

Daily Life 361

Chapter 361 Gorgeous Itinerant's Great Weapon

Elsewhere, Wang Ming's operation had proceeded very smoothly; after hurrying to the hospital, he had immediately gathered all the kids together and sealed their spirit with the Heavenly Materials sword.

Odd Zhuo had put up a curtain screen and had gotten Wang Ming to treat the kids behind it. After all, sealing their spirit involved cutting each of them with the Heavenly Materials sword, and if they did it blatantly and openly, neither the students nor their parents would be able to accept it.

As reality proved, Wang Ling and Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's theory had been spot on.

The Heavenly Materials sword did have a miraculous effect on unusually concentrated spirit power!

After Wang Ming sealed the students' spirits, the hospital re-examined the concentration of spirit power inside the students' bodies, and found that they were gradually coming down to the normal levels expected of the Foundation Establishment stage.

But given the seal on their spirits, this bunch of kids wouldn't be able to use their spirit energy for the next three to five days.

Zhai Yin stood behind Wang Ming with a deep frown on her face. "You're pushing yourself too hard."

Wang Ming shrugged nonchalantly. "It's not a big deal – I'm not using my own spirit energy anyway to control the spirit sword."

But while this was true, he did indeed feel a little tired. He was the hero tonight, but he seemed to have forgotten that he was still an ordinary man. Furthermore, in the confrontation with Shuigou Sect's Chou Shisi earlier, he had indeed used up quite some strength with the Brain Deduction Technique.

"This should be the last student, right?" Behind the curtain, Wang Ming yawned as he looked at Odd Zhuo and asked.

Odd Zhuo nodded and pressed the call button. The student was ready and waiting outside, and he directly stretched his hand in through an opening.

Holding the Heavenly Materials sword with both hands, Wang Ming stood up and aimed the sword tip at a spot on the student's arm.

But just then, he started to feel dizzy, and the student's arm seemed to split up in front of his eyes, turning into countless shadows.

Then.

"Clang!" The Heavenly Materials sword dropped from Wang Ming's hands onto the floor with a loud noise.

Zhai Yin heaved a sigh. Before Wang Ming could fall down, she supported him with a steady hand, then directly picked him up in a princess carry.

The atmosphere immediately turned silent. Odd Zhuo's eyes widened at this scene.

Zhai Yin stared at him. "You deal with the last kid. I'm going to have him take a rest; we'll come back for the sword later."

Odd Zhuo: "Al...alright..."

...

On the rooftop, the two fellow brothers were still discussing what had happened in the past.

With the passing of so many years, their moods and states of mind were actually a lot more stable than they used to be, so today was a rare opportunity.

Using this opportunity, they could talk out various misunderstandings; this was probably the most peaceful way of resolving things.

They sat crossed-legged in front of each other. Holding the photo of Black Gauze in his hand, Old Antique couldn't help sighing gloomily. "I'm sorry, Black Gauze... you were only six years old, but I did that to you..."

Watching from the shadows, Wang Ling wanted to flip a table – what freaking six-year-old child!

Taoist Taotie felt a twinge of sadness, and he directed a piercing stare at Old Antique from under the face mask. "I still want to know, what were you thinking at the time..."

Old Antique answered, "Junior brother, you should know that your senior brother is typically worried about health. When I saw Black Gauze back then, I could tell at one glance that it was a spiritually enlightened baby tortoise you'd only ever come across once in a hundred years. In Chrysanthemum House, this type of rare quality tortoise would cost at least two thousand immortal gold bars when turned into a dish... it is in fact a food supplement that usually isn't treated as a pet."

Taoist Taotie's face under the mask suddenly turned black as the corners of his mouth twitched. "So...that's why you turned him into tortoise jelly?"

Wang Ling: "..."

Thinking about Killer Taoist's previous story about keeping a dog and eating it, Wang Ling now finally understood where he had learned this from... as expected, like master, like disciple!

Taoist Taotie looked very sorrowful under the face mask. "Everything happened so suddenly. In the time it took me to go get my hair done, senior brother turned Black Gauze into tortoise jelly!"

Old Antique lowered his head with regret. "I was wrong, I was really wrong."

Taoist Taotie gritted his teeth firmly. "Later, you must come with me to burn incense at his grave!"

After a short silence, Old Antique finally nodded. "Very well."

Taoist Taotie breathed a sigh of relief. "Don't worry about those kids downstairs. I've already sent people to deliver the antidote to each household. After this is all over, I'll disband Shuigou Sect... we can consider this incident a lesson for those kids. We might be where we are now because we picked up Ghost Ax Sect's original techniques manual, but we still had to walk the cultivation path step by step."

Old Antique: "Hm, junior brother is correct."

Wang Ling was stupefied when he heard the whole story. There were too many things about it to ridicule, and he didn't know where to start!

This was even more absurd than the old devil invading the National Palace for the wheel of time in order to find his girlfriend's reincarnation.

Wang Ling had seldom seen Old Antique as docile as this.

The good news was that they had solved their conflict in a relatively peaceful way; Wang Ling felt it would have been really troublesome if they had fought for real.

It already wasn't easy for them to sit down and talk things out peacefully after they had parted ways for hundreds of years. This proved that they hadn't completely given up on each other – was there any other better ending than being able to bury the hatchet?

Standing inside the boundary, Wang Ling felt satisfied when he saw this scene.

Earlier, Odd Zhuo had sent him a message to say that the matter with the kids in the hospital had been resolved, and that the unusual spirit power generated by the fruit had been perfectly sealed with the Heavenly Materials sword.

This incident had come to a perfect end.

And so, Wang Ling raised his hand to undo the boundary, and was prepared to leave.

But right at that moment, something seemed to strike Taoist Taotie as he abruptly looked at Old Antique. "Senior brother, there was something else... the intelligence division of the organization which provided me with this information said that you had some supreme weapon on you?"

At this, Wang Ling paused – his gossipy heart was aroused once again!

Old Antique couldn't help laughing at this question. "Who told you that?"

Taoist Taotie. "Is the information false?"

Old Antique shook his head. "No... indeed, I did have one before, but now, it no longer exists."

Taoist Taotie asked, "What do you mean?"

Without saying a word, Old Antique popped one of those potent appearance-molding pills which he had found online into his mouth.

It immediately took effect after he swallowed it... in a flash of spirit light, Wang Ling saw Old Antique's entire body transform from head to toe.

Realization immediately dawned on Taoist Taotie.

Gorgeous Itinerant's great weapon was actually this!

This was also Wang Ling's first time seeing Old Antique in the form of Gorgeous Itinerant... He didn't know how to describe Old Antique's current appearance.

He touched his nose, and realized that it was actually bleeding.

Hm...

This was indeed a lethal "weapon." 'Guilinggao' literally translates to 'tortoise jelly' and is a jelly-like Chinese medicine that is also eaten as a dessert.

Chapter 362 Old Antique's Epilogue – Demon World Holy Water One

After many years, the two fellow brothers from Ghost Ax Sect appeared in the demon world.

They were thrown out of a storm and landed on the top of a cliff. The wind was laced with freezing cold demon qi that pierced through the bone, and the two of them couldn't help frowning.

Old Antique couldn't help sighing. "So this is what it's like inside the Gate Between Worlds... As expected, it's very different."

Taoist Taotie nodded his head. "No wonder people say that the environment here is very harsh; it's difficult just trying to withstand the demon qi alone. Given my and senior brother's realms, we can just barely handle it, but a person at the Soul Formation stage or below who shows up here without any protective measures won't last even a day."

Speaking up to this point, Taoist Taotie suddenly felt rueful. It was a good thing that he hadn't impulsively gone through the Gate Between Worlds years ago... The conditions here were far worse than he had imagined.

But this time, the two fellow brothers had resolved their differences and had made ample preparations before coming here, which was a source of deep relief to Taoist Taotie.

They were here for the legendary demon world holy water.

Based on reliable information which Taoist Taotie had obtained many years ago, the demon world holy water could be found in a remote village inside the Gate Between Worlds. With the holy water, they would be able to completely get rid of the side effects of cultivating the wrong art.

Taoist Taotie revealed a rare, excited expression when he thought about how he could take off his face mask after wearing it for hundreds of years. "Senior brother, we'll definitely succeed!"

Old Antique nodded. "Let's hope so; just let nature take its course."

On the cliff, they unfolded the map to reconfirm the location of that village. This map had been extremely costly for Taoist Taotie to purchase from a dealer in precious maps. These map dealers traveled all over the world the whole year round and collected precious maps of secret locations. It was a lot more convenient if you had a map of the secret location; at the very least, you wouldn't need to worry about getting lost in an unfamiliar place.

This map of the Gate Between Worlds was part of the map dealer's collection, and he would update it regularly. While the Gate Between Worlds only opened once every five years, there would always be big shots who would emerge halfway from traveling around the Gate, and the dealer would get the latest updates from them.

Of course, it was extremely costly to buy this type of map.

There was no way regular people could afford to buy it.

The two fellow brothers had had to pool their funds together in order to buy this one map, and in preparing to enter the Gate Between Worlds this time, they had used up almost all of their savings.

These were two epic-level killers in the murder industry... what more was there to say about anyone else?

Staring at the map, Taoist Taotie felt like his heart was bleeding. "Senior brother... if we're unable to find this demon world holy water, wouldn't we have spent all this for nothing?"

Old Antique: "Hm... if we can't find it, we can just travel around the Gate Between Worlds, draw a new, updated map, then sell it."

Taoist Taotie: "..."

There was this kind of operation?!

After confirming the location, they instantly set out. It was impossible to absorb spirit energy inside the Gate and store it as spirit power inside the body since the spirit energy here was very thin. They could only take spirit power supplements and ensure that they weren't consuming spirit energy continuously; if they grew short of spirit power, it would be very dangerous for them.

For a short-term operation inside the Gate Between Worlds, the smartest method hence was to get things done as quickly as possible. This time, however, the two fellow brothers had prepared enough elixirs for two people to use. If they were careful with how much they used, the elixirs could last them for about three months.

They had made all of these preparations for the sake of the demon world holy water.

They were determined to obtain it.

The coordinates which the dealer had marked on the map were very precise, and following the map, the two individuals finally found that remote village.

According to the map dealer's description, this village wasn't very old, and had actually only been established several years ago. Furthermore, the village chiefs were two human cultivators who had entered the Gate Between Worlds by mistake. They had survived by relying on an abundant supply of demon world holy water, and in the end they had simply put down roots here and established a village.

As the both of them approached the village entrance, they frowned deeply at the view in front of them.

This was because the spirit energy inside this village was abnormally dense! Unlike the sparse spirit energy everywhere else in the Gate, the spirit energy here was as dense as if it had been gathered a hundredfold with a spirit gathering array. Just approaching the village entrance gave you a carefree and relaxed feeling. In a world with sparse spirit energy, this village was simply like a refreshing oasis in the desert.

Not only that, Old Antique even saw that there were many types of spirit grass and trees that had been planted in the village. These varieties were the kind which relied on a pure environment in order to grow. In an extremely harsh environment like the Gate Between Worlds, which was filled with demon qi, it should be impossible for them to survive.

How was this possible?

"Senior brother, look..."

Stretching out one finger, Taoist Taotie used spirit energy to draw in a bit of demon qi from the air around them, and it transformed into a purple spirit light which hovered above his fingertip.

The moment he pointed his finger at the village, this demon qi actually disintegrated in a blink of an eye.

Taoist Taotie theorized, "It appears that the dense spirit energy around the village has already formed a natural barrier which the Gate's demon qi can't penetrate at all. This village probably doesn't even need to worry about being attacked by demon beasts; these beasts hunt prey with the help of demon qi, and since the village is cut off from demon qi, the demon beasts wouldn't be able to enter at all."

Speaking up to this point, both of them had pleasantly surprised expressions on their faces. This was like an utopia inside the Gate Between Worlds!

As they were thinking this, they suddenly saw a man carrying a bamboo basket on his back walk out of the village.

"Huh? Human cultivators?" That person was astounded to see them, but showed no sign of fear.

When they didn't respond, the villager became anxious. "Don't just stand there, hurry up and come in first... the demon beasts will sense you if you're outside."

After he spoke, the villager pointed to a stele at the entrance. "See this stone? This is the boundary line."

Startled, the two of them hurriedly stepped into the village in perfect rhythm, as if they had rehearsed the move.

The villager couldn't help laughing. "Are you here for the holy water?"

They were taken aback once again, and Old Antique nodded. "That's right."

It was obvious that this villager was already used to this. He heaved a sigh. "You're not the first to come here looking for the holy water, but to be able to find our village, you must be men of great

ability. But if you want the holy water, you have to meet our chief first. He's busy at the moment, so how about you come to my place first?"

Taoist Taotie: "Will that be alright?"

The villager replied with a smile, "Of course it's alright; after all, you're our clients, and our chief has said that the customers are god."

They followed the villager down the road, and met the hospitable gazes of many other villagers along the way.

Old Antique asked, "Are there many people living here?"

"Not many, since this village hasn't been around for very long. The first ones were some cultivators who became trapped inside the Gate and weren't able to get out. The chiefs then discovered a use for the holy water, and so took it upon themselves to establish this village," the villager replied.

Taoist Taotie: "Then what do you normally do here?"

The villager thought for a while before he answered, "We're very laid back; we plant melons, we plant grass, but our main business is selling holy water... sometimes we also weed the socialist wool."

Old Antique: "..."

Taoist Taotie: "...This is part of a revolutionary phrase in support of socialist values.

Chapter 363 Old Antique's Epilogue – Demon World Holy Water Two

The villager's house wasn't far, just three to four li away from the entrance. Along the way, Old Antique and Taoist Taotie enjoyed the scenery.

Just as the villager had said, there weren't many people living here, and most of them had low cultivation realms. Old Antique guessed that these were all cultivators who had accidentally entered the Gate Between Worlds in the past.

This fit what the villager had said earlier.

Each time the Gate appeared, its descent and opening would create a violent storm which would always suck in nearby innocent cultivators. According to the record of the Gate's opening last year, at least a hundred thousand cultivators had been swallowed up by the Gate.

Obviously, the cultivators living in this village were the survivors.

How much despair must these weak cultivators have felt back then, when they'd gotten drawn into this place?

Old Antique sighed in his heart even as he enjoyed the scenery; this was probably the so-called light at the end of the tunnel, and it was this village.

As they approached the villager's house, they could suddenly feel themselves enveloped in dense spirit power.

They were once again astounded. The house was clearly made out of ordinary materials, but it contained a ridiculous amount of spirit power!

Just as they were about to comment on it, this affable villager stood in front of the house and smiled hospitably. "I haven't introduced myself yet: my name is Tiger Li, and I'm a first-generation inhabitant. This is my house!"

Under the face mask, realization dawned on Taoist Taotie.

So this man was a first-generation inhabitant; no wonder he knew the village's history in so much detail.

"Your house is made of very common materials, but it contains an extraordinary amount of spirit power. Does this also have something to do with the holy water?" asked Old Antique.

Tiger Li nodded his head without any hesitation. "That's right; our entire village was built with very common materials, almost all of which we collected ourselves, while we made the tiles and bricks as required. As for why they're so dense with spirit power... we added holy water when we were making the tiles and bricks."

So it was like that...

Old Antique and Taoist Taotie both sighed in their hearts.

"These two sirs, please come in and have a seat." Tiger Li showed them in with a smile.

After that, he instantly poured them two bowls of water which he placed in front of them. "This is holy water, please have some."

Old Antique and Taoist Taotie were shocked. "You're just giving it to us like this? Didn't you need to wait for your chief to come back..."

Tiger Li smiled. "This actually isn't much; at the most it can quench your thirst and replenish your spirit energy. You braved large dangers in order to find our village, so surely you are in need of a huge amount of holy water. It is this large demand which will require our chief's approval."

"So it's like that..."

"In fact, every household has a store of holy water. At the beginning of each month, the chief will give each villager several barrels. I just happened to have some left, and it's just two bowls; please feel free to drink it. Treat it as sampling the product," Tiger Li said.

The two fellow brothers nodded. Since the man had said that, they no longer needed to stand on ceremony, and lowering their heads, they tossed the small bowls of holy water back without hesitation.

"Tastes good!" It was as sweet as sugar water!

They didn't feel much at first when they drank it, but after the water completely entered their bodies, they could feel their exhaustion being swept away in an instant.

The two fellow brothers stretched out their hands and found their palms glowing with spirit light; this was an indication that their spirit energy had been completely replenished and was full to overflowing.

"How magical..." Both of them sighed.

This one bowl of holy water was actually better than spirit energy supplements!

Composing himself, Old Antique continued to ask, "You said before that we weren't the only ones to have come for the holy water – who else have been here?"

"That's right." Tiger Li nodded. "Additionally, most of them were suffering from some tricky ailment or other, and hoped that the power of the holy water would cure them. Indeed, the water can have a miraculous effect on hard-to-treat cases, but it depends on the person's specific condition."

"In what way?" asked Old Antique.

Tiger Li pointed at the bowl on the table. "As you can see, although the holy water has magical properties, the effect of one bowl isn't much. The amount of holy water needed depends on your specific condition or how severe your symptoms are, and only the chief and deputy chief can determine that."

So it was like that... the two fellow brothers were enlightened.

"These two sirs don't have simple backgrounds; based on my experience, I'm guessing that you require a massive amount of holy water." Tiger Li smiled slightly.

Old Antique raised an eyebrow. "How do you figure?"

"When both sirs arrived at the village entrance, you were calm and composed; it's impossible to move around the Gate Between Worlds without supreme realms."

Tiger Li theorized, "In addition, you were moving in a very specific direction, and you came directly to our village. You probably bought a map from a map dealer, otherwise it's usually almost impossible to find this place. It goes without saying how powerful you are if you can afford to purchase a map of the Gate Between Worlds... You must be renowned figures in the cultivation world outside."

Old Antique and Taoist Taotie were taken aback when they heard this – the villager was actually spot on!

Speaking up to this point, Tiger Li rubbed his head. "Perhaps these two sirs wonder why I know so much about the thing with map dealers... in fact, it was our chief who sold them the maps."

Old Antique: "..."

Taoist Taotie: "..."

"Although the Gate Between Worlds only opens once every five years in the outside world, there are in fact plenty of small, transient entrances inside here which can spit you right back into the world outside."

Tiger Li said, "Previously, there had been someone who wanted to leave the Gate Between Worlds. Our chief drew a map of the village's location and wrote up a description of the holy water before entrusting that person to take them out with him. That advert hasn't been out for very long, but who would have thought that both seniors would actually drop by!"

Old Antique: "..."

Taoist Taotie: "..."

Old Antique: "Then, little brother, when will your chief be back?"

Tiger Li looked out the window and reckoned, "It won't be long now. He goes out to collect holy water at this time every day; it doesn't flow from the source continuously, but at a fixed time instead every day."

Both Old Antique and Taoist Taotie nodded.

It was at that moment that Tiger Li's expression turned serious as he looked out the window.

He said suddenly, "The chief is back!"

Looking out the window, Old Antique saw a man carrying a shoulder pole approaching the village unhurriedly from a distance.

Seeing that the man was about to step through the village entrance, Tiger Li warned them in a low voice, "Later, when you ask him about the holy water, on no account should you ask him if he has ever drunk it or not – that's a taboo topic."

"Why?" Taoist Taotie asked curiously.

Tiger Li looked nervous. "Because the chief has never drunk it at all..."

"What?" The two fellow brothers were stunned.

How could the chief of this village decide not to drink something as good as this holy water? There was something fishy about this!

Chapter 364 Old Antique's Epilogue – Demon World Holy Water Three

The village chief looked very young, and didn't have a high cultivation realm. Through a rough read on him, the two fellow brothers could immediately tell that he was at the peak late Golden Core stage.

"Chief, some seniors are here to buy our holy water!" Tiger Li stood by the door and waved at the village chief.

The man promptly jogged over with the shoulder pole. On each end hung a heavy cask, and both Old Antique and Taoist Taotie were very familiar with the aura inside – they were certain that the casks contained holy water.

"I never expected that someone would actually come here to buy the holy water."

When he saw Old Antique and Taoist Taotie, the village chief couldn't help smiling. "Come with me."

Then, carrying the shoulder pole once again, the village chief told Tiger Li to go help the deputy chief out, and then started walking back to his own place. Old Antique and Taoist Taotie followed closely behind him, and it wasn't long before they reached his house.

Standing in the doorway of his place, their lips twitched once again.

This was actually a small villa with a fully modern atmosphere that was incongruous with the rest of the village. Furthermore, the concentration of spirit power here was very weak; the difference was huge compared with the density in Tiger Li's place earlier. Most importantly, this place actually contained all the modern facilities one could expect: modern furniture, a fridge, a TV, a washing machine, a microwave...

"What should we call you, village chief?"

"My name is Prosperity Huang. You can just call me Village Chief Huang. The deputy chief is One Huang. We were the ones who discovered the spring of holy water in the beginning." He looked immensely proud of himself when he said this. "I traded the holy water for the materials to build this place as well as its furnishings."

"Traded?"

"These two seniors have immense strength, but it seems that you're not very familiar with the way the demon world works inside the Gate Between Worlds. The demon world can of course be very primitive, but it also has prosperous cities that are no less inferior to our human cultivator cities in the outside world. I obtained all these furnishings through an exchange with some demon kings."

Village Chief Huang smiled. "Even demon kings want this holy water. It doesn't just benefit the human race, but also the demon race."

"According to our human ranking system, a demon king is at the very least on par with a cultivator at the Soul Formation stage. You're a Golden Core cultivator; aren't you afraid of them?" Taoist Taotie couldn't help asking.

"Because of the spring of holy water, even a demon god isn't able to set foot in our village, let alone a demon king. This is a paradise disconnected from the rest of the Gate Between Worlds. Our village might be small, but thanks to the holy water, we can be considered quite prosperous."

Village Chief Huang sat down on the sofa in a calm and composed manner. "Seniors, please have a seat."

The two fellow brothers couldn't help the way their lips twitched – it was obvious from the way he was acting that the village chief had experienced a lot.

Forget demon kings, this Village Chief Huang probably had had dealings with demon gods... otherwise, for a Golden Core cultivator to act this calmly in front of two Itinerant Immortals was just too unscientific.

"Our strengths are not on the same level. You're just at the Golden Core stage... aren't you afraid that we'll rob you of your holy water?" Taoist Taotie asked as he stared at the unperturbed village chief.

"You won't do anything to me." Village Chief Huang waved his hand confidently. "The power of the holy water permeates every corner of this village. It doesn't just keep out demon qi, but also evil intentions. People harboring evil intentions in their hearts wouldn't be able to set foot in our village."

If both seniors had had evil intentions, you would have instantly been turned into stone statues, no matter how superior your realms are.

"When Tiger Li led you into the village, you saw that stele, right?" Village Chief Huang laughed. "That was a wicked demon king that had tried to sneak into our village to grab the holy water. In the end, the power of the holy water permeated its being and turned it into stone. I placed it at the village entrance as a boundary divider. There are a lot of steles like it all around our village."

"..."

The two fellow brothers couldn't help breaking out in a cold sweat... Although Village Chief Huang's story was very one-sided, it didn't seem like he was lying.

"Both seniors have come a long way to this village specifically for the holy water. Do you suffer from some unusual affliction?" Village Chief Huang got right to the point with his question.

After some consideration, the two fellow brothers felt that they had nothing to hide; when it came down to it, this was just part of the exchange for what they wanted.

"Back then, because we cultivated the wrong art, my junior brother was disfigured and I became obese, so I'm slow and no longer as nimble as I used to be..." said Old Antique.

Village Chief Huang nodded and looked at Taoist Taotie's face mask, suddenly enlightened. "Mm, I get it. Both seniors experienced the side effects of cultivating the wrong art. It's very simple: two barrels of holy water per person. After internal and external application, you'll be healed in a few days."

"Will that really work?" Taoist Taotie was excited.

"Of course." Village Chief Huang nodded firmly. "Both of you can stay in my village until you're healed. For both seniors, it's two barrels of holy water per person.

"The senior with a stout physique should drink one barrel of holy water and bathe in water from the other barrel three days in a row. The senior with the face mask should also drink one barrel of holy water and use water from the other barrel to wash the face over three days; you'll be healed then."

Village Chief Huang drew in a deep breath after he said this, then turned in high spirits toward Old Antique and Taoist Taotie as he narrowed his eyes slightly and smiled. "So, what will both seniors trade in exchange for the holy water?"

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Three days later, the two fellow brothers were finally cured after being afflicted for hundreds of years with the side effects of cultivating the wrong art.

Taoist Taotie finally took off his face mask and breathed in fresh air, his heart full of excitement and joy.

Village Chief Huang and Tiger Li saw them off at the village entrance. "Take care, seniors!"

Village Chief Huang looked at Old Antique, who still had a slightly plump form, and couldn't help smiling as he asked, "Senior has already recovered your original figure, why are you still in this form?"

Old Antique couldn't help smiling. "I'm already used to this appearance, and I still have to think about how it'll affect other people. I'm truly grateful to the chief this time."

Village Chief Huang waved his hand, then cupped his fists solemnly in salute. "You flatter me; both seniors traded a tremendous amount of elixirs for the holy water, so it was an equivalent exchange. It was a very fruitful transaction!"

Both Old Antique and Taoist Taotie cupped their fists. "Then, Village Chief Huang, we shall say farewell here!"

"Seniors, take care!"

Village Chief Huang and Tiger Li watched at the village entrance as the two of them walked off into the distance.

Tiger Li: "Chief, deputy chief just said that the spring of holy water has run dry."

Village Chief Huang nodded his head. "Mm, don't panic... it'll flow again after a while."

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Meanwhile, elsewhere, Wang Ling was lost in deep thought as he stared at the water shut-off notice on the gate of his house.

Chapter 365 This is Not Safe for Children to Look At!

It was July 4th on the eleventh Tuesday of the semester.

At the end of the Shuigou Sect incident, Old Antique and Taoist Taotie had bridged centuries of hostilities to resolve their differences, and Old Antique was unable to escape burning incense in front of Black Gauze's grave.

Hence, the same day that this incident wrapped up, Old Antique applied for leave for a whole week, thus using up all his annual leave. One after another, the students at No.60 High School whined incessantly about it; they could no longer pick up gossip, nor could they sneakily do their homework during the history class...

Wang Ling would later learn from Killer Taoist that the main members of Shuigou Sect had actually been Taoist Taotie's former subordinates from Qiongchi Sect. They held him in very high esteem, and were at his beck and call... They had turned the whole of Songhai city upside down for the sole aim of forcing Old Antique to make an appearance.

Naturally, the entire plan hadn't gone smoothly, like with that blaze which had broken out on June 29th. Actually, it had been a Qiongchi Sect member who had been testing out the spirit fruit, and had suddenly gone crazy. That had been the first trial version of the spirit fruit, and it had been unstable. The current spirit fruit was the second version which had been meticulously developed by Taoist Taotie.

There had been a significant improvement in the safety performance of the second version, so that those at even just the Foundation Establishment stage wouldn't go berserk after taking it; furthermore, it also had an antidote, so it was completely safe.

But in order to ultimately force Old Antique to show up, Taoist Taotie had simply put on a full show, and had personally set up the magic arrays for stockpiling spirit power himself, even if later, Wang Ling and Fang Xing had secretly taken them apart.

Later, this would become an unsolved mystery.

To just say 'disappear' and the arrays disappeared just like that... it was no less terrifying than your brother saying that he had slept with your wife.

This entire thing, of course, had been a sham meticulously planned by Taoist Taotie. However, one thing had been real, and that was Shuigou Sect's hierarchy: whoever was ugly could become a member. This was a bizarre rule which Taoist Taotie had come up with after he had become disfigured back then, and was something that hadn't changed until now...

After the entire incident came to an end, there were naturally some who were happy and some who were worried.

In the heart of Songhai city, on the top floor of a large office building.

The Lord of the Castle stared at Taoist Taotie, who was sitting on the sofa and wearing a face mask, with an unsightly expression on his face. Next to him, the Lady of the Castle had also lowered her head in silence, not daring to speak at all.

"Senior, this is a breach of contract!" There was a deep look in the Lord's eyes; he was so infuriated that he couldn't even drink his favourite milk.

Taoist Taotie waved his hand casually. "No, it isn't a breach of contract; I just decided on my own to put an end to our collaboration here. As for Gorgeous Itinerant's great weapon, I've already found it for you."

The Lord's complexion improved a little. "Really, senior?"

Taoist Taotie nodded his head. "I've already instructed someone to send it to your phone."

Upon saying that, he stood up, and glanced at the Lord before he took his leave. "Your luck has been pretty good so far, and you haven't done anything yet to make anyone come after you. But I still want to give you a piece of advice: there are times when it would be wise to quit while you're ahead... If you persist stubbornly and go astray, you'll fall deeper and deeper into it."

This was obviously a warning.

The Lord laughed. "Thank you senior for the kind reminder. This junior knows how to conduct himself properly in this cultivation world."

As soon as the Lord finished saying the words, Taoist Taotie turned around and vanished into thin air. Following his departure, the tense atmosphere instantly disappeared, and the Lady of the Castle relaxed slightly.

The Lady of the Castle: "Lord, what are we going to do now that Taoist Taotie is no longer working with us..."

"It's not a big deal."

The Lord of the Castle shrugged and said, "In terms of brute strength, we can't compare with Immortal Mansion. In terms of scale, we also can't compare with the Gua Pi Army. But our Mo Immortal Castle has its own strength, and that is our formidable information network. If we can make good use of it, we can exchange information for many valuable resources. Even if we no longer have a patron, we can always find a new one."

The Lord raised an eyebrow and continued, "And this time, we did gain something."

The Lady of the Castle: "Do you mean Gorgeous Itinerant's great weapon? But... is it reliable? What kind of great weapon can be transmitted through the phone?"

The Lord narrowed his eyes. "Perhaps it's a virus program? There are quite a number of well-known killers in the murder industry who are adept in planting viruses in magic treasures and causing them to malfunction."

Curious, the Lord unlocked his phone; in line with what Taoist Taotie had said, he had received an anonymous email.

But the email didn't contain a virus program as he had expected; instead, it was a photo snap, the kind that would self destruct three seconds after it was opened.

Opening the photo snap, the Lord's entire being was stunned – it was actually an image of a topless Gorgeous Itinerant.

At that moment, the Lord instantly realized what on earth Gorgeous Itinerant's great weapon was...

"This is...?"

Extremely curious, the Lady of the Castle Lady drew closer to take a look.

The Lord shut his phone at lightning speed as fresh blood gushed out of his nose, the dark red color matting his whiskers.

The Lady of the Castle: "Lord, you..."

The Lord of the Castle: "This is not safe for kids to look at!"

The Lady of the Castle: "..."

...

When Wang Ling arrived at school that morning, he found many students in class absent. Super Chen, Dopey Guo, and even Little Peanut hadn't come to school.

With their spirits sealed, the students who had eaten the fruit needed some time to get back on their feet, and Teacher Pan this morning was clearly bitter about this. The midterm exam was coming up, and she had planned to do an intensive review of the talismans course, but she had to delay this plan due to the Shuigou Sect incident.

Furthermore, since so many of the students were absent, there was no way for them to hand in their homework.

This morning, Grade One, Class Three was thus especially tranquil without Super Chen's acidic remarks and Little Peanut's obsequious attitude, and even more without Dopey Guo's gossip to listen to.

Wang Ling had been sitting in class bored stiff for a while when a familiar figure popped up at the front door; it was the PE teacher, Ye Han.

Teacher Ye knocked on the door, dressed in his tracksuit and holding a blue notebook in his hand as usual. "Teacher Pan?"

Teacher Pan was marking exam papers, and lifted her head to look at Teacher Ye curiously. "Old Ye, why are you here? Have you learned how to steal class time for yourself now?"

Teacher Ye: "..."

The small number of students in the class who heard this surreptitiously cast gloomy looks in Teacher Pan's direction – this was a typical case of taking advantage of honest people!

Teacher Ye: "It's like this, I signed Wang Ling up previously to represent our No. 60 High School in the race event at the sports meet, so I need to have a brief meeting with him to explain some things."

"Oh, I see."

Teacher Pan turned to look at Wang Ling. "Mm, come back as soon as possible. In five minutes, I'm going to have everyone write down talisman formulas from memory. If you can't catch up, you'll have to do it again in my office later."

Wang Ling: "..."

Teacher Ye almost coughed up blood when he heard this. Nowadays, a PE teacher was nowhere as lethal as a teacher-in-charge...

Chapter 366 The Tree Brothers

Wang Ling followed Teacher Ye to the sports teaching and research room on the third floor of the teaching block. This classroom had been set up especially for the PE teachers to use; if the weather that day wasn't suitable for outdoor activities, the students would still have a place to go.

The PE teachers could also use this classroom to give students detailed explanations on PE assessments as well as instruct them on the use of all kinds of magic treasures, give them small tips for flying spirit swords, and so on, since the magic treasures and flying sword courses had currently been lumped under physical education.

But most unfortunately, every time it rained, the PE class would be snatched away by almost every other subject teacher, so this room existed in name only. The only time the other teachers wouldn't pillage this period was at the start and end of the semester, when the students had their physical exams; every other time, this room wasn't used at all.

For the majority of people, senior high school was an important time for grasping cultivation theory in the cultivation education system, and students should only delve into magic treasures and flying swords in university. Thus, they didn't attach much importance to PE class – when it came down to it, it was a problem with the organization and education system.

When Wang Ling stepped into the room, he saw two lonely people sitting inside; one was Fang Xing and the other was Jiang Bai, the son of the head of Kitchen Knife Sect Jiang Haifu whom Father Wang had come to know the other day.

Although Jiang Bai had been put in the normal class after the placement test at the beginning of the semester, he wasn't a good-for-nothing; Teacher Ye had discovered that he was a gifted sportsman.

So this time, Jiang Bai would be representing No. 60 High School at the sports meet in the spirit archery event.

Wang Ling had never expected that Jiang Bai, who looked frail enough that a gust of wind might knock him over, would actually have such an amazing gift.

However, the assessment criteria in a spirit archery competition wasn't quite the same as for running while controlling a sword, or manipulating a spirit sword: it wasn't strength or endurance, but accuracy that was the most important. Apart from that, the ability to track something with your eyes and to predict movement was also necessary. These were things that were almost impossible to gain in the short term without talent and years of training.

The reason why Jiang Bai was so accomplished in this aspect was because his dad Jiang Haifu had taught him to fly kitchen knives since he was young, even frequently using people as target practice; Jiang Bai was a timid person and didn't dare disobey his dad, and so had been forced to do all this.

Seeing Wang Ling approach them, Fang Xing instantly smiled and greeted him. "Oh! Classmate Wang Ling! Good morning!"

Without a single expression on his face, Wang Ling found a seat in the back row.

In the end, as soon as he sat down, Fang Xing stood up and then dragged Jiang Bai, who was next to him, to sit on either side of Wang Ling.

Wang Ling: "???"

Teacher Ye didn't understand what was happening. "... " What was going on?

Fang Xing grinned. "The classroom is so big and there's so few of us, so it's very cold. We're huddling together for warmth."

Wang Ling silently rolled his eyes. "... " Songhai city's weather might be as unpredictable as a woman's period, but in any case it was going to be summer soon. Who are you kidding about the cold? Also, how can it be so easy for you to feel cold at your realm?

But this wasn't the main problem. The main issue was... why had Jiang Bai also come over to sit here?

Sensing Wang Ling's suspicious side-eye, Jiang Bai scratched his head and said weakly, "He—

hello, Classmate Wang Ling, I'm called Jiang Bai. My dad said I should make friends with you."

Wang Ling: "... "

Wang Ling now understood: this Jiang Bai was a daddy's boy who would always listen to his father...

At that moment, Teacher Ye spoke from the dais. "There should actually be sixteen students in this meeting, but because of the Shuigou Sect incident, it's just the three of you... but it's fine since everyone present is a primary member of our No. 60 High School sports team. We'll have a simple meeting for now, and Student Fang Xing will later convey the gist of it to the students who aren't here."

After saying this, Teacher Ye paused before he continued, "This time, our opponents will be outstanding students from other senior high schools in Peiyuan district. Apart from our old rival No. 59 High School, we'll also be competing against Reliance High School. This district sports meet is a large-scale sports competition among the three schools, and is primarily geared toward Senior Grade One freshmen.

"We'll be taking part in several events: the ten thousand-meter relay marathon with a sword, the ten thousand-meter sprint with a sword, spirit archery, the medicine ball shot put, the ten-person tug-of-war, and the grand finale, the battle of soul pets."

Teacher Ye looked helplessly at the blue notebook in his hand. "I actually wanted to gather everyone for training, but we don't have much time left. Student Fang Xing has signed up for all the events and Student Jiang Bai will be taking part in every round of the spirit archery event."

Hearing this, Wang Ling somehow suddenly had a bad feeling.

"Currently, Student Wang Ling is only signed up for the ten thousand-meter relay marathon with a sword..." Teacher Ye smiled pitifully. "How about signing up for a couple more?"

Wang Ling: "..."

He could see that the Shuigou Sect incident had left too big an impact, and Teacher Ye was truly helpless in its wake.

From what many outsiders could see, No. 60 High School winning the district sports meet would be as difficult as trying to ascend to the heavens.

While the students would recover in three to five days from their spirits being sealed, they would still continue to feel weak for a while.

A person at the peak late Foundation Establishment stage had a maximum strength of roughly two thousand jin, but in a weakened condition following the seal on their spirit, that number would be reduced by half at the very least.

Of course, it was just an example. After all, many freshmen would have yet to reach the late Foundation Establishment stage.

Wang Ling cupped his chin and thought for a bit. Apart from his awesome self and Fang Xing this jin, only Super Chen and Lotus Sun came closest among all the freshmen in terms of strength. Currently, however, Super Chen had yet to recover, and Lotus Sun had signed up for the girls' events, which Teacher Ye wasn't in charge of.

This was very awkward.

Trying to pull Wang Ling in, Teacher Ye looked at him very seriously and said, "Student Wang Ling, it would be good if you can select another event: the medicine ball shot put or the ten-person tug-of-war, one of the two. If we don't have enough participants, that's the same as giving up.

"Furthermore, our opponents this time are very tough, especially the three extremely strong students who just entered Reliance High School. This opportunity to compare skills is hard to come by, and even if you lose, you may learn a lot."

Jiang Bai was curious. "Teacher Ye, do you have any information on these three students?"

Teacher Ye: "I'm still collecting detailed information on them, but I do know their names at least. They're the three famous brothers of the Tree family: Iron Tree, Copper Tree and Aluminum Tree."

"..."

Reasonably speaking, Wang Ling felt that it wouldn't be too good if he refused in the face of Teacher Ye's sincere attitude.

After all, Teacher Ye was the teacher most bullied by the other teachers in the school... Wang Ling didn't feel he could be that ruthless.

In the end, he signed up for two more events.

One was the medicine ball shot put and the other the battle of soul pets.

All the spirit animals taking part in the battle were domestic animals and only those that were suitable for battle would be pre-selected for the competition. Currently, No. 60 High School had an extremely suitable candidate.

Back then, it was Fang Xing who had pulled Wang Ling into this business.

Now, Wang Ling was planning to do the same to Loopy Toad.

Chapter 367 I Have Consummate Archery Skills!

Generally, the current study trajectory in Foundation Establishment high schools was the absorption of concepts and theory in the first year, with the addition of some cultivation techniques in the second year, and constant review of theory plus skills in the third year. Overall there wasn't much of a difference compared with old study methods: theory was focused on battle tactics, and techniques involved repeated exercise drills. For most people, it was in Senior Grade Three when the nightmare started.

Of course, in comparison, Wang Ling felt it was pretty easy; after all, he could put whatever he saw into action, and master it instantly. What was more, he had the two goblins Eraser and Pen to write his homework in his place. The only thing that was a little troublesome was exams; moreover, his scores couldn't be too good...

However, he felt that whatever university he managed to enter in the end would have nothing to do with whatever exam grades he got. That was because Wang Ling had realized that since entering No. 60 High School, his life had taken a dramatic turn. Whatever university he managed to get into... that was for fate to decide.

When Teacher Ye saw Wang Ling tick the "battle of soul pets" option, it was as if he instantly understood something... and in a flash, he recalled Loopy Toad. It could be said that this dog had left a very deep impression on Teacher Ye – especially that green fur; no one who saw it could ever forget it.

"Student Wang Ling, I remember that your class had a spirit dog at the beginning of the semester? Are you going to have it take part in the sports meet?" Teacher Ye looked at Wang Ling and asked.

Wang Ling nodded his head.

Teacher Ye: "Although you can certainly sign up for it, every school is allowed just one soul pet for the battle, and it'll need to pass the selection process next week."

"Don't worry, Teacher Ye. Loopy Toad definitely won't be a problem," Fang Xing said on the side, his face wreathed in smiles.

"Then we'll wait until after the selection process next week..." Teacher Ye also nodded.

Honestly speaking, Teacher Ye didn't have high hopes for Loopy Toad. Although he had heard that it had been a demon king before, when it had been discovered back then, its soul had already become so weak. Furthermore, Teacher Pan had forcefully fused its soul with a skeleton of an akita. The moment it had been fused with the dog, its life as a demon king had already come to a miserable end.

What was more, the demon race needed to cultivate with the help of demon qi; without knowing how to cultivate using spirit energy, there was no way for Loopy Toad's realm to advance in a short timeframe. Thus, Teacher Ye was doubtful about its strength.

He had no idea what kind of contestant Loopy Toad now was after having experienced Wang Ling's careful tutelage.

...

Close to the end of school that afternoon, Teacher Ye once again summoned up his courage to face Teacher Pan to whisk Wang Ling away in the last class period.

As Wang Ling walked to the classroom door, Teacher Pan stopped him as she called out, "Wang Ling, wait!"

Wang Ling turned his head, his face full of suspicion.

Teacher Pan said sincerely, "Although you are representing the school in competition this time, I still hope that once it's over, you'll refocus on your studies as soon as possible."

Wang Ling: "???"

Teacher Pan: "Do you know why your grades are always down the middle? I believe it's because you've never been truly invested in studying... I won't say anymore, just think about it."

Wang Ling was speechless: "..."

What was wrong with average grades?

Wasn't that pretty good?!

...

When he got to the sports field, Wang Ling found that it was especially noisy today. A crowd had gathered to one side up ahead for some reason, and there was a lot of lively laughter.

It was coming to the end of the PE lesson for the normal classes, and the PE teachers had simply let the students do their own thing. A bunch of them had gathered around to watch Jiang Bai's archery practice.

As he drew closer, Wang Ling saw all the guys and girls absorbed in watching Jiang Bai on the shooting range. Teacher Ye was standing up ahead at the front, and he threw a disc up into the air.

Then, Jiang Bai drew his bow, and the arrow shot through the sky to shatter the disc with a "bang."

Everyone was astounded. "Wow! Never thought that Jiang Bai had this type of skill... So impressive!"

On the side, the PE teachers for the other classes also applauded. "Teacher Ye has found a pretty good seedling! It looks like our No. 60 High School has some hope of winning the archery event this year."

At the scene, Teacher Ye smiled a little embarrassedly, then passed a strip of black cloth to Jiang Bai... It was only now that everyone realized that the real show was about to start.

Someone yelled in surprise, "Jiang Bai's eyes are covered!"

He was actually going to shoot blind!

In the crowd, Wang Ling raised his eyebrows with interest; who would have thought Jiang Bai would have other tricks up his sleeve.

It went without saying how hard shooting blind was, but it wasn't completely impossible. In fact, regular people could do it with a lot of training, by depending on their ears to determine which direction the object was in and relying on muscle memory. It would be even easier for cultivators since they could use their spiritual senses to locate the target.

However, it was still difficult for most of these students.

"Can he do it?"

A lot of people held their breaths at this scene.

"Ready!" Teacher Ye took in a breath, then jogged some distance away before suddenly throwing the disc out!

Hu — Everyone heard the rushing sound of the spinning disc...

Jiang Bai pricked up his ears, and in the next moment, he abruptly drew his bow and let loose his arrow!

Bang!

He hit the target in one strike!

"Cool! Jiang Bai is really awesome!" a guy couldn't help cheering.

However, Teacher Li was gradually starting to frown more deeply... For now, Jiang Bai's skills in stationary target archery, moving target archery and moving target blind archery were quite stable, but he still had a weak point, and that was rapid fire archery at a stationary target.

Teacher Ye had given him special intensive training in this regard a few weeks ago, but there hadn't been any improvement at all.

"What's going on? Why doesn't Old Ye look happy?" a PE teacher who didn't know the situation whispered the question.

A female PE teacher next to him answered, "You don't know... This child's situation is a little unique. Although he has a foundation in archery, it's because his father forced him to train with living targets... simply shooting at a target or a moving one is fine, but if there's something tied to the target, then it's difficult..."

"What do you mean?"

"Wait and see..."

Wang Ling heard their conversation from afar, and then turned his eyes to the field.

Teacher Ye tied an apple to the center of the target, then patted Jiang Bai's shoulder and stood next to him as he said, "Relax a little; look at it clearly. What's in front of you is just an apple, not a living thing. You need to have faith in yourself."

Jiang Bai nodded heavily.

After that, he raised the bow and arrow in his hand under everyone's eyes, and his aura obviously turned chaotic.

Xiu xiu xiu xiu xiu xiu!

Six spirit arrows were let loose in succession.

Teacher Ye buried his forehead deep in his hands, and the other students and teachers were all dumbfounded.

All the six spirit arrows had made a perfect ring around the apple, with none of them hitting the apple in the middle!

Wang Ling: "..."

This was probably the legendary body outline-tracing master...This refers to how a player in a shooting RPG might hit everything around the enemy except the enemy themselves.

Chapter 368 An Insect Peddler

This scene left many people stunned. His aim was precise during regular target archery, but he turned into a body outline-tracing master when it came to rapid fire shots... what kind of operation was this?

Ultimately, it was because Jiang Bai's father had cast too big a shadow over his childhood when he had made Jiang Bai practice his kitchen knife flying skills on living targets back then... it was probably enough to drive anyone insane.

The targets whom Jiang Bai had practiced on were all genuine cultivators; there was no way they would have been killed by a child's flying kitchen knife.

But the crucial problem was that Jiang Bai hadn't known that they were cultivators... After all, not everyone could automatically learn and accept all types of information from birth like Wang Ling.

Most kids had no understanding of the concept of cultivators at a young age, but they were very much aware that one could get hurt and bleed from being hit by a kitchen knife. Jiang Bai's father Jiang Haifu had duped him into practicing flying kitchen knives from a young age, and in order to not accidentally injure anyone, that was when his amazing talent had emerged.

But his dad could never have expected that his training would have turned his son into a body outline-tracing master.

"As expected, he's still not good at rapid fire shots." Teacher Ye let out a painful sigh.

Indeed, rapid fire shooting was more nerve-wracking than single shots, and it was easier to get drawn into an unstable mood... the most important thing was to adjust Jiang Bai's mental state for rapid fire archery. Most unfortunately, Jiang Bai's childhood shadow had taken a much heavier toll on him than Teacher Ye had imagined.

Things couldn't continue like this – No. 59 High School and Reliance High School also had archery experts participating in the competition this time. Jiang Bai's biggest advantages were his accuracy and stability in stationary target archery. But it was obviously unrealistic to think that No. 60 High School could win by relying on just the scores obtained from the stationary target archery event. In the end, the results of the overall archery competition would be based on the average of the scores obtained in all the events.

If you scored a zero in the rapid fire archery event, it didn't matter how high your scores were in the other events.

Jiang Bai actually understood this very well, but in actual practice, it was still very hard and challenging for him.

So many people watching made him especially nervous; standing in the rowdy crowd, Wang Ling could hear Jiang Bai's rapid breathing, and his hand even trembled slightly around the bow.

This already wasn't just nerves; it was signs of a lack of confidence.

Seeing this, Teacher Ye hurried over to comfort him with a few words before he simply stepped forward and placed the apple on his head. "Come on! Shoot me!"

Jiang Bai was shocked. "..."

The atmosphere around them froze at these words... why did they sound a little strange?

What the hell?! Was Teacher Ye being dirty?!

Teacher Ye quickly cleared his throat and said, "I meant, shoot the apple on my head..."

He knew what he had said was ambiguous and could be easily misunderstood.

"I'm at the Golden Core stage and I've practiced the Golden Bell Shield and Iron Skin, so there's no way these spirit arrows can hurt me. So, Student Jiang Bai, please believe in yourself and take it easy." Teacher Ye earnestly patted Jiang Bai's shoulder.

Given Jiang Bai's current realm, it was true that there was very little harm he could cause Teacher Ye with his spirit arrows; if an arrow touched his skin, it would just be like a mosquito bite.

But Wang Ling knew that there was still a risk.

Protection of the body at the Golden Core stage wasn't perfect; there were still some areas that were unprotected, like the eyes, which were a very vulnerable spot.

After that, Teacher Ye took up position around fifty meters away from Jiang Bai.

Jiang Bai drew in a deep breath; he took six spirit arrows from his quiver, then slowly drew them with the bow.

Teacher Ye stood at a distance with the apple on his head. "Don't be nervous! These spirit arrows can't hit me at all! Just treat it like stationary target archery!"

Jiang Bai's breathing started to pick up, and he even seemed a little dazed when he let the spirit arrows go one after another.

When he came back to his senses, six spirit arrows had already split the air, and in that moment, Wang Ling could already see their trajectory.

As expected... they would all perfectly miss Teacher Ye and the apple on his head.

At the same time, Jiang Bai had also already anticipated the same thing when he'd let the arrows fly, and he lowered his head in disappointment. "I knew it, I can't do it..."

But outside of everyone's expectations, these six spirit arrows suddenly seemed to find a course, and they pierced the center of the apple one after another, leaving just a small hole the size of an index finger.

What the hell?! They actually hit the target?

The result this time made everyone's jaws drop; even Jiang Bai himself widened his eyes in bafflement. Some of the PE teachers who had been staring blankly then exclaimed in surprise, and the scene erupted in thunderous applause.

Fang Xing had been watching everything quietly. The moment he saw Jiang Bai's six spirit arrows hit the target, he turned in almost the first instance to fix his eyes on Wang Ling, and he couldn't help laughing inwardly. His heart was clear as a mirror; although Wang Ling put on an aloof air, he hadn't been able to help lending a hand in the end.

...

When Wang Ling got home that night, he happened to see Loopy Toad at the front door eating the dog food specially supplied by Dopey Guo's family,

They still had a few bags of New Orleans fly-flavored dog food left. Mother Wang seemed to be in a particularly good mood today, and she had given Loopy Toad an extra large portion, which had plenty of fat, meaty flies mixed into it, so Loopy Toad was incredibly pleased.

However, due to the strong smell of insects, it could only eat mournfully outside the front door.

It was only later that Wang Ling found out that Mother Wang had bought these meaty flies from an insect peddler while she had been doing the grocery shopping.

Nowadays, insect cooking was already no longer a rare phenomenon – many restaurants now even had their own insect menus; whatever you could think of, they made it.

This type of insect cuisine was quite popular among cultivators. According to scientific research, cultivators consumed protein ten times faster than regular people, so to be able to replenish that protein with an insect meal was something to be happy about.

When Loopy Toad thought about it, it had very rarely been able to eat such plump, succulent flies since leaving the demon world... that was just too damn sad!

But insect peddlers couldn't be found just anywhere. Like the portable red banners that would be brought out now and then in junior and senior high school, the peddlers would appear intermittently at different markets, and didn't have a fixed location at all. It was purely by luck that Mother Wang had been able to bump into one at the market.

Seeing Loopy Toad happily gorge itself, Wang Ling didn't interrupt, and only just kicked it in the butt.

Loopy Toad understood that this was Little Master Ling's silent code word for: Come to my room later. This refers to the red brocade triangular flags generally used to mark special occasions or as gifts of appreciation.

Chapter 369 Ling Zhenren's Lottery Draw

Wang Ling suddenly discovered that there was a rich spread of dishes for tonight, many of which he had never seen before. There were already more than eight dishes on the dining table, but the old man and Mother Wang were still busy in the kitchen, presumably to round the number up; for example, ten perfect and beautiful dishes... Wang Ling wasn't interested in this sort of thing, but people at the old man's age were zealous in chasing luck.

Father Wang was reading the newspaper; when he saw that Wang Ling had returned, he hurriedly put the evening paper down and pushed up his black glasses in a familiar gesture. "From today onward, your grandfather will be preparing to battle the head of Kitchen Knife Sect, Jiang Haifu, in a cooking contest, so we'll have a lot of dishes these two days. Today, your mom and grandfather bought a lot of things from the market, to the point that Sheep almost wasn't able to take everything."

Were they really going to compete against each other?

Wang Ling was startled.

"Your grandfather's been very bored after retirement, so just treat this as something he can amuse himself with in his old age." Father Wang couldn't help smiling.

Wang Ling was speechless; he opened the fridge in the living room and was immediately shocked by the stock inside. He had never thought that they would actually buy so much; no wonder Sheep had been unable to carry it all. If Wang Ling hadn't specially transformed this fridge, there was no way all the ingredients could have been stuffed inside.

Wang Ling felt that the food in the fridge could sustain them for a whole month...

Just then, Father Wang suddenly put his newspaper down. "Oh, Ling Ling, I need your help with something."

Wang Ling: "???"

"It's like this: the supermarket that your mom and grandfather went to are starting a new system; from now on, you get points with every purchase you make, and then you can use the points to draw a lottery. You know..." Father Wang adjusted the frame of his glasses, and the lens flashed with reflected light.

"..."

Hearing this, Wang Ling understood; it turned out he was being asked to draw a lottery.

Father Wang handed his cellphone to Wang Ling. "Look, this is how much your mom and grandfather spent... They now have thirty thousand points. The normal lottery costs one hundred points, the mid-tier lottery one thousand points, and the top lottery costs ten thousand points."

Wang Ling's lips twitched as he gazed at the screen. He would break his hand trying to use up all the points for the one hundred points normal lottery. Furthermore, the prizes were a sham. The software system used a lottery wheel, and the prize depended on where the pointer stopped. The better a prize was, the less space it took up on the wheel, and on the normal lottery wheel, half the surface was "Thanks for your participation," while the best prize was just an electronic reader.

And there was even less to be said for the mid-tier lottery draw, where most of the prizes were just coupons and discount vouchers for various stalls in the market.

It was why Father Wang had aimed for the top lottery draw since the beginning. There weren't any sham options like "Thanks for your participation"; there were five options on the wheel, three of which didn't state what the prize was but were represented with a question mark instead. Most importantly, these question marks took up small amounts of space on the wheel.

Father Wang felt there was an eighty percent chance that these were valuable prizes!

Grocery shopping this time had cost him a full three days' worth of his writing fees... Now, his priority was to reduce his losses.

Although even Father Wang himself didn't know what he would get, humans were by nature very curious creatures.

Ordinarily speaking, Wang Ling wouldn't play trading card games.

Because he would hit the legendary jackpot every time, which was boring...

Characters in a trading card game could number as few as a hundred to as many as a thousand, five to ten percent of which would be made up of the "gold cards." These were the rarest cards, but every time Wang Ling played this type of game and as long as he mastered it, he could collect all the available gold cards in the shortest amount of time.

Wang Ling hence felt that this type of card game wasn't as challenging as trying to obtain the Water Margin cards in crispy noodle snack packets.

Whether it was drawing a card or drawing a lottery, it was all the same to Wang Ling. But it wasn't as if he had been born with good luck; instead, he relied on one of the Three Thousand Great Spells, the "Great Fortune Spell."

This spell was an active and potent skill; once it was activated, there was no way to undo it except to wait until its "buff" effect was over, and it could only be reactivated after a cooldown period. The most miraculous thing about this spell was that its cooldown period was pretty short; it only took two days before it could be discharged again.

The most important thing was that once its effect started to take hold, the luck generated by the spell and its support ability would last ten whole days.

In some sense, Wang Ling could use it continuously for as long as he wanted to.

But he recalled that it had already been at least seven to eight years since he had first used this spell.

He felt that using this spell was too much like showing off. Luck was something that had two sides to it: if your luck was good, there would naturally be someone on the flip side whose luck was bad... furthermore, if your luck was too good, it was easy for people to become jealous of you.

It didn't matter what era you lived in; there would always be two-faced people. Jealousy was a very curious thing: people might call you 'brother' to your face, but then stab you in the back.

Drawing a deep breath, Wang Ling opened his palm, and gold spirit light emanated from the center. It was as if Father Wang could see currents of energy gather in Wang Ling's palm before it gradually covered his entire body.

This was how the Great Fortune Spell was activated, commonly referred to as: gathering the spirit of heaven and earth, collecting the brilliance of the sun and moon.

After that, Wang Ling sighed lightly. He tapped the "Begin Draw" button, and the wheel started to spin quickly.

There was a flash of golden light on the screen, and he actually drew the mysterious question mark.

A crisp electronic voice sounded: Con Con Con Con Congratulations, you've drawn a grand prize!

After Wang Ling swiftly tapped the screen two more times, the electronic voice stuttered and repeated itself: Con Con Con Con Congratulations, you've drawn a grand prize!

"So amazing?" Father Wang was also awestruck.

Wang Ling had already foreseen this outcome earlier, so there wasn't the slightest ripple in his expression.

Whatever Father Wang had won would be displayed in the virtual gift bank; after he submitted his address, they would be delivered within three working days.

Wang Ling didn't know what he had drawn; it seemed he had gotten the mysterious question marks for all the three times that he had tapped the button just now.

"They should be pretty good prizes, right?" Father Wang opened the gift bank expectantly, and then opened the three mysterious question marks which Wang Ling had drawn.

Father Wang then saw that three things had been added to his gift bank.

A one-year membership for the Purple Light Pavilion Restaurant.

One gold card for Red Flower Society Hair Salon.

Chapter 370 "Immortal King Heart Sutra" Beta Version

After dinner, Wang Ling returned to his room. He was still enveloped in the golden light of the "Great Fortune Spell," which formed a faint sheen of light that only he could see.

For the next ten days, his luck would be extremely, extremely good... The prizes that he had drawn for Father Wang were just mere trifles.

Wang Ling remembered that the last time he had used the Great Fortune Spell, he had bought a lottery ticket, but hadn't won anything. Since then, he hadn't believed in any type of lottery. To not win even when he was using the Great Fortune Spell... it was plain to see how deep the waters were – when it came down to it, buying the lottery was just a kind of tax on the poor...

He didn't dare say that no had ever truly won the lottery. Some people had bought lottery tickets with the money leftover from grocery shopping, and had been lucky enough to win thousands of HNY. However, those who hit the jackpot always came to collect their prizes either in a mask or cosplay, which for a time had made Wang Ling doubt the veracity of their win.

Luckily in the Wang family, both Father Wang and Mother Wang weren't interested in either lotteries or shares. Mother Wang had always felt that a down-to-earth life was the most important

thing, while for Father Wang, steadily typing out words would always be much more practical than buying a lottery ticket and waiting for a pie to fall from the sky.

...

Loopy Toad had a dumbfounded expression on its dog face when it heard that Wang Ling had signed it up for a competition.

What kind of plot development was this... even Loopy Toad itself didn't quite understand.

When it came to following Little Master Ling's line of thought, there was no way it could puzzle it out in a short span of time by relying on just its dog brain.

Loopy Toad just felt that it wouldn't be fair for it to compete – it would be as if it had already been crowned champion.

Although it was currently at the peak late Golden Core stage, in terms of soul pets, it was barely a third-class spirit beast.

A third-class spirit beast wouldn't be anything rare in a university flooded with Golden Core cultivators.

Loopy Toad had learned that such elite universities heavily invested in the construction of spirit beast labs in schools to conduct tests on hundreds of third-class spirit beasts. In university, there were as many third-class and fourth-class spirit beasts as there were hairs on an ox, so a soul pet that was not yet second class didn't stand a chance of becoming a school pet. If you reached first class for real, the students in the lab would worship you like an ancestor.

Of course, Loopy Toad had learned all this from a post on the cultivation forum.

It remained to be seen whether it was true or not, but indeed, Loopy Toad's goal all this time had been to cultivate until it advanced to first class as quickly as possible.

After all, it had been a demon king before, had led the demon race, and had been chief of the toad clan. It couldn't return to its original body, but at the very least it had to preserve as much of its strength as possible, otherwise it would be too embarrassing.

Of course, Wang Ling had his own reasons for having Loopy Toad participate in the competition.

For one thing, Wang Ling's classmates had indeed missed its presence.

For another, Wang Ling wanted to use the competition this time as a practical test of Loopy Toad's current strength. Loopy Toad was currently cultivating the second version of the "Demon King Heart Sutra" which Wang Ling had modified by completely replacing the part which involved demon qi cultivation with spirit qi; although the cultivation path was the same, there could be possible adverse reactions.

Generally speaking, adverse reactions, if any, would only reveal themselves in true combat.

Wang Ling hugged Loopy Toad in his lap and stroked its dog fur with slender fingers, making it feel so comfortable it lay limp in his hold.

"We need to test the 'Demon King Heart Sutra'; this is the first time I've modified a martial art, and I need to see if there are any adverse reactions from it," Wang Ling communicated telepathically.

Adverse reactions?

Loopy Toad cocked its head; at the very least, cultivating the revised version of the "Demon King Heart Sutra" made it feel very good.

For the moment, it indeed couldn't tell if it was experiencing any adverse reactions; it would need to be tested in true combat to know for sure.

Wang Ling had actually come up with his own martial arts before as a kid, but they were just like the stories a child writes on a whim – they were bold and imaginative but impractical, and would be of very little use in actual combat.

When he had revised Loopy Toad's "Demon King Heart Sutra" previously, he had in fact referred to something he had secretly written called "Immortal King Heart Sutra," and had replaced the "demon qi" with a "spirit qi" formula.

The "Immortal King Heart Sutra" was a martial art that Wang Ling had been thinking about for a very long time, and of course, it had taken him a very long time to put it all together. After a rough calculation, it had already been eight years since he had first thought about it when he was eight years old.

The main thing was that this art wasn't complete, so this was just a beta version.

Once he successfully completed it, Wang Ling felt that he would be able to suppress his uncontrollable aura through cultivating this heart sutra, and he would no longer need to depend on the talisman seal on his arm.

It was just as Wang Ming had said: the talisman's restraining function was having less and less of an effect on him.

It was like when hospital patients were given too many antibiotics: even if it was in appropriate amounts, once you took too much, the body would involuntarily become resistant to them.

"Say, do you think you could cultivate to the level of a holy beast?" Wang Ling stared at Loopy Toad as he suddenly held the dog up.

"...I don't think so."

After looking stunned, Loopy Toad smiled bitterly. How could cultivating to the level of a holy beast be that easy?

According to the ranking system for holy beasts, first-class spirit beasts were in fact just one rank under holy beasts. The most important thing required was the beast heart. In ancient texts, a beast heart was in fact something that could be cultivated, but this cultivation method had long been lost, and most holy beasts basically inherited their beast hearts – it couldn't be obtained through mutation nor through paying for a transplant.

This was why the main aim of most spirit beasts nowadays was to cultivate to become first-class beasts.

As for cultivating toward becoming a holy beast, it was just as absurd as some real estate tycoon's big words about setting a small target of a hundred million yuan first.

Moreover, were there still holy beasts around nowadays?

Loopy Toad doubted it.

Even if there were any, most would probably choose to lie low.

Back when there had still been holy beasts, cultivators had believed that the beast hearts of holy beasts could help them in their pursuit of the path of Dao; they had done plenty of stupid things in the fight over beast hearts, and had even gone to war.

But... if Loopy Toad could truly cultivate to the level of a holy beast...

It would be like waking up laughing from a dream, and the first thing it would do would be to eat thirty tons of meaty houseflies in celebration. Wang Jianlin, who was the richest man in Asia in 2017, once advised in an interview that young people who want to become rich should set a "small target" of a hundred million yuan first — that's equivalent to USD15.6 million.