby..." Nan Yixiu was deeply astonished when he looked at this scene. He already felt that Gao Tianming would be difficult to deal with, but he hadn't expected him to even go so far as to use puppets to collect resources. If that was the case, then their camp was utterly self-sufficient, and no one needed to be sent down from the mountaintop to look for resources at all!

Super Chen had thought that No. 60 High was already well fortified; who would have thought that there would be someone even better than them at laying low.

"What should we do?" Four Eyes was sweating and also felt despair. They didn't normally feel this sense of bewilderment; it was just that based on their typical exchanges with No. 1 Devil-Subduing High, this was clearly the most difficult encounter yet. Gao Tianming had gained abundant experience through numerous battles, and he was still constantly learning and growing. Now, he had finally reached a jaw-dropping point in battle tactics.

Nan Yixiu clenched his teeth, unwilling to accept the situation. Just like how No. 60 High and No. 59 High were enemies, there was also an intense feud between South Sea Sky High and No. 1 Devil-Subduing High. From the moment Nan Yixiu came to know Gao Tianming, this was their

third confrontation. Their previous two clashes had ended in a draw, but this time, Nan Yixiu felt that he was at a clear disadvantage.

“Let’s switch locations first. I’m afraid they might have already detected us.” Nan Yixiu frowned. These kite puppets that had been released from the top of the mountain to collect resources could also be used to monitor the surroundings. Nan Yixiu wasn’t sure if Gao Tianming had noticed that it was him, but what was clear from that arrow earlier was that their position had been exposed.

“They brought in these kite puppets, didn’t they?” Wang Zhen asked.

Nan Yixiu nodded. “Definitely. These kite puppets are equipped with hooks on long strings... there’s no way they could finish making these puppets in just a few days.”

At that moment, Wang Zhen suddenly said, “How about this? I’ll lure them in as bait, and the rest of you think of a way to cut the strings. Cut as many as you can.”

The other three students were horrified. “You’re going to be bait?”

Wang Zhen smiled helplessly. “Relax, don’t look at me like that. I’ve been taking beatings since I was a child – I’m very sturdy...”

Chapter 1164: Wang Zhen’s Special Talent

In chapters 802 and 803, Wang Zhen had a nightmare after being injured, which took him back to his miserable childhood. As a man who had been beaten since young, from when his parents beat him up until he started choosing the tool to beat himself with, Wang Zhen’s experiences were the stuff of legend.

Because of his special constitution, which was capable of enduring beatings and would achieve an awakening after being struck, Wang Zhen’s body had been tempered by all sorts of tools.

A divine whip as thick as a coke bottle, a meteorite hammer with 36,000 sharp spikes all over it, a head-shattering stone made out of king iron... Wang Zhen had stood firm and survived under these tools. He was never completely crushed by his miserable childhood and the pressures of life, and he was later struck by a truth.

He was probably a natural-born warrior, and should rush to the very front as a meat shield.

Thus, when Wang Zhen decided to use his body to draw the enemy's attention, the people behind him looked at his back and felt that he looked way cool.

Wang Zhen removed the life-saving golden talisman on his arm and gave it to Nan Yixiu. "Take this."

"You're giving this to me?" Nan Yixiu felt it was inconceivable. Logically, if Wang Zhen was going to give it to someone, it should be to Super Chen! Super Chen was from No. 60 High! Not Nan Yixiu, who was an outsider. Even if they were allies, it didn't make sense to give him the important life-saving golden talisman, which was so important!

Nan Yixiu refused. "If you give this to me, what about you? It's too dangerous."

"It's fine, they can't hurt me." Wang Zhen smiled confidently. "I'm giving it to you because I trust you. If something does go wrong, just leave me, and evacuate with Super Chen and Four Eyes."

This trust deeply moved Nan Yixiu.

He no longer hesitated, and reached out to take the golden talisman.

Since he had accepted it, he would carry out his duty and mission!

Nan Yixiu was a responsible and reliable person.

Wang Zhen had realized this early on.

He was someone from the Domain of the Gods; it was impossible for him not to be able to see into one's heart.

Strictly speaking, this was also one of Wang Zhen's special talents.

Because he had grown up experiencing all sorts of violence and malice, he had a particularly keen sense for evil intentions, and could detect the tags in a person's heart. With Nan Yixiu, for example, Wang Zhen could see the tags [integrity], [determination], [quick wits], [reliability]...

With Liu Qingyi, Wang Zhen could see [violence], [tsundere], [kindness], [charm]...

As for Gu Shunzhi, he had very few tags: [resourcefulness], [keeper of order]...

Because of Gu Shunzhi's special identity, Wang Zhen was unable to see all of his tags since some of his strength was still being suppressed by Heavenly Dao. Usually, he would be able to see at least four tags in a person's heart.

Sometimes he could even see more than ten, or even twenty tags.

Of course, there were people whose tags he couldn't detect.

Wang Ling, for example.

Wang Zhen remembered that when he had checked Wang Ling's tag, it was like this: [...]

...

After discussing battle tactics with Nan Yixiu, Wang Zhen simply charged forward, undaunted by the danger. While he knew that Gao Tianming, who was at the Foundation Establishment stage, wouldn't be able to do any harm to his body, there was no way Wang Zhen would physically deflect an attack with his own flesh in such a public situation – it would be too obvious.

Thus, while Wang Zhen's goal was to open battle by taunting them with his presence, he was still planning to use his reflexes to evade any attack.

The other party was a Foundation Establishment cultivator. How fast could his attack be? Wang Zhen would definitely be able to react in time.

Besides, even if he was hit, it would be no more painful than being bitten by a mosquito... He hadn't cried out even once when he was struck with the divine whip.

He advanced another four li, and was less than a li away from the foot of Mist Peak now. Such an obvious target had naturally been noticed by the students on the mountaintop.

Several sharp arrows were shot at Wang Zhen. In front of these Foundation Establishment cultivators, his dynamic vision went into overdrive. As the arrows flew at him, he felt them slow down to a thousandth of their speed.

He stepped to the side lightly and perfectly avoided them.

His posture was a little like Wang Ling's. During his time on Earth, Wang Zhen frequently reflected on his battles with Wang Ling, and had also unconsciously started to copy Wang Ling's elusive movements. Unfortunately, he couldn't grasp the essence, no matter how he copied Wang Ling.

On the mountaintop, Gao Tianming had noticed the movements below.

"Captain Gao, we've detected a person from No. 60 High," a Stars High student stepped forward and said with an expressionless face.

The whole of Stars High had already fallen under Gao Tianming's Virus Puppet Spell, and the 10-person team was now under his control.

To Gao Tianming, these people were nothing more than his tools.

He stared at Wang Zhen at the foot of the mountain with a profound gaze, and fell into deep thought.

He took out a photo from his pocket. After another comparison through a puppet with far sight, he confirmed that the person at the foot of the mountain was Wang Zhen in the flesh.

A while ago, someone had found Gao Tianming and given him a picture.

The people in it were all from No. 60 High: Wang Zhen, Liu Qingyi, Gu Shunzhi, Zhen Yuan (Zhenyuan) and Fang Xing.

Gao Tianming didn't know what their backgrounds were, but after giving him the photo, the person had requested that he do whatever he could to cripple them in this competition.

Of course, trying to severely injure these big shots was easier said than done.

It would naturally be very difficult for Gao Tianming to do so with his initial strength.

So, the man gave Gao Tianming a frozen dumpling to eat...

Gao Tianming could hardly believe his eyes. "What's this?"

"Something that can quickly and permanently boost your strength," replied the mysterious man in the white cloak.

"A dumpling?"

"This isn't an ordinary dumpling. They were pretty much all gone at first, but thanks to some traces left behind, I was able to restore them. Eat one, and you'll stand on top of the world."

Before Gao Tianming ate the dumpling, he had thought the person in front of him might be a true-blue psychopath.

The person's words sounded very chuuni, but they carried a devilish power which made Gao Tianming feel as if he couldn't control his own hands, and he grabbed the dumpling and ate it.

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At that moment, Wang Zhen still didn't know that the person he was facing wasn't an ordinary Foundation Establishment cultivator.

Gao Tianming had hidden his power while he was testing it out.

He had obtained the power of Shadow Dao, and learned to control his shadow under the guidance of the mysterious person who had given him the dumpling. He simply needed to withdraw his shadow to perfectly suppress his own strength.

And now was the moment to turn his shadow loose...

Gao Tianming knew that he had become very strong, but he still needed to test it out on an opponent.

In any case, he was only going to severely injure the other party, not beat them to death.

That was what Gao Tianming.

Then, he released his shadow!

The sudden onset of danger made Wang Zhen's hair stand on end!

He could actually sense death...

Chapter 1165: The Shadow Image World's Special Capability

As an outstanding meat shield, Wang Zhen didn't believe there were many attacks that could make him shudder. Moreover, this was a competition for Foundation Establishment cultivators. Wang Zhen hadn't treated it seriously to begin with, and even in his dreams, he would never have thought that a Foundation Establishment high school student could explode with such terrifying power – this wasn't something a Foundation Establishment cultivator was capable of.

Wang Zhen saw a puppet charge jerkily at him at full speed. It was made of fine steel and was pretty big at two meters tall. It had a thick and broad build, like a roly-poly toy. It charged forward with the clunky sound of gear wheels turning, while the steel wings on its back cut through the air with the sound of a cat running its claws down a blackboard.

Every puppet master had their own exclusive puppet. Gao Tianming's puppet was called "Ripper." When it attacked, it cut through the air with the sort of smile you would see on a doll in a horror flick, and it lunged at Wang Zhen with its steel teeth bared to swallow him up.

Wang Zhen wasn't intimidated by this sort of attack. As one of the most outstanding tank fighters in the Domain of the Gods, he chose to meet it head-on! He wanted to uncover the secret of this puppet, which had been enhanced by some mysterious power.

However, when Wang Zhen's fist collided with Ripper's teeth, a black shadow suddenly emerged, and Wang Zhen felt a powerful suction!

In the next second, darkness descended!

When he came back to his senses, the scene in front of him was no longer of Nine Dragon Mountain, but of a land of shadows and wilderness. Not a sound could be heard, and there was only a repulsive feeling which lingered on his body; it was an aura which reeked of blood and clogged up his five senses, and he felt like his body was bound and sinking in blood.

Was he in Ripper's stomach?

No...

Wang Zhen didn't think it was as simple as that. He was sure he was in an alien world which was similar to a small world. It was utterly impossible for a Foundation Establishment cultivator to possess this sort of power.

Furthermore, this world was far too dark.

Most of the small worlds which cultivators built were based on the laws of Heavenly Dao. Before his powers were restricted, Wang Zhen also possessed a small world of his own. A small world could contain mountains and rivers, forests and deserts, and even living creatures. To use the closest comparison, Wang Zhen felt that a true small world was something like those house-building games. After you were done setting up the laws of the world, you could decorate your house, plant some flowers, or raise a pet.

But the alien world in front his eyes was unimaginably dark.

Wang Zhen abruptly recalled something that Wang Ling had mentioned before.

Shadow image space?

Could this be the shadow image space created due to Ling Zhenren's sister's influence?

He knew that Wang Ling had put in a massive amount of effort to dispose of those frozen dumplings which had scattered in their distribution outside. Wang Zhen thought that the matter had been resolved, and didn't expect to run into the problem here.

Wang Zhen was now certain that he had been sucked into the shadow image space. To break out of it, he had to find and defeat the heart demon so that the space would collapse from the inside.

Just as he was about to act, Wang Zhen suddenly felt a stab of pain, and his entire body turned into wood as he became a wooden figure!

Right after that, long, fine gossamer strings dropped from the sky and attached themselves to his body! Wang Zhen discovered that he could no longer control his own body as he completely turned into a marionette! Driven by this mysterious power, Wang Zhen started moving toward a palace step by step.

It was the only palace in this shadow image world.

Wang Zhen was astonished to find that there were other people here who had turned into puppets like him. Many of them were students participating in the competition this time, and they were all hanging from strings and moving according to the will of this world. Some force pulled Wang Zhen toward a resource area.

Completely out of his control, he picked up some bricks from a pile on the ground and started to move toward a wall that had yet to be constructed.

A puppet in front of Wang Zhen fell, and the bricks it was holding were smashed on the ground.

"Don't disobey my will!"

Gao Tianming's faint voice resounded in the space.

An invisible whip lashed out at the puppet that had slipped, and bits of wood which reeked strongly of blood broke off of the puppet's body.

Realization dawned on Wang Zhen at that moment.

This palace was a sweatshop for those who had been forcibly turned into puppets.

"Is this the power of Shadow Dao?" Wang Zhen was shocked.

Shadow image, shadow image world, and the power unique to each shadow image world...

Wang Zhen knew he was probably trapped.

He now had to think of a way to let everyone know of the place he was trapped in.

...

Following the plan that he had initially discussed with Wang Zhen, Nan Yixiu was about to cut the strings of those "kite puppets" to stop Gao Tianming fishing for resources.

But Nan Yixiu's expression suddenly hardened. "Something's wrong! Classmate Wang Zhen's aura suddenly disappeared!"

All of Nan Yixiu's hair stood on end.

There were three possible reasons that a person's aura would suddenly disappear from the map.

One: Wang Zhen was deliberately hiding his aura.

This was unlikely to be the case. Based on the plan they had settled on, Wang Zhen was going out as a meat shield to taunt the other side – he wanted them to sense his aura.

Two: He had fallen into a mysterious space...

It might be spatial magic, or a place that was like a small world.

But the question was... how could an Almighty capable of opening a small world possibly show up at a Foundation Establishment competition?

The third one and final possibility was the one Nan Yixiu didn't want to believe in the most: Death...

...

On the other side in No. 60 High's camp, Liu Qingyi felt a little uneasy after she sensed that Wang Zhen's aura seemed to have vanished from the map of Nine Dragon Mountain. However, she couldn't rule out the possibility that Wang Zhen was hiding his aura for the mission.

Was it possible that this idiot could even make a mistake in a Foundation Establishment competition?

Liu Qingyi was a little worried.

She didn't like Wang Zhen and had even wished countless times for the damn guy to just die! But both of them had part of their powers sealed away as punishment by Heavenly Dao, and trapped on earth, they had been living under someone else's roof together.

She realized that Wang Zhen wasn't actually as annoying as she had thought.

1...

At the same time, Wang Ling's expression gradually hardened.

If he wasn't mistaken –

That had indeed been the aura of Shadow Dao just now.

He had already completely destroyed all those frozen dumplings, but there were actually leftovers?

Wang Ling frowned slightly.

He had reason to believe that Wang Zhen's aura disappearing had to do with the aura of Shadow Dao.

“Let's go take a look...”

Wang Ling sighed inwardly.

He had always been the sort of person who hated inconveniences.

When all was said and done, however, it was his little sister who had caused this disaster.

It was a brother's duty to clean up his little sister's mess.

Chapter 1166: Want To Be The Ideal Son-In-Law Of Huaguo Water Curtain Group?

At that moment, Gao Tianming was standing at the top of Mist Peak. All around him, the twelve kite puppets who were responsible for collecting resources were moving according to his will. He could collect resources and at the same time use the puppets to survey the distant surroundings and enjoy the beautiful scenery at the foot of Mist Peak. Looking down on everything from here, Gao Tianming, for the first time, felt the thrill of being able to stand on high after obtaining boundless power.

The feeling of power was indeed splendid beyond compare.

For Gao Tianming, Shadow Dao was like getting chocolate after craving sugar for a long time. It gave him a strong mental and physical kick.

Shadow Dao, shadow image, and the unique capability of the latter...

Gao Tianming had no idea that there was a mystical power like this in the world.

Now that he had this special ability, could he still lose this competition?

He could use the shadow image to bring people into his shadow image space, forcibly transform them into his marionettes, and force them to work nonstop. In the long run, his shadow image space would continue to grow infinitely and be able to hold even more puppets. These people whom he had turned into puppets would become his stepping stones to success!

To Gao Tianming, these marionettes were like the rewards one got from a claw machine in a shopping mall. Not only would they be completely reduced to workers in his puppet factory, they would also become part of a unique collection.

“Captain, there seems to be someone at the foot of the mountain.”

At that moment, a voice sounded in Gao Tianming’s ears. It was No. 1 Devil-Subduing High’s vice captain, Xie Ming, a man with naturally curly, yellow hair.

Xie Ming had also become one of Gao Tianming’s puppets.

But Gao Tianming had gone easy on his classmates.

He didn’t put them in his puppet factory. After the competition was over, he would release all the No. 1 Devil-Subduing High students. It was too dangerous to leave them alone to act as he wanted.

Thus, they might as well become his puppets and let him manipulate them all at once so that he could win the competition smoothly.

Given Nine Dragon Mountain’s lush vegetation, he was worried that he might have overlooked something, so he dispatched professional pawns like Xie Ming to hide at the foot of the mountain as human meat shields. Once they spotted the enemy, he could quickly pull them back to the top of the mountain with the strings of the kite puppets to report the situation.

After hearing Xie Ming's report, Gao Tianming was utterly astonished.

He had noticed that coward Nan Yixiu run away earlier with his scouts.

Then, who else would come?

Zhu Hanyun from Titan High? Or Lotus Sun of No. 60 High?

Gao Tianming pictured his opponent in his mind. Judging from the first elimination round, he felt that these two people were close to him in terms of fighting strength.

If it was Zhu Hanyun, he could take the opportunity to subdue him and turn him into a puppet for the Meatball Tank strategy later.

If it was Lotus Sun...

Gao Tianming thought that if it really was Lotus Sun, he wanted to turn her into his puppet even more.

He still had plans to become the ideal son-in-law of Huaguo Water Curtain Group, and the reason he was working so hard was to stand on the same level as Lotus Sun one day.

There were times when a person's birth decided where his starting line would be.

Gao Tianming acknowledged the fact that he had started late.

But if he worked a little harder, he might be able to catch up.

Now, this powerful ability that he had obtained was the best proof of his efforts.

However, when he dispatched the kite puppets to check out the person at the foot of the mountain, his expression abruptly changed.

He had guessed wrong.

This person was neither Zhu Hanyun nor Lotus Sun.

It was a person from No. 60 High whom he had never expected.

“This person is...”

Gao Tianming tried hard to recall the young man with the dead fish eyes and expressionless face who had started climbing Mist Peak step by step. His loose uniform fluttered in the wind which blew down from the mountaintop.

Under this massive wind pressure, the young man moved forward at a steady and light pace. Mist Peak could be divided into four stages.

The first stage at the foot of the mountain was the smooth stage. The wind pressure at this stage was normal, and similar to a hurricane.

The second stage was the interim stage. The wind pressure during this stage was more violent. Cultivators who wanted to climb to the top needed to channel their spirit power into the soles of their feet so that they stuck firmly to the ground as they climbed upward. If they didn't have enough spirit energy at this stage, it was very possible for them to tumble back down after making it halfway up the mountain.

The third stage was called “hell wind mist.” The wind pressure here was the heaviest at over ten tons; it was like a truck falling from the mountaintop, and a constant pressure on the shoulders. One might even lose their life if they didn't get help in time.

The fourth stage was the safe stage. Thanks to Mist Peak's unusual geographical location, only the mountaintop had no wind pressure.

Gao Tianming was already on the mountaintop, but when he saw Wang Ling walking through the second stage in such a relaxed manner, like a grandpa strolling through a garden in a straight line, and even revealing a light and contented expression in the third “hell wind mist” stage, Gao Tianming simply couldn't believe it.

“Why isn’t he the least bit affected by such heavy wind pressure?”

But very quickly, Gao Tianming noticed something about Wang Ling.

He saw a number of talismans which were burning continuously in Wang Ling’s right hand.

It was a huge number of Wind-Setting Talismans! As long as you had this talisman, you could stand firm in the middle of a hurricane.

“So it wasn’t because of his strength.” Gao Tianming’s expression lightened up. He stared at Wang Ling, who was climbing up the mountain with the burning Wind-Setting Talismans, and couldn’t help but sneer in his heart. In his eyes, this was nothing more than a freak who was courting death by coming here.

Indeed, there was no need for Wang Ling to use the Wind-Setting Talismans.

Mist Peak’s petty wind pressure couldn’t crush him.

But taking this competition into account, and the fact that someone might notice their movements here at any time, Wang Ling decided to use the talismans to hide his true strength.

That way, it would seem to outsiders that he had borrowed the power of the talismans.

After successfully climbing to the top, the wind settled down, so there was naturally no need for Wang Ling to continue burning the talismans.

With one hand in the pocket of his school uniform, he walked toward Gao Tianming.

This close, he could already feel the evil power emanating from Gao Tianming.

It wasn’t that the power of Shadow Dao was evil.

Rather, Shadow Dao could arouse the evil in a person’s heart and awaken their inner demons.

If you were an upstanding and good person with core socialist values and well-rounded attainments in morality, intelligence, physical fitness and aesthetic sense, not only would you gain the power of Shadow Dao, you also wouldn't be corrupted by evil.

Chapter 1167: Gao Tianming's Fall From Grace

Shadow Dao was a two-edged Great Dao with a critical flaw that was very easy for evil people to exploit. However, Wang Ling felt that this flaw could be fixed. After all, Ah Nuan had yet to be born. She was probably the most powerful embryo in the world, or even the universe, right now, but she still had limited control over Shadow Dao. As long as Ah Nuan grew up and got rid of the aspect of Shadow Dao which triggered "evil," it would still be a Dao that would benefit all of mankind.

Wang Ling couldn't say for sure if Wang Nuan would cause all sorts of havoc after birth like he had due to lack of control over her power. What he could be sure of, however, was that Father and Mother Wang's instructions for him hadn't changed: As her big brother who had experienced the pain of losing control before, what he could do was help lead Ah Nuan on the right path.

"Relying on burning talismans to climb to the top? No. 60 High really has a lot of talent..." Everyone in the command center looked at the scene in front of them. They had already noticed movement on the top of Mist Peak. Gao Tianming had devoured Wang Zhen in a blind corner, so the scene hadn't been recorded. Until now, no one in the command center knew that Gao Tianming had already fallen into a demonic state.

Thus, when Wang Ling appeared on the summit in an attempt to rescue Wang Zhen, the headmasters in the command center just treated it as a normal Foundation Establishment duel. However, as Wang Ling's head disciple, Odd Zhuo instantly understood what Wang Ling was going to do.

He was all too familiar with Wang Ling's personality.

He wouldn't appear on the front line so easily to take action.

If he had chosen to make a move, he must have run into some problem.

As for burning talismans as he climbed to the top, it was very likely just a cover.

Even if he wasn't with Wang Ling, nor even the commander in chief of the operation this time, Odd Zhuo thoroughly understood that his job was to divert other people's attention from Wang Ling.

He promptly gestured to the staff member on the side, who was controlling the display, to cut away from the scene.

To prevent this very situation, Odd Zhuo and Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had plotted early on to take over this staff position, and this person was in fact someone who had been dispatched by the Office of Strategic Deception.

Seeing the image on the large screen cut away, Odd Zhuo sighed with relief inwardly.

But he tensed up once again at Old Huang's next words. "Why did you cut away? I remember the list said that Gao Tianming is the strongest of No.1 Demon-Subduing High's new students, and also the team captain this time. His opponent is No. 60 High's mascot Student Wang Ling. Their fight should be worth watching."

Odd Zhuo: "..."

Given Old Huang's status and identity as the shifu of one of the Ten Founding Generals, President Qi, it was impossible for Odd Zhuo not to know how much respect the former enjoyed in the cultivation world. The way Old Huang said it, Odd Zhuo immediately knew that he had to switch back to the scene.

Fortunately, Odd Zhuo had a plan B.

This was the second plan he had prepared for Wang Ling's sake, in the event that Odd Zhuo was asked to switch back to the scene.

It was just that the scene that he would switch back to wasn't the true scene of the battle.

...

At that moment, in a dark studio in Songhai city, Dharmaraja and Fatty Luo, this pair of slightly plump buffoons, were already fully prepared. They had already been on standby when the scene

first cut away. In any case, they were Soul Formation experts; it wasn't difficult for them to emulate a duel between two Foundation Establishment cultivators.

This dark studio had a live projection effect, and could project an image of Mist Peak's entire landscape that was so realistic that one could hardly tell that it was fake.

What Dharmaraja and Fatty Luo were going to do was use the Transformation Spell to turn into Gao Tianming and Wang Ling.

After that, they would use the props which they had prepared beforehand to give a live performance.

Fatty Luo had produced these props earlier on.

After some investigation, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had gotten a complete list of magic treasures that students from the various schools might smuggle into the competition, and No.1 Demon-Subduing High's puppet was on the list.

Now, it was a fight between Wang Ling and Gao Tianming. Fatty Luo immediately transformed into Gao Tianming and changed into the clothes he had prepared earlier before he took out a puppet prop which he had made himself – his “Fatty Luo Hardware” had been open for a long time and had received all kinds of odd custom orders for magic treasures; naturally, they had included puppets like this.

Thus, it wasn't hard for Fatty Luo to make puppets.

“Fatty Luo, isn't your puppet a little too detailed...”

When Boss Luio took out the puppet he designed, Dharmaraja was taken aback.

Rather than a puppet, Dharmaraja felt it might as well just be called an action figurine. It was painted all over, and its figure even conformed to the golden ratio. The most important was that it was even wearing clothes, and it was so detailed that even its finger joints could move freely.

Fatty Luo: “Dharmaraja, you don't understand. Puppets also need to look good. In any case, I'm still a magic treasure designer; I just can't take the crude and ugly puppets that Gao Tianming, this Foundation Establishment junior, uses.”

Dharmaraja: “I understand, but the question is... why does your puppet look like Lord Jingke?”

Fatty Luo: “What a pointless question! Only Lord Jingke deserves my serious treatment! Be careful when you fight me later, and don’t break my figurine... no, my puppet! In any case, this is just for show, and we just need to go through the motions!”

Dharmaraja: “Then do you have another puppet? Change it with another one!”

Fatty Luo: “I do! Don’t regret it after I’ve changed it!”

“...” Dharmaraja suddenly had a bad feeling.

...

At that moment, Odd Zhuo sent a signal from the command center.

The scene would be switched back soon.

Dharmaraja and Fatty Luo prepared themselves and immediately entered “Oscar movie king” mode.

There was no doubt that this was a contest for best acting.

Dharmaraja, starring as “Wang Ling,” starred expressionlessly at Fatty Luo, who was starring as “Gao Tianming.” Dharmaraja didn’t speak because he knew Ling Zhenren had always been a person of few words, and he would easily give himself away if he talked too much.

As for Gao Tianming...

Fatty Luo didn’t know him very well, and could only rely on himself for this act.

And so, when Old Man Wang and all the headmasters in the command center saw the scene in the studio –

Everyone was struck dumb by the puppet behind Fatty Luo.

“We only cut away for a moment; how did Student Gao’s puppet change so much?” Old Huang was puzzled. He remembered that Gao Tianming’s puppet was a little more crude and scary-looking.

“Youngsters – it’s certainly very normal to have one or two detailed puppets.” President Qi laughed on the side. “But I didn’t expect there to be such a huge difference in Student Gao Tianming’s style. Perhaps he’s a shut-in.”

“A shut-in?”

Old Huang frowned as he shot a glance at the headmaster of No.1 Demon-Subduing High, Li Qingxi. “Headmaster Li, I didn’t expect the students of your esteemed school to have this side to them. A puppet master’s puppet can actually reflect their personality.”

“...”

As headmaster, Li Qingxi was also stupefied as he stared at the sexy female puppet behind Fatty Luo on the screen.

He remembered that his student Gao Tianming didn’t have this sort of style!

What on earth happened in that moment when the scene cut away?

...

This was the puppet that Fatty Luo had switched to one second before the scene switched back. It was made with replica skin, and was known as: Adult Puppet...

And it was stark naked, with not a stitch of clothing on it...

Hence, everyone in the command center now knew that Gao Tianming from No.1 Demon Subduing High had a dirty mind...

Chapter 1168: Full Body Shadow Dao

Actually, Odd Zhuo had always felt that Fatty Luo and Dharmaraja had acting talent. While the two of them were putting on a fake fight with moves that didn't actually hit flesh, it still looked very realistic, with the sound of qi explosions that one would expect of a Foundation Establishment punch. The only thing that was out of place was the incongruous puppet behind Fatty Luo.

This was, in fact, a narrative foil.

It was like in a detective thriller, where the utterly brilliant Holmes was paired with a Watson who constantly asked questions. The reason why Fatty Luo had chosen this awful setting for Gao Tianming was largely for him to serve as a foil to Ling Zhenren's personality!

This sort of contrast in particular really made Wang Ling look like a perfectly normal Foundation Establishment student!

Moreover, Fatty Luo was deliberately pulling his punches, which made it look as if Dharmaraja, who was acting as Wang Ling, was floating around lithely and moving so nimbly that everyone couldn't help gasping in amazement.

For one moment, everyone was deeply drawn in by the Wang Ling played by Dharmaraja.

When the headmasters saw this, they couldn't help praising him one after another.

"Somehow, I feel that this No. 60 High student has an exceptionally refined character, and looks very appealing!"

"Wonderful! Look, look at his nimble movements and how his tempo doesn't change. Despite the aggressive and constant changes in how he moves, his breathing is still so steady – it's no weaker than what cultivators with higher cultivation bases have."

"That's right, I agree! Also, did you notice, Student Wang Ling's hair seems to be standing up in the fight with Gao Tianming."

“Standing up? Isn’t it because of the wind?”

“Look carefully! Student Wang Ling is clearly using a thunderbolt buff spell to increase damage in this melee fight; the electric currents running through his body can stimulate his meridians, even as he’s fighting, and cause his strength to increase continuously! Who would have thought that such an ordinary student from No. 60 High would be able to be so clear-headed in a fight!”

“Student Wang Ling is certainly handsome. He looks like a Super Saiyan with his hair standing up.”

“It can’t be helped, given the contrast.”

As the headmasters discussed the matter, the person who was most hurt was, of course, Li Qingxi, the headmaster of No. 1 Devil-Subduing High.

“...”

Headmaster Li Qingxi didn’t expect Gao Tianming, who was usually the most steadfast person in their school, to suddenly let himself go in this competition... It was indeed very normal for boys at the height of puberty, and who didn’t have a girlfriend, to have this sort of thing.

But the problem was that you shouldn’t take it out during a competition!

Li Qingxi covered his face with his hands. As headmaster, he couldn’t bear to watch the duel in front of his eyes, and for a moment, he felt utterly trampled into the dirt.

Conversely, Headmaster Chen was enjoying himself. He had already foreseen that Gao Tianming of No. 1 Devil-Subduing High would be the most difficult person to deal with in this group of students. He had been worried that Gao Tianming would steal the show from No. 60 High’s students, but this fall from grace had suddenly happened, to the delight of everyone in the command center.

But what hurt most of all was that no one chose to throw jeers in Headmaster Li Qingxi’s direction.

At that moment, silence trumped any words that could be spoken.

Sometimes, silent ridicule hurt more than an outright remark.

...

On the other side, Wang Ling and Gao Tianming were still locked in the real confrontation.

Gao Tianming was clearly astonished by Wang Ling's composed performance.

After he gained the power of Shadow Dao, the power of "shadow image" had combined with his puppets to basically give them in-built might! Under the Heavenly Dao restriction, Wang Zhen had the fighting strength of a level one Itinerant Immortal, yet Gao Tianming's puppets were intimidating enough to make his hair stand on end. With this young man in front of Gao Tianming, however, his bangs merely fluttered slightly in the wind...

"So, you are the hidden core of No. 60 High's strength!" Gao Tianming stared at Wang Ling, his eyes becoming especially serious. He even had reason to suspect that Wang Ling absolutely wasn't anything as simple as a Foundation Establishment cultivator.

At that moment, Gao Tianming recalled what that white-haired man had said when the latter had given him the frozen dumpling.

White Hair told him that if Gao Tianming were to run into a guy with dead fish eyes, he should avoid fighting him as much as possible.

And now Dead Fish Eyes had appeared in front of Gao Tianming.

A person who suddenly obtained power after yearning for it for a long time would swell with arrogance, and Gao Tianming was a typical example.

Wang Ling had already perceived Gao Tianming's intent while scaling Mist Peak.

The other side showed no signs of planning to retreat at all.

Gao Tianming was only sixteen, like Wang Ling. After combining with the power of Shadow Dao, however, his cultivation went far beyond sixteen years, and currently approached 3000 years' worth.

He was stronger than a late Itinerant Immortal, and was a hairbreadth away from becoming a True Immortal... It had to be pointed out that the average strength of the headmasters in the command center was just slightly above the Soul Formation stage.

Only a very few headmasters were at the Itinerant Immortal stage.

This was the scary thing about Wang Nuan's Shadow Dao.

It could cause a Foundation Establishment cultivator to instantly level up to such a terrifying extent.

Wang Ling had once thought that this might be a joke which his unborn sister was playing on him; this leap in cultivation base was just too exaggerated.

But Wang Ling was very happy to take action this time.

In his opinion, Gao Tianming was indeed a subject worthy of careful study.

As someone with the power of Shadow Dao, Gao Tianming had merged completely with it, and it was fully under his control. Those who had eaten the frozen dumplings before had suppressed part of their strength. For example, Zheng Tianqiang, who had wanted to see justice done for his son, had eaten the frozen dumplings and inadvertently boosted his strength. In the end, he had gotten the verdict for the magic weapon plagiarism case reversed.

However, he hadn't dared to fully release all the power he had obtained, because he feared that the power of Shadow Dao would be too strong, and would ultimately destroy his soul and consign him to eternal damnation.

But compared with the others that Wang Ling had encountered, Gao Tianming's fusion with the power of Shadow Dao was much more successful.

Wang Ling thought this could be due to some "psychological defect" that Gao Tianming might possess.

Therefore, Wang Ling was deeply curious about Gao Tianming.

It wasn't easy to run into a "full body Shadow Dao."

He even wanted to do in-depth research, and analyze the structure of Gao Tianming's Shadow Dao space.

At that moment, however, the twelve kite puppets floating in the air suddenly moved! The moment they received a command, they started spinning at high speed like a pointer, and their mouths opened to spit out light that formed a curtain!

This was a Scene Construction Spell that had combined with the power of Shadow Dao. It was similar to an advanced illusion spell, and to anyone watching, the scene was frozen on the stand-off between Gao Tianming and Wang Ling.

The truth, however, was that a confined space which outsiders couldn't detect had been formed!

That was to say, the entire space was utterly sealed from the inside! Furthermore, given the presence of the power of Shadow Dao, Heavenly Dao spells for detecting illusion weren't able to spy on the real situation inside!

"You've fallen into my hands, Classmate Wang Ling." Gao Tianming stared at Wang Ling with a confident smile on his lips.

He thought that Wang Ling was now in his grasp, and Gao Tianming could now do whatever he wanted.

But little did he realize... the one who could do whatever he wanted, might not be him...

Chapter 1169: The Strength of Wang Ling's Waist

The moment Wang Ling confronted Gao Tianming, he had already thought up more than three thousand ways to perfectly get rid of the other party. But Gao Tianming wasn't evil; it was just that the power of Shadow Dao had amplified the dark thoughts in his heart to such a boundless extent that there was no going back for him now.

Wang Ling had no intention of killing Gao Tianming; he just wanted to take back the power of Shadow Dao. As long as Wang Ling could retrieve the power smoothly, the darkness in Gao Tianming would fade away.

This was the best solution Wang Ling had come up with, before things got worse.

Gao Tianming had tried to be smart by sealing off the entire battlefield, when he was in fact doing Wang Ling a favor; without anyone to disturb them, Wang Ling didn't have to worry about using his power.

He took a step forward. It was just one step, but the greatest of pressure, like a waterfall that was ten thousand li in height, instantly fell on Gao Tianming's head and made it hard to breathe.

"You..." Gao Tianming stared at Wang Ling with profound shock all over his face. He had thought that this would be a good show of him using the power of Shadow Dao to catch a turtle in a jar – never had he thought that the turtle would be him!

This wasn't the power of a Foundation Establishment cultivator!

"You and me, are we the same sort of people?" Gao Tianming looked at the red dead fish eyes in front of him and tried to confirm it from the expression in Wang Ling's blooming King's Eye, but couldn't get an answer.

The same sort of people?

Of course not...

Although Gao Tianming had merged well with the power of Shadow Dao, it wasn't even a trillionth of Wang Nuan's strength.

Wang Ling had already deciphered Shadow Dao, and while he wasn't very proficient in it, he had nevertheless crossed the threshold of understanding.

Wang Ling now had four Great Dao buffs.

The main Great Dao: Heavenly Dao! Wang Ling had been born with it.

Divine Dao: Wang Ling had learned it on Divine Dao Star after two long minutes of study.

Fate Dao: Wang Ling had instantly comprehended it in the prison after Bai Youquan was caught.

Shadow Dao: Wang Ling had been especially diligent in researching it in order to destroy those frozen dumplings and also for his little sister Wang Nuan's sake.

Wang Ling currently grasped these four Great Dao.

In fact, there was also a type of Dao which could make him invincible and immune to all types of magical attacks, which was "Outer Dao."

Strictly speaking, however, it couldn't be classified as a Great Dao, and was only a branch of Heavenly Dao.

Back then, Bai Youquan's father, President Bai Zhe, thought that he had mastered a Great Dao, but the power of Outer Dao fell far short of Heavenly Dao.

In short, compared with Wang Ling's Shadow Dao, Gao Tianming's Shadow Dao couldn't be called a phoenix feather and dragon horn¹ – it was just a chicken feather from a baby chick.

It was a pity that Gao Tianming, as one party in this fight, clearly didn't know what true strength was.

It was like Nan Yixiu said.

Gao Tianming was crazy.

If Wang Ling didn't show Gao Tianming the real gap between strengths and make him despair and give up for real, this guy would definitely continue on the wrong path.

"The world only needs one genius, and that's me!" With a hysterical wave of his hands, Gao Tianming manipulated two puppets into flanking Wang Ling in a pincer attack in the next moment.

These “Butcher” puppets were more lethal and faster than Ripper, who had dealt with Wang Zhen earlier.

Thanks to a more flexible gear design, the hooked, golden rings around the Butcher puppets’ waists started to spin rapidly as they approached Wang Ling.

Wang Ling could tell that Gao Tianming planned to kill him.

Boosted by the power of Shadow Dao, the rings around the two Butchers’ waists could spin over one hundred million and three thousand times a second. It was powerful enough to cut gold and stone! It could even split mountains!

But this speed still couldn’t compare with when Wang Ling did the hula hoop at seven years old; back when he was far less powerful, his hula hoop could already reach a speed close to two hundred million rotations per second.

He even outright defied gravity and took off like a helicopter as he flew away from Earth for the first time...

But there was a saying: A real man didn’t boast about his past achievements. This was a childhood trick which Wang Ling didn’t think was worth showing off to outsiders.

But it was precisely because of his hula hoop experiences back then... (Because he frequently broke them, Wang Ling eventually cultivated the skill of doing hula hoops with air.)

Now, without a physical hula hoop, Wang Ling’s speed when he shook his waist at just ten percent of his strength could break one billion times per second!

So when Gao Tianming manipulated the Butcher puppets into lunging at him, Wang Ling subconsciously started to shake his slim waist at a high speed; he was so fast that Gao Tianming actually saw Wang Ling turn blurry and indistinct.

As Wang Ling’s waist shook like the high speed guichu videos on Bilibili, the whole of Mist Peak’s summit started to sway slightly.

There could only be one outcome for the two Butchers after colliding with Wang Ling's waist shaking at one billion times per second, and that was to crash and burn.

The Butcher puppets were sent flying from Wang Ling, and they broke up into spare parts. Gao Tianming couldn't believe his eyes.

A gear the size of a palm fell and rolled over to his feet...

When he bent down to pick it up, he was instantly burnt by how searingly hot it was.

He hadn't been able to clearly see what Wang Ling had done, and his Butchers had actually fallen apart, just like that!

"What on earth did you do?! Wang Ling!" Gao Tianming roared furiously. It was very loud and intimidating, like a mental patient howling hysterically at other people.

But in Wang Ling's eyes, this was just empty rage.

"Physical attacks are useless on me." These were the first words Wang Ling said since the fight started, and could be considered a friendly warning.

Shaking his waist at one billion times per second was something that Wang Ling only remembered after looking at the Butcher puppets; it was a silly skill that he had invented back then, which looked especially stupid when he shook his waist at a low speed.

But when he sped up, no one could see what he was doing at all.

Furthermore, he had long cultivated a Sage Body. Even if he didn't shake his waist, the Butchers would still be courting disaster when they crashed into him.

"I'm going to turn you into part of my collection!" Gao Tianming's eyes were red as he stared at Wang Ling. He didn't know why Wang Ling, as a Foundation Establishment cultivator, had the same power as he did, but he now planned to turn Wang Ling into his puppet.

“Become my puppet, Classmate Wang Ling!” Gao Tianming laughed coldly and snapped his fingers. His shadow gradually rose up from the ground to hover behind him!

This was Gao Tianming’s Shadow Image — a clown on strings, which gave off an evil aura!

Chapter 1170: How Not To Lose Yourself

The evil clown, which was as tall as Gao Tianming, gave off a repugnant feeling that could instantly fill a person with immense horror. It had a bleeding nose and cracked lips, and even the moles at the corner of its eyes resembled sharp blades that could cut a heart open. Four strings dangled over the puppet clown’s head, and they were none other than intestines...

It looked a little revolting, but this was actually just the psychological effect of Shadow Image, which also indicated how deep Gao Tianming had fallen. Once his heart demon was triggered, the Shadow Image would directly reflect the darkness in his heart.

Using the power of Shadow Dao should usually result in a Shadow Image form similar to the weapon spirit of magic weapons; even if they weren’t as good-looking as Jingke or Mysterious Sea, they should at the very least still have a regular human appearance.

Wang Ling frowned as he gazed at the horrifying image in front of him. His first reaction was to decide to give away his remaining packets of fried intestine-flavored crispy noodle snacks in an equivalent exchange with Heavenly Dao.

He was a sixteen-year-old boy, after all... He couldn’t help feeling a little queasy at the sight in front of him.

So Wang Ling was now doing his best not to throw up the acid roiling in his stomach. Given the power of his gastric acid, if one drop of it fell to the ground, it would probably burn a hole through the earth...

Seeing Wang Ling clutch his stomach, Gao Tianming thought his threat had worked. His Shadow Image was called “Puppet Clown,” and had the ability to create dread through an illusion. When a person was caught in it, the more they looked, the more frightening they would find it. Wang Ling could be considered pretty capable for not fainting on the spot.

“There’s no point in struggling, Classmate Wang Ling. I’m definitely going to make you part of my collection.” Gao Tianming smiled darkly, and with one thought, several more intestines flew out of Puppet Clown’s belly to wrap themselves around Wang Ling’s limbs and drag him into Gao Tianming’s Shadow Image world.

Was this tentacle play...

Wang Ling had no interest in engaging in tentacle play with a man.

He opened his King’s Eye and fixed his attention on the large intestines flying toward him. Under his gaze, these intestines actually slowed down.

This was the passive “don’t touch this great one” effect of the King’s Eye. If these unidentified life forms still insisted on trying to approach Wang Ling after his warning look, they would be directly annihilated.

Thus, these large intestines instantly slowed down in midair and then stopped.

Under the weight of Wang Ling’s King’s Eye, they didn’t dare advance.

As a Shadow Image, Puppet Clown was controlled by Gao Tianming’s will, but it also had some spiritual intelligence and wouldn’t do anything to harm itself. Once the Shadow Image appeared, it was bound to its owner’s body, and any injury the Shadow Image received would also be reflected on its owner.

Gao Tianming was clearly astonished by Puppet Clown’s hesitation. This had never happened before, and he never imagined that his own Shadow Image could actually feel fear.

The Shadow Image and its owner were of one body and mind!

At that moment, Gao Tianming could clearly perceive the panic and terror in the heart of Puppet Clown that was causing it to tremble slightly...

The next moment, Wang Ling’s King’s Eye turned into a sharp sword that directly pierced Puppet Clown!

He used his power of sight to tear open a gap to the Shadow Image world.

Wang Ling knew that there were a lot of people who were still trapped inside the Shadow Image world. If he disposed of Puppet Clown now, those people would also be extinguished along with it.

At this point in the battle, Gao Tianming finally realized that Wang Ling's strength was basically beyond his understanding. He had manipulated his Shadow Image into devouring people previously, but the person in front of him had forcibly torn open a gap with his own strength, as if he were cracking open a roast duck, and then stepped inside!

The moment Wang Ling entered the Shadow Image world, Gao Tianming had a real mental breakdown!

The so-called Shadow Image world was in fact a small world space which the Shadow Image constructed with the user's mental energy. Wang Ling entering this small world now was akin to him forcing his way into Gao Tianming's mental consciousness.

This sort of massive energy monster suddenly invading his mental world made Gao Tianming fall to his knees as his head exploded with pain!

He was like a lamb waiting to be slaughtered as he clutched at his head, and his entire body curled up on the ground and jerked with pain!

Wang Ling had forced his way in, which would certainly damage Gao Tianming's mind. It had to be said, however, that Gao Tianming had brought this on himself... Did he have to turn so many people into puppets for no reason, and put them in his sweatshop in his Shadow Image world?

In the puppet sweatshop, the people who had already been turned into part of his collection worked endlessly like machines. Suspended from strings, they carried bricks one by one to wherever construction was happening; they were collector's items as well as cheap labor.

Only after Wang Ling was deep in the Shadow Image world did he realize how frighteningly dark the depths of Gao Tianming's heart were. Wang Ling could sense a force in this puppet factory that could make one lose their sense of self.

All the people who had been turned into puppets here had given up struggling and resisting as they were stripped of their human mindsets little by little. They would gradually forget their names and the people around them, and slowly lose all their memories of being human... Most of the people that Gao Tianming had turned into puppets were Foundation Establishment students. Foundation Establishment cultivators had relatively weak minds and willpower, and were more easily assimilated into this mental world.

The worst cases were those who had completely lost themselves here.

In front of the line of people carrying bricks, Wang Ling noticed a familiar figure who was being flogged with a whip.

It was as Wang Ling had thought. When he felt Wang Zhen's aura disappear earlier, it was indeed because Wang Zhen had fallen into Gao Tianming's trap and had been absorbed into the Shadow Image world to become a puppet.

He saw that Wang Zhen had turned into a marionette; his body seemed to be hanging from four steel wires as it worked tirelessly and repetitively beyond his control.

Wang Ling merely stood and watched from afar. He didn't know if Wang Zhen had been assimilated, or how much of his consciousness remained.

But he looked at the man's expression and saw that it was different from that of the other puppets.

There was determination in his eyes, as if he hadn't given up thinking on how to get out of here.

Then, their eyes met.

Wang Zhen's spirit was suddenly shaken, and he instantly got excited.

"Ling Zhenren!"

He shouted inwardly in the utter belief that Wang Ling could hear him.

Wang Ling was about to praise Wang Zhen for actually being able to retain his sense of self in such a terrible Shadow Image world, when Wang Zhen said, “Ling Zhenren, you’re finally here! I was wondering how not to lose myself in this space... So I’ve been deliberately making trouble in order to be beaten. The moment I’m whipped, I feel refreshed and remember everything!”

Hearing this, Wang Ling slowly gave a “?”

Why did this guy sound like he was enjoying himself?