

Honoured 471

Chapter 471: Rupture [6]

swish The ark creaked as it cut through the distorted air, soaring high above the dense, green forest beneath it.

The immense trees swayed as the ark's passage caused a ripple of wind to wash over them, leaving behind a swirling cloud of leaves in its path.

As it traveled past the mountains, Zhao Tian gazed at the distance where the space was shattering every second, and it was like a huge wall.

Eleanor, who was levitating beside him in the ark asked in a faint voice "Can you feel it? The turbulence in the space energy... in the path straight to us."

"That is the end of this small distorted world, and if we pass through that, we can go outside."

The ark, now drifting closer to the wall, began to shudder under the strain of the space energy pressing against it.

Zhao Tian's eyes wavered, feeling the currents trying to push the ark away, repelling them from the boundary.

Seeing the situation like this, Zhao Tian walked out of the control room and exited the ark, floating in mid-air.

With his left hand, Zhao Tian gripped a small handle that was on the front of the ark and again floated toward the wall.

He extended his right hand and focused on controlling the space energy, which was flowing slowly at that one point.

crack His right hand pushed the space itself as his fingers dug into the veil of space and it began to break slowly under his pressure.

Eleanor who was inside the ark, stared at him blankly with no emotions in her eyes.

"Urghh!" His eyes narrowed in concentration, feeling the tension in his muscles as he forced the space around him to bend, to crack under his power.

His gaze trembled as he felt the strain on his hand but he didn't stop and pushed his hand through the wall.

Each new fracture sent ripples through the air, and the pressure mounted with every second.

"Haa.. Haa..." Zhao Tian's breath quickened, his arm straining as if he were pushing against an immense weight and sweat beaded on his forehead, but he did not relent.

crack *crack* The space began to crack like a spider web and it quickly got larger.

His hand continued to dig deeper into the wall, the cracks widening with every inch.

Then, with a final push...

crack *THRISSHHH* The space wall crumbled to pieces and the space beyond was exposed... a swirling void of blackness that stretched out endlessly before him.

Zhao Tian wasted no time and grabbed the ark's handle firmly and, with a burst of speed, shot forward, dashing through the collapsing wall.

swoooosshhh The ark followed in his wake, propelled by the force of his movement.

Behind them, the wall began to heal itself, the fractures mending rapidly as the currents of space swirled back into place.

But Zhao Tian moved with precision, slipping through the crumbling boundary just before it could close in on him again.

flick As Zhao Tian blinked his eyes, now he was in pitch black space.

For a moment, he hung there in the void, feeling the vast emptiness around him, before he hurried back into the artifact.

swoosh

...

swish *thoom* The ark crashed down into the grassy plains with a loud thud, its impact sending a wave of dust and debris flying through the air.

The ship's metal frame groaned as it settled onto the soft earth, coming to rest in the open field.

Lying on the grass outside, Zhao Tian exhaled deeply, his chest rising and falling as he took in the cool, fresh air.

Above him, the sky was clear, the clouds drifting lazily across the horizon.

"Fucking finally..." he muttered to himself, his voice barely more than a breath.

His entire body ached from the strain of breaking through the rupture barrier, but the relief that washed over him was palpable.

He stared up at the sky, his gaze trembling with exhaustion. "Somehow... I made it out. Escaped that damn rupture."

"I am.. not entering that shit again..."

Zhao Tian allowed himself a moment of peace as the wind brushed against his face, carrying the scent of earth, and he closed his eyes, letting the fatigue wash over him.

At this time, the golden pendant tattoo on Zhao Tian's wrist glowed faintly and a smile appeared on Zhao Tian's lips 'Seems like I won the gamble...'

'Now... Eleanor Di Laurentia's shattered soul is.. my slave.'

Hearing the loud crash on the outside, Xia Shenyi, Shi Yixian, Fei Ziyu and Fei Lingxi hurried to the grassland.

Xia Shenyi was the first one to arrive there and was taken aback to see Zhao Tian lying on the grass floor with torn clothes, and bruises all over his body.

Her eyes shrank in utter shock seeing him in a state like this.

"T-Tian?" Her voice was trembling, barely a whisper as she dropped to her knees beside him, her hands hovering over his battered form, unsure of what to do.

Panic surged through her heart. "What happened?"

As she tried to pick him up, Zhao Tian raised his hand stopping her "Wait... Shenyi..."

"My body is strained after passing through all of those crushing space energies.. let me rest here for a bit."

Xia Shenyi's eyes trembled in pain and her heart clenched seeing him in a state like this.

She sat beside him on the grassland and softly took his head, placing it on his lap "Tian.. what happened?"

Her breath choked as she delicately caressed his cheek, which was stained with dried blood spills.

Zhao Tian opened his eyes slightly, looking up at her face, her brows furrowed in worry, and a smile flickered across his lips. "It's... a long story.. well, its quite short."

At this time, Shi Yixian also came there and saw Zhao Tian's form with torn clothes, blood stains and bruises all over his body.

"My Liege...."

Zhao Tian glanced at her and smiled faintly as she hastily sat beside him on the grassland.

woosh A white energy flickered out of the ark and levitated towards Zhao Tian, who was lying on the ground.

Huh? A cold glint passed through Shi Yixian's eyes and she instantly stood up as a sword appeared in her hand.

Looking at the soul fragment, Zhao Tian spoke "Yixian.. don't worry.."

"What did you do to me? You.. branded a seal on my soul?"

She asked, but there was no hostility in her tone, its just emotionless.

Chapter 472: Aftermath of Rupture!

"What did you do to me? You.. branded a seal on my soul?"

Eleanor asked but there was no hostility in her tone, it was just emotionless.

Zhao Tian who was lying on Xia Shenyi's lap turned to look at the soul shard and the other two were also intrigued to see the white energy.

Slowly shifting his body, Zhao Tian spoke "Ugh, you are my arch nemesis... how can I let you run amok like that? So, I thought of keeping you beside me, so you won't cause me any problems."

My Liege's arch nemesis? Shi Yixian's gaze squinted and gripped the sword tightly as she got ready to attack whenever at Zhao Tian's command.

Xia Shenyi, on the other hand, raised a curious eyebrow. 'Nemesis' She exchanged a glance with Zhao Tian but remained silent, her hand continuing to gently stroke his hair, which was matted with dried blood.

"I'm just being cautious," he explained, his voice a little softer now. "Honestly, I wasn't sure if the black tattoo would even work on you."

He glanced at the faint dark tattoo etched into the space around Eleanor's shimmering form, a soul-seal that bound her to him. "But I'm glad it did."

Hearing Zhao Tian's words, Eleanor stayed silent for a moment and replied "Is this artifact created by the first Honoured One and with you as the artifact's master.. it brands others under you, as your slaves?"

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod "You are quick on things.. that's how it is."

Xia Shenyi and Shi Yixian were quite confused as the new energy was casually talking about the first Honoured One.

Eleanor glanced around the small world she is in right now "I can't see anyone other than Honoured One creating an artifact like this..."

She then looked at Zhao Tian and muttered in her usual emotionless tone "I am not angry at you for using cheap tricks on me."

"I am grateful for helping me get out of there... and I am not going to betray you or something, so I don't mind having that slave seal on me."

Zhao Tian watched her quietly, surprised by her lack of resistance. He had expected at least some form of protest or bitterness, but there was nothing.

She was entirely unreadable, a hollow shell bound by a deal they had both reluctantly agreed to.

"I just hope," Eleanor continued, "that you'll stick to your part of the deal."

Before Zhao Tian could respond, a sudden rush of footsteps caught their attention. Fei Ziyu and Fei Lingxi, breathless from running, skidded to a stop beside Zhao Tian, their eyes wide with panic.

"Master!" they cried in unison, kneeling beside him with concern etched across their faces. Their gazes flickered from his torn and bloodied clothes to the bruises that covered his body.

Zhao Tian shook his head gently "I am fine... don't worry about me."

Fei Ziyu and Fei Lingxi exchanged worried glances, but they didn't press him further. They could see how exhausted he was, and they knew better not to push him for explanations now.

With a quiet sigh, Zhao Tian turned his attention back to Eleanor. "What kind of shelter do you need? Is a separate room enough for you?"

Eleanor gave a nod and replied "Yes... I just need a separate space to regain my soul energy."

Hearing this, Zhao Tian glanced at Shi Yixian "Yixian.. show her one of the rooms in the mansion."

"Yes, My Liege..."

Eleanor's form drifted away silently, following Shi Yixian without protest, her white energy dimming as she faded from view.

As Eleanor and Shi Yixian left, Zhao Tian took a soft breath and closed his eyes as a mumble escaped his lips "I will explain everything later, Shenyi..."

"And don't worry, there are no injuries in my body... I have already healed them. I am perfectly alright... I just need some rest..."

Gently, she ran her fingers through his white hair, untangling the strands that were matted with blood and dirt.

Her touch was light, and tender, as if afraid she might hurt him further.

"You don't have to explain anything right now, Tian," she whispered, her voice filled with affection and concern.

"Just rest. That's all that matters."

....

Meanwhile, Eleanor followed Shi Yixian into the mansion.

The corridors were quiet, the soft padding of her footsteps the only sound breaking the silence.

Shi Yixian remained stoic, her hand never straying far from the hilt of her sword, still wary of the white energy floating beside her.

Finally, they arrived at a secluded room near the back of the mansion. Shi Yixian opened the door and stepped aside, gesturing for Eleanor to enter.

"This will be your space. You can regain your strength here. But remember," her voice turned cold, "if you make a move against my Liege, I won't hesitate to act."

Eleanor's form hovered in the doorway, her flickering energy casting a glow in the room and she made no response to the threat, merely floating into the room without a word.

As the door closed behind her, Shi Yixian stood there for a moment, her eyes narrowing before she finally turned and walked away, leaving Eleanor in her silent room.

Eleanor floated there in the stillness, her energy barely flickering as she began to settle into the space. For the first time in eons, she was free of the rupture.

'I can't get other fragments of my soul... since the Honoured One refused to help me... well, it is to be expected.'

'So for now, I shall try to recover my lost soul energy...'

...

In the bathing space, Zhao Tian is sitting on a small stool with a towel on his waist as Xia Shenyi and Shi Yixin, both naked, clean the blood and dirt from his body.

Xia Shenyi rubbed his skin with her delicate hands as she leaned forward placing a kiss on his cheek "What kind of problem did you get yourself into this time?"

"Weren't you traveling to Jade Eclipse Star on your way? Did you stop on some other star?"

Zhao Tian smiled dryly as he began to speak...

Chapter 473: Jade Eclipse Star [1]

Zhao Tian was sitting on the bed, with his back leaning on the headboard, his arms wrapped around the bare shoulders of Shi Yixian and Xia Shenyi.

WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK!

Both of their jaws are on the soft mattress of the bed as they heard Zhao Tian's explanation of what happened.

Snapping out of her shock, Xia Shenyi hurriedly hugged him, burying her face in the crook of his neck "I am so glad.. you are alright, Tian..."

Feeling her soft breasts press against the warmth of his chest, Zhao Tian's hand slipped down from her shoulder and reached her waist as he gave her a gentle squeeze.

A smile appeared on his lips and he kissed her head "Well.. I was lucky as I managed to slip into the core of the rupture without great injury."

Shi Yixian let out a deep sigh as she uttered "I am really surprised... My Liege, you survived a rupture."

"And that woman..." Shi Yixian's voice trailed off for a moment, her eyes narrowing slightly as she tried to recall.

"Eleanor Di Laurentia... I have never heard that name before. At least not in the Astral Realm. Maybe it's because so many years have passed. Perhaps her name has been forgotten..."

Zhao Tian shrugged faintly "I am not sure... but after hearing her way of speaking and as she instantly saw through me, I knew she was the real deal."

At this time, Xia Shenyi frowned slightly and muttered, her breath tickling his neck "Maybe.. because she is the Heavenly One, the Honoured One fought her before the Heavens..."

"Or after defeating Eleanor... the Honoured One attained Godhood?"

Hearing the question, Zhao Tian shook his head "I asked that to her, but she said she doesn't remember much of her fight against the Honoured One and doesn't know she became a God."

Shi Yixian's gaze squinted as she spoke "So now her shattered soul fragments are in other ruptures... and her memories too?"

"Yeah... the first Honoured One was so powerful that her attacks are having an everlasting effect."

As he spoke, he lifted his hand and slowly pressed it against the empty air before him.

The fabric of space trembled beneath his touch, and with a soft, almost imperceptible *crack* it began to tear slightly, revealing the raw, chaotic energy that lay hidden beneath the surface.

"I think..." Zhao Tian mused, his eyes narrowing slightly as he studied the tear he had created, "I can finally create those space runes I've been thinking about. I've been theorizing about them for a while now, but this experience has given me a better understanding of how space itself operates."

His gaze narrowed slightly "It might come in handy sometimes..."

...

Meanwhile, as they were conversing... Fei Lingxi and Fei Ziyu are cleaning the ark and arranging the things in its place.

Fei Ziyu had a worried expression on her face as she turned the chair and moved it close to the table "What do you think.... happened to him?"

"He was surely injured but then he healed him... as there were bloodstains on his torn clothes."

A deep sigh escaped Fei Lingxi's lips as she replied "Ziyu... we are not his women, we are just his slaves..."

"How will he share his personal experience with us... We don't have the right to know what really happened."

"We also have to arrange the things in the kitchen.... Quicker."

"Don't ask things and do your job."

"Yeah... yeah..."

...

swish A sleek ark was streaking through the space leaving a trail of blue energy.

Sitting in the control room, Zhao Tian glanced at the dark space in front of him through the panoramic window in front of him.

His fingers are gently threading through Shi Yixian's silver hair who was sitting on his lap as she nestled her head on his chest "My Liege.. is it really ok to have that woman in the artifact?"

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod as he continued patting her head "Yeah.. she is already branded with my slave seal. And she is a remnant soul, there isn't much she can do..."

"Hmm..."

Zhang Yuan's gaze flickered to the holographic timer on the top and a mumble escaped his lips "A week... to reach Jade Eclipse Star."

...

A week has already passed-

Zhao Tian who was standing inside the control room, glanced at the beautiful solar system and quickly drifted the ark to the 4th planet in the solar system.

As the ark move closer to the planet, Zhao Tian smiled softly, looking at the blue green planet which has a transparent barrier around it.

With a thoughtful look, he mumbled to himself "I should wear robes.. I don't want to be looked strangely..."

...

fwoosh The ark slowly passed through the transparent barrier around the planet and entered its atmosphere.

Standing on the control room, Zhao Tian searched for a forest to land on and a slight frown crept his face "By what Shenyi said.... I should land near Zhennan Empire."

"No one is allowed to fly over the Empire except for people who has the Emperor's permission."

Zhao Tian mused, tapping the edge of the control panel "And this ark would surely catch some eyes, so I better land on the forest near Zhennan Kingdom and enter the city through walk."

Zhao Tian turned to glance at the holographic map of Jade Eclipse star.. which shows the kingdom names and the Sect he is going to enter.

"Hmm.. It has maps of only Ebon Luohe and Jade Eclipse Star.. it is as if Artoria know I will go to... Jade Eclipse Star hahaha..."

Soon, looking through the map, Zhao Tian's ark reached the Zhennan Empire and landed on the Great Tianque forest quite close to the nearby city, Liyang City.

As the ark descended close to the trees, shaking its leaves, Zhao Tian stepped out out the ark floating in the air and retracted the ark back in his space ring.

"Now...I have to go to the Liyang city."

Chapter 474: Jade Eclipse Star [2]

It was afternoon as the sun hung high above the head and amidst this, wearing black robes, Zhao Tian stepped into the Liyang City.

He was also quite excited to be in another planet with a different culture and totally different from his modern world.

"It feels a bit like old Zhenzhu..."

Vendors lined both sides of the bustling streets, their stalls overflowing with an array of colorful goods, from exotic fruits and vegetables to gleaming weapons and intricate fabrics.

The scent of roasted meats wafted through the air, mingling with the sweet aroma of pastries. Street vendors called out to passersby, advertising their wares with enthusiasm.

"Freshly caught fish from the Southern Sea!" one man yelled, his hands raised to show off a glistening silver catch.

"Rare herbs from the Tianque Forest! Guaranteed to cure all ailments!" shouted another, waving a bundle of green leaves.

Zhao Tian walked leisurely through the crowd, his eyes glancing around in wonder.

Merchants haggled with customers over the price of rare goods, while children ran through the streets with sticky sweets in hand.

clank The clang of metal rang out from a blacksmith's stall as a craftsman pounded away at a sword, sparks flying.

As he walked through the street, his eyes were drawn to a small street stall tucked away between larger vendor tents.

A cheerful woman stood behind the stall, expertly flipping skewers over a crackling flame.

Her hands moved with practiced ease as she marinated pieces of meat, occasionally sprinkling herbs and spices that sent tantalizing scents dancing around the stall.

She caught Zhao Tian's gaze and smiled warmly, gesturing for him to approach.

"Welcome, young master! Would you like to try some of my famous skewers? Freshly made, just for you!" she called out, her voice full of enthusiasm.

Zhao Tian stepped closer, his curiosity piqued. "What do you recommend?" he asked, glancing at the array of grilled delights that sizzled on the grill.

"Everything here is delicious, but I suggest the spiced lamb and the sweet chili chicken! They are crowd favorites!" The woman smiled, skewering pieces of lamb before placing them on the grill.

The meat hissed as it made contact with the hot metal, sending up a plume of aromatic steam.

"I'll take one of each,"

"Coming right up!" she exclaimed, swiftly preparing the skewers.

Within moments, she handed him two steaming, aromatic skewers, the meat glistening with spices and juices.

Zhao Tian smiled and took the skewers as he began to eat them.

As he took a bite, the woman eagerly asked "How is it, Young master?"

Zhao Tian nodded in amazement "It is wonderful..."

Chuckling, the woman asked "Young master, are you new here?"

Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow "You can tell?"

The woman crossed her arms in front of her chest proudly "Of course, I would never forget the face of such a charming young man..."

"So I am sure you are new here..."

Keeping his smile, Zhao Tian replied "Yeah... I am from a neighboring empire and came here to join the Jade Eclipse Sect. But since I am new here... I am kind of lost."

The woman rolled her eyes in amusement "To join the Jade Eclipse Sect, first.. you have to take the entrance exam and join the Sect as an outer disciple."

Zhao Tian who already heard from Xia Shenyi, nodded his head "Hmm... How to join this Entrance exam, Sister?"

Hearing him calling her Sister, the woman instantly smiled and responded "Little Brother... every two months, the Jade Eclipse Sect will recruit outer disciples."

"So in my guess... Hmm.. in around six days, the Entrance exam will begin."

Zhao Tian took a bite and nodded his head "Six days... I see."

The woman nodded back "Yeah... the jade Eclipse Sect is the biggest Sect in our star and that Sect is also close to this Zhennan Empire."

"Little brother, after six days, you have to go to the Southern gate of the Sect. There is where... many people around the star gather, so they can get a chance to pass through the examination."

Zhao Tian nodded his head as he continued eating his food "Sister.. have you tried joining the Sect and took the entrance exam?"

Eh? The woman was dumbfounded but then she burst out laughing "Bahahaha, little brother... you need to be at least 1st level of Soul refine stage to attend the entrance examinations."

"But me? I can't even cross the Empyrean realm and I am here stuck in the Transient realm... Only talented people can join that sect."

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod 'I am already in the 6th level of Soul refine stage... so it should be okay.'

Looking at his handsome face, the woman asked "If you want to join the sect... then there are still six days left."

"If you want to stay in an inn, I can recommend a good inn for you."

Zhang Yuan smiled faintly "Then I will go with Sister's recommendation."

Hehe... Smiling, the woman placed her hands on her waist "That inn is run by my father and there is also food there, so you don't have to worry."

Hearing this, Zhang Yuan raised an eyebrow "Sister, why are you working here... when you can work in your father's inn?"

The woman let out a sigh and replied "What can we do, Little Brother? The revenue from the inn is not enough, so I have to do side jobs like this."

"You are actually lucky little brother, because this stall stays here only during afternoons and you came at the right time."

"I see..."

...

A bit later, Zhao Tian and the woman were walking through the streets of the city, and Zhang Yuan felt many gazes towards him.

He knew that is because of his handsome face, but there was no way he could hide his face.

Even if he used illusions or some kind of artifact, the people here are more powerful than him... they can easily see through him.

So, why not just show his handsome face proudly? And he also doesn't like to stay low-key.. either.

The woman and Zhao Tian quickly reached a big inn in the center of the city "Come in, Little Brother..."

Chapter 475 Sect Entrance Examination [1]

Zhao Tian had spent the last six days staying at the inn, walking through the bustling streets of the city, and quietly gathering information about the sect he intended to join.

He had learned much from the people in taverns, shopkeepers, and wandering cultivators. And right now, sitting at one of the tables in the inn, Zhao Tian was having his food as he took the meat with his chopsticks.

He didn't enter the artifact much these six days because staying inside the artifact, he would have to wait twelve days because of the time dilation inside.

So he just stayed outside most of the time...

After finishing his meal, Zhao Tian drank some water and walked out of the inn, as he made his way to the back of the inn.

A small house stood there, a modest building made of stone and wood and at this time, the door also opened as a woman stepped outside tying her hair into a neat bun.

However, seeing Zhao Tian, a quick smile appeared on her lips and she walked to him "Little brother..."

Zhao Tian returned her smile and spoke "I will be leaving for the sect today..."

Hearing this, the woman smiled gently and tapped on his shoulder "Good luck, Little brother and if you failed.. don't worry."

"Come back to this sister, I will pamper you and after two months, you can retake the examinations."

Zhao Tian chuckled faintly upon hearing this and took her hand as he placed a bag pouch on her palm.

Hm? The woman instantly understood what was in the punch by simply holding it and gasped in shock as she raised her gaze to look at him.

"Little Brother..."

Keeping his smile, Zhao Tian replied "I really like your food here..."

As he spoke, he prepared to depart, leaving her standing there in shock.

A bit later, she snapped out of it and her eyes softened looking at his back "Little Brother..." she mumbled, looking at the glowing diamond-like stones in the pouch.

"This much... high-grade astral stones?"

She gave a gentle bow in his direction as he left "Hope you will come to see this Sister again..."

...

As Zhao Tian exited the inn, he raised his hand, signaling for a carriage. A middle-aged man driving a modest wooden carriage pulled up beside him, the horses snorting softly in the cool morning air.

The man, his graying beard and weathered skin showing years of experience, glanced down at Zhao Tian and asked in a gravelly voice, "Where to, young man?" "The southern gate of Jade Eclipse sect."

The man's eyes widened slightly with interest. "Ah, it's that time, huh? Sect Entrance Examination. Quite the occasion. Hop in," he said, gesturing toward the open door of the carriage with a knowing smile. With a smile, Zhao Tian entered the carriage and soon, the carriage arrived at the southern gate of the Jade Eclipse Sect. The middle-aged driver pulled the reins and stopped the carriage just

outside the gate. "Here you go, lad. Best of luck in there," the man said, tipping his straw hat with a kind nod.

Zhao Tian offered a smiling nod in return before stepping down from the carriage. As he walked toward the sect's enormous courtyard, Zhao Tian noticed the steady flow of people being dropped off just like him... young cultivators with eyes full of hope and ambition, some arriving in groups, others alone like him.

The courtyard was vast, able to hold hundreds, with stone pathways lined with ancient trees and pillars. His eyes glanced around at the people standing in small groups and then his gaze fell on the enormous ancient stone gate that was in front of him.

After he had gathered the information, he learned that the Sect was the most prestigious Sect in this star, and many dreamed of even entering as outer disciples.

People even come from other High Stars to this apex High Star to join this Jade Eclipse Sect.

Zhao Tian also took a place in the courtyard and sat there silently.

He can feel some heads turning to look at him, probably because of his handsome face.

A few more minutes passed and the enormous stone gate slowly began to open.

creeek Everyone in the courtyard hurriedly stood up and glanced at the two people who just stepped out from the door.

One was a middle-aged wearing a black cloak with some crimson patterns and beside him was another oldman standing behind him looking like his assistant.

The man's cold gaze swept through everyone in the courtyard seeing through their cultivation and most of them were in the 1st to 3rd level of the Soul Refine Stage.

His gaze then fell on Zhao Tian for a second '6th level of Soul Refine stage...'

With a slight cough, he began his speech "I am Eldric Grey, one of the Elders and Wing Masters of the Jade Eclipse Sect."

"As you all know," Eldric continued, "today marks the beginning of the entrance examination for the Jade Eclipse Sect. This sect stands as one of the most prestigious in the Jade Eclipse Star, and it has remained so because only the strongest, most disciplined, and most talented can become part of it." "And today I will be the Examineer for your Sect Entrance..."

Hearing this, the people were pumped up and nodded their heads enthusiastically.

Zhao Tian was not surprised by the Western kind of name in the Sect as there are many people from other stars who come here and he must have climbed the ranking.

And he already knows who this man is...

The Wing Master of Azure Star Wing, one of the 13 wings in the Sect... Eldric Grey.

Eldric Grey continued to speak "Our Jade Eclipse Sect is mostly surrounded by the Great Tianhe forest from the North, East.. touching the South, while the royal capital and many other cities are on the West side."

Many people know this fact as the Great Tianhe forest is one of the biggest forests in the Jade Eclipse Star which stretches for thousands of kilometers and is filled with powerful Astral beasts.

"Your task this time would be collecting the marbles that are spread across the forest by us."

Hearing this, everyone was dumbfounded. Huh? Marbles? To look through all of those thousand kilometers?

Eldric Grey continued "You don't have to panic... we have marked the radius where you will need to find the marble and contains astral beasts appropriate for your cultivation levels. Each of you will be tasked with retrieving special marbles that we have hidden throughout this zone." Everyone let out a sigh of relief and Eldric Grey spoke "You need to at least collect 20 marbles to join the Sect."

His tone grew sharper, "But remember this: the Great Tianhe Forest is not forgiving. Many have lost their lives there, and if you underestimate it, you will join them."

"Only the strong will survive, and only the worthy will join the sect. There will be no assistance from the sect during this trial... your life and success depend entirely on your abilities." "And of course... the top three who get more marbles will gain special rewards."

Chapter 476 Sect Entrance Examination [2]

"And of course... the top three who get more marbles will gain special rewards."

Ohhhhhh!

The young people were obviously excited upon hearing this.

Zhao Tian frowned slightly upon hearing this 'Should I go for the top spot?' he mused, glancing at the eager faces around him.

He has already seen through the cultivation of the young lads beside him and most are in the initial levels of Soul Refine Stage... so it won't be hard for him to get the first spot.

'But still... that would make me stand out so much... well, it doesn't matter at this point as I can already feel some glances to my side.'

And he also has a huge ego, been called a genius since he was young in sports, studies, and even gaming because of this physique.

But maybe it's because of all that gaming and the sense of pride...

'Call me hypocrite or whatever, but I hate to lose...'

'And well, it's just the Entrance Examination.... Let's give it our best shot.'

He snapped out of his thoughts hearing Eldric Grey's voice "Now then, follow me to the Great Tianque forest."

Eldric Grey and the old man flew high in the air and following him, the other disciples also floated in the air.

A few minutes later, they came near the Great Tianque forest and everyone glanced at the thick green forest, which stretched to kilometers till their eyes could see.

Floating in the air, Eldric Grey glanced at them "I have placed a restriction barrier here, so you can't fly around. You will have to move through the forest on foot."

Everyone nodded their heads and Eldric Grey then pointed toward the horizon, where faint red beams of light glowed at the edge of the forest. "That is the boundary. You must not cross the red lights."

"The marbles you are seeking are scattered within this designated area. If you see the red lights, retreat immediately. The marbles are only within the safe zone."

They all understood that if they saw red lights, they should immediately retreat because the marbles were inside the vicinity of the red lights.

"When the sun sets, you all should return to the Southern gate of the sect and you can enter in after showing the 20 marbles you have collected."

"After the sun sets, even if you brought 100 marbles... you won't be allowed to enter the Sect."

Everyone nodded their heads in understanding and Eldric Grey gave a nod "Now... disperse."

swoosh In an instant, the young cultivators dashed toward the forest, their bodies moving in blurs of light and energy.

As they reached the edge of the restriction barrier, their ability to fly was immediately nullified, and one by one, they fell gracefully to the forest floor.

Landing on the ground, Zhao Tian muttered in amusement, "I should learn about barriers, runes, and alchemy while I am in this Sect..."

He glanced around at the thick forest, as sunlight peeked through the trees and the leaves rustled in the wind.

"And where are these marbles..."

He didn't get much information from Xia Shenyi and others about the Sect Entrance Examination as it is random each time.

A blue glint passed through his eyes as he used his astral sense and soon he felt a condensed trace of astral energy in the trees.

Of course, they would not put simple marbles on the test, then the Exam would be luck based on getting 20 marbles... we have to use our Astral Sense to trace the astral energy and find these marbles.

flick He teleported to the sturdy branch of the building and noticed the slice glint in the small crook of the bark.

He reached out and pulled out the marble from its position and glanced at the small silver marble in his hand.

"One..."

...

Zhao Tian sat perched on a sturdy tree branch, the leaves above casting a soft shade over him and he held a small pouch in his hand, shaking it slightly to count the marbles he had collected. "Twenty..." he muttered with a smile.

"This should be enough to join the sect, but not enough to get the top spot."

During the past two hours, he did encounter some young cultivators.. but they didn't cause any ruckus and left quiet.

flick With a subtle movement, Zhao Tian disappeared from the branch, teleporting from tree to tree with practiced ease.

His body flickered like a shadow, and he wasn't searching for marbles now.

He needed something more, something that would secure his place among the top contenders.

A scapegoat.

"Oh, found it..."

flick He reappeared on the branch of a tall tree, sitting comfortably as he observed the scene playing out beneath him.

On the ground, a fight was underway.

A handsome young man with jet-black hair was in the midst of battling two cultivators.

His movements were swift and brutal, his bare hands delivering powerful blows that sent the two young men in disarray.

splat Blood splattered across the forest floor as the two young men struggled to defend themselves.

Behind the handsome young man stood two more men who had smirks on their faces looking at the fight.

"Brother Zing is so powerful!" one of the lackeys exclaimed, his voice dripping with admiration. "He easily beat them both. Hahaha!" Seeing them Zhao Tian smiled dryly, it is the cliché young master and his bootlickers.

The handsome young man, Mo Zing, had a calm and indifferent expression on his face as he glanced at the bloodied young men on the floor and extended his hand "Give me your marbles..."

The two young men, battered and bruised, looked up at him in panic and they clutched their pouches tightly, their faces pale with fear. "N-No..." one of them stammered, shaking his head desperately. "We've only collected ten of them... We won't give them to you!" Hearing this, Mo Zing didn't hesitate and gave a swift kick to his face, snapping his neck to the left.

"I did not request it... I ordered you to give me your marbles."

Seeing his friend getting beaten up like this, the young man hurriedly handed over his marbles. The second young man, shaking with fear, quickly grabbed his fallen friend, pulling him close. "G-Give him the marbles, Shen," he whispered frantically.

"We can try the examination again next time... It's not worth it!" Shen, the beaten young man, groaned in pain but nodded weakly.

His trembling hands fumbled inside his robe, pulling out a small pouch filled with marbles and with a reluctant expression, he handed the pouch over to Mo Zing.

Mo Zing took the pouch without a word, his eyes barely flickering as he counted the contents. "Good," he said, his voice as indifferent as ever.

The two defeated cultivators, not daring to linger any longer, scrambled to their feet and staggered away, supporting each other as they disappeared into the forest. The two lackeys of Mo Zing cheered for him "With this, Brother Zing can easily get the top spot."

Mo Zing, still ignoring the praise of his followers, focused on the pouch in his hand, carefully counting the marbles inside.

His expression remained indifferent, though a faint glimmer of satisfaction crossed his eyes as he tallied the total. *flick* Zhao Tian teleported in front of them and Mo Zing who was on guard, quickly took a fighting stance.

With a smile on his face, Zhao Tian spoke "Hand me over those marbles..."

Chapter 477 Sect Entrance Examination [3]

flick Zhao Tian teleported in front of them and Mo Zing who was on guard, quickly took a fighting stance.

With a smile on his face, Zhao Tian spoke "Hand me over those marbles..."

Hm? Mo Zing already expected something like this would happen.

He'd been careful enough to avoid other strong cultivators while collecting marbles, but he was well aware that in this vast forest, he wasn't the only predator lurking. Taking a deep breath, his eyes condensed as a vibrant green aura began to shimmer around his body, the wind around him picking up speed, whipping his long, black hair into the air.

"Not so easily..."

"Then I guess we're doing this the hard way." Zhao Tian kept his smile looking at the astral energy around his body 'Wind elemental..'

wooosh The energy gathered around Mo Zing intensified, the wind spiraling into a vortex around him, causing the surrounding trees to creak under the pressure. *flick* In the blink of an eye, Mo Zing shot forward, his figure nearly blending with the wind itself as he dashed at Zhao Tian with incredible speed.

His movements were fluid and seamless as his each step left behind swirling gusts that spiraled the trees and caused destruction in their wake.

swoosh *swoosh*

His first strike came fast, a straight punch aimed at Zhao Tian's chest, the wind amplifying the force behind it.

The sheer speed of his movements kicked up a powerful gust, and the air seemed to vibrate with the energy of the attack.

Zhao Tian raised one hand casually, catching Mo Zing's fist with his palm.

thoom The moment their energies clashed, a shockwave rippled outward, scattering dust and leaves in every direction.

WOOOSSHHH The trees around them groaned under the pressure, branches snapping as the air swirled violently.

"Hmm..." Zhao Tian smiled, effortlessly absorbing the force of Mo Zing's punch.

Mo Zing's eyes narrowed in shock, but his instincts took over quickly.

He twisted his body and launched a spinning kick aimed at Zhao Tian's head.

The wind followed his movements like a second limb, amplifying the power and creating a razor-sharp edge around his foot.

Zhao Tian ducked under the kick and countered with a swift upward palm strike aimed at Mo Zing's exposed side.

thhoom

Mo Zing barely managed to block the attack by spinning his body again, the wind around him absorbing some of the force.

But even then, the sheer physical power behind Zhao Tian's attack sent him skidding back across the forest floor, his feet digging into the earth. Regaining his composure, Mo Zing dashed forward at an incredible speed, his figure becoming a blur as he harnessed the wind to enhance his movements.

As he appeared in front of Zhao Tian, he twisted his body delivering a spinning kick surrounded by razor-sharp winds, aimed directly at Zhao Tian's chest.

Zhao Tian's eyes narrowing slightly as the air hummed with energy.

Just as the kick was about to connect, *crack* a sudden surge of blue lightning erupted around Zhao Tian's body.

In a flash, his body flickered with crackling bolts of electricity, as his figure blurred and reappeared just behind Mo Zing, leaving the latter's kick to slice through empty air.

Mo Zing's eyes widened in shock. "What the—!"

CRACK

A bolt of lightning streaked from Zhao Tian's hand, striking Mo Zing spinal cord.

woosh* *thoom The force of the impact sent him hurtling through the air, smashing into a nearby tree, which exploded into splinters from the sheer force.

"Aughhh..." Mo Zing grunted in pain, but he quickly regained his footing, the wind around him swirling with even greater fury.

"You've got lightning elemental?" Mo Zing uttered, wiping blood from the corner of his mouth and his heart raced, but there was no turning back now.

Lightning, Ice and Fire elemental users are dangerous as they have high explosive and destruction power.

Mo Zing responded as a green glint flashed through his eyes, "Wind Blade Barrage!" he muttered, and immediately, dozens of razor-sharp blades of compressed wind formed in the air around him.

Each blade shimmered with wind energy, slicing through the air with a high-pitched whistle.

With a sweeping gesture, he sent the blades flying toward Zhao Tian, cutting through trees, rocks, and everything in their path.

Zhao Tian's eyes gleamed with excitement and his body crackled in lightning as he dashed forward, his movements even faster than before.

swish* *swish His figure became a blur of crackling light as he weaved effortlessly between the blades, each one missing him by mere inches as they crashed into the forest behind him, causing explosions of dirt and debris.

THOOM *THOOM* Trees were cleaved in half, and the forest was left in shambles as the wind blades carved through everything in sight.

Suddenly, Zhao Tian appeared right in front of Mo Zing, his fist crackling with concentrated lightning energy. Mo Zing barely managed to throw up a barrier of wind to cushion the blow, but even then, the force of the punch sent shockwaves through the forest.

THOOM The ground beneath them cracked and split apart, forming a crater where they stood.

swoosh Trees were uprooted, their trunks shattered by the sheer force of the impact.

Mo Zing was blasted backward, his body tumbling through the air before he crashed into the ground, leaving a trail of destruction.

Struggling to his feet, he clenched his fists, the wind around him swirling faster than ever before, and leaped into the air, his body spinning wildly as he unleashed another technique. "Cyclone Burst!"

swiiish A massive whirlwind formed around him, growing in size until it became a towering vortex of wind that tore through the forest with devastating force.

The cyclone sucked up trees, rocks, and debris, creating a path of destruction as it moved.

In the midst of the chaos, Zhao Tian charged forward, his body flickering with lightning as he sliced through the cyclone with ease.

He broke through the center of the storm, his fist crackling with bolts of lightning as he aimed a punch directly at Mo Zing.

BOOOMM Mo Zing was sent flying once again, his body smashing through several trees before finally crashing into the ground, creating a massive crater. His vision blurred and his robes were bruised from the attacks.

He quickly reached out to his robe and took a pill bottle as he tossed a healing pill in his mouth.

Chapter 478 Sect Entrance Examination [4]

flick Zhao Tian stood before Mo Zing, who was slumped against a tree, his body bruised and battered and despite the pain, Mo Zing managed a weary grin as he tilted his head up to look at Zhao Tian.

"That was a good fight.. but ended quickly."

Hearing his words, Zhao Tian gave a faint nod and Mo Zing reached out to the pouch hanging on his waist.

Tossing the pouch to Zhao Tian, Mo Zing tiredly leaned back on the tree trunk "You can have it..."

Zhao Tian was quite surprised, as he expected Mo Zing to be a cliché young master and say things like 'Do you know who I am and who my father is?'

The kind who would threaten him with vengeance for daring to best him in a fight.

But instead, Mo Zing surprised him with his calm demeanor and willingness to concede defeat with dignity. Opening the pouch, he took half of the marbles and tossed it back to Mo Zing "You can have the rest..."

Mo Zing blinked in surprise as he caught the pouch and stared at it in his hand for a moment, then chuckled weakly, leaning back against the tree trunk, a wry smile tugging at the corner of his mouth. "Thanks... ?"

As his voice trailed off, Zhao Tian spoke "Zhao Tian."

With a nod, Mo Zing replied "Thanks Zhao Tian, my name is Mo Zing..."

Mo Zing? Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow in surprise and asked "One of the three prestigious families in Zhennan Empire?" Mo Zing nodded, struggling to get back to his feet. "Yeah... Rughh... One of the three prestigious families," he repeated, wincing from the pain in his ribs as he pushed himself up. Before Zhao Tian could respond, two lackeys burst through the treeline, rushing toward Mo Zing with panic etched on their faces. "Brother Zing!"

The second lackey, clearly more hot-headed, glared at Zhao Tian. "You! Do you know who he is?! Huh? He's the youngest son of the Mo family in the Zhennan Empire!"

"If the Mo family finds out about this, you're dead! You hear me? Dead meat!" -- Zhao Tian stared at them blankly and Mo Zing shook his head helplessly "Don't mind them... Zhao Tian."

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod of understanding and without another word, he turned, his figure blurring as he disappeared into the shadows of the forest "I'm taking my leave." As soon as Zhao Tian vanished, the hot-headed lackey clenched his fists, clearly frustrated. "Brother Zing, we need to report this to your father! We'll have him slice that guy's head off and-" "Shut up," Mo Zing snapped, his patience with his lackey's whining finally wearing thin.

"Zhao Tian beat me fair and square. He didn't kill me, and he even gave me back half of the marbles. He's someone stronger than us... so let it go."

"But brother Zing-!" the lackey started, only to be cut off once again.

"Just help me get up, you fools," Mo Zing uttered, clearly fed up with their overzealous protectiveness.

His body was still aching from the fight, and he didn't have the energy to argue any longer.

The lackeys exchanged nervous glances before rushing forward to assist their leader. "Y-Yes, brother Zing!"

...

Zhao Tian who was teleporting from one tree to another glanced down at the disciples who were searching for the marble and frowned slightly.

'Hmm... Going through this scapegoat method is inefficient. So, what I have to do is...'

...

It was already close to evening and the sun was slowly dipping to the horizon.

A young man, drenched in sweat and fatigue, sprinted toward the gate, eager to prove his worth and join the sect, his pouch rattling with the sound of marbles. However, as he reached the Southern gate, he saw a handsome young man with white hair, and sharp features, standing in front of the enormous gate.

Huh? Without paying him too much attention, the young man attempted to walk past and approach the gate.

But before he could take another step, a crackling bolt of blue lightning shot through the air, blocking his path.

He slowly turned his head to look at Zhao Tian "Uh?"

"Give me three of your marbles and you can enter."

The young man blinkedhis eyes, bewildered by the demand. "Huh? Why should I give you thr-"

thrish Before he could finish his sentence, a flash of blue light streaked toward him, sending searing pain through his body as the lightning bolt coursed through his chest.

His legs gave out, and he stumbled backward, gasping in agony and his entire body trembled from the shock as he fell to one knee, his eyes wide with fear.

"Haargh!!" His cry echoed through the courtyard.

Before he could even react further, Zhao Tian appeared in front of him, delivering a kick to his face.

thoom The young man did a 360 spin on the air and fell to the ground.

"So?"

The young man groaned in pain, clutching his face as he slowly got back to his feet, glaring at Zhao Tian with a mix of anger and fear. "I-I collected all of them with my hard work... Why should I just hand them over to you?" Zhao Tian's smiled faintly, and blue bolts of lightning began to crackle around his body, filling the air with an electric hum "Tax... Pay it, and you can enter."

The young man clicked his tongue 'Lightning elemental... uhh, I better don't want to provoke him and just with this short exchange he is clearly stronger than me..'

'I have 25 marbles... It's just three, and I'd rather enter the Sect than risk getting beaten up for it.'

Resigned to his fate, the young man reached into his pouch, pulled out three marbles, and handed them to Zhao Tian, who took them with a satisfied smile. "You can enter," Zhao Tian said, pointing toward the gate. 'What a bastard...'

Cursing under his breath, the young man stepped in, and soon more people began to come to the Southern Gate.

...

thoom "Urghhh!" Three men crashed into the courtyard, their agonizing screams echoing through the air scaring the disciples.

Zhao Tian stood at the Southern gate with a smile on his face "Three marbles..."

Many people didn't want to get into a fight on the first day and it was only three marbles, so they handed it over to the bully and entered.

While some retaliated, Zhao Tian used force to get his tax payment from them.

As the line of disciples continued to thin, a nervous young man approached the gate, trying his best to avoid Zhao Tian's gaze.

His steps were hesitant, his heart pounding in his chest and when Zhao Tian's cold eyes fell on him, he froze.

"U-Uh... Senior," the young man stammered, his voice shaking. "I only have 18 marbles with me. I... I can't even join the Sect. I thought of begging them to let me enter..." Hearing this, Zhao Tian let out a sigh, took two marbles from his pouch and gave them to him "Scramble..."

The young man's eyes filled with tears of gratitude. "Th-Thank you so much, Senior!" he cried, bowing deeply before hurrying into the Sect, overwhelmed by the unexpected kindness. ...

Meanwhile, standing on top of the southern tower in the Sect, Eldric Grey glanced at the commotion happening at the Southern gate.

The old man beside him, frowned in anger "He is robbing all of the contestants... this is against the Sect rules, to hurt other disciples in the Sect's vicinity."

Eldric Grey couldn't help but chuckle in amusement "What an interesting lad and he has lightning elemental."

"Maybe we can get him under our wing when he becomes an inner court disciple."

-- The old man was dumbfounded 'Did you even listen to what I said just now?'

Chapter 479 Sect Entrance Examination [5]

One by one the participants entered inside the Sect through the Southern Gate after paying the tax to Zhao Tian.

They all shot glares at him and cursed under their lips before entering.

Zhao Tian could care less about them, as he is confident that he will soon become an inner wing disciple and doesn't have to look at these faces for a long time.

As the sun began to dip even lower on the horizon, Zhao Tian stopped collecting the tax and entered in, following the other disciples.

After climbing some stairs, they came to a large courtyard inside and Zhao Tian's gaze swept across the courtyard, taking in the sight of the many disciples who had passed the initial test.

Hundreds had gathered here, their murmurs blending into a soft hum. Zhao Tian glanced at the old man who was with Eldric Grey in the morning, one of the Sect Administrators, sitting on the side with a table in front of him.

As the sun continued to sink below the horizon, the courtyard grew darker, and a few moments later, soft lights flickered to life around the space.

They were not the dim flicker of torches or oil lamps, but modern-looking, energy-efficient lights, illuminating the area with a steady, clean glow. Hm? Zhao Tian glanced at the beautiful lights adorning the courtyard 'So they are not totally traditional... they do use some modern technology.'

tap As they were waiting, faint noises were heard and Eldric Grey walked down the steps reaching the courtyard.

Seeing him everyone stood up and Eldric Grey's eyes glanced around at the 346 disciples who managed to pass this time.

'Seems like the exam was rather easy... Next time, I should make it harder.'

"Hm... I am glad to see so many of you have passed. Now all you have to do is go to Dayong and register your name and present the marbles you have collected during the trial. This will determine your ranking."

As he spoke, the old man, Dayong, who had been silent until now, stood up and pulled something from his storage ring.

A large, rectangular device materialized on the table with a faint shimmer. Hm? Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow in curiosity looking at the big printer-sized device and the tablet in Dayong's hands.

'They are using technology way more than I expected... Shenyi didn't say something like this.'

The disciples exchanged glances as they began to line up. One by one, they approached the table where Dayong sat to register their name and the marbles they had collected.

The first to step forward was a young man, his robes slightly dusty from the day's events.

"Name?" Dayong asked in a gravelly voice without looking up. "Xiao Hao," the young man replied, his voice steady, though a hint of nervousness flickered in his eyes. Dayong typed his name on the tablet and then extended his left hand "Marbles..."

Xiao Hao placed the pouch in his hand and simply weighing the pouch in his hand, Dayong typed the amount of marbles.

Then he glanced at the big sack of small wooden plates beside him on the chair.

He gently crouched down and reached into the large sack of wooden plates beside him, pulling out one of the small, polished plaques.

He inserted it into the printer-sized machine, and as he tapped the tablet, the device hummed to life, letting out a faint printing noise. Moments later, the wooden plate slid out from the other side, now engraved with intricate symbols and a unique identification number. Eldric Grey who was standing on the stairs spoke in a loud tone "This is your identification within the Jade Eclipse Sect. It is more than a mere token... it is your proof of belonging to this sect, your key to advancement, and a symbol of your standing."

"Only this could prove that you belong to the Jade Eclipse Sect."

"For outer disciples, this identification plate is brown and when you enter the inner court, you can get it updated and it will change to silver color."

"Core disciples... the direct disciples of the Wing Master will have golden identification plates."

"Wing masters like me will have black identification plates." He muttered pointing at the black plate hanging on his waist.

"And at last, the Sect Leader has a purple identification plate."

"This identification plate is very important, so make sure you don't miss this."

The disciples understood and nodded their heads as Eldric Grey continued "You can see another device beside Dayong... there you can scan your plate and see the details."

Xiao Hao, the young man walked to the small scanner device, which had a holographic screen.

He gently placed the other side of the plate, which had a unique imprint on the scanner.

flick The hologram flickered faintly, showing his details.

[Xiao Hao]

[Outer disciple]

[0 credits.]

Credits? What are credits?

Though confused, the young man didn't ask anything and moved on from there.

Minutes went by and it was finally Zhao Tian's turn as he stepped in front of Dayong.

Dayong looked at the handsome young man in front of him and let out a grumpy sigh "Name?"

"Zhao Tian."

Hearing the name, Dayong frowned slightly 'So none of the greater families around here.. Must be from some other Dynasty.'

"Marbles."

As Zhao Tian placed the pouch on his palm, Dayong's lips twitched 'Just how much did this brat robbed?'

'I can't just simply estimate with weight now...'

Looking up at Zhao Tian he asked "How many?"

"There are 1267 marbles inside it... you can count it if you want."

Hearing the absurd numbers, the other disciples who were beside him were dumbfounded.

'Of course, after robbing all of us, this bastard has the highest number.'

'We need only 20 to enter and this rascal has 1267...'

They all erupted in fury, but no one voiced their thoughts and stayed silent.

click After the machine printed his plate, Zhao Tian took it and tested it on the scanner to check if it works.

[Zhao Tian]

Chapter 480 Sect Entrance Examination [6]

Minutes passed as every disciple approached the table one by one, submitting their information and receiving their identification plates.

The large courtyard was alive with the murmuring of students, the soft hum of Dayong's machine, and the occasional clink of marbles.

Each new disciple clutched their identification plate with a mix of pride and anticipation, fully aware that they had now officially stepped into the ranks of the Jade Eclipse Sect. After everyone is finished, Eldric Grey let out a faint cough grabbing everyone's attention.

"Now that everyone has been registered, let's check the top 3 rankings in the Sect Entrance Examination."

The mention of the top three caused a stir among the disciples. Murmurs broke out, and a few glanced toward Zhao Tian, already suspecting his name might be called. Dayong, who was sitting on the table, gave a nod and stood up as he glanced at the tablet in the table.

"The third place is Xue Han with 180 marbles."

Hearing his name being called, a handsome young man with jet-black hair stepped up from everyone and stood in front of the crowd.

"The second place is Li Jia with 320 marbles..."

A hush fell over the courtyard as all eyes turned toward the young woman who stepped forward.

The woman's sleek black hair fell like a waterfall down her back, and her striking blue eyes gleamed beneath her delicate brows.

She moved with an air of elegance, her robes swaying softly around her slender figure as she made her way to the front.

"The first place is Zhao Tian with 1267 marbles."

Hearing this, all the disciples bellowed in frustration, looking at the handsome young man with white hair stepping in front.

'This fucker... ahhh.'

'He is first after all... I am not surprised.'

'Bastard.'

Looking at the three of them, Eldric Grey spoke "Now to distribute the rewards for everyone who passed the Sect Entrance Examination."

"And also special rewards for the top three participants."

"First, let's distribute the rewards for all of the new outer disciples... you all will get 100 credits."

Some disciples were confused and looked at each other. Credits? What is credits?

Looking at their confusion, Eldric Grey explained further "In our Jade Eclipse Sect, the credits are the currency... you can't use your high grade astral stones here."

Eldric Grey continued, his tone firm. "You can earn credits by completing missions assigned by the Sect Hall. Credits are essential for acquiring resources, techniques, and even access to certain areas of the sect."

"This system ensures that merit and hard work are rewarded above all else. No matter how wealthy you may be outside these walls, inside the sect, only credits matter."

The sect credits system exists to discipline the disciples of the sect, so if they wanted to buy something, they had to earn it; and to gain credits, they needed to do the missions.

Even if you are rich, you can't buy anything within the sect.

This will create equality within the disciples.

"And the disciples who came 2nd and 3rd will receive 500 and 300 credits respectively and a 3-month membership to enter library which is usually bought with credits."

"You both can also take a Mythic grade skill or weapon for free from the Sect warehouse."

Then Eldric Grey's eyes fell on Zhao Tian "The one who came first will receive first will get 1000 credits and a 6-month free membership to enter the Sect library."

"You can select a Radiant grade skill or weapon from the Sect warehouse."

'What the hell?'

'A radiant grade weapon or skill?'

'For a cheater like him?'

Many people bellowed in anger as they shot glares towards Zhao Tian, who was calmly standing in the front with a faint smile on his face.

Finally, someone from the crowd, braver than the rest, voiced what many had been thinking: "That guy robbed us!"

Hearing one confident voice, the others also joined in "Yeah, yeah... he bullied us and bought three marbles from everyone who was entering the Southern Gate.."

"He should not get those credits and skills."

"This is totally unfair."

Suddenly a huge commotion swept as the people who had a grudge against him and had beaten him gathered and voiced their opinions.

Hearing the commotion, Eldric Grey's eyes narrowed as cold words escaped his lips "Unfair? When has this world been fair to you?"

"Only strength rules..."

"You lost because you are all weak compared to the disciple, Zhao Tian. Don't forget that all of you are standing here because of his mercy."

"If he wanted, he could have collected all of your marbles and sent you empty-handed, resulting in you dropping out from the examination."

"But he is kind enough to only rob three marbles from you so that you can join the Sect."

"You all should be grateful to him."

What the hell?

We're supposed to be grateful for being robbed?

The disciples were dumbfounded to hear this and their jaws dropped.

It was all Zhao Tian's fault for robbing them and now they have to be grateful to him?

Eldric Grey raised an eyebrow and spoke "Now, all of you say thank you to him for letting you enter the Jade Eclipse Sect."

WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?

The disciples glanced at each other in bewilderment as the situation turned out like this, while Zhao Tian couldn't help but chuckle in his heart.

Seeing them murmuring, Eldric Grey spoke "Do I have to say it twice?"

The disciples shivered to hear his voice and in unison, they all bowed their heads to him "Thank you Senior for letting us enter the Jade Eclipse Sect." x 345

Hearing their deep gratitude, Zhao Tian showed a faint smile and dismissed his hand politely as he spoke in a teasing tone. "Don't mention it... seriously, I'm trying to stay humble here."

HUH?

Hearing his response, the disciples' eyebrows twitched in annoyance 'This bastard... I will kill this guy.'

'Ahhhh, I wanna punch this guy so bad.'

'This guy robbed all of us... and what is he acting like a hero up there...'

'Fuck you...'

'On god.. I hate this guy...'

While some were irritated and cursing him in their hearts, most were amused and couldn't suppress their laughter as they burst out laughing.

Some women who were charmed by his appearance giggled seeing his teasing voice "Ha... I can't believe this..."

"This guy is too much."

Eldric Grey continued "You can also check your credits anytime... turn your plate and look, there will be a small button beside your identification code."

The disciples took the plates from their waists and clicked the button as a small hologram appeared showing their credits.

"Woahh...."

Seeing their faces, Eldric Grey spoke "Now that you have gotten your credits, return to your rooms within the Sect. Dayong will escort you there."