

Dragon King 401

Chapter 401: Unprecedented!!! (2 in 1 Chapter)

“Zhao... Kuo?” Hao Ren tensed up.

Since Zhao Kuo failed to reach the Heavenly Dragon Realm and almost lost his life, he hadn't returned to East Ocean.

Zhao Guang initially thought that Zhao Kuo went to train himself for a while and would quickly return. However, after leaving, no one heard from Zhao Kuo again.

Zhao Guang was worried that Zhao Kuo was caught in some sort of accident, and he sent out people to look for Zhao Kuo.

Finally, a few days ago, he received news and found where Zhao Kuo was heading. He was shocked that Zhao Kuo was going to the Dragon God Shrine for the general exams!

This morning, Lu Qing called him and told him that Hao Ren was going to participate in the exams at the Dragon God Shrine as Su Han's assistant as well.

When he linked these two things together, Zhao Guang started to build a plan in his mind.

“I'm not too sure whether this news is true or not, but at least it's a lead. That's why me, Zi, her mom, and a few elders will go to the Dragon God Shrine this Saturday,” Zhao Guang said through the phone.

“Is there anything I can help with?” Hao Ren asked.

“Nothing really. I just wanted you to enter the exams as a representative of the East Ocean Dragon Clan instead of Su Han's assistant,” Zhao Guang said.

East Ocean Dragon Clan!

Hao Ren as a representative of East Ocean Dragon Clan!

If it were before, the four ocean dragon clans wouldn't participate in any of Dragon God Shrine's events, including the general examinations.

The reason why Su Han was able to enter the exams was because she technically wasn't a member of the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

In a sense, the four ocean dragon clans were an alliance of their own, and the Dragon God Shrine was an alliance formed by smaller dragon clans. The rise of the Dragon God Shrine, in reality, was a challenge to the four ocean dragon clans!

That was why the four ocean dragon clans and the Dragon God Shrine didn't interfere with each other and only observe each other's actions.

However, if Hao Ren were to represent the East Ocean Dragon Clan and participate in the exams rather than Su Han's assistant, the meaning of everything would be different.

Even if the East Ocean Dragon Clan only sent one cultivator, it would still have a symbolic meaning.

It was Hao Ren who became the key person to make such changes!

“Yeah, I can do it,” Hao Ren said on the phone. Suddenly, he felt an enormous weight on his shoulders.

If he were to participate as Su Han’s assistant, then losing wouldn’t really matter. However, if he were to represent the East Ocean Dragon Clan, then losing early on would make the East Ocean Dragon Clan lose face.

“You don’t have to overthink this. This is a strategic decision that was made by all the elders and me. Therefore, your performance during the exam is irrelevant. As long as you represent the East Ocean Dragon Clan, we will have enough reasons to go to the Dragon God Shrine and find clues as to where my third brother is,” Zhao Guang explained.

“Ok, I understand,” Hao Ren responded.

For Zhao Guang, this trip was to have interactions with the Dragon God Shrine and to see Zhao Kuo. After thinking about it a bit more, Hao Ren felt like the latter was probably the main reason.

The current situation of the four ocean dragon clans was unpredictable with Zhao Haoran’s return. He suppressed the South Ocean Dragon Clan the North Ocean Dragon Clan before defeating the West Ocean Dragon Clan. These reasons have made the alliance between the four oceans extremely weak.

“Also, Xie Yujia, Lu Linlin, Lu Lili, and Zhen Congming would be coming with us.” Zhao Guang finished his last words and hung up the phone.

Hao Ran stared at his cell phone. He had a hard time believing the supporters he would have when he was taking the exams.

The Dragon King, Dragon Queen, and Princess of East Ocean, as well as several purple-robed elders of East Ocean, the disciple of a Soul Formation Realm cultivator, twin sisters from the Immortal Realm, and the only disciple of Qiu Niu, the eldest son of the Godly Dragon!

However, when he really thought about it, if he lost in the first round of combat or couldn’t even pass the first day’s written exam with such a strong support team, it would be such a humiliation!

He suddenly sensed chills in his spine.

He looked at Xie Yujia who was sitting in front of him, and he remembered that smile she just had; he guessed that she was looking forward to seeing his battles on this weekend. She probably found out that he was going to take the exams and thus understood why he was running with Su Han in the morning. He felt delighted.

“Class begins!”

The teacher, who was almost bald, walked into the classroom and disrupted Hao Ren’s thoughts.

Time slowly flowed away.

The bell that signaled the end of the class finally rung, ending the oppressive atmosphere in the classroom.

Hao Ren slowly stopped circulating his nature essence according to the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll within his body.

Just when Hao Ren was about to get up and go back to the dorm with Zhao Jiayi, a guy in a white t-shirt came over.

He was Lu Qi, the president of the Go Club. Lu Qi had extraordinary skills, winning all the competitions when he was in high school. When he entered university, he was the champion of the national amateur competition two years straight and even represented China to compete in Korea, winning 16 games and losing only one.

His talent and skill allowed him to be respected even by top Chinese Go players, and he also had a beautiful smile and good looks.

He was also humble and low-key, attracting a loyal female fanbase.

Different from Huang Xujie, even though Lu Qi was incredibly popular with the girls at school, he was never arrogant about it.

Since he was rarely at school due to all the competitions, this sudden appearance he made in this classroom shocked everyone.

"I'm sorry, but are you looking for someone?" Xie Yujia asked while everyone hadn't recovered from the shock.

"Hao Ren." Lu Qi's gaze locked on to Hao Ren, who was at the back of the classroom.

Everyone's gaze had turned to the back of the classroom where Hao Ren was.

Hao Ren looked over and saw that Lu Qi had a dim red light around him.

The element of fire!

"Come with me; I have something to discuss with you," Lu Qi said while he stared at Hao Ren.

His voice was calm but bleak.

Hao Ren walked passed the crowd and went to the front of the classroom where Lu Qi was.

Lu Qi wore a pair of frameless glasses, and his eyes gave out a dim red light.

His skin was softer than girls', and it looked like he came from a wealthy family. To sum it up, he was more handsome than Hao Ren.

The classroom was filled with clamors, all discussing what was going on.

Lu Qi is a prodigy in the Go circle. No matter how hard one thought, there didn't seem to be a connection between him and ordinary students. However, he suddenly appeared here and asked for Hao Ren in a provocative tone. This strange event led to plentiful of gossip and theories.

"What is it?" Hao Ren asked.

"A challenge." Lu Qi uttered the two words coldly.

“Wow...” The classroom got noisy.

“Where?” Hao Ren asked.

“At the Go Club,” Lu Qi answered.

“Oh...” people in the classroom were astonished.

“Sure.” Hao Ren nodded without any hesitation.

Lu Qi nodded back and walked toward the staircase, and Hao Ren followed him.

Dong, dong, dong... The crowd rushed toward the staircase and wanted to see what would happen.

Between the academic buildings, there were sky bridges that connected them.

Hao Ren followed Lu Qi to a nearby academic building, causing the buildup of a large crowd there.

“Lu Qi is challenging Hao Ren to a game of Go!”

“Really?”

“If you don’t believe it, just go to the Go club!”

“What is actually happening?”

“I heard it’s because of Su Han!”

“Yeah. When they were walking toward the Go Club, they talked about Su Han! It must be that Lu Qi also likes Su Han! Since Hao Ren and Su Han came to school together today, Lu Qi was infuriated by the sight!”

“Great gossip! I can’t believe that Lu Qi has a crush on Su Han!”

Just when the crowd was building up in front of the Go Club, Hao Ren and Lu Qi entered the classroom that was dedicated to this club.

Lu Qi had great accomplishments in the Go circle, including defeating Japanese and Korean professionals and bringing in countless honors and trophies for the university. That was why the school dedicated a room for him to practice Go in, and it was the only exception for a school club.

In order for the members of the club to practice in peace, the windows of the classroom had black papers stuck to them along with specialized sound insulations installed.

Hao Ren and Lu Qi entered the classroom, and the rest of the students were all trying to get a peek through the door or trying to hear what was going on inside. However, due to the sound and light insulations, they couldn’t see or hear a thing.

“Are you saying that you’re challenging me because of Su Han?” Hao Ren looked around the classroom and asked Lu Qi.

There were six to seven tables in the classroom, and they were decorated with black and white chess pieces.

“Su Han sent out a secret notice to all secret clubs in the university. She said that whoever defeats you by Friday can replace you as her assistant.” Lu Qi looked at Hao Ren in the eyes with unflustered emotions.

“Su Han... She thinks my life is too easy...” Hao Ren thought secretly.

“Just a short self-introduction. I, Lu Qi, am a Dui-level fire-elemental dragon from the main branch of Wude Forest,” Lu Qi said.

“I’m Hao Ren, a Gen-level water-elemental dragon from East Ocean,” Hao Ren said while backing up half a step.

“It’s my honor!” Lu Qi put his hands together and then suddenly attacked!

The classroom was lit up by a red light!

An energy sphere!

The two tables beside Lu Qi bounced away!

The black and white chess pieces rose.

Lu Qi put his hands out and counted ten black and white chess pieces before throwing them toward Hao Ren!

Lu Qi had amazing Go skills, but his cultivation was also quite incredible!

Although he looked like he was in his twenties, he might have trained for 50 to 60 years in order to achieve Dui-level. He had the skills to compete on the exams at the Dragon God Shrine!

Everyone knew that the Dragon God Shrine had a quota for its official inspectors. Theoretically, it was based on merit. However, under similar circumstances, they would prioritize cultivators who had the position of assisting inspector!

“It’s my honor!” Hao Ren also put his hands together, and 160 sword energies suddenly shot out of his shoulders

The sound of the sword energies piercing through the chess pieces shook the classroom, and the floor was covered in broken chess pieces.

With only 40% of his cultivation power and only at Gen-level, Hao Ren had to give it his all to defeat a Dui-level cultivator!

“What is this technique!?” It was the first time that Lu Qi had witnessed such a technique and was slightly shocked.

He stomped his feet on the ground, and the broken chess pieces bounced up again before dashing at Hao Ren. The broken chess pieces were lit up with bright red fire and followed the movement of Lu Qi’s palm.

The tens of chess pieces had transformed into hundreds of flaming fragments!

After Hao Ren moved his palms in the air, the 160 sword energies immediately doubled.

The sword energies were flying across the room, smashing the chess pieces to the extent that there wasn't even powder left.

"Three! Talents! Heaven! Earth!" Hao Ren said each word clearly and precisely.

The sword energies gave out a humming noise, and the sparkling swords charged toward Lu Qi's head, chest, and legs.

With only 40% of his cultivation power, Hao Ren had to finish off the battle quickly!

Also, he had to freeze his nature essence for a split second within each second to not trigger the Five Mountains Bracelets.

During the split second when Hao Ren's nature essence froze, the sword energies vanished with the loss of energy.

Then, once Hao Ren managed to get his nature essence back up again, the sword energies reappeared!

Never had Lu Qi seen such strange attacks. Suddenly, a chessboard that was in white and black appeared in his palm.

That was his natal dharma treasure!

This dharma treasure emitted a pure black and white flame, and at the same time, the sword energies already arrived at Lu Qi's neck, stomach, and knees.

Whoosh!

The Sword energies suddenly stopped a few millimeters in front of Lu Qi.

"Buzz... buzz..." With Hao Ren's continuous rhythm of stopping and reemitting his nature essence, the sword energies vanished and reappeared.

Even after taking out his strongest weapon, Lu Qi was flabbergasted.

"You lost," Hao Ren calmly uttered the two words.

A mystic black and white flame was still floating around Lu Qi's chessboard.

He stared at Hao Ren, tightly gritting his teeth. Then, he put the chessboard back into his body.

From start to finish, the battle only took five seconds.

"I lost." Lu Qi nodded and stopped the red energy sphere.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The dense sword energies rushed back into Hao Ren's body.

Lu Qi only had one natal dharma treasure, but Hao Ren had 320! The sword energies were Hao Ren's nature essence, and they were also his natal dharma treasures.

"If you want, I can have another battle with you," Hao Ren said.

Lu Qi raised his head and looked at Hao Ren.

“Peng!”

The red energy sphere reappeared, and Lu Qi’s entire body was blazing with red flames.

His white skin turned bright red!

Peng, peng, peng...

The chessboard turned into a black and white Tai Chi symbol with a big fire dragon symbol at the center, emitting dazzling flames!

When a fire dragon flies into the sky, it lights up everything!

Lu Qi practiced the Raging Flame Scroll. The burning flames he emitted were capable of melting rocks!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Hao Ren’s sword energies reappeared from his body.

This time though, they weren’t colorful swords but were solely made up of black ones.

“Black Water Scroll!” Lu Qi couldn’t help but scream.

The black sword energies formed waves just like the water in the netherworld and rushed toward the flame.

Water counters fire!

With the countering element and the power of the sword array formation, Hao Ren’s water-elemental array formation did not lose to Lu Qi’s burning flames!

Peng! Peng! Peng!

The flames and the swords were colliding with each other.

Water and fire opposed each other, and the flames around Lu Qi and the water-elemental swords around Hao Ren were wearing each other out.

In a few days, the exams in the Dragon God Shrine were going to take place. It would be easy to pass the written exam, but the combat exams would be difficult.

The news Su Han spread out suddenly got Hao Ren a bunch of ‘trainers’.

In the East Ocean University, there weren’t many strong opponents, but there were a bunch of dragon cultivators who were around the same level as Hao Ren.

How could Hao Ren not accept this ‘gift’ from Su Han?

Half an hour later, the Go Club’s door finally reopened.

Lu Qi walked out with a pale face.

In contrast, Hao Ren looked proud. He waved his hands and walked out of the classroom.

They both didn’t explain anything. However, when Lu Qi walked down the stairs, he almost tripped.

From then on, the rumor of Hao Ren beating Lu Qi in a game of Go spread rapidly across the campus.

Chapter 402: Robberies

“Isn’t winning Lu Qi in a game of Go too incredible?”

“Yeah. What else could they do in the Go Club room?”

“I heard that Lu Qi looked pale when he walked out. He must feel terrible losing!”

“Really? I don’t think winning Lu Qi is actually possible...”

“That Hao Ren though, he’s even great at basketball.”

“Not only basketball, but he’s also good at rock climbing and boxing. He’s like the Superman!”

“He is a great singer as well...”

“Breaking news! Breaking news! Ye Feng, a four-year student, along with some companions, are going to the cafeteria to find Hao Ren!”

“Isn’t Ye Feng the one that opened a few restaurants outside the school?”

“Yeah, yeah. I heard he wanted to find Hao Ren to discuss some things. A lot of people have gathered around the Clear Stream Cafeteria. Let’s go there too!”

All of a sudden, the school got turned up-side-down by the news.

With the flow of time, the dragon cultivators who used to live deep in the woods were slowly assimilating with the mortals in society.

Especially the young dragon cultivators who had trained at home to some extent; They would go into the cities, enter a high school or university, and meet new friends to expand their horizons.

Within East Ocean University, there were over ten secret groups. Some were based on their elemental attribute, some were based on their realms, and some were based on where they were from. After receiving Su Han’s message, they all went to find Hao Ren, despite previously being relatively low-key.

The Hao Ren who had once rejected the invitation to enter their groups had suddenly become the number one target. As long as one could defeat Hao Ren, he or she would be able to obtain the qualifications to become an assisting inspector!

However, in the eyes of ordinary university students who didn’t know the secretive dragon cultivators that all come from backgrounds of wealth and power, the ordinary students all thought that the sudden challenges against Hao Ren by these famous students were because they were jealous of his close relationship with Su Han.

A day quickly passed by.

Hao Ren was exhausted and dragged his tired body to Su Han’s office.

In just one short day, he had become the focus of the entire school. The school, however, had no intention of interfering with the students' gossips.

"Today was just the beginning. In the next two days, it'll become much worse," Su Han said calmly as she felt Hao Ren walking into her office.

"The ones who haven't attacked are just patiently waiting for their opportunities, right?" Hao Ren asked.

She opened her eyes and said, "If you can't even defeat them, there's no chance for you to survive the Dragon God Shrine."

"But I can only use 40% of my power," Hao Ren said while looking at her.

Su Han scanned Hao Ren with her cold gaze and said, "The people participating in this exam have far superior powers than them."

She stopped for a bit before continuing, "I watched your battles with Lu Qi. You clearly won by a distance in the first battle. In the second battle, you amazed me with your patience. Even a Dui-level cultivator isn't your match."

Hao Ren lightly smiled.

Although he wasn't a Dui-level cultivator yet, if he compared the volume of nature essence with a Dui-level cultivator, he was confident that he was superior. He had cultivated all five elemental essences simultaneously. With all five elements together, it was as if there were five Gen-level cultivators fighting one Dui-level cultivator, not to mention that he was able to counter his opponent's elemental essence and use sword array formations.

"Let's go! I bought frozen dumplings today." Su Han opened a drawer and took out a bag of dumplings.

Together in the drawer with the dumplings was Su Han's White Jade Sword.

Su Han practiced the Ice Frost Scroll, and her natal dharma treasure was of ice-cold nature. When Su Han put the sword in the drawer with the dumplings, it worked as an automatic refrigeration system!

As if something was stuck in Hao Ren's throat, he couldn't say anything.

But it was Su Han! For her to go out and buy a bag of frozen dumplings, it was already a vast diet improvement!

"Pa..." Su Han threw the bag of dumplings over to Hao Ren.

"When we go back, you're responsible for cooking the dumplings. Then, you have to read the Inspector's Handbook," Su Han said emotionlessly while she put back her White Jade Sword.

After that, she went straight out of the office.

Hao Ren looked at her slim body as she walked away. He held the bag of cold dumplings and couldn't help but laugh.

“She is the one who wants to eat dumplings, but she is afraid that she’ll overcook them. That’s probably why she’s making me cook them.” After realizing Su Han’s true intentions, Hao Ren quickly ran out of the office and ran to catch up to Su Han.

Days passed by quickly.

In the evening, Hao Ren had to cook for Su Han. Then at night, he had to memorize the Inspector’s Handbook.

Next day morning, he had to run to school with Su Han. During the day, had to battle against young cultivators who wanted his position.

Within the school, Hao Ren’s reputation grew rapidly. Although he had tens of students come to him to ‘discuss’ things, he still ran to school with Su Han in the morning. The male students were extremely jealousy at this sight.

On Thursday, Su Han showed up in class in a shirt that had semi-see-through sleeves and a pair of black shorts with simple white polka dots. It was her first time coming to class after she had taken a break from school, and her appearance was dazzling and s*xy. Zhao Liren almost nosebleed.

Once again, Su Han became the model that the girls at school looked up to for fashion inspiration. Also, Su Han’s look today hinted that the summer arrived early.

During this time, Zhao Yanzi, with her study materials, pretended to go to the girl’s dorm at the East Ocean University every night to find Xie Yujia to study. However, she was led by Little White and Xie Yujia to Fifth Heaven to train.

The Qin Yin Sect found tens of herbs Xie Yujia was missing to the valley and placed them at the entrance of the Ethereal Summit. When Xie Yujia saw the abundance of materials, she made tens of Beauty Pills for Little White to bring back to the Qin Yin Sect as a thank-you gift.

Overall, there was nothing wrong.

-Sixth Heaven, the Sky Mountain Sect-

A girl wearing a cyan dress walked up the stone steps rapidly. At her waist hung a golden bell; with each step, the bell made a series of crisp noises.

A golden ‘squirrel’ was chasing behind her. Its movements were brisk, forming the illusion of a streak of golden lights.

“Daddy, are you looking for me?” The girl asked as she ran into the garden and pushed opened the bedroom door.

Inside the bedroom sat a mid-aged man with a long black goatee.

“Duan Yao, you’re back.” The man rocked his chair while nodding slightly.

“Daddy, what’s the matter? Why did you ask me to come back on such short notice? Did something urgent happen?” Duan Yao asked carefully while blinking a few times.

“Peng!”

The man slammed his hand on the table to his left, and a white jade teacup jumped into the air.

Duan Yao was shocked, and her whole body shivered.

“How dare you still pretend to be innocent! Kneel before me!” The man yelled with his eyes wide open.

Duan Yao was scared and quickly knelt on both knees. A mid-aged woman walked in from the room next door, and she shook her head helplessly when she looked at Duan Yao. She came over and handed her a cushion to kneel on.

“Be honest with me. What did you do on Fifth Heaven?” The man glared at Duan Yao, and his voice was extremely strict.

Under the wrath of her father, Duan Yao felt like her body was losing strength. She hesitated for a few seconds and said, “Dad, I found some clues to the thieves that offended the White Sand Sect and stole the two elixir stoves that we gave to them a while ago. I’ve been chasing after the thieves recently.”

“Peng!”

The man slammed against the tea table again.

Duan Yao was scared to look up, and her whole body shivered. The mid-aged woman beside the mid-aged man felt empathy toward Duan Yao, but she didn’t dare utter a word to appease the man’s anger.

“How dare you try and fool me! You really think I don’t know anything?” The mid-aged man was so mad that he turned purple from holding his breath. “You relied on LuoJia’s powers and stole from cultivators who were passing by Fifth Heaven. You think I don’t know?”

When she heard this, Duan Yan fiercely shook her head. “Daddy, I didn’t!”

“How dare you quibble!” The man continued to raise his voice. “It has already been reported to Sixth Heaven. Are you saying that the cultivators on Fifth Heaven are lying? The perpetrator was a girl who is 15 to 16, rode a snow lion, had a purple-green longsword, and used the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll!”

Duan Yao looked up and stared blankly at her dad. LuoJia, who was standing on her shoulder, jumped to the ground as it looked at the madman in front of it. It ran a little further, just to be safe.

“Dad, that snow lion, it is white, isn’t it?” Duan Yao asked after thinking for a bit.

“It is white. Don’t think you can trick me with these little tricks. LuoJia is a level 5 snow lion. Becoming white is easy for it!” The man got angrier as Duan Yao asked for the details.

The woman who stood next to the man tried extremely hard to convey the message: keep quiet for now; don’t talk back.

However, Duan Yao was extremely confused and did not understand what she did wrong.

“That snow lion is not pure white; its legs are golden. That’s the evidence that it was LuoJia not completely changing colors! How dare you quibble at this stage! You’re the daughter of the Sect Master of the Sky Mountain Sect. How dare you go and rob cultivators on Fifth Heaven! You made me lose face! Not only did you rob them, you even robbed the affiliates of sects on Sixth Heaven! If they didn’t come to me, I wouldn’t know the troubles you have caused on Fifth Heaven!”

Each word the man said echoed in the room.

“How dare you say it wasn’t you? I haven’t taught any other disciple the Big Dipple Constellation Scroll! Also, you took the Purple Green Treasure Sword long ago!”

“Alright, alright. She’s been playful and has done some wrong things; it was inevitable. However, she’s been trying to find clues for the White Sand Sect this time on Fifth Heaven.” The mid-aged woman finally tried to appease the man’s anger.

Duan Yao looked down, and her teeth made a loud grinding noise. She had never robbed cultivators on Fifth Heaven, but she couldn’t say that she had lost the Purple Green Treasured Sword and the Big Dipper Constellation Scroll!

The Big Dipper Constellation Scroll was a technique that her father begged from Seventh Heaven, and the Purple Green Treasure Sword was one of the greatest treasures of the Sky Mountain Sect. If her father learned that she lost them, he would be even madder.

“Go to the back mountain and reflect for a month! Only rough meals! No visits allowed!” The mid-aged man roared.

He looked at Duan Yao who was kneeling; he thought for a second and said, “If it weren’t you, we will see what happens on Fifth Heaven for the coming month!”

Meanwhile, on Fifth Heaven, Zhao Yanzi looked at the dharma treasures, technique scrolls, spiritual herbs, elixir pills, and dharma notes that filled up half of her cave abode. She puffed up her cheeks and said, “These things aren’t good. They’re wasting so much space. Oh well, I’ll rest for a month!”

Chapter 403: Dragon God Shrine (1.5 in 1 Chapter)

“Ring, ring, ring...” The bell that signaled the end of Friday’s classes rung.

Hao Ren put on his backpack and left the classroom.

In four days, he successfully defeated 26 dragon cultivators at the East Ocean University. Three were at Dui-level, 12 were at Gen-level, and 11 were at Zhen-level.

Hao Ren’s classmates ran out the door behind him.

Outside the classroom was Su Han. She was standing there with a t-shirt that had a little boy stamped on it, she also wore a pink sports jacket and didn’t zip it up, and the yellow baseball cap on her head made her seem both refreshing and youthful.

Hao Ren saw Su Han at the door when he walked out of the classroom.

“Let’s go!” Su Han said lightheartedly while looking at him.

All the students around them were shocked.

“What is this situation? Su Han coming to the classroom to pick Hao Ren up from school. Isn’t that what couples do?” they thought.

“Ok!” Hao Ren nodded and flung his backpack onto his back before following Su Han to the stairs.

Ma Lina was standing outside the classroom door; she was also astonished by this. Only when Hao Ren and Su Han had walked downstairs, she realized what had happened and shoved an elbow at Xie Yujia. “He... he...”

“It’s ok!” Xie Yujia smiled comfortably without a slight hint of anger or jealousy.

Her tolerant appearance shocked the students outside the classroom as well. They were so shocked that they didn’t know what to say.

“You didn’t break up with Hao Ren, right?” Ma Lina questioned Xie Yujia.

“I didn’t; I still love him,” Xie Yujia answered with no hesitation. She smiled and grabbed Ma Lina by the hand and led her toward the staircase.

Hearing Xie Yujia’s words, the guys were so furious that their eyeballs were almost popping out. “How dare him, that bastard! Hao Ren!” they thought.

“Are you all set?” Su Han asked when they came out.

“Yeah, everything’s set,” Hao Ren responded.

Even though he was a modern mortal who grew up competing and attending all sorts of exams, competitions, and races, entering the Dragon God Shrine’s exams was a first for Hao Ren.

Carrying a backpack and walking out the school gate with the setting sun’s light dimming on them, Hao Ren felt like he was a student in the ancient times when people had to go to the Capital to take exams that determined their fate.

The battles in the last few days had increased Hao Ren’s battle experience immensely. However, the truth was that the real elite dragon cultivators weren’t at the East Ocean University; they were the future successors of their clan, and the elders kept them back at home.

Fighting those that weren’t the strongest among his generation gave Hao Ren the chance to warm up.

Su Han knew what Hao Ren’s ability was like, so she was sure that he wouldn’t lose easily. She was actually quite satisfied with his performance.

After all, if Hao Ren couldn’t even pass the challenges at school, there was no chance that he would pass the Dragon God Shrine’s exams.

As Su Han looked at Hao Ren who was wearing a thin polo shirt and long sweatpants, she had higher expectations of him.

“Maybe, this kid can actually make it to the top three?” Su Han secretly thought.

The two walked out of the school. They took a taxi that was passing by and slowly faded from the stares of the crowd back at school.

In Lu Qing's office, there were a few young male teachers. They looked mad and exclaimed, "Vice Principal, what is this? Ms. Su is so close to a student; this will have a negative impact on the school's reputation!"

"Vice Principal, you really should interfere with this. The school can't be like this! Ms. Su is in the spotlight at the school, and her condescending attitude is unacceptable!"

"A teacher should behave like a teacher. I think that student should also be punished! Recently, many male students challenged him privately, and girls have been talking about him. Isn't this enough evidence that all the students in the school are displeased with him?"

"Vice Principal, you need to stop protecting Su Han and that Hao Ren."

The male teachers were extremely passionate about their beliefs; they were almost about to slam the table. Lu Qing was sitting at his desk, just looking at the teachers calmly. He obviously understood what these male teachers were thinking.

The male students all a crush on Su Han, and so did these male teachers.

These male teachers tried to approach Su Han either obviously or secretly. However, Su Han didn't care to bother with them and didn't even remember their names!

Now, Su Han was always with a male student. How could this not be a huge blow to their ego?

"I won't interfere this time," Lu Qing said calmly, stating his stance on the situation.

All the male teachers were shocked and were about to explode. "Vice Principal, how can you not do anything?"

Lu Qing was still sitting calmly at his desk, looking at them with no emotional fluctuations. "The school has its rules. There aren't any rules that prohibit students and teachers running to school together."

"What..." The male teachers looked at each other and were utterly speechless.

"Does the school have rules on whether a teacher can walk home from school together with a student?"

"Eh..." the male teachers were once again speechless.

Lu Qing leaned forward a little bit and asked, "Unless you guys are saying that Su Han and Hao Ren are dating?"

Once he said this, the male teachers' faces turned bright red; they couldn't say another word.

Su Han and Hao Ren seemed to have a close relationship, but it was highly unlikely that they were dating. Also, the male teachers were unwilling to think in that direction and didn't want to admit that Su Han was no longer available.

"What other questions do you guys have?" Lu Qing said at a slow speed as if he were questioning them.

"Vice Principal, even if there's nothing wrong about Ms. Su, but that student! We can't just let that student off the hook!" A male teacher suddenly suggested, "He often skips school. According to school regulations, that should be an offense. We should at least give him a warning!"

“Yes! Yes! Yes! There’s nothing wrong with Ms. Su, but the student should be punished!” The other male teacher unanimously agreed with this opinion.

Lu Qing put on a straight face and didn’t say anything.

“Vice Principal Lu, if you can’t deal with this problem, we’ll go find the Principal!” After seeing Lu Qing’s indifferent attitude, the male teachers became decisive.

Lu Qing was only the Vice Principal, and on top of him was the Principal.

“Hao Ren got my approval beforehand. If you have any questions, you can go consult the Principal,” Lu Qing said.

“Let’s go! Let’s go find the Principal!”

At this current moment, all the male teachers were hotheaded. They weren’t scared of offending Lu Qing anymore and went straight to the Principal’s office.

Half a minute later, a roar was heard from the principal’s office. “What on earth do you think you guys are doing? Hao Ren is Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang’s son! If we give a serious warning to Hao Zhonghua’s son, what do you think the consequences are? Are you guys willing to take on the responsibilities?”

There was absolute silence for a split second in the Principal’s office.

Then, the male teachers quickly ran out of the office.

Meanwhile, Hao Ren and Su Han were in a taxi. They went to a small park a few kilometers away from school.

Everyone around them was once again jealous of Hao Ren as he led Su Han to the ticket window and bought two entrance tickets to the park.

It was very quiet in the park, but they did not have time to wander around. They quickly found a quiet spot where no one was around, and Su Han took out her White Jade Sword and created a red energy sphere.

Then, she used her power to carry them up high into the sky.

They were heading towards the Dragon God Shrine.

As they flew higher and higher, the sight of East Ocean City became smaller and smaller. After they were above layers of clouds, Su Han maximized their speed!

On Su Han’s waist hung a shiny token. That was the symbol of an official inspector, and no forces dared to stop them!

“Have you memorized everything in the handbook?” Su Han asked to confirm.

Su Han’s hair fluttered in the air as they continued ascending, and she looked beautiful from this angle.

“I’ve memorized everything,” Hao Ren said.

To memorize that super thick handbook, he had pulled a few consecutive all-nighters. His head was about to explode with all the information that was crammed in. After all, even Su Han couldn't remember everything.

"I hope you won't disappoint me," Su Han said calmly.

Hao Ren stood behind Su Han and smelled the scent of her hair; it was fresh and sweet. He was a bit touched by what Su Han said.

Although Su Han didn't show any emotions, he understood that Su Han had high expectations of him.

"I'll try my best," Hao Ren said decisively.

"Ok." Su Han slightly nodded.

The longsword they were standing on shone brighter.

They flew for a whole hour, and then Hao Ren saw a large platform in the sky from afar!

Around the platform were many other cultivators who were flying at full speed toward it. They were cultivators who came to participate in the general exams at the Dragon God Shrine!

The whole platform let out a dim red light; it was enveloped in an energy sphere!

"During this time of the year, around the Dragon Boat Festival, the Dragon God Shrine will have the exams for three days. Only during these three days will the Dragon God Shrine be open to the public. Normally, only the official inspectors who hold tokens can enter. Of course, they sometimes bring back criminals, and they are brought in too. Otherwise, no one else can enter." Su Han saw that Hao Ren was slightly surprised, so she explained to him.

"So, the Dragon God Shrine also has a prison?" Hao Ren asked.

"Dragon cultivators who committed crimes are locked within the Heavenly Prison here. All the four ocean dragon palaces have their own prisons," Su Han said.

"The prison at the East Ocean Dragon Palace is probably the Ice Palace," Hao Ren thought to himself.

As they talked, they arrived on the platform with Su Han using her long sword to carry Hao Ren with her.

Hao Ren looked around. There were rows of small rooms lined up, and there were probably thousands of them!

In the center was an enormous black palace, and around it was hundreds of large-scale battle arenas!

The platform which was floating high in the sky supported thousands of rooms, hundreds of battle arenas, and an enormous palace.

"Do you think this looks like the Nine Dragon Palace?" Su Han asked Hao Ren.

"A little bit..." Hao Ren said.

If the Nine Dragon Palace were a super city, then the Dragon God Shrine was a small city. In the Nine Dragon Palace, there were mountains, lakes, abandoned building, and towers that reached the sky.

However, the Dragon God Shrine was an enormous platform that had a series of rooms, battle arenas, and a massive palace with tens of thousands of small rooms.

“The Dragon God Shrine was built based on the Nine Dragon Palace. However, we don’t have that kind of power to support a platform as big as the Nine Dragon Palace. This is all we can do,” Su Han said.

Hao Ren was left speechless.

The grand palace was a historical site in the Nine Dragon Palace, and it was the ancestral home of all five-elemental dragon clans.

The Dragon God Shrine was based on the Nine Dragon Palace. Although it was not as big, being able to support its size in the middle of the sky was already a great accomplishment. The sight of the Dragon God Shrine already showed off its power, and it was nothing to be reckoned with!

“Let’s not waste time. You only have a little time to prepare.” Su Han slowly descended and landed on the platform.

“The written exam starts tonight. Here’s your temporary identity token; I got it for you beforehand. Your room number is Ren Yin 246. Once you’ve found your room, don’t wander around because that’s not permitted.”

According to Su Han’s personality, she wouldn’t utter an extra word. However, this time when she took Hao Ren to the Dragon God Shrine, she explained all the things Hao Ren should know in detail in hopes that he would succeed.

From her ring, she took out a yellow wooden token and gave it to Hao Ren.

Hao Ren looked down and saw ‘Ren Yin 246’ carved on it. It didn’t seem special at all.

“I have to go report at the Dragon God Shrine, so I don’t have time to take you around. Go find your room and rest. There should be a set of clothes in your room and go change into them. Remember to put your temporary identity token by your waist. After 11 tonight, anyone that hasn’t put on the prepared clothes or the identity token will be killed as a trespasser.”

Su Han left those words with him and walked toward the black palace with her long sword.

Hao Ren was a bit freaked out by how Su Han uttered the word ‘kill’. On the Dragon God Shrine’s territory, it was better to not get on the wrong side of the terrifying official inspectors.

Among the rows of rooms, small roads connected them.

The roads were made of blue stones. The walls were grey, and the roofs had black tiles. The whole place gave off a mysterious old city feeling.

On the narrow paths, participants were rushing through. There were some who wore modern style clothing while others wore light-colored linen clothing. There were both males and females, and the busy passersby and the narrow streets together formed a weird yet interesting picture.

Hao Ren was brought here by Su Han, so he didn’t need to go get his temporary identity token. But for many of the other cultivators here, they had to go get the tokens themselves.

No one other than the participants and staff members was allowed in the examination area for the written exam. The elders who came with the participants had no choice but to camp out around the site.

For this exam, no matter which clan the participants came from or what role they had, they were all regular participants.

“Ren Yin 243, Ren Yin 244, Ren Yin 245... Finally.”

Hao Ren followed the numbers and finally arrived at his own room.

All the rooms looked the same. It was a small room with an area of only half a square meter. Inside was a table, a chair, a set of clothes, and some writing tools.

Hao Ren injected some nature essence into the temporary identity token, and the array formation that had locked the room opened.

The set of clothes prepared was a long light brown robe. However, unlike the clothes the other participants he saw on the streets wore, Hao Ren’s had two little silver dragons embroidered on the shoulders.

Chapter 404: Identity or Strength!?

Hao Ren changed into his long robe from his modern clothes.

The last time he went to the Nine Dragon Palace, Hao Ren was wearing a Daoist robe that had embroideries on the sides; that was his first time wearing traditional clothing.

This ‘examination outfit’ was plainer than the one he wore last time. Other than the two little silver dragon embroideries on his shoulders, there were no other decorations on his robe. The material used was also not rare at all, just something you could find anywhere, and the robe was just long enough to cover his ankles.

The rooms in the area were only half a square meter big. From the table, which was placed against the wall, to the other walls, it was just enough to fit one person.

Hao Ren sat on the chair and placed both hands on the table; there was barely room to move around.

The dragon cultivators didn’t come to the Dragon God Shrine for a vacation; they were all here to take the exam. With the tens of thousands of participants, using such small rooms to fit everyone was reasonable.

Hao Ren sat in the ‘Ren Yin 246’ room quietly, and he soon got bored.

The people in the rooms beside him were also cultivators.

All the cultivators were anxiously waiting for the written examination to start.

Outside were some cultivators pacing around because they were too anxious to sit down.

Hao Ren was a bit bored and didn’t feel that well in the room, so he put his temporary identity token on and went outside.

There were many young cultivators outside; some were pacing back and forth while others were talking in small groups.

When the others saw Hao Ren walking over, they were all surprised.

When he walked over, some stopped talking while others moved out of his way; this showed that Hao Ren had a far higher status.

Hao Ren was looking down and wasn't paying attention, so he didn't notice this.

The only difference between him and others was the two little silver dragons on the shoulder areas of his robe.

"He's an assisting inspector..."

"He should be amazing..."

"Careful; let's not let him hear us."

There were whispers all over the place.

Hao Ren finally realized that the light brown robe with two little silver dragons on it wasn't just for anyone; it was only for assisting inspectors!

No matter which dragon clan one came from, what role they had previously held at home, and how strong they were, they were the same in the Dragon God Shrine.

However, there was one exception; the assisting inspectors!

At the Dragon God Shrine, the assisting inspectors were far more superior than any other dragon cultivator.

Although they all took the same exam, assisting inspectors were the most likely to become official inspectors!

During the exam period, if ordinary dragon cultivators started fighting with each other outside the arena, it was perfectly fine. However, if anyone dared to clash against an assisting inspector, then he or she would be automatically disqualified.

That was the exclusive right of the assisting inspectors!

That was why these cultivators were more cautious when Hao Ren walked over; they were scared of subconsciously bothering Hao Ren.

"I can't believe I'd bump into you here," a voice suddenly sounded from behind.

Hao Ren turned, and a familiar cultivator walked over from another path. It was Wang Xi.

Wang Xi was from the earth-element dragon clan and had fought Hao Ren once before in Elder Sun's Martial Arts Dojo.

Hao Ren looked at him, and he felt like Wang Xi looked taller than before. He saw an identity token by Wang Xi's waist, and it read Ren Mao 297.

“Who is that person?”

“Who is he? Isn’t he afraid that talking to an assisting inspector this way might disqualify him?”

“I know him. He’s Wang Xi, an earth-elemental dragon from the Wuyi Mountain. I heard that he already reached Xun-level. The clan at the Wuyi Mountain has focused all their attention on bringing up only him.”

“Xun-level... He must be mighty. In these few years, there haven’t been any strong cultivators that have reached Qian-level or Kun-level.”

“Oh, it’s him! I heard that he’s one of the favored participants in this year’s exams; it is very likely that he will become an official inspector.”

The cultivators around Hao Ren and Wang Xi started talking amongst themselves.

Hao Ren watched as Wang Xi came closer. Hao Ren thought for a moment and said, “I didn’t think I’d see you here either.”

“Assisting inspector,” Wang Yi looked at Hao Ren and said in a disdainful tone.

The atmosphere started to become tense on the narrow path.

The ones who were more cowardly stepped back because they were afraid that they would get involved and get disqualified.

“So what, you have a problem with that?” Hao Ren looked at Wang Xi with hostility.

“I will beat you during the combat exams tomorrow,” Wang Xi stared at Hao Ren and said proudly.

The others were all afraid of Hao Ren, but he wasn’t!

He had fought against Hao Ren before and knew that Hao Ren wasn’t that strong!

“If it weren’t for the East Ocean Dragon Palace, there is no way that he would be able to be an assisting inspector!” Wang Xi thought. Since he just recently reached Xun-level, he was extremely confident in his ability and power!

Although Xun-level was below Kun-level, the person who had reached Xun-level could be considered as a master. If he were able to get a mystic crystal, then reaching Kun-level was possible!

“A little assisting inspector is no match for me!” Wang Xi thought. What he wanted was to reach for the sky, defeating all including the assisting inspectors.

Even with Hao Ren’s good manners, he was infuriated by Wang Xi’s aloof attitude.

Dang, dang, dang... The bell in the center of the black Dragon God Shrine rang loudly.

The platform that supported the Dragon God Shrine gave out a deep red light.

The array formation of the Dragon God Shrine was up and functioning again, locking everything within it.

It was nine in the evening.

The energy sphere was reinstalled, and any cultivators who weren't in it by now were unable to enter. Also, the ones who were in the Dragon God Shrine couldn't fly out anymore!

It meant that those dragon cultivators who were late were automatically disqualified.

"Hua, hua, hua..." Those who were wondering on the streets quickly returned to their rooms.

In two hours, the written exam would begin. From 11 in the evening, the official inspectors who were going to proctor the exam would gather.

That was why during this time, the participants had to sit tight in their rooms.

"Humph!" Wang Xi looked down at Hao Ren one last time and headed back to his room.

"So, he's at Xun-level..." Hao Ren thought as he watched Wang Xi slowly disappear into the horizon. He clenched his fist tightly and then slowly relaxed it before walking back to his 'Ren Yin 246' room.

This should be the right time to see how far he has progressed from all his training back at school.

Chapter 405: Main Examiner's Special Care

Hao Ren returned to his room, opened a transparent energy sphere with his identity token, and sat in it.

The messy examination area suddenly became silent.

The inspectors who wore silver silk robes stepped on their dharma treasures and entered the written examination area.

The structure made up of thousands of black-roofed rooms seemed like an enormous black Bagua map, surrounding the Dragon God Shrine at the center according to the Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches.

These rooms that were used only once a year were the outer city of the Dragon God Shrine.

The black Dragon God Shrine and the nearby white arenas in four directions were surrounded by these tens of thousands of rooms, and the Dragon God Shrine could be considered as the inner city.

For this written examination in the middle of the night, the Dragon God Shrine sent hundreds of inspectors to supervise their respective areas.

Hao Ren knew if Zhao Kuo were to take part in the general examinations, he would come to this written examination tonight. But with the scale of the written exam at the Dragon God Shrine, finding Zhao Kuo was harder than reaching the heavens.

The hundreds of inspectors dashed through the alleyways between rooms, swiftly checking the situation in each room.

An inspector walked passed the path in front of Hao Ren.

He saw Hao Ren's silver dragon embroideries on the shoulders, and his indifferent face got a little warm as he nodded slightly.

Hao Ren nodded back in response.

From such a simple gesture, Hao Ren knew that in the examination process, the official inspectors would favor assisting inspector. That was why when the cultivators at the East Ocean University knew that they could get the position of assisting inspector from Hao Ren, they desperately challenged him!

As for the two cultivators in the rooms beside Hao Ren's, when they saw the official inspector nodding at Hao Ren, they were envious and jealous.

However, what could they do? They weren't assisting inspectors!

The quota for assisting inspectors was limited. Basically, they were sponsored by official inspectors, and each official inspector could at most have one assisting inspector.

Assisting inspectors were usually very strong and had a high chance of passing the examinations at the Dragon God Shrine. Otherwise, the official inspector wouldn't take such a burden!

That inspector flew away, and Hao Ren's row of rooms fell into silence once again.

Time slipped by.

Although thousands were waiting for the examination to start, it was silent.

"Hu..." A burst of noise came.

Hao Ren looked up and saw Qin Shaoyang on his golden weaving shuttle, flying toward Hao Ren's room.

The strong aura almost lifted a few tiles off the rooms!

Boom!

Qin Shaoyang suddenly stopped and hovered in front of Hao Ren's room.

He was wearing a silver silk robe, but it had a bright four-clawed golden dragon embroidery on the shoulder!

The four-clawed golden dragon represented the status of Qin Shaoyang, a level 4 inspector!

Behind Qin Shaoyang, two accompanying inspectors had three-clawed golden dragons embroidery on their shoulders.

"A level 4 inspector with two level 3 inspectors came here only to see the cultivator in 'Ren Yin 246'. Who is this assisting inspector!"

When the two cultivators who were sitting in the rooms beside Hao Ren's saw this, they were so shocked that they couldn't utter a sound from their throats.

They took part in a few general examinations and were quite familiar with the written exam. However, they had never seen and heard of anything like this!

Usually, the written examination area was patrolled by level 1 and level 2 inspectors. Level 3 inspectors were not required, not to mention level 4!

"Do you like this environment? Does it fit you?"

Hao Ren raised his head and looked at Qin Shaoyang as he snorted lightly and didn't speak.

Qin Shaoyang was standing on his golden weaving shuttle, meaning that his natal dharma treasure had been returned to him. That was because Su Han, a level 3 inspector, didn't want to fight with him in the Dragon God Shrine, so she returned his dharma treasure.

"Perhaps you don't know yet, but I'm one of the four main examiners this year and is responsible for the east area." Qin Shaoyang hovered in mid-air, staring at Hao Ren. "You happen to be in my area."

The two cultivators who were in the two rooms to the left and right of Hao Ren's listened as their ears turned hot.

"With the special care of a level 4 inspector who is one of the four main examiners, it seems like this cultivator is absolutely going to be an official inspector!" they thought.

If they had known earlier, they would not have cared about their faces and fawned over the assisting inspector Hao Ren!

"You arranged this deliberately, didn't you?" Hao Ren asked.

"Yes, so what?" Qin Shaoyang sneered, staring at Hao Ren.

This time, he was chosen to be the main examiners responsible for the east area. As one of the four highest examiners, he had six level 4 inspectors as his aid. This made him immeasurably prestigious!

This meant that during the examinations period, Qin Shaoyang would be one of the four most powerful inspectors. Even Su Han couldn't go against him during this time period as it would influence the main examiner's decision.

"Since there are too few metal-elemental dragons, you are probably chosen because they want to balance everything out," Hao Ren scoffed.

Qin Shaoyang was only at Kun-level, and there were more than a few level 4 inspectors in the Dragon God Shrine. Therefore, it did seem like Qin Shaoyang was chosen for other reasons other than pure strength.

Hao Ren pointed out the reality, and it made Qin Shaoyang burn with rage.

There weren't many metal-elemental dragons, but they were far more powerful compared with other dragon cultivators. There were quite a few young metal-elemental dragon cultivators who reached Kun-level and even Qian-level, but their pride was way beyond the four ocean dragon clans. Therefore, metal-elemental dragons were never interested in taking part in the general examinations in the Dragon God Shrine.

Hao Ren's words undoubtedly touched a sensitive nerve within Qin Shaoyang.

Qin Shaoyang seemed powerful, but he was barely in the mid-lower tier in the entire metal-elemental dragon clan. Becoming an inspector in the Dragon God Shrine was not something that a metal-elemental dragon should be proud of.

"Sir, please calm down!"

Seeing Qin Shaoyang's twisted facial expression, the two level 3 inspectors hurriedly advised.

Qin Shaoyang was one of the four main examiners this year in the Dragon God Shrine. If he attacked a cultivator who was taking part in the exams, the consequences would be dire.

“You have guts. Su Han indeed taught you.” Qin Shaoyang gritted his teeth. “I’ll see how you do in tomorrow’s combat exams.”

The reason why the written exam was held at night was for the quietness.

If Qin Shaoyang couldn’t hold back and attack Hao Ren, resulting in loud noises, that would attract lots of attention.

By then, the scene would get ugly.

Hao Ren knew clearly that since he was assigned to Qin Shaoyang’s area, the latter would try everything to deal with him in various ways. Therefore, the result of angering Qin Shaoyang was the same as not angering him, so Hao Ren didn’t hold back at all!

At this moment, the two cultivators beside Hao Ren were so surprised that they didn’t even dare to raise their heads.

They were regretting not befriending Hao Ren a moment ago, and now they were afraid that Qin Shaoyang might vent his rage on them, thinking that they were together with Hao Ren!

“It turns out that the level 4 inspector is not this assisting inspector’s superior, but his enemy!!!” they thought.

It was common for grudges to occur between inspectors due to some conflicts. But a tiny assisting inspector dared to challenge the authority of a level 4 inspector? That was very hard to believe!

The two cultivators beside Hao Ren were scared and worried that Qin Shaoyang’s fiery glance would land upon them.

“Sir, the written exam is about to begin in half an hour officially,” a level 3 inspector reminded Qin Shaoyang.

“Tell the proctor of this area to keep an eye on him for me. If there is any kind of fraudulent behavior, kill him instantly!” Qin Shaoyang’s face turned green as he said ruthlessly.

“Understood!” The two level 3 inspectors hastily cupped their hands together.

In fact, they complained in their hearts. Before they came here with Qin Shaoyang, they were asked by Su Han to take good care of the cultivator in ‘Ren Yin 246’ room.

Everybody in Dragon God Shrine knew that Su Han had the highest chance of reaching the Heavenly Dragon Realm among the inspectors. Even though she fell from a level 4 inspector to a level 3 inspector, nobody dared to look down on her!

However, Qin Shaoyang had the support of the metal-elemental dragon clan, so he was also a hot potato.

Qin Shaoyang and Su Han’s attitudes differed on the treatment of this assisting inspector; one wanted to suppress him while the other wanted to pull him up.

“Humph!” Qin Shaoyang stepped on his golden weaving shuttle and flew away.

The two inspectors looked at each other, quietly exchanged a few words before flying toward the Dragon God Shrine as well.

“‘Ren Yin 246’, the person in there is Su Han’s assisting inspector. Judging from Su Han’s attitude, she cares a lot about her assistant. This cultivator is a sensitive character!” they thought.

Dong... Dong... Dong... The bell sounded.

It was 11 at night!

The inspectors on standby immediately dashed through the alleyways and threw the test papers into the rooms.

Hao Ren picked up this long exam paper, saw the dense questions, and panicked a little.

All of them were short answer questions!

The time limit for the written exam was only two hours!

Hao Ren picked up his ink brush, infused it with nature essence, and dripped the words onto the paper like raindrops!

If it weren’t for the vague memory of painting with Su Han together, Hao Ren wouldn’t even know how to use an ink brush!

Swoosh! All the rooms emanated writing noises.

The written exam was not difficult, but it would eliminate a batch of cultivators!

This anxiety was not inferior to the feeling that Hao Ren had when he was taking his university entrance exam!

The inspector who received the order of keeping an eye on Hao Ren really sat in the path outside Hao Ren’s room and stared at Hao Ren!

It was commonly known that the most unpleasant thing when writing exam papers was being stared at... Right now, Hao Ren felt like rushing out and beating him...

“Dong... Dong... Dong... Time’s up!”

Hao Ren held the ink brush in his hand; he still had one more paragraph to finish.

The inspector sitting in front of Hao Ren stood up quickly and collected the papers!

“The combat exams would start five in the morning!”

An inspector announced loudly.

There were only four hours for the participants the rest before the combat exams began!

All the exam papers would be marked in two hours, and those who couldn’t pass would be directly kicked out!

For the vast majority of cultivators who were confident in passing the written exam, this time was for them to replenish their energy and stretch!

“Writing all night long followed by many battles. The examinations at the Dragon God Shrine is awfully tough...” Hao Ren thought as he went to the front of the room and was about to stretch.

Suddenly he saw a set of familiar boxing techniques being practiced in the alleyway in front of him.

The East Ocean Dragon Palace’s fundamental boxing techniques!!

Chapter 406: Strongest Support Team

Hao Ren took a closer look and saw that it was the fundamental boxing techniques that the soldiers in the East Ocean Dragon Palace practiced each morning and each evening!

The familiar techniques and the burly body belonged to no one but Zhao Kuo!

Hao Ren’s heart lurched. Quickening his steps, he ran to the alley entrance hundreds of meters away from him.

The cultivators moving in the alley got angry when they were pushed aside by Hao Ren, but they held their anger when they saw that he was an assisting inspector.

After practicing the boxing technique, Zhao Kuo swung his arms around before walking into the alleyway to his right.

“Third Uncle!” Hao Ren called out immediately.

However, Zhao Kuo didn’t hear him since he had walked into the aisle between two rows of rooms.

“Who’s making such noise!”

A level 2 inspector who was patrolling nearby flew down from the sky.

Although the written exam was over and there was still some time until the combat exams, this time was for the cultivators to rest and replenish their energy; no noise was allowed.

When he saw it was an assisting inspector who made the noise, this level 2 inspector’s anger abated a little, but he still struck his dharma treasure on Hao Ren’s chest, forcing him back three steps.

“No noise is allowed in the area.” After giving him a warning, the inspector walked out slowly.

The nearby cultivators looked at Hao Ren and envied him.

If he were an ordinary cultivator, he would have been kicked out of the Dragon God Shrine by the inspector for yelling; he would be disqualified and probably be forbidden to enter the Dragon God Shrine’s general exams for the next three years. However, since he was an assisting inspector, he just got a warning.

That was why the identity of assisting inspector was an object of envy!

However, after this interruption, Hao Ren couldn’t see a trace of Zhao Kuo when he ran to the aisle.

It was early morning, and the sky was still dark; the light was dim in the area with many rooms.

The cultivators moving around the rooms were all wearing the same brown robe, and Hao Ren couldn't find Zhao Kuo among them no matter how hard he looked.

With his identity as an assisting inspector, he dashed into this aisle, and no cultivator dared to stop him.

Hao Ren searched the rooms one by one, but he didn't find Zhao Kuo.

He searched in the nearby aisles, and the result was the same.

Less than four hours were left before the combat exams which began at 5 in the morning, and many cultivators were taking this time to cultivate. The written exam area prohibited noises, so Hao Ren couldn't call out, making it harder for him to find Zhao Kuo.

However, he was confident that Zhao Kuo was nearby.

This area was not far from Hao Ren's 'Ren Yin 246' room, which meant that Zhao Kuo and Hao Ren belonged to the same exam area.

Since they were in the same exam area for the written exam, they would belong to the same area for the combat exams.

Hao Ren might need to fight with Zhao Kuo later on.

Hao Ren wondered what realm Zi's Third Uncle had reached while he walked back to his room, Ren Yin 246.

In the two rooms next to his, the two cultivators were sitting cross-legged on their chairs cultivating. Sensing Hao Ren's return, they opened their eyes and looked at him, but they didn't speak.

Anyone who dared to confront a main examiner was undoubtedly a dangerous person, and they obviously didn't want to get involved with him.

Hao Ren remained silent. After returning to his room, he also closed his eyes to cultivate as well.

The exam venue before dawn looked quiet and peaceful, but in fact, everyone was busy preparing for the exam!

This was the calm before the storm.

The cultivators who were chatting with each other at the entrance of the aisles probably would engage in life-and-death battles a few hours later in the arenas.

Dang! Dang... The bell from the Dragon God Shrine sounded again.

It was 5 in the morning!

Hundreds of inspectors came out together once again.

All the cultivators who had written the exam tensed up instantly.

Boom!

From one room in Hao Ren's row, an identity token flew out into an inspector's hand.

The owner of the token had failed the written exam and lost his qualification to enter the combat exams!

Swoosh! Another wooden token suddenly flew from the waist of one cultivator.

Swoosh... While the inspectors flew across the rows of rooms, wooden tokens flew up one after another.

It wasn't easy to pass the written exam of the Dragon God Shrine!

Nervously, Hao Ren gripped the wooden token on his waist, afraid that it would fly out as well.

On the test papers, there were only the examinees' numbers, and Hao Ren would fail the written exam as well if he got the answers wrong.

However, the level 2 inspector passed by Hao Ren's room without taking his identity token.

Meanwhile, Hao Ren heard the sighs of relief from the cultivators of the neighboring rooms and knew they had been nervous, too.

The identity tokens that flew into the inspectors' hands quickly turned black, which meant that those numbers were no longer valid, and the dragon cultivators who corresponded to those numbers were disqualified from the next portion of the exams.

The cultivators who failed the written exam packed up and left sadly.

The dark red light surrounding the platform of the Dragon God Shrine suddenly vanished.

The Dragon God Shrine was open to the public again!

The failed cultivators could go back home or stay to watch the battles. Those cultivators who didn't enter the Dragon God Shrine yesterday were able to enter now.

Following the crowd, Hao Ren walked to the arenas in the inner city and observed the Dragon God Shrine from close up.

In the white morning light, the Dragon God Shrine looked like a huge black city, giving people a sense of suppression.

The platform around the Dragon God Shrine, including the outer city and the inner city, was only open for three days each year for the general exams. However, the interior of the Dragon God Shrine was never open to the public.

No one except official inspectors and criminals who inspectors caught could enter the Dragon God Shrine.

This rule added mystery to the Dragon God Shrine.

Three level 4 inspectors walked out of the Dragon God Shrine and sat on the three armchairs on the watching stand which was slightly higher than the arenas.

In each of the four directions of the Dragon God Shrine, 24 small arenas surrounded one big arena. There were altogether 96 small arenas and four big arenas.

Hao Ren was in the east area which Qin Shaoyang was responsible for.

However, as one of the main examiners, Qin Shaoyang didn't seem concerned about the preliminary battles since he didn't come out from the Dragon God Shrine. Instead, he had asked three deputies to come out and keep order.

Besides the three deputy examiners who monitored the battles, there was a lot of level 1 and level 2 inspectors who were responsible for keeping scores and arranging competitions.

Since the general exams at the Dragon God Shrine was a grand event in the Dragon Tribe, the organization temporarily called back many inspectors. As a result, the number of inspectors back at the Dragon God Shrine reached a peak.

Standing in the crowd, Hao Ren looked around and didn't see Su Han.

If Su Han were here wearing a silver silk robe, it would be easy to find her.

Many inspectors wearing silver robes were walking around the arenas while the examinees wearing brown robes were standing beside the fields.

Jia Yin, Yi Yin, Bin Yin, Ding Yin... Jia Mao, Yi Mao, Bin Mao, Ding Mao...

Before each small arena stood a sign, and there were altogether 24 of them.

Ren Yin 245 and Ren Yin 247, Hao Ren's neighbors during the writing exam, saw the sign 'Ren Yin' and hurried toward that arena.

Hao Ren realized that the preliminary competitions were arranged in the order of the numbers, and he quickened his steps to the sign.

Built with thick white rocks, the arena was ten meters long, ten meters wide, and one meter higher than the platform. In the middle of the arena were two vigorous characters formed by darker stones: Jing Zhe.

Obviously, this arena was called Jing Zhe, and all 24 small arenas of the Dragon God Shrine were named after the 24 Solar Terms.

"101 versus 102; 103 versus 104..." The level 2 inspector responsible for Jing Zhe Arena declared in a loud voice.

245 versus 246!

Hao Ren suddenly turned to look at the cultivator who was his neighbor on the left during the written exam last night, and this examinee who looked to be in his forties also turned to look at Hao Ren alertly.

"Uncle!"

While Hao Ren was about to do some warm-up exercises for the competition, a clear voice sounded in the sky.

He looked up and saw Zhao Hongyu's dharma treasure, the Mountain-River Qian-Kun Painting, floating over.

As the energy sphere of the Dragon God Shrine opened again, Zhao Hongyu flew in with Zhao Yanzi and others.

As a top-tier dharma treasure, the Mountain-River Qian-Kun Painting was bright and fast, attracting people's attention when Zhao Hongyu maneuvered it to the arenas with her group on it.

"Gongzi!" Lu Linlin and Lu Lili jumped down from the dharma treasure and called out to Hao Ren cheerfully.

Dressed in green and cyan ancient dresses with their hair coiled up, they returned to their original, unique look. They were so beautiful that Hao Ren's eyes lit up.

"Uncle!" Seeing Hao Ren staring at the Lu sisters, Zhao Yanzi called out again, displeased.

She was wearing a radiant patterned dress, looking quite vivacious among the brown robes of the surrounding cultivators.

"Cough! Cough!" Hao Ren cleared his throat, not pleased with Zhao Yanzi calling him "uncle".

"Hao Ren, we are rooting for you." Xie Yujia stepped down from the painting and said to Hao Ren while blushing.

It was her first time watching Hao Ren compete in a formal match, and she could only think of such simple words to encourage him.

"Ok. I'll try my best." Hao Ren nodded at Xie Yujia.

Seeing Hao Ren ignore her, Zhao Yanzi's face reddened with anger.

"Zi, this is the Dragon God Shrine. Behave yourself." Zhao Hongyu reached out to stop her.

"Mom..." Zhao Yanzi felt wronged and looked up at Zhao Hongyu. However, Zhao Hongyu seemed to be on Hao Ren's side and didn't show any intention of scolding him.

Looking around, Zhen Congming crossed his arms in front of his chest and seemed unconcerned about how far Hao Ren could go in the competition.

The senior members of the dragon palace who came with Zhao Hongyu's family were only Premier Xia, Elder Lu, and Elder Sun.

"Ren, have you seen Zi's Third Uncle since you came here yesterday?" Zhao Guang asked.

Zhao Yanzi who was gritting her teeth at Hao Ren heard this question, and she stared at Hao Ren with widened eyes as well.

Chapter 407: Win Streak?!

“Third Uncle...” Hao Ren thought for a bit and replied, “He should be in this big exam area; I think I saw him in the written exam area.”

“Oh, really?” Zhao Guang brightened up.

“With his cultivation strength, Third Uncle will win the first few competitions for sure. It’ll be easy to find him by that time,” Hao Ren said.

“Yeah, you’re right.” Zhao Guang lowered his head and thought for a few seconds before turning his gaze to Hao Ren again. “I’ll go into the Dragon God Shrine. You can focus on the competition.”

“Dad! Don’t you want to watch Hao Ren compete?” Zhao Yanzi called out immediately.

“Hehe...” Zhao Guang smiled but didn’t answer.

Hao Ren immediately felt that Zhao Guang didn’t hold high hopes for him in the competition. His purpose for coming to the Dragon God Shrine was to look for Zhao Kuo and negotiate with the Dragon God Shrine.

“Elder Lu and Elder Sun, come with me,” Zhao Guang looked back at Lu Qing and Sun Yun and said.

“Yes, Your Majesty.” The two elders followed Zhao Guang immediately.

Seeing them leave, Zhao Yanzi immediately grabbed onto Zhao Hongyu.

Zhao Hongyu looked down at Zhao Yanzi and smiled. “Ok, I’ll stay here and watch the competition with you.”

Zhao Yanzi was relieved since she thought Zhao Hongyu would also go to the Dragon God Shrine.

While Zhao Guang led two elders to the gate of the Dragon God Shrine, the participants and the dragon clan forces who were here recognized Zhao Guang.

“Isn’t he Zhao Guang from the East Ocean Dragon Palace? And behind him are two elders from the East Ocean. Why are they here?”

Instantly, questions rose in the mind of the people in the area.

From the gate of the Dragon God Shrine walked out two inspectors wearing robes embroidered with four-clawed golden dragons. They welcomed Zhao Guang and the two elders of the East Ocean into the palace.

Since its establishment hundreds of years ago, the Dragon God Shrine had never allowed any dragon cultivators except inspectors and criminals into the interior of the Dragon God Shrine, not even the dragon kings! Obviously, they made an exception for Zhao Guang.

The present dragon king of the East Ocean Dragon Palace brought only two elders into the Dragon God Shrine, and it brought all kinds of speculations to people’s minds.

Watching Zhao Guang disappear into the Dragon God Shrine, Hao Ren was also a bit worried as well.

However, on the second thought, he thought that Zhao Guang’s high-profiled entrance into the Dragon God Shrine was probably an act for Zhao Kuo’s sake as well.

If Zhao Kuo were around, he would undoubtedly know that Zhao Guang was also in the Dragon God Shrine. If he wanted to know the content of the negotiation between East Ocean and Dragon God Shrine, he would have to find Zhao Guang. It was Zhao Guang's way of forcing Zhao Kuo to show himself.

"Ren Yin 101 and Ren Yin 102!" The inspector responsible for Hao Ren's arena called out.

The two cultivators were ready, and they jumped into the arena simultaneously.

Hao Ren looked around at the other arenas and saw that competitions had begun.

Unlike the written exam, the combat exams were open to the public, and some elders stood around the arenas where participants from their respective forces were battling.

Almost ten thousand dragon cultivators gathered around the east area alone, not to mention the other three big areas. It showed that the general exams in the Dragon God Shrine was indeed a grand event for the Dragon Tribe.

These dragon clans came from different places on the land, and their elders who were responsible for internal business rarely had an opportunity to meet each other. The Dragon God Shrine's general exams provided such a meeting place.

The cultivators who were recommended by different forces to enter the Dragon God Shrine's general exams represented the highest cultivation strength of their generation in their dragon clan. According to their performances and rankings, the elders from different clans would determine their statuses in the entire dragon tribe and strategize for the near future: keep low or advance aggressively.

Bang! While Hao Ren was looking around, one cultivator fell from the Jing Zhe Arena.

The identity token hanging on the waist of the fallen cultivator automatically flew into the hand of the inspector before turning black immediately.

The Zhen-level cultivator who fell to the ground looked a bit upset. Standing up immediately, he brushed the dust off his robe and walked away.

No elders came to him, which meant this cultivator entered the test on his own, instead of being a "future star" of a dragon clan.

While Hao Ren was looking at the retreating back of this cultivator, another pair of rivals had stepped up into the arena. Bang! Bang... While cultivators fell from the 24 arenas, the elimination matches went on quickly.

"Ren Yin 245 versus Ren Yin 246!"

The inspector declared.

Hao Ren leaped into the arena.

His rival, the cultivator in his forties, kicked the ground lightly with his toes and jumped easily into the arena, too.

Wearing a brown robe with an embroidered silver dragon, Hao Ren immediately attracted people's attention.

The eastern test area had about 10,000 cultivators around the 24 small arenas, and each of the arenas was a center of attention.

The arena was only one meter higher than the ground, but Hao Ren felt entirely different than he did when standing on the ground.

“Hao Ren! Go!” Xie Yujia clenched her fists and yelled.

Standing by Zhao Hongyu, Zhao Yanzi stared at Hao Ren with her big eyes.

Zhen Congming looked unconcerned, but he glanced at Hao Ren from the corner of his eye.

The hunch-backed Premier Xia stood straighter and looked up at Hao Ren’s dashing form in the arena.

“Gongzi, Go!” Lu Linlin and Lu Lili yelled at the same time, attracting the attention of the nearby young cultivators.

“After you...” The cultivator opposite Hao Ren bowed.

“After you!” Hao Ren stepped back half a step and made a stance, too.

Swoosh!

The cultivator in his forties released a long sword from his palm.

Natal dharma treasure!

His presence was also released!

Gen-level!

In a flash, this Gen-level cultivator rushed to Hao Ren’s side!

Standing below the arena, Zhao Yanzi gripped Zhao Hongyu’s hand.

Dang... Hao Ren lifted his right hand to block the sword.

Upon closer look, one could see a pale green light in Hao Ren’s palm!

His left foot took half a step forward, and his right hand pushed out onto the Gen Level cultivator’s shoulder. The push looked casual, but it sent the cultivator flying!

Bang! The Gen-level cultivator dropped below the arena, crashing onto some watching cultivators; he stumbled back a few steps before regaining his balance.

“Thank you!” Hao Ren cupped his hands and said crisply.

His attack was quick and determined, blocking his rival’s attack and pushing him out of the arena in one move. More importantly, he maintained a calm expression like a master during the whole process!

Zhao Hongyu had expected Hao Ren would win, but she was surprised he had defeated his rival so quickly.

“Mom, uncle is awesome!” Seeing Hao Ren defeated his rival with one attack, Zhao Yanzi grabbed Zhao Hongyu’s arm and yelled in excitement.

Zhao Hongyu gave her a hard look, and Zhao Hongyu immediately changed her words, "Hao Ren is awesome..."

But her tone was not as excited as a moment ago.

Hao Ren jumped down out of the arena and looked up to watch the next competition.

Glancing at the calm expression on Hao Ren's face, Zhao Hongyu admired his calmness, modesty, and brains, thinking that he could become a great figure one day.

He didn't launch the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, so he could hide his technique. He injected nature energy into his palms to defeat his rival with boxing techniques to save most of his nature essence for future battles.

"Hao Ren is careless about minor things, but his clear thinking and careful strategy on major issues far surpass my expectation," Zhao Hongyu thought.

Back on the ground, Hao Ren watched the next battle in the arena silently without blinking.

"Hey! Stinky Uncle!" At Hao Ren's silence, Zhao Yanzi walked over and bumped into him.

Hao Ren had been watching the battle with all his attention and stumbled forward when Zhao Yanzi bumped into him.

"Zi!" Zhao Hongyu immediately scolded her.

Zhao Yanzi turned her head. She had never seen Zhao Hongyu had looked so sternly before. Immediately, she walked to Xie Yujia's side.

"Ren's assessing his potential opponents; don't disturb him," Zhao Hongyu continued.

Zhao Yanzi looked at Zhao Hongyu and then at Hao Ren.

At this moment, Hao Ren looked grim with intense eyes; he looked aloof but was more dashing this way.

After all, he was not watching for fun but watching to find out the cultivators' technique and methods of defense and attack since anyone of them could become his future rival... Zhao Yanzi understood the situation instantly, and she stood obediently by Xie Yujia's side.

Anyway, Hao Ren was representing the East Ocean Dragon Palace, and Zhao Yanzi hoped he would protect the honor of the East Ocean Dragon Palace with his excellent performance.

In the arena, Ren Yin 247 who was Hao Ren's neighbor on his right during the writing exam lost in the competition shortly.

After half of the Ren Yin cultivators were eliminated, the second round began.

"Ren Yin 244 versus Ren Yin 246!"

Hao Ren got into the arena again, and this time he used two attacks before he sent the Zhen-level cultivator flying.

"Ren Yin 246 versus Ren Yin 249!"

“Ren Yin 210 versus Ren Yin 246!”

“Ren Yin 132 versus Ren Yin 246!”

With the calls of the inspector, Hao Ren went into arena and beat all his rivals out of the arena with crisp moves.

While she watched, Zhao Hongyu saw some clues.

She found Hao Ren was using the fundamental boxing techniques that were familiar to all the soldiers of the East Ocean Dragon Palace!

With Hao Ren’s winning streak, Zhao Yanzi got more and more excited; she almost cheered.

She suddenly felt like Hao Ren very powerful!

All the cultivators couldn’t last three rounds of attacks with Hao Ren.

“Good move!”

While Hao Ren won another match, cheers exploded in the audience around the Li Xia Arena, the fourth small arena to his left.

A brawny man with a black face and black beard stepped to one side in a stance and launched a punch, sending a Dui-level cultivator with yellow light around him flying more than ten meters out of the arena!

It was one of the fundamental boxing techniques of the East Ocean Dragon Palace!

Chapter 408: Number: Ren Yin 246!

Zhao Kuo!

This time, Hao Ren clearly saw Zhao Kuo withdrawing his fist and standing there magnificently in the Li Xia Arena.

After winning, Zhao Kuo looked around, and his gaze finally turned to Hao Ren who was three small arenas away.

The 24 arenas were one meter higher than the platform.

Therefore, the people who were in the arena could see the battles in the surrounding arenas.

At this moment, Hao Ren and Zhao Kuo had defeated their respective opponents and stood in the Jing Zhe Arena and Li Xia Arena, looking at each other across the space.

Dozens of meters away, Hao Ren could still feel the piercing and dominating energy in Zhao Kuo’s eyes!

“Ren Yin 168 and Ren Yin 197!” the inspector of the Jing Zhe Arena declared.

After casting another glance at Zhao Kuo, Hao Ren jumped off the arena.

The cultivators around the arenas were densely packed together, and they couldn’t see what was going on more than one arena away.

“Gongzi, you were awesome!”

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili immediately walked to Hao Ren, handing him water and a towel like two cheerleaders.

Seeing Hao Ren’s victories, Zhao Yanzi’s face flushed with joy, but she didn’t want to admit it to him; instead, she snorted with a pout.

“You have won six battles consecutively,” Xie Yujia smiled lightly and said.

“Everyone who is still in the game all won consecutively.” Zhen Congming dampened their enthusiasm with his words.

His words didn’t sound encouraging, but he spoke the truth. After all, this was only the initial selection process, and anyone who wanted to continue forward had to win seven or eight battles in a row.

Zhao Hongyu smiled at Hao Ren. “It’s Hao Ren’s first time participating in the exam, and he is doing a great job.”

Then, she frowned slightly and glanced at the direction of the Dragon God Shrine.

Four hours had passed since the combat exams began, Zhao Guang had been in the Dragon God Shrine with the two elders for four hours as well.

Glancing at Zhao Hongyu, Hao Ren thought for a while and decided not to tell her about Zhao Kuo. From the look of things, Zhao Kuo would definitely win out of the Yi Mao cultivators.

Since Zhao Hongyu was worried about Zhao Guang, Hao Ren decided not to mention Zhao Kuo for the time being.

In the Jing Zhe Arena, a Dui-level cultivator was in a fierce battle with another Dui-level cultivator.

As the competitions went on, the cultivators with weaker cultivation strength were gradually eliminated.

The Zhen-level cultivators would be lucky to get to the second or the third rounds, but they couldn’t win in the fourth or the fifth round. The cultivators who would be last standing in the arenas were going to be at least Dui-level cultivators. At Gen-level, Hao Ren was a rare exception at this point.

In the arena, the cultivator with the Ren Yin 168 identity token hanging on his waist suddenly lifted his wooden bowl, emitting a bright light.

The cultivator with an identity token of Ren Yin 197 condensed a thick layer of yellow armor around him, and the two big hammers in his hands released dazzling yellow lights.

With equal strength, they couldn’t reserve their nature essence anymore and unleashed their true strengths.

Ren Yin 168 suddenly shot out a wooden awl which instantly pierced Ren Yin 179’s armor and his shoulder before flying out through his back with a trace of blood.

Ren Yin 179 grunted and tried to fight back, but his right leg was pierced by the wooden awl which turned and flew back. With a banging noise, the burly cultivator, nearly two meters tall, sat down in the arena.

“Sorry!”

The Dui-level wooden-elemental dragon cultivator released a green light beam from the wooden bowl and sent the earth-elemental dragon cultivator with the Ren Yin 179 identity token flying out of the arena.

Several earth-elemental elders standing around the arena immediately rushed over to help this cultivator up.

This earth-elemental dragon cultivator pushed the elders off him and struggled up with great fortitude, and he looked defiant.

Obviously, this Ren Yin 197 was a new star in an earth-elemental dragon clan. Having been defeated, there was no use to be upset, and he had no choice but to return to the mountains and cultivate hard for next year’s exam.

The inspector responsible for the Jing Zhe Arena stood up with a cold expression and yelled, “Ren Yin 168 and Ren Yin 246!”

He didn’t even spare a glance at the earth-elemental dragon cultivator who failed. After all, such failures were countless during the Dragon God Shrine’s exams each year.

What the Dragon God Shrine wanted was the top ten who could become official inspectors and 40 masters who were going to become assisting inspectors. The cultivators who failed in the early stages of were not the ones who the Dragon God Shrine were after, no matter how great their backgrounds were.

Standing in the arena, Ren Yin 168 asked for a 15-minute break to adjust. This wood-elemental dragon cultivator would fight Hao Ren whose number was Ren Yin 246 next. If he won, he would gain seven consecutive victories and become the champion of the Ren Yin group, earning the qualification to enter the next stage of the exams.

At the inspector’s nod, Ren Yin 168 hurried out of the arena, and more than ten wood-elemental elders who were waiting around the arena immediately surrounded him. Some helped him smooth out his meridians while one fed him an elixir pill from a bottle. Some other elders glanced at Hao Ren and kept giving Ren Yin 168 tips and instructions.

In ancient times, if a scholar won first place in the imperial exam, he would bring great benefits to his family.

It was the same for the Dragon God Shrine’s general exam. If a cultivator became an official Inspector, no one would dare to mess with the clan he was in. Especially to those middle-ranked dragon clans, the more inspectors they had, the more powerful they were.

“Ren Yin 168 and Ren Yin 246!” The break was over, and the inspector stood up again and yelled.

The wood-elemental dragon cultivator had replenished his nature essence and leaped into the arena.

Steadily, Hao Ren went onto the arena, and the silver dragon embroidery on his shoulder shined in the rising sunlight.

The wood-elemental dragon cultivator had observed Hao Ren's matches and found that he was good at boxing, but he had no dharma treasures or a high realm.

Despite that, Ren Yin 168 didn't dare to relax since he was afraid that Hao Ren had been hiding his true power. He also asked the elders from his clan to observe Hao Ren's companions.

The information he got was very confusing. Among Hao Ren's cheering group were two beautiful twins who looked very powerful but emitted no lights of dragons'; the mother and daughter were respectively at Xun-level and the Foundation Establishment Realm; another beauty looked like a mortal without any fluctuations of nature essence, but she had silver and golden light encircling her like some dharma treasures; a Li-level kid who looked very fierce; the last person was a hunch-backed old man who was at Xun-level, and his light showed that he came from a water-elemental dragon clan...

"After you!"

"After you!"

On the arena, the wood-elemental dragon cultivator and Hao Ren cupped hands at each other.

Hao Ren's strange support team and his identity as an assisting inspector confused this cultivator, and that was why he decided to suppress Hao Ren at the very beginning.

The wooden bowl in his hand shot a dazzling green light toward Hao Ren's heart!

Green Wood Scroll!

This wood-elemental dragon cultivator was only 28 years old, but he had reached top-tier Dui-level, just one step from Xun-level. He was a young star in the Qingcheng Mountain Dragon Palace and even one of the entire wood-elemental dragon tribe.

If he unleashed his full force, even the elders in his clan were not his match.

That was why he was sure that he could suppress Hao Ren's Gen-level power with one attack! If Hao Ren had been hiding his true power, he would force Hao Ren to show it.

"Be careful!"

Seeing the aggressiveness of the wood-elemental dragon cultivator, Zhao Yanzi shouted outside the arena. After all, the previous earth-elemental dragon cultivator got his shoulder and right leg pierced just a moment ago. Hao Ren reached out his hands, and he absorbed the green light coming his way with a wave!

The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, absorb!

The power released by the wood-elemental dharma treasure that was powered by the Green Wood Scroll contained pure wood elements, and the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll had the power of absorbing five elements!

Absorbing his opponent's attack looked risky, but Hao Ren had watched all the matches in the Jing Zhe Arena, and he remembered each of the six matches of this wood-elemental dragon cultivator.

Know yourself and know your enemy, and you will never be defeated!

Hao Ren absorbed the wood-elemental nature essence because he was sure he could do it!

The wood-elemental nature essence entered Hao Ren's body through his palms before going to his feet. In one cycle, the energy was completely devoured.

A thin beam of white sword energy shot out from his little finger.

Metal-elemental sword energy! Metal conquered wood!

Almost at the same time, Hao Ren turned lightly and pushed his palm at Ren Yin 168!

The brown wooden awl suddenly shot out from the wood-elemental dragon cultivator's forehead!

Like a flash, Hao Ren grabbed the wooden awl while the hundun godly lightning in his palm broke the wooden awl into two pieces!

The white sword energy arrived at the wood-elemental dragon cultivator's side together with Hao Ren.

The wood-elemental dragon cultivator raised his hands to block Hao Ren's palm, but the sword energy hit him on the chest. As he felt numb all over his body and couldn't move, his shoulder was struck heavily by Hao Ren's palm.

Hao Ren's palm contained more white metal-elemental nature essence!

Feeling as if his whole body was disintegrated, the wood-elemental dragon cultivator took several steps back, not able to defend or attack. As he was forced back, he stepped into the air and fell from the arena!

Bang! He fell from the huge arena, and dust rose upon his fall.

The wood-elemental elders hurried over and helped the young cultivator with the identify token Ren Yin 168 up.

"Thank you!" Hao Ren stood on the edge of the arena and cupped his hands gracefully.

Standing on the ground, Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren in his fluttering robe with stars in her eyes.

"How come Hao Ren looks so dashing all of a sudden?" she thought.

Numb and sore all over, the wood-elemental dragon cultivator looked up at Hao Ren with rage and yelled with gritted teeth, "You cheated!"

Seeing people turning their eyes to him, he pointed at Zhao Yanzi and the others with ambiguous backgrounds and yelled, "They must have been assisting him with hidden weapons!"

"Hey! Careful with your words!" Zhao Yanzi jumped out and yelled, pointing her finger at the wood-elemental dragon cultivator.

“How could a Gen-level cultivator win six battles consecutively? It must have been you guys who have been assisting him in secret!” Looking at Zhao Yanzi and the people around her, the wood-elemental dragon cultivator stood up and yelled.

The inspector responsible for this arena ignored this argument and lifted his right hand. The identity token hanging at the waist of this wood-elemental dragon cultivator flew into the inspector’s hand and turned black instantly.

It meant that the wood-elemental dragon cultivator was disqualified for the rest of the competition, and the inspector decided that Hao Ren won the match.

“I don’t agree! They used hidden weapons! You must investigate them!” The wood-elemental dragon cultivator pointed at Zhao Yanzi and the others, yelling in a loud voice.

As a young master from the Qingcheng Mountain Dragon Palace, it was a big disgrace for him to be defeated by a Gen-level cultivator with two attacks.

“You are a lousy loser! Useless!” Zhao Yanzi got angrier and made a face at the wood-elemental dragon cultivator.

It instantly enraged the wood-elemental dragon cultivator. Standing up, he yelled at the elders by his side, “Elder Liu, Elder Ye, teach them a lesson!”

The Qingcheng Mountain Dragon Palace was a big force in the southeast area, and this wood-elemental dragon cultivator was the son of the dragon king there. Feeling cheated, he got angry at Zhao Yanzi’s provocation and lost his temper.

“Ren Yin 246 from the East Ocean Dragon Palace is the winner!” Standing in the arena, the inspector declared.

“East Ocean Dragon Palace...” Although the inspector’s voice was not loud, his words stunned all the cultivators around the Jing Zhe Arena.

“East Ocean Dragon Palace?”

The wood-elemental elders from the Qingcheng Mountain all looked at Zhao Yanzi and her group in astonishment, and the other forces nearby stared at Zhao Hongyu and the others in bafflement.

Each of the 24 arenas would get one final winner whose clan and origin would be declared at the end of the elimination matches.

“The East Ocean Dragon Palace also entered the Dragon God Shrine’s general exams?”

The news instantly caused an upheaval around the Jing Zhe Arena!

The elders of the Qingcheng Mountain immediately dragged their young prince out of the area without a fuss.

After all, they couldn’t afford to mess with the East Ocean Dragon Palace!

Chapter 409: Zhao Guang’s Reason

Hao Ren looked over to the Li Xia Arena and realized that it was empty as well. It meant that the battles in the Li Xia Arena had finished earlier.

The cultivators beside the Jing Zhe Arena were whispering into each others' ears.

Hao Ren was only at Gen-level, but his performance was outstanding in the Ren Yin group. It was unbelievable, but experienced cultivators knew that it was impossible to cheat.

Each arena around the Dragon God Shrine had its own energy sphere which could resist any nature essence from cultivators below Kun-level. In fact, even if a Qian-level or Kun-level master were to break through the energy sphere, it would cause an obvious quack.

Since the cultivators outside of the arena couldn't help, the only ones who could influence the outcome of the match would be the two participants.

Therefore, as many cultivators watched Hao Ren slowly jump down onto the ground, they were all surprised at this cultivator with the token 'Ren Yin 246'.

"Great techniques! He seems to be only at Gen-level, yet his strength is impressive!" they thought.

Zhao Hongyu looked at Hao Ren in surprise as well. She thought he wasn't good at battling, but he appeared to be an experienced cultivator. He was both calm and fast!

That wood-elemental cultivator didn't even get a chance to use his most powerful technique before Hao Ren kicked him out of the arena.

In Zhao Hongyu's opinion, that cultivator might even have the chance to rank in the top 50 in the general exams. However, Hao Ren defeated this powerful cultivator...

Hao Ren was an absolute surprise to all of them!

In war, the key is to trick your enemies. In other words, have your enemies think you are going to use one method but use another; have your enemies think you are going near them but get very far; have your enemies think you are going away but get near; tease them if they are easily triggered; spoil them if they are timid; annoy them if they are in peace; split them if they are united; attack them when they are least prepared; and take actions that surprise them.

Hao Ren seemed to be using random techniques, but he was using the art of war.

Zhao Hongyu looked at Hao Ren differently and thought, "Who said that he couldn't be the Commanding General of East Ocean!"

"Grandma made you these zongzi ¹ for you, Hao Ren." Xie Yujia walked to Hao Ren, took out two hot zongzi out of her bag, and handed them to him.

"What did you guys say to Grandma?" Hao Ren asked as he peeled the zongzi.

"I told her that you are going on a trip with Zi's family and will be back tomorrow," Xie Yujia answered.

Hao Ren nodded as he quickly ate half a zongzi. He hadn't had any food since he got to the Dragon God Shrine last night and was starving after so many battles.

Xie Yujia covered her mouth and giggled when she saw Hao Ren devouring the food.

Zhao Yanzi stood half a meter away from them, and she got so mad when she saw them acting all lovey-dovey.

"I made these elixir pills for you to replenish your nature essence," Xie Yujia took a white porcelain bottle out of her pocket and put it in Hao Ren's hand.

Hao Ren sensed a strong surge of nature essence as soon as he opened it.

"There are 60 Essence Replenishment Pills," Xie Yujia said.

She said it as if it was not a big deal, but these elixir pills were all valuable level 4 elixir pills! When she learned from Zhao Hongyu that Hao Ren was attending the Dragon God Shrine's general exams, she stayed up a few nights and made them particularly for Hao Ren.

"Um, thank you very much," Hao Ren put the bottle into his necklace. He was a little touched when he noticed the dark circles under Xie Yujia's eyes.

If the surrounding cultivators were to see a bottle filled with 60 level 4 Essence Replenishment Pills, they would definitely be extremely jealous!

"Um..." Hao Ren suddenly asked Xie Yujia, "Did you...break through to the Foundation Establishment Realm?"

"Um...I broke through yesterday." She slightly nodded.

"Haha, congrats! I thought I felt something different about you," Hao Ren said happily.

Xie Yujia used to look a bit weak when she stood beside Zhao Yanzi. However, her temperament seemed to be even stronger than that of Zhao Yanzi's today.

The Life-Death Notes could connect with heaven and earth. Therefore, Xie Yujia appeared to be more powerful than Zhao Yanzi even though they were both at the Foundation Establishment Realm.

"It's alright..." Xie Yujia blushed a little. She used about 20 Foundation Establishment Pills in total to break through to the Foundation Establishment Realm. Therefore, it wasn't really something worth congratulating.

Hao Ren looked around and noticed that about six more battles were happening right now. The cultivators beside Jing Zhe Arena slowly spattered; they either went for a break in the outer city or went to watch the battles in the other arenas.

Dang...dang...dang... The bell at the Dragon God Shrine rang again.

It was noon!

There were 96 small arenas from east to west and south to north. All the battles have been completed, and 96 winners had been generated in total within eight hours.

All the level 4 inspectors on the stage entered the Dragon God Shrine. The level 2 inspectors who were in charge of the battle arenas followed their superiors and went back to the Dragon God Shrine. They had to issue internal reports, analyze scores, and generate the list.

The upcoming battles would take place between one to three in the afternoon!

Hao Ren looked over at the Li Xia Arena; many cultivators were leaving. Then, he looked in the Dragon God Shrine's direction but didn't see Zhao Guang and the two elders coming out.

Zhao Yanzi was a little worried as well. She stood on her tip-toes and looked toward the Dragon God Shrine.

At this moment, Zhao Guang, the two elders, and six inspectors walked out of the Dragon God Shrine's door.

"Dad!" Zhao Yanzi waved her hands. She was finally relieved to see Zhao Guang coming out.

Zhao Guang headed toward the Jing Zhe Arena calmly along with Elder Lu and Elder Sun.

Zhao Hongyu walked to them and asked worriedly, "How was it?"

Zhao Guang didn't answer her question. Instead, he asked, "How were Ren's battles?"

"Not bad; he placed first in the Ren Yin group," Zhao Hongyu answered.

"Oh?" Zhao Guang was slightly surprised; He obviously didn't expect Hao Ren to win in the Ren Yin group.

He looked at Zhao Hongyu and said, "The Dragon God Shrine thinks that both East Ocean and West Ocean need to abide by the rules. They are still keeping Black Wolf, a top master of the West Ocean, in the Dragon God Shrine's prison, and they didn't release him even though the West Ocean Dragon Palace requested several times."

"Black Wolf murdered several inspectors; they sure won't release him," Zhao Hongyu said.

"Therefore, they said that it is ok if we want our stuff back, but our cultivator needs to rank top three in the Dragon God Shrine's general exams!" Zhao Guang exclaimed.

"B*stards!" Zhao Hongyu became furious suddenly, and it even startled Zhao Yanzi.

Zhao Hongyu looked at Zhao Guang and thought for a bit before saying, "We have several Qian-level and Kun-level elders, and it shouldn't be hard for them to rank within the top three in the Dragon God Shrine's general exams. But wouldn't that be beneath them; they wouldn't want to fight for the Dragon God Shrine's inspector positions. We are already giving them face to let Hao Ren attend this general exam in East Ocean's name!"

"Isn't Third Uncle here this time too, mom?" Zhao Yanzi interrupted.

"Your third uncle is attending as an individual. He isn't representing the East Ocean Dragon Palace even if he ranked within the top three," Zhao Guang said.

"Uncle, Auntie, what is going on?" Hao Ren asked in confusion.

Zhao Hongyu looked at Hao Ren and then at Xie Yujia and the others behind them. She calmed down slightly and said, "Our East Ocean Dragon Palace lent the Dragon God Shrine something a long time ago. The leasing period was 200 years, and the time is almost up. However, the Dragon God Shrine doesn't seem to want to return it to us."

"What is it?" Zhao Yanzi blinked.

"You don't have to worry about that." Zhao Hongyu didn't answer her question.

Zhao Yanzi didn't push further since she noticed Zhao Hongyu's bad mood. She turned to the hunch-backed Premier Xia and pouted, urging him to answer her.

Premier Xia took two steps back and shook his head when he noticed Zhao Yanzi's look. He was the Premier of the East Ocean Dragon Palace, so he certainly knew what Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang were talking about. However, he didn't dare to tell her that since Zhao Hongyu didn't say anything.

Zhao Yanzi then turned to Zhen Congming since she thought he would know about it as well. However, Zhen Congming whistled as he looked around, ignoring Zhao Yanzi completely.

Zhen Congming was closer to Xie Yujia than Zhao Yanzi, so he didn't tell her anything. This made Zhao Yanzi even madder, and she glared at Hao Ren.

"Is it very important? Do we have to get it back? Or is it vital to the Dragon God Shrine?" Hao Ren hesitated for a bit before he asked.

Hao Ren knew that Zhao Guang had his own reasons for coming to the Dragon God Shrine, and it seemed like Hao Ren's intuition was correct.

"This thing is very important to the Dragon God Shrine, but it is more important to the East Ocean Dragon Palace. Due to the lack of this item, the East Ocean Dragon Palace got slowly surpassed by the West Ocean Dragon Palace in the last 200 years," Zhao Guang said.

"The leasing period is almost up. If we don't get it back in time, it will be difficult to get it back in the future, right?" Hao Ren asked after some consideration.

It was just like lend-out money. If one couldn't get it back within the agreed upon time, it would become bad debt.

"Um!" Zhao Guang nodded seriously.

"If the Dragon God Shrine is unreasonable, our East Ocean Dragon Palace could fight them in a battle!" Zhao Hongyu said abruptly.

Lu Qing and Sun Yun, who stood beside Zhao Guang, kept silent.

Zhao Guang sighed, "Three of the six Vice Shrine Masters have reached peak Qian-level."

Zhao Hongyu looked at Zhao Guang in surprise, and she didn't know what to say.

The Dragon God Shrine had been developing rapidly over the past 200 years, and it had far surpassed the East Ocean Dragon Palace's expectations! It had exceeded all four ocean dragon palaces and had become the strongest dragon force!

The East Ocean Dragon Palace lent that item to the Dragon God Shrine to assist them in defending the human cultivation sects. Now, it seemed like the East Ocean Dragon Palace wouldn't be able to get it back if the Dragon God Shrine didn't want to return it!

Chapter 410: Won't Go Easy On You!

"Since Zhao Kuo is in the Dragon God Shrine as well, why don't you discuss it with him before the afternoon competitions start?" Zhao Hongyu said.

"Looks like that's the only thing we can do. We have half a year left..." Zhao Guang shook his head slightly.

If Zhao Kuo had reached the Heavenly Dragon Realm, the Dragon God Shrine could keep this item for another half a year at most. However, since the East Ocean Dragon Palace's strength was way weaker than the Dragon God Shrine's, they would keep playing dumb.

The item was essential to both the Dragon God Shrine and the East Ocean Dragon Palace. The fact was, the item belonged to the East Ocean Dragon Palace. However, in the last 200 years, it was used by the Dragon God Shrine.

Hao Ren knew even clearer that the old dragon king, Zhao Haoran, had passed away! It meant that the very person who lent out the item Zhao Guang was talking about 200 years ago was no longer here. It would be even more difficult for the East Ocean Dragon Palace to get it back!

"What on earth is this item? The item that tremendously reduced the East Ocean Dragon Palace's strength in the last 200 years..." Zhao Yanzi was extremely curious, and Hao Ren wanted to learn more about it as well.

However, Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu had been obscure about this topic, so Hao Ren couldn't push the answer out of them. There were many people from all over the place around them. Even if Zhao Hongyu were to tell them, she would wait until they got back to the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

"You can prepare for your afternoon battles." Zhao Guang led them out of the battle area as he calmed down again.

Compared to other participants' elder support teams, Hao Ren's support team appeared youthful and lively. The average age was young, and there were quite a few beautiful girls.

Also, Hao Ren's assisting inspector silver dragon embroidery on the brown robe made him look very special as well.

"They are from the East Ocean Dragon Palace."

"The four ocean dragon clans never attend the Dragon God Shrine's general exams, no?"

"I heard that the participant is the Fuma."

"No wonder... so he is not really from East Ocean."

"The princess is still young, and they aren't married yet..."

“Ren Yin 246! He still has his identity token. So, he is from the Ren Yin group.”

“Gen-level... He is only at Gen-level..... Did the Dragon God Shrine do this on purpose? I heard that the Ren Yin group is the weakest group this time.”

Hao Ren and everyone around him could hear all sorts of discussions as they walked by.

The cultivators in the Ren Yin group indeed seemed to be weaker than what Hao Ren had expected. Rather than crediting this to the Dragon God Shrine, he thought that it was all a part of Qin Shaoyang’s plan!

He assigned the high-level cultivators into other groups, so Hao Ren could rank top in his group. This way, Hao Ren would be facing real masters in the grand arena, and tens of thousands of cultivators would be witnessing his loss!

Qin Shaoyang wanted to expose Hao Ren’s tragic loss in front of everybody!

Hao Ren and his group went back to his Ren Yin 246 room to pick up his belongings.

This was Zhao Yanzi’s first time at the Dragon God Shrine, so she found the rooms where the participants completed their written exams fascinating.

Since the written exam was done, all the energy sphere over the rooms were removed. The cultivators who didn’t want to go outside could take rest in the rooms.

The entire row beside Ren Yin 246 was empty. The crowd entered the rooms randomly, had snacks, and took a break.

Everything seemed to be peaceful, but there was a tornado in disguise. Neither Zhao Hongyu nor Zhao Guang seemed to be as relaxed as before.

Zhao Yanzi ran into Premier Xia’s room to ask about that item, but she went back to her own room with a pout after getting no information.

Xie Yujia and the Lu sisters were sharing the zongzi outside the rooms harmoniously.

Essence Replenishment Pill... Hao Ren poured an elixir pill out of the small bottle and swallowed it.

Nature essence traveled throughout his body instantly.

The Five Maintains Bracelets prevented the nature essence from being used in a large degree, but Hao Ren still consumed quite a large amount of nature essence after four hours of battling.

The battles in the afternoon would be more intense and fierce, and it would consume a lot more nature essence without a doubt. Xie Yujia’s bottle of Essence Replenishment Pills was undoubtedly a timely help.

Hao Ren took an empty bottle out of his bag and put 30 Essence Replenishment Pills into it. Then, he threw the new bottle into his neck.

The sword energies of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll dashed around rapidly in Hao Ren’s body. Two hours were more than enough for Hao Ren to fully recover.

Dang...dang...dang... The Dragon God Shrine's bell rang.

It was one in the afternoon!

Hao Ren slowly pulled back his nature essence and walked out of his room.

Elder Lu and the rest of them came out of their rooms as well, and they headed toward the inner city.

The cultivators came in great numbers and soon filled up the area.

In the past two hours, the news about the East Ocean Dragon Palace's Fuma attending the Dragon God Shrine's general exams got passed around, and the audience all came to see how powerful this Fuma was.

Therefore, there were way more people in the east exam area than the other three exam areas. The regions around the arenas were congested!

"It's one in the afternoon. Let's welcome the winners!" a level 3 inspector shout after gathering all his nature essence. He stood on the grand arena which was surrounded by 24 smaller arenas.

The identity token at Hao Ren's waist suddenly shone with bright yellow light.

In the meantime, 23 yellow lights shone in the crowd.

"Good luck!" Zhao Hongyu looked at Hao Ren in encouragement.

She hoped that Hao Ren could have a great fight, but she didn't count on him getting ranked in the top three. In her opinion, he already gave his all in the Jing Zhe Arena. He used the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll with his fists, surprising his opponents. He could at most play outside of the box once with his actual sword array formation, and his opponents would know his trump cards.

"Eh!" Hao Ren hopped to the center of the grand arena before everyone else.

Then, the other 23 cultivators landed in the arena from different directions.

Hao Ren's eyes opened wide when he saw Zhao Kuo among the 23 cultivators!

Zhao Kuo's face was dark, and he had a long beard on his chin, as burly as before. His firm muscles filled his brown robe up, and it seemed like he could rip the robe apart just by flexing his muscles.

Jia Yin, Yi Yin, Bing Yin, Ding Yin... Jia Mao, Yi Mao, Bing Mao, Ding Mao... 24 cultivators exactly! They lined up in two rows according to code 'Yin' and 'Mao'. Wang Xi, with the identity token which said 'Ren Mao 197', stood opposite to Hao Ren.

Wang Xi looked at Hao Ren in disdain. He was surprised that Hao Ren could get out of the Ren Yin group, but the gossips made him believe that the Dragon God Shrine favored the East Ocean Dragon Palace on purpose!

Zhao Kuo stood diagonally across from Hao Ren, and there were a few cultivators between them.

Hao Ren took the opportunity to observe Zhao Kuo. He realized that Zhao Kuo was only at Dui-level! He ranked top in the Yi Mao group simply with the help of his iron fists! He didn't use the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll either!

Zhao Kuo rolled his eyes hard at Hao Ren when he noticed Hao Ren's stare, forcing him to look away immediately.

"Third Uncle is still so short-tempered after cultivating again," Hao Ren thought to himself.

Hao Ren looked at the other 23 cultivators on the stage as they observed their opponents as well.

Thirteen Dui-level cultivators, eight Xun-level cultivators, and two Kun-level cultivators! Hao Ren appeared to be the weakest as he was only at Gen-level!

Two Kun-level cultivators! Hao Ren remembered that Su Han was also at Kun-level when she attended the Dragon God Shrine's general exam!

This was only the east exam area. There might be other Kun-level and Qian-level cultivators in the other three exam areas!

The Dragon God Shrine's general exams really attracted a lot of undiscovered talent!

Amongst the 24 cultivators, there were four assisting inspectors including Hao Ren. Two of them were at Xun-level, and one was at Dui-level. Hao Ren was also the weakest!

Hao Ren found another acquaintance amongst the 12 Dui-level cultivators – Lu Qi!

The 'Go Genius' Lu Qi's pale face was covered with scratches, and the identity token on his waist said 'Jia Mao 166'.

Who knew how heartbroken his fangirls would be if they saw him like this.

Lu Qi was not only the new star in the Go circle but also a fire-elemental dragon cultivator. He couldn't snatch the assisting inspector position from Hao Ren, so he decided to attend the Dragon God Shrine's general exam as well!

"Yin and Mao, pick your opponents!" The inspector said between the two rows.

Hao Ren was slightly surprised at this remark since he thought that his opponent was Wang Xi, and he was already planning on how to defeat Wang Xi secretly. That might not be the case now.

"Jia Mao!" the inspector shouted.

Lu Qi, who was covered with wounds, took half a step forward and said immediately, "Ren Yin!"

Hao Ren was the weakest among all the cultivators. Lu Qi sure wanted to win a few more battles after ranking top in the Jia Mao group. Therefore, he picked Hao Ren without even thinking.

Hao Ren nodded at Lu Qi, accepting his challenge.

He appeared to be very calm, but he was actually worried..."Su Han, Su Han...Why aren't you here yet!" he thought.

He could try his best to defeat Dui-level and Xun-level cultivators, but Kun-level cultivators were different stories!

If he encountered a Kun-level cultivator while wearing the Five Maintains Bracelets, he would be smashed before he could do anything.

It was a relief for him when Lu Qi picked him.

“Jia Yin!” the inspector continued.

The cultivator with the Jia Yin identity token picked a Dui-level cultivator as his opponent.

The inspector called out the names one by one. The Kun-level cultivator from Ding Yin group picked Zhao Kuo to fight against.

Zhao Kuo snorted coldly in response.

When it was Wang Xi’s turn, he picked a Dui-level cultivator from the Geng Yin group. However, he still glimpsed at Hao Ren as he made this choice; it seemed like he believed that he could get into the next round, but it was a pity for him not to be able to defeat Hao Ren in front of everybody.

Soon enough, all 24 cultivators were paired up. Twelve pairs of cultivators were led into 12 small arenas to battle at the same time. The six winners would be battling in the grand arena in the middle in the next round.

As the 24 cultivators walked to the edge of the arenas, Hao Ren quickened his steps after Zhao Kuo and shouted, “Third Uncle!”

Zhao Kuo turned around and stared at Hao Ren with his round eyes. He asked in a deep voice, “What? Do you want to beg for mercy? Don’t expect mercy from me even though you have passed the initial selection round!”

“Um...” Hao Ren searched through his necklace and took out a small bottle. “This is for you.”

“What the hell is this?” Zhao Kuo opened the bottle as he shouted. Then, he sensed a strong nature essence coming out of it!

Many level 4 Essence Replenishment Pills filled up half the bottle! They were all top-tier supplements!

“It would be my pleasure to battle with Third Uncle!” Hao Ren smiled before he hopped down the arena.