

The Quest for Immortality

- Chapter 946: Annihilation (2)

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"That..." Mo Hua whispered, "Will the Daoist Court issue a bounty to the Sects for the capture of Fire Buddha?"

"No," Murong Caiyun affirmed.

"It won't?" Mo Hua was slightly disappointed.

"Mhm."

Murong Caiyun nodded and explained:

"Such matters are too perilous..."

"The bounties issued by the Daoist Court typically target Sin Cultivators in the early to middle stages of Foundation Establishment. Although they are not weak, with the cooperation of Sect Disciples, they can be dealt with."

"But Fire Buddha is different. This sort of murderer, extremely dangerous Sin Cultivator, the Daoist Court dares not assign the task to the Sects."

"Sect Disciples mostly come from noble families; should anything go amiss, the Daoist Court will be held accountable."

"Moreover, in matters of sect extermination, the Daoist Court will keep it confidential for the sake of secrecy, and will not leak the news."

"At most, after Fire Buddha is caught and the dust has settled, they will issue some tasks for the Sect Disciples to help catch any escapees..."

"Oh..."

Mo Hua nodded thoughtfully, seemingly lost in contemplation.

Murong Caiyun glanced at Mo Hua and cautioned:

"Don't get any crooked ideas..."

Mo Hua was taken aback.

Murong Caiyun then asked, "Are you interested in Fire Buddha?"

"Kind of," Mo Hua answered vaguely.

It wasn't that he was interested in Fire Buddha per se, but rather in Fire Buddha's Forbidden Techniques.

Seeing a glint in Mo Hua's eyes, Murong Caiyun said helplessly:

"Pursuing Fire Buddha is a matter for the Daoist Court, and there is no room for our involvement."

"Besides, this matter is fraught with great danger. If you fall into Fire Buddha's hands, I fear the odds would not be in your favor. You might escape from Fire Buddha once, but not necessarily a second time..."

Murong Caiyun's face showed concern, "So, do not take risks and wade into this mire..."

After some serious thought, Mo Hua solemnly responded:

"Don't worry, Senior Sister!"

...

After Murong Caiyun left, Mo Hua pondered the matter of Fire Buddha.

Senior Sister was right, it was indeed too dangerous.

Forbidden Techniques are not easily acquired, nor can they be exchanged for Merit Points.

Moreover, Fire Buddha's Meteor Fire Skill is a Fire Forbidden Skill, with two flames burning fiercely within, like a heart.

This could very well be key to his research in Fireball collisions, Skill Pattern breakdown, and Spiritual Power Fusion.

If there was a chance, he absolutely had to get his hands on the Meteor Fire Skill!

Once missed, who knew when the next opportunity would arise.

But he must be extremely careful.

To preserve his own life.

He still had to provide for his aging parents!

Mo Hua frowned and began to ponder earnestly:

"How can I obtain the spell for Meteor Fire Skill?"

Catch Fire Buddha before the Daoist Court does?

Once the Daoist Court captures Fire Buddha, even if he confesses the spell for Meteor Fire Skill, it would be impossible for Mo Hua to obtain such a Forbidden Technique.

The Daoist Court wouldn't hand over a dangerous Forbidden Technique to a junior disciple from the Taixu Gate.

Besides, given Fire Buddha's modus operandi, he'd probably prefer to "perish together with his enemy" rather than betray the Forbidden Technique.

As soon as Fire Buddha was captured, the Fire Forbidden Skill would go to the grave with him.

"Catch Fire Buddha before the Daoist Court, or simply kill him and search his body?"

How to kill him?

Do it alone?

Mo Hua thought it over and shook his head reluctantly.

"That's unlikely..."

Fire Buddha was too alert, and his personal cultivation, Spells, and methods were all too strong.

Furthermore, he had Sin Cultivators like Yin Thunder Child, Blood Woodcutter, and Ghost Face Sha as henchmen.

Those henchmen were not easy to handle either.

To kill by himself, he would probably have to meticulously prepare, set an ambush, and take down an entire First Grade Large Formation to slay Fire Buddha, who was at the late stage of Foundation Establishment.

But where could he find a First Grade Large Formation to dismantle?

Besides, with such a huge cost to dismantle a First Grade Large Formation, killing Fire Buddha seemed like a wasteful extravagance.

And Fire Buddha was cautious. Even with a trap set, it was uncertain if he would fall into it.

So, it had to be done by someone else...

He would assist from the side, giving a little help.

Then, who could be relied upon?

Mo Hua stroked his chin, thinking...

Senior Sister Murong and Senior Brother Feng, they definitely wouldn't do.

His Senior Brothers and Sisters were only at the Middle Stage of Foundation Building, and although they were among the chosen of the Eight Great Gates, they were still far from comparing to Fire Buddha who was at the Late Stage of Foundation Establishment and capable of mass murder.

Whether they could win or not was another issue.

If they failed, they might even lose their lives.

Senior Sister Murong cared for him and didn't want him to take risks.

Similarly, he did not want his Senior Brothers and Sisters, who had helped him a great deal, to face such deadly peril.

They didn't have as many life-saving methods as he did.

Who else was there?

After much thought, Mo Hua could only think of one person who might be just adequate for helping dispose of Fire Buddha.

That was Uncle Gu, Gu Changhuai...

Golden Core Realm cultivation, Dao Court Canon Supervisor.

The identity fit and the cultivation was sufficient.

Moreover, Uncle Gu seemed to have always been intent on bringing Fire Buddha to justice.

But the problem lay right there; as a member of the Daoist Court, even if he captured Fire Buddha and extracted the Secret Manual of the Meteor Fire Skill, publicly or privately, it was highly unlikely he would give it to Mo Hua.

Putting himself in the shoes of "Uncle Gu," Mo Hua wouldn't hand over the Meteor Fire Skill to an unknown "Mo Hua" either.

In Uncle Gu's eyes, he was already a "dangerous" element.

It was impossible for him to let a small cultivator already deemed "dangerous" to learn an even more "dangerous" Forbidden Technique...

But after much contemplation, Mo Hua had no other options.

Uncle Gu was the only choice.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 943: Disaster Begins (2)

He then solemnly turned around and went west.

Qiao Laowu and his group, too, stared at the forest like fierce gods and demons before they angrily turned to follow the Fire Buddha.

...

By then, Mo Hua's figure had already disappeared from the woods.

Mo Hua had early on made use of the concealing wood energy in the forest and the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill to sneak away quietly.

The Fire Buddha was dangerous.

The other three were no pushovers either.

Since he could not overpower them, the natural course of action was to flee early to prevent further complications.

After employing the Concealment Technique and delving deep into the woods, and after winding through the mountain paths to ensure he had shaken off the Fire Buddha and his three companions, he made a large detour back to the gates of Luan Mountain City to wait for his senior brothers and sisters.

To be safe, he was still using the Concealment Technique.

About 30 minutes later at the bustling city gates, two graceful figures appeared.

It was Murong Caiyun, dressed in colorful garments with a dazzling appearance, and Hua Qianqian, in a frock adorned with hundreds of flowers, looking lively.

Ouyang Feng and Shangguan Xu followed right behind them.

Mo Hua let out a sigh of relief, withdrew the Concealment Technique, and waved to greet them, "Senior brothers, senior sisters!"

Seeing Mo Hua, Murong Caiyun approached with a hint of surprise and asked, "Junior brother, what are you doing here? Weren't you drinking tea at the teahouse?"

"I ran into some bad people!" Mo Hua said with a solemn face.

Bad people?

Murong Caiyun and the others exchanged glances before looking at Mo Hua with concern, "Are you okay?"

"Yep." Mo Hua nodded, "They wanted to kill me, but I got away."

They wanted to kill Junior Brother Mo?

Ouyang Feng's gaze chilled, and Murong Caiyun and the others looked furious, "Where are those people?"

Mo Hua felt warmed by their concern but still shook his head,

"That group, there were four of them, at least two at the Foundation Establishment Late Stage, and the leader had learned Forbidden Techniques... very dangerous..."

Foundation Establishment Late Stage? Forbidden Techniques?!

Murong Caiyun's expression shifted slightly. She closely inspected Mo Hua again and noticed his clothes were a bit dirty but he was indeed unharmed, which allowed her to relax.

However, she was also surprised as she asked,

"And you managed to escape from them?"

Mo Hua responded, "I was lucky, and fortunately escaped..."

"Well then..."

Murong Caiyun didn't probe any further.

This junior brother of theirs had, if nothing else, a variety of peculiar lifesaving methods.

But it was still a bit absurd to have escaped alone from the encirclement of those at the Foundation Establishment Late Stage...

Ouyang Feng's expression was solemn as he pondered,

"With four of them, at least two at the Foundation Establishment Late Stage, we'll have no choice but to report this to the Taoist Court Officials. The Taoist Court in Luan Mountain City might not suffice..."

"It's safer to report to the Taoist Court of Qianxue State Boundary."

The others all nodded in agreement.

Mo Hua nodded repeatedly, too.

He was thinking the same thing.

If what Uncle Gu said was right, then this Fire Buddha, with his strong spells, was a formidable opponent for anyone below Second Grade.

Even if the Second Grade Taoist Court of Luan Mountain City dispatched someone to pursue, they would likely perish cleanly under the Meteor Fire Skill.

It was best to go back to the Qianxue State Boundary and report to the Fifth Grade Taoist Court.

Without delay, they hired a carriage and set off immediately. Half a day later, they arrived back at the Qianxue State Boundary, entered the grand doors of the Taoist Court, located the principal Enforcement Leader, and said they wanted to report a crime.

However, the procedure for "reporting a crime" was also rather complicated and slow.

Mo Hua briefly explained the whole story and even reported a long list of names of Sin Cultivators:

"Blood Woodcutter, Yin Thunder Child, Ghost Face Sha, Fire Buddha."

The Enforcement Leader thought Mo Hua was joking, standing dumbfounded for a while, puzzled,

"How do you know that those four go by these names?"

In a Fifth Grade state boundary so vast and filled with all kinds, hosting many Sin Cultivators and Evil Cultivators, he was unfamiliar with some of these names.

How could a minor cultivator recognize them?

"They were chatting, and I overheard," Mo Hua found an excuse on the spot.

The Enforcement Leader was skeptical.

It wasn't that he didn't believe it but he found it hard to believe, and was undecided for a moment, unsure of how to proceed.

Finding him dawdling, Mo Hua said, "Where is Supervisor Gu? I'll talk to him."

"You know Supervisor Gu?"

"Yes." Mo Hua nodded, "I have a good relationship with Uncle Gu!"

The Enforcement Leader looked incredulous.

That Supervisor Gu who was as stern as a "cold-faced judge," who looked down on everyone, could have a good relationship with a minor cultivator like you?

"Supervisor Gu is busy with official duties..."

"This is serious." Mo Hua spoke earnestly, then lowered his voice and looked at the Enforcement Leader, "Uncle Gu is petty. If you report this late, beware he might make things difficult for you..."

Hearing this, the Enforcement Leader was startled.

Whether the matter of the Sin Cultivators was true or false, he wasn't sure, but one thing the young cultivator hadn't got wrong,

Supervisor Gu indeed was petty!

And to dare to say that a petty Supervisor Gu was petty, aside from all else, at least showed an unusual courage and insight!

"Alright, I'll take you to see Supervisor Gu."

The Enforcement Leader readily agreed, then turned to remind, "But... don't say I was the one who brought you."

"Okay!"

So Murong Caiyun waited in the hall while the Enforcement Leader led Mo Hua through the imposing and majestic Taoist Court, full of lofty pavilions, turning left and right to a court office.

This seemed to be where Gu Changhuai worked his office duties for the Taoist Court.

Mo Hua had not been here before and memorized the route in his heart. Next time there was an issue, he could come directly to knock on Uncle Gu's door.

The Enforcement Leader only dared to bring Mo Hua to the door, then slinked away.

Mo Hua shook his head, it seems that Uncle Gu was not well-liked in the Taoist Court.

Everyone was afraid of him.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 944: Disaster Begins (3)

Unlike himself, he was so endearing.

The Taoist Court office outside had a doorbell, ancient in style. Mo Hua shook it lightly, and a crisp sound emanated.

Then from inside the room, a cold and haughty voice spoke, "Come in."

The door opened, and Mo Hua walked in.

The room was simple and tidy, with furnishings that were both exquisite and elegant. Gu Changhuai sat at the desk, focused and intent, writing something unbeknownst to others.

As Mo Hua entered, Gu Changhuai looked up, paused for a moment in surprise, then frowned.

"Why is it you again?"

He glanced around the room and, seeing only Mo Hua, asked,

"How did you find this place?"

The Court Official's office within the Taoist Court was a Supervisor's workplace. Though it wasn't exactly fortified or restricted, it was off-limits to outsiders.

Mo Hua said, "A passing, kind-hearted Enforcement Leader brought me here."

He was loyal and did not disclose the appearance of the Enforcement Leader to Gu Changhuai.

Gu Changhuai sighed, somewhat helpless, and continued to look down and write, saying indifferently, "Tell me, what's the matter this time?"

"I encountered the Fire Buddha!"

Gu Changhuai's hand shook, and a long streak of ink marred the document. He looked up, incredulously, at Mo Hua.

"The Fire... Buddha?"

"Yes!"

"How did you run into him?"

"I was drinking tea at the teahouse, and I ran into him."

Gu Changhuai paused in speechless astonishment.

The Fire Buddha wasn't some peddler rushing to do business with you; you have a sip of tea at a teahouse, and you can run into him...

Or are you saying, young man, you truly have the "law following the word," proclaiming you can meet the Fire Buddha and actually encounter him upon leaving home...

Seeing Gu Changhuai's disbelief, Mo Hua earnestly said, "It's true!"

Gu Changhuai didn't disbelieve it; he just found it too preposterous.

The Taoist Court had been searching for so long with no results for this Sin Cultivator, and you, a minor Sect Disciple, go for tea and claim to have stumbled upon him?

Are you a Minor Religious Con Man or what?

Besides...

Their Taoist Court also demanded evidence; even if Mo Hua was a disciple from one of the Eight Great Gates, Taixu Gate, it wasn't like whatever he said could be taken as fact.

The Taoist Court didn't have that many personnel to waste.

Gu Changhuai sighed, "How do you know the person you encountered is the Fire Buddha?"

Mo Hua said gravely,

"He was tall and large, with a kind face, and spoke little. Under his ordinary clothes, he wore a kasaya. His hair was tied up, but it was fake, concealing several fiery scars from vows..."

"Accompanying him were three others. A burly man skilled with a bloody hatchet, called 'Qiao Laowu'—he could be the Sin Cultivator known by the nickname 'Blood Woodcutter'..."

"Another was a skinny man with a grim complexion, probably 'Yin Thunder Child.' And another large man, with a fierce and intimidating face, I suppose could be 'Ghost Face Sha'..."

Gu Changhuai's casual demeanor vanished, growing more solemn with each word.

What Mo Hua described didn't sound fabricated at all.

These people were indeed the notorious Sin Cultivators from within the Second Grade State Border.

But...

Gu Changhuai's gaze became stern as he looked at Mo Hua, "Where did you learn about so many Sin Cultivators?"

What "Blood Woodcutter," "Yin Thunder Child," "Ghost Face Sha"—you mention them as easily as if they were treasures in your home.

As if these Sin Cultivators were items on your "menu"...

With righteous indignation, Mo Hua replied earnestly,

"Although my cultivation is not high, I have always remembered my Sect's teachings—to uphold the Righteous Dao, to slay demons and eradicate evil, to despise wickedness like an enemy, and to detest Sin Cultivators. I long to catch them all in one fell swoop!"

"So I like to gather information about Sin Cultivators in my spare time; that's how I know just a little bit more..."

Listening, Gu Changhuai felt a headache coming on.

What nonsense are you spouting, kid?

What "upholding the Righteous Dao," "hating evil as you would a foe"...

"Is that you're talking about really you?"

"Even lies need a draft."

But in his heart, he also faintly felt that the Fire Buddha's involvement was very likely true.

However, the evidence was still scarce...

Physical appearance, kasaya, the scar from a burn mark...

These could only prove that this person somewhat resembled the Fire Buddha. It's not like there were no other Buddhist believers in the world, cultivators with burnt scars donning kasayas.

Gu Changhuai frowned and said, "Are there any other clues proving he is the Fire Buddha?"

Mo Hua thought for a moment and said, "He is proficient in fire spells, and when he casts spells, two fierce flames ignite inside him, as if he had two hearts..."

Gu Changhuai shuddered inside and exclaimed, "He took action?"

"He did."

Gu Changhuai's gaze hardened as he looked at Mo Hua. "And you escaped?"

"Uh-huh," Mo Hua nodded, "As soon as he made his move, I ran."

"How did you escape?"

Mo Hua felt this question was rather redundant, "Of course, I ran with my legs..."

Gu Changhuai was somewhat frustrated.

"I meant to ask you..."

Gu Changhuai calmed his emotions, and as he was halfway through his reply, he suddenly paused, his gaze darkened, and he said no more.

There are indeed certain things that should not be asked excessively.

Especially the means by which a cultivator preserves their life...

It's just that Mo Hua, in his eyes, was becoming more and more enigmatic...

"Do you know where the Fire Buddha went?" Gu Changhuai asked solemnly.

Mo Hua shook his head, "I was lucky to get away, where would I dare to follow them..."

"Where did you encounter them?"

"On the outskirts of Luan Mountain City..."

Mo Hua thought a bit and then got more specific, "Between the mountain paths outside Luan Mountain City and Bishan City, there is a stretch of forest and a small tea house..."

"The mountain path junction between Luan Mountain City and Bishan City..."

Gu Changhuai nodded, "Alright, I got it. I'll go check it out myself with some people. If the situation turns out to be true..."

Gu Changhuai glanced at Mo Hua, "I will compensate you with Merit Points."

Mo Hua was thrilled inside, "Thank you, Uncle Gu."

Gu Changhuai nodded, his brows furrowed in deep thought.

"Uncle Gu," Mo Hua asked quietly, "what exactly does the Fire Buddha intend to do by suddenly showing up?"

Gu Changhuai shook his head, "I don't know, don't worry about it, and don't get involved anymore."

After saying this, Gu Changhuai put his documents in order and hurriedly left the room.

He also summoned several teams of Enforcement Leaders, dividing them to act separately as if to trace the Fire Buddha's whereabouts.

Mo Hua really wanted to join them, but without having to think, he knew Uncle Gu would definitely disagree, so he could only return to the Sect with his senior brothers and sisters.

After returning to the Sect, Mo Hua still had this matter on his mind.

How could they catch the Fire Buddha?

How could he obtain the cultivation spell for the "Meteor Fire Skill," a forbidden technique, from the Fire Buddha?

And the Fire Buddha, his face wearing compassion while slaughtering mercilessly...

What exactly did he intend to do by suddenly appearing?

With too few related clues, Mo Hua just couldn't understand it.

So he asked Senior Sister Murong for help, to gather some news.

He faintly felt that since the Fire Buddha had appeared, he must be up to something...

Several days later, Murong Caiyun found Mo Hua and hesitated for a moment before she spoke with a grave expression:

"The Xie family of Bishan City has been annihilated by the Fire Buddha."

"The Xie family has become a sea of fire; men, women, the elderly, children, all were burned to ash without survivors..."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 947: Annihilation (3)

Mo Hua let out a faint sigh.

"Let's just take it one step at a time..."

"First, I need to find a way through Uncle Gu to get involved with the Taoist Court, gather clues, and pursue the Fire Buddha..."

"Then I'll see how things go. If I can follow behind Uncle Gu and fish in troubled waters, I might be able to get my hands on the spell of the Meteor Fire Skill..."

For now, that was all he could do.

Afterward, Mo Hua continued to attend classes, cultivate, help Yu Er with her homework, draw Formation Paintings, and, when he could find the time, inquire about the Fire Buddha.

But Senior Sister Murong was right.

The Taoist Court indeed would not assign the task of pursuing the Fire Buddha to Sects.

For most Sect Disciples, the term "Fire Buddha" was almost just a rumor, a topic of conversation after classes.

In their lifetime, they would likely never come into contact with it.

Mo Hua had no choice but to take the time to visit Uncle Gu at the Taoist Court Official's office.

However, the Taoist Court was heavily guarded, and the Court Official's chambers were not a place one could simply wander into.

Relying on the route he remembered and his own wit, Mo Hua managed to deceive the Enforcement Leaders on the way and arrived at Gu Changhuai's Court Official's chamber, only to find it a wasted effort.

Gu Changhuai had gone out to capture a Sin Cultivator.

Mo Hua didn't know whether Gu Changhuai was after the Fire Buddha, and he couldn't find anyone to ask, ultimately returning empty-handed.

"It's really inconvenient to do anything in the Taoist Court without knowing anyone..."

Mo Hua lamented.

He would have to think of another way.

During the ten-day break, Mo Hua took the opportunity to accompany Yu Er back to the Gu Family.

This was Yu Er's first visit home since entering the Taixu Gate.

At the entrance of the Gu Family, Wenren Wan was waiting early, her face full of anticipation.

Sending Yu Er to the Taixu Gate had been her idea, but a mother's heart is connected to her child's, and she worried about Yu Er day and night...

Worried about how Yu Er's cultivation was progressing, whether he was eating well, whether he was happy, and more importantly...

Whether he could sleep well without being troubled by nightmares.

Soon, the carriage stopped at the entrance of the Gu Family.

Yu Er jumped down from the carriage, called out "Mother" crisply, and ran on her little legs straight into Wenren Wan's embrace.

Wenren Wan hugged Yu Er and saw his skin was fair, his cheeks rosy and full of life, and when she picked him up, he seemed heavier as if he had regained his Vital Energy and even gained a little weight. She couldn't contain her joy.

This meant that Yu Er was happy and healthy at the Taixu Gate.

And not troubled by any terrifying nightmares.

Wenren Wan glanced at Mo Hua and felt grateful.

That night, Wenren Wan prepared a table full of rare delicacies from the sea, foods Mo Hua had never tasted before.

Mo Hua enjoyed the meal immensely.

Yu Er also sat beside him, holding her small bowl, trying to mimic Mo Hua's manner, her cheeks bulging with food.

Wenren Wan sat to the side, resting her cheek in her hand, looking at the two children, one big, one small, her gaze filled with a gentle smile.

After a while, Gu Changhuai arrived.

He seemed to have just come back from the Taoist Court, his face covered with dust, but upon hearing that Yu Er had returned, he still came to see him.

As soon as he entered, however, he saw Mo Hua sitting next to Yu Er, and his expression became complicated, feeling his scalp tingle slightly.

He felt trouble was surely on its way...

"Changhuai, you've just come back, just in time to join us for a meal..." Wenren Wan said warmly.

Yu Er, a bit reserved, greeted formally, "Hello, Uncle..."

Hearing the young and tender voice calling him "Uncle," Gu Changhuai's heart melted, but his expression was still as rigid as ever, clumsily trying to convey kindness but failing to express it.

Mo Hua watched and shook his head.

Wenren Wan glanced at Mo Hua and then at Gu Changhuai, understanding the situation, and said with a smile:

"I'll take Yu Er outside for a walk, to help digest the food..."

"Changhuai..." Wenren Wan gave Gu Changhuai a sharp look, "Please take care of Mo Hua."

Gu Changhuai felt a bitter taste in his mouth.

Wenren Wan then led Yu Er away.

Gu Changhuai sighed, sat down opposite Mo Hua, poured himself a cup of wine, drank it in one gulp, and then said helplessly:

"You didn't come here specifically to find me, did you?"

Mo Hua replied honestly, "Not entirely..."

He had brought Yu Er back for a few reasons. Firstly, to let Yu Er see her mother and alleviate Aunt Wan's worry.

Secondly, to avoid having Yu Er return alone and be troubled by Demon Monsters in the middle of the night, robbing him of sleep.

And for himself, not to miss out on a serving of "food" for his Divine Sense.

The last goal, of course, was Gu Changhuai.

"What is it?" Gu Changhuai asked, sighing.

There was no escaping this little troublemaker.

Mo Hua blinked his eyes and said in a low voice, "Uncle Gu, the Taoist Court is pursuing the Fire Buddha—can you take me with you?"

Gu Changhuai knew he would say this, and rejected him righteously:

"No!"

"Why not?" Mo Hua pressed on.

Gu Changhuai glanced at Mo Hua and sighed, "You're too young, your cultivation too weak, newly entered, and most importantly, you're not a Taoist Court member..."

Mo Hua asked curiously, "If I were a person from the Taoist Court, it would be okay?"

Gu Changhuai snorted internally.

Someone from the Taoist Court...

It wasn't easy to get into the Taoist Court.

From the lower-ranking Enforcement Leader and Supervisor to the higher-ups such as the Deputy Court Leader and Court Leader—all had to pass assessments to be appointed.

The exams were strict, the categories numerous, considering Spiritual Roots, Cultivation Techniques, Martial Arts or Spells, family background, absence of criminal records, whether there were Direct Lineage relatives who have been imprisoned or fallen to demons within three generations...

The Taoist Court's scrutiny was extremely strict, the requirements extremely high.

Moreover, you're a Loose Cultivator, without status or background, how could you possibly get into the Taoist Court...

Gu Changhuai replied evasively, "Well, if you were from the Taoist Court, I might consider it..."

Mo Hua silently took out a Bronze waist badge.

Its design was simple, rather low-tier, but very familiar...

Gu Changhuai froze for a moment, his brow twitched uncontrollably.

Mo Hua's gaze was cunning, but his face remained serious as he said:

"Uncle Gu, actually... I do have an identity in the Taoist Court..."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 948: - : Inside Traitor

Gu Changhuai's head was twisted like a pretzel; he couldn't make sense of it for the longest time.

This medallion was indeed from the Taoist Court.

Mo Hua, this kid, even if audacious, wouldn't dare to forge a Taoist Court medallion.

Bronze signified it was external staff.

Yet, an external staff's medallion was still a medallion and belonged to the Taoist Court, not something a regular cultivator could get their hands on.

"Where did you steal this medallion from?"

Gu Changhuai asked with a face full of suspicion.

"What do you mean 'steal'?" Mo Hua responded unhappily, "This was personally given to me by the Court Leader of our Taoist Court in Tongxian City!"

"Tongxian City?"

Gu Changhuai remembered, it was the remote, Second Grade Little Immortal City where Mo Hua came from.

Gu Changhuai frowned, "Is your Court Leader a relative of yours?"

Mo Hua shook his head, "No."

"Did you marry into their family?"

"No!"

Gu Changhuai puzzled, "Then why on earth would he give you a bronze medallion?"

Mo Hua looked at Gu Changhuai with a face saying you shouldn't judge an honorable man by your own standards and confidently said,

"Of course, the Court Leader saw that I was talented and young, so he gave me the medallion to let me be a part of..."

Mo Hua nearly blurted out "mixing for merit points" again...

He could not say "mixing for merit points."

Otherwise, Uncle Gu would know that he, although nominally identified, was just a minor player in the Taoist Court.

In the future, Uncle Gu could possibly be his "leader."

In front of a leader, looking "ambitious and proactive" is essential!

Mo Hua then smoothly corrected himself,

"...serve the Taoist Court, benefit the cultivators of Tongxian City, and contribute to the peace of the Cultivation World!"

"Benefit?" Gu Changhuai shook his head, "What blessings can you bring at such a young age?"

"I have brought great blessings!"

Mo Hua asserted righteously.

He killed a Big Demon himself.

On the Demon Suppression Monument outside Tongxian City, his name was even engraved.

It was in the topmost line, with the largest characters, and even gilded!

Mo Hua!

Every time he passed by, he always looked at these two big characters a few times.

Gu Changhuai was full of disbelief.

Just keep bragging...

Mo Hua couldn't be bothered to explain; he was used to people not believing what he said.

"No matter what, it's my medallion! I count as half a person of the Taoist Court..."

Mo Hua looked at Gu Changhuai with wide, sincere eyes, trusting, "Uncle Gu, you are over a hundred years old and your words must hold true!"

Gu Changhuai furrowed his brows.

He was careless.

In an impulsive moment, he walked straight into this kid's trap and got caught up in his words.

What would he expect from a Loose Cultivator just admitted to Taixu Gate, secretly possessing a bronze medallion of the Taoist Court...

This kid was as cunning as a fox, crafty and devious; next time he spoke to him, he needed to be more careful not to provide a handle to be criticized...

Gu Changhuai sharpens his attention.

He thought for a moment, then still made an excuse, "I only said I'd consider, I didn't promise..."

"So, how is your consideration going?"

Gu Changhuai coughed once, averted his gaze, picked up the wine jug, poured himself a drink and drank it all casually, "I'm busy now, haven't decided yet, we will talk in a few days..."

Is this how adults play dirty...

Mo Hua learned something new.

In the future, when he wants to procrastinate or be tricky, he would use this tactic.

Mo Hua nodded his head, "Alright then."

Gu Changhuai was startled; he hadn't expected Mo Hua to suddenly be so easy to talk to, just letting it go so readily?

Unlikely...

Gu Changhuai tensed up inside, his gaze sharpening, "You're not going to speak ill of me in front of my cousin and Yu Er, are you?"

Mo Hua looked at Gu Changhuai, pondered for a long while, and honestly said:

"Uncle Gu, you also don't have any 'good things' for me to say about you, right?"

He had a bad temper.

And was somewhat flamboyant.

Beggars for help are refused;

And goes back on his word, playing dirty on him...

Even if he wanted to say some "good things" about him in front of Aunt Wan and Yu Er, he wouldn't know where to start...

Gu Changhuai was stunned, then fell silent, his expression became complicated.

Mo Hua was right, it seemed...

"See," Mo Hua glanced at Gu Changhuai and sighed, "How can I speak well of you to Aunt Wan and Yu Er if you don't treat me better?"

"If I only know your faults, wouldn't everything I say be bad?"

Can't blame me for that...

Mo Hua looked like he was being reasonable and helpless.

Gu Changhuai's eyelids twitched, but thinking of his cousin and Yu Er, he ultimately could only sigh, "Fine, what do you actually want to do?"

Mo Hua's eyes lit up, "I want to catch Fire Buddha!"

Gu Changhuai still didn't get it, "You're just an apprentice, why are you competing with Fire Buddha?"

Mo Hua earnestly said, "I'm petty and hold grudges, Fire Buddha wants to kill me, I don't want to let him off either."

Gu Changhuai was stunned.

Petty, holds grudges...

That was way too "honest."

But being petty probably wasn't a lie...

Gu Changhuai's handsome eyes looked at Mo Hua, narrowing slightly, "Anything else?"

"Anything else?"

"Your reason for catching Fire Buddha mustn't be this simple..."

Gu Changhuai asserted.

Surely fitting for a Supervisor of the Taoist Court, he was truly not easy to fool...

Mo Hua thought for a moment then said, "If I help you, no if 'we' in the Taoist Court catch Fire Buddha, can I get a share of the merit points?"

"You're that short of merit points?" Gu Changhuai wondered.

"Are there ever too many merit points?" Mo Hua retorted.

Gu Changhuai was briefly startled, then nodded in agreement.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 949: The Mole (2)

Indeed.

Sect disciples depend on Merit Points for cultivation resources, spell points, all expenses, and advancement within the sect system.

The more Merit Points, the better.

Even for the Taoist Court, it was the same.

Mo Hua mentioned, "The matter with Fire Buddha carries no Merit Points," Gu Changhuai said. "This is a matter for the Taoist Court and will not result in missions for the sect."

After all, Fire Buddha was a murderous fiend who wiped out entire families with blood-stained hands.

If a sect disciple were to accept the mission and act recklessly, only to die at the hands of Fire Buddha, that would be a huge problem.

"Doesn't count as sect Merit Points, but can it count as Taoist Court Merit Points?"

"Granting Merit Points will do..."

Mo Hua had an "I'm not picky" look.

Gu Changhuai sighed.

"Alright then..."

He certainly couldn't withhold the Taoist Court's Merit Points.

However, seeing Mo Hua's delighted expression, Gu Changhuai always felt somewhat uncomfortable.

This kid Mo Hua, with many schemes hidden in his heart, surely had other reasons.

He briefly recalled everything related to Mo Hua from start to finish, his heart fluttering with alarm:

"You aren't planning to secretly learn Fire Buddha's Meteor Fire Skill, are you?!"

Mo Hua remained composed, silently glancing at Gu Changhuai:

"Uncle Gu, do you think I could learn it?"

Gu Changhuai scrutinized Mo Hua for a moment, then exhaled a sigh of relief and began to ease his mind:

"Right, you couldn't learn it anyway..."

The Meteor Fire Skill is a forbidden technique, extremely powerful in spiritual dominance, implying it requires a Top-Grade Spiritual Root and robust Spiritual Power to cultivate and employ.

Although Mo Hua is clever, his Spiritual Root and Spiritual Power are far less than one-tenth of his aptitude.

Lacking the required quality and capability, even with his intellect, he wouldn't be able to learn the forbidden technique.

Gu Changhuai pondered for a moment then agreed.

"You can mix in with the Taoist Court officials and join the pursuit of Fire Buddha, but there must be Three Talents of agreement..."

"Three Talents of agreement?"

"Yes," Gu Changhuai listed them:

"First, it must not delay your sect's cultivation, and leaves of absence are not allowed. You can only help during your breaks; don't leave the sect on regular days."

"Second, you must not take action. Fire Buddha and even his accomplices are all at the Middle Stage of Foundation Building, beyond your capability. You might escape once or twice by luck, but if you fail even once, you could lose your life..."

"If anything of the Three Talents happens to you, I would have trouble explaining to your cousin, and Yu Er would definitely be heartbroken..."

"Third, if we go out to pursue Fire Buddha, you must follow closely behind me, never leaving my side, and must not act recklessly or presumptuously..."

...

"Mhm mhm mhm." Mo Hua nodded continuously.

His requirements were not high; being able to mingle with the Taoist Court was enough.

As for future matters, he would play it by ear...

Since he had already "revealed" his identity in the Taoist Court and reached an "agreement of cooperation," the Three Talents, with Uncle Gu, Mo Hua was no longer shy, swiftly asking:

"Uncle Gu, what exactly happened the night the Xie family of Bishan City was exterminated?"

"How did Fire Buddha enter Bishan City?"

"Why didn't anyone from the Xie family escape?"

"Why was the Xie family annihilated?"

"After the annihilation of the Xie family, where did Fire Buddha go? Wasn't he found? Are there any clues?"

...

Mo Hua asked like a "curious baby," endlessly firing a barrage of questions...

Gu Changhuai found himself with a headache.

He knew this kid was a big trouble. [search the * website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

But having boarded this "thief's ship," it was too late for regret.

Gu Changhuai released his Divine Sense to make sure nobody was around and then took a swig of his drink to lubricate his throat, furrowed his brows, and spoke in a heavy tone:

"That day you reported the case, I personally led people in search of Fire Buddha..."

"However, at the boundary between Luan Mountain City and Bishan City, there were only some traces of fire but no sight of Fire Buddha and his people."

"I dispatched more people to investigate, but Fire Buddha and his crew seemed to have vanished without a trace, as if someone had covered their tracks..."

"And days later, the annihilation of the Xie family occurred..."

"The specifics of the case are still being investigated, and it's hard to confirm details, so I can only tell you the general situation..."

"Somebody tampered with the Xie family's formation."

"The original external defensive formation was altered into an internal trapping formation."

"That night, deep in slumber, Fire Buddha suddenly appeared within the Xie house, swiftly casted spells, raining down meteor fire, instantly killing many and igniting the houses, quickly spreading the fire..."

"Then, dozens of ruthless sin cultivators took advantage of the fire to slaughter the Xie family cultivators..."

"In a rush, the Xie family activated the formation, hoping to use it to fend off enemies, but instead, the formation trapped them, leaving no escape, burying them in the sea of flames..."

"Fire Buddha's methods were extremely cruel."

"It seemed, just as the rumours said, Fire Buddha had a deep hatred for the Xie family, slaughtering wasn't enough; he had to dissect the bodies of the Xie family, crush their bones and scatter their ashes..."

"Because the formation isolated them, outsiders, including various supervisors and enforcement leaders of the Taoist Court, couldn't get in, and those inside couldn't get out..."

"Thus, in front of the Taoist Court and all the cultivators of Bishan City, Fire Buddha slaughtered the entire Xie family..."

Gu Changhuai said this much, barely able to conceal his anger on his face.

Mo Hua too felt a twinge of compassion, silently sighing.

"What happened after that?" Mo Hua was a bit puzzled. "If the formation was sealed, turning into a trapping formation that trapped the entire Xie family, it should have trapped Fire Buddha as well. If the Xie family had no way to escape, then Fire Buddha could not have escaped either..."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 950: The Mole (3)

Gu Changhuai's expression was solemn. "The problem lies right here..."

"Fire Buddha wiped out the Xie family, as if 'evaporated from the human world,' and then disappeared within the Trapping Formation. In Bishan City, there was no trace of Fire Buddha."

"Not just Fire Buddha, but also the dozens of Sin Cultivators who committed the crime with him, all of them disappeared."

"During this period, the Taoist Court has searched throughout Bishan City and all the Immortal Cities nearby, without finding a shred of evidence..."

"So far, the clues have been pitifully few..."

Gu Changhuai's face was stern, his mood somewhat irritable.

Mo Hua thought for a moment, then asked, "Uncle Gu, has the Taoist Court hired someone to carry out a Calculation of cause and effect?"

Gu Changhuai looked at Mo Hua with surprise. "You understand cause and effect?"

Mo Hua replied with restraint, "A little."

Gu Changhuai didn't pay much attention; he just shook his head. "Yes, they have, but they couldn't calculate it, saying the traces were covered up..."

Then Gu Changhuai expressed some displeasure. "In my opinion, they're just not skilled enough and found an excuse to shirk their responsibilities..."

"What's more, in this day and age, who still talks about the Heavenly secret Calculation, predicting cause and effect? It's nothing but mystifying nonsense, a way to fool people..."

Hearing this, Mo Hua realized that the Gu family probably didn't have the heritage of the "Heavenly secret Calculation."

Their family, was the "fool" in the "Heavenly secret cause and effect."

Mo Hua couldn't be bothered to explain.

The Heavenly secret is unpredictable, cause and effect are obscure; it would be very troublesome to explain.

Mo Hua simply agreed with him, saying, "Yes, yes."

Although Gu Changhuai didn't understand Heavenly secret Calculation, he had a keen intuition.

He always felt that when Mo Hua looked at him, there was a hint of sympathy, like he was viewing a "fool"...

Seeing that Gu Changhuai looked a bit displeased, Mo Hua quickly changed the subject:

"Uncle Gu, are there any other clues?"

Gu Changhuai, distracted by the interruption, really did forget about being seen as a Heavenly secret "fool" by Mo Hua...

"There are no more, that's all the clues we have," said Gu Changhuai, "so stop pestering me. Go back to the Sect and cultivate properly..."

Gu Changhuai wanted to shake off Mo Hua, the "little troublemaker."

Seeing this, Mo Hua said, "I have a clue!"

Gu Changhuai didn't believe him, snorted, "What clue could you possibly have?"

"If you don't believe me, then I won't say."

Mo Hua bowed his head and started dealing with the chicken leg in his bowl.

This chicken leg, which seemed to come from a Colorful Chicken, was both big and tender, with a delicious taste.

Left hanging by Mo Hua, Gu Changhuai's feelings were complex.

To ask would seem to hurt his own pride.

To not ask, what if it really was an important clue?

Although this kid was prone to "brag," it seemed that he wouldn't tell lies about such critical matters.

Gu Changhuai pondered for a moment and could only sigh helplessly.

The Fire Buddha case was more important.

"I believe you, go ahead and tell me..." Gu Changhuai sighed.

Mo Hua didn't play coy and said directly:

"Flower Gentleman!"

"Flower Gentleman?" Gu Changhuai frowned.

"That rapist," explained Mo Hua, "I caught him before my encounter with Fire Buddha..."

"I heard Fire Buddha and his people calling the Flower Gentleman 'Hua Liulang.' Presumably, they knew each other, and the reason why Flower Gentleman appeared in Luan Mountain City might have been to join Fire Buddha in annihilating a family..."

"But before going, because he cultivated a Replenishing Technique and was overcome by evil desire, burning with lust, he could not make a move in Bishan City as it would scare off the target, so he picked women in Luan Mountain City, near Bishan City, to act upon..."

Gu Changhuai frowned, "Why didn't you say so earlier?"

Mo Hua indignantly replied, "You never asked me before..."

Moreover, when the report was made, Flower Gentleman had already been arrested and was sent to the Taoist Prison, effectively "capitulated."

Mo Hua subconsciously neglected him.

Now that there were no clues, Mo Hua thought it over for a while and only then pulled the memory of "Flower Gentleman" back from oblivion...

Gu Changhuai nodded, "No delay then, I will go to Luan Mountain City immediately."

"Isn't he in the Taoist Prison within the Qianxue State Boundary?"

Gu Changhuai shook his head, "Local cases aren't usually transferred until all procedures are completed..."

Mo Hua thought for a moment and then said, "I'll go too!"

"No way."

Gu Changhuai rejected the idea without a second thought.

"Alright, then," Mo Hua didn't press further, just said casually, "then when you question him, if there's anything you don't understand, come back and ask me..."

Gu Changhuai frowned, "What does it have to do with you?"

"Because Flower Gentleman was 'captured by me'!"

Mo Hua emphasized once again.

Gu Changhuai was stopped short, unable to help but say, "Fine, you come along too."

Mo Hua's eyes brightened, "Mhm, mhm."

So Gu Changhuai told Wenren Wan that he would take Mo Hua out for a bit.

Wenren Wan was somewhat surprised, unsure of what business Gu Changhuai could have taking Mo Hua out.

But seeing Gu Changhuai reluctant and Mo Hua looking excited, it must not be bad for Mo Hua, so she nodded her head and admonished:

"Be careful on the road."

"Take good care of Mo Hua..."

Wenren Wan admonished again.

"Yes."

Gu Changhuai sighed.

Afterward, Mo Hua accompanied Gu Changhuai in the Gu Family's carriage, speeding through the night and arriving at Luan Mountain City.

Entering Luan Mountain City, they proceeded to the Taoist Court.

Gu Changhuai showed the Supervisor's badge and passed unobstructed all the way into the Taoist Prison beneath Luan Mountain City.

However, when they found Flower Gentleman, Gu Changhuai's complexion turned cold, and Mo Hua's gaze sharpened.

Flower Gentleman...

Lying in his cell, breath still.

He was already a dead man.

Death silent and unnoticed.

Mo Hua looked up, surveying the oppressively damp and dark Taoist Prison, lowered his voice, and whispered to Gu Changhuai:

"Uncle Gu, do we, I mean, does our Taoist Court, possibly have an 'internal traitor'?"

Gu Changhuai's face was as cold as ice, wordless.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 951: Burying Ground at Gen Mountain

"Flower Gentleman died a natural death, with no sign of human intervention.

He was captured and taken to Taoist Court, tortured, interrogated, and then thrown into Taoist Prison.

After that, it was as though he never existed.

Chains were added to his body, he went without food or drink, his injuries worsened, no one looked at him again, no one spoke to him again, and he simply 'self-generated and self-extinguished.'

Even in death, it seemed no one knew.

Not even his body was collected.

But obviously, this did not conform to the rules of Taoist Court.

Therefore, Mo Hua suspected there might be a mole within Taoist Court, someone who could murder Flower Gentleman in the strictly sealed and dark Taoist Prison without God or ghost noticing, to silence him.

And clearly, there were clues to Fire Buddha on Flower Gentleman's person.

Supervisor Gu Changhuai's face looked terrible.

He summoned several of the Enforcement Leaders in charge of the prison and questioned them harshly.

Those Enforcement Leaders, faces full of fear, bowed and scraped:

"Supervisor, please forgive us, we truly did not know..."

"After the interrogation, no one cared for him."

"We don't know why he suddenly died."

"My negligence has overlooked the life and death of this Sin Cultivator, please forgive me, Supervisor!"

Between their words, 'forgive us' they said, but it was all shirking.

If Flower Gentleman were to be charged, he would surely be sentenced to death.

Negligence and oversight, leading to an 'inevitable demise' dying a little early.

That in itself was not considered serious.

Even if reported, at most they would be chastised and fined some of their salary.

Although Supervisor Gu Changhuai was angry, there was not much he could do to them.

Moreover, these two Enforcement Leaders from Taoist Prison might really not know any inside information.

Their 'negligence and oversight' might truly just be negligence and oversight.

But perhaps just under someone else's control.

However, Mo Hua might not be wrong about one thing.

In Taoist Court, some people are probably really not so clean...

Even including that incident with Yu Er last time...

Supervisor Gu Changhuai frowned in thought, suddenly his heart skipped a beat, and he quickly turned around to look at Mo Hua beside him.

He felt that Mo Hua's aura had just suddenly changed, becoming very strange, with a subtle and mysterious implication.

As if possessed by something...

Or as if his Divine Sense was undergoing some strange transformation.

What is going on?

Supervisor Gu Changhuai was full of doubts and suspicion.

At this moment, Mo Hua turned around, the ominous glint in his eyes flashed and vanished, becoming clear and bright again.

"Uncle Gu, what is it?"

Supervisor Gu Changhuai's eyelids twitched.

Mo Hua was still the same, his gaze clear, like still water, lustrous and deep, without revealing the depths.

But he had clearly sensed that dangerous, devious aura...

"A delusion..."

"Or am I too suspicious..."

Supervisor Gu Changhuai's brow furrowed deeply.

Mo Hua blinked.

Indeed, he had just taken advantage of Supervisor Gu Changhuai's distraction, while pondering something, to clandestinely employ the Tricky Calculation and merge it to glimpse the cause and effect of Flower Gentleman's death.

In that instant change in Divine Sense, he had been detected.

Worthy of being a Supervisor of Taoist Court.

Mo Hua took heed.

It seemed that in front of Great cultivators above the Golden Core Realm, especially a Supervisor from the Great Province Boundary Taoist Court, this kind of Heavenly secret fusion to peek into cause and effect must be used cautiously.

Lest it be discerned by someone observant...

His master's Heavenly secret Calculation was somewhat safer, only involving greater cause and effect; on the surface, it was still a method of the Righteous Dao.

But Uncle's Heavenly secret Tricky Calculation was different.

In this world, aside from his uncle, there probably was no one else who cultivated the Divine Thought of Gui Tao.

Should he be mistaken for a 'Little Devious Path Person,' it would be disastrous.

Seeing Supervisor Gu Changhuai's still doubtful look, as if suspicion was not entirely dispelled, Mo Hua decided to "strike first and gain the upper hand" and proactively asked:

"Uncle Gu, have you figured anything out?"

"How did Flower Gentleman die?"

"Who killed him?"

"Could it be..."

Mo Hua raised his eyebrows and glanced at the two Enforcement Leaders in charge of the prison.

Immediately, the two Enforcement Leaders broke out in a cold sweat, pleading with Supervisor Gu Changhuai:

"Supervisor Gu!"

"Although we were negligent, the death of this Sin Cultivator really has nothing to do with us..."

"How would we dare to break the law knowing the law, killing in the Taoist Prison..."

"Supervisor Gu, please discern clearly!"

"Supervisor Gu..."

Supervisor Gu Changhuai, interrupted by the two, broke his stream of thoughts and forgot about his entanglement with Mo Hua.

"All right." Supervisor Gu Changhuai's gaze grew icy as he surveyed the two, "Handle this according to the rules, penalize where necessary, go on down."

The two did not dare to disobey Supervisor Gu Changhuai and bowed, saying: "Yes."

And then they both left.

Supervisor Gu Changhuai wanted to say something to Mo Hua, but he lifted his head, looked at the gloomy and sealed ceiling of the prison, shook his head, and dismissed the thought.

"Let's go out..." said Supervisor Gu Changhuai.

"Oh."

Mo Hua followed Supervisor Gu Changhuai out of the Taoist Prison.

But as they left, Mo Hua quietly looked back at the dead Flower Gentleman.

Flower Gentleman in life was like a fresh blossom, handsome and dashing, indulging in pleasures, unknown how many women he had exploited.

In death, however, unknown to anyone, leaving behind ragged clothes and a filthy, decaying body.

Indeed, in this world, all pleasures of the flesh are but illusions. [search the * website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

And...

Flower Gentleman died too naturally.

Without a trace of human intervention.

Just now, his pupils darkened, secrets merged, and he couldn't glimpse any trace of cause and effect.

The method behind this murder was extremely sophisticated.

"The best way to mask cause and effect is to let it proceed naturally, without involving karma..."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 952: Burial Earth at Gen Mountain (2)

Mo Hua silently took note in his heart.

"Must learn well..."

...

After leaving the Taoist Prison, Gu Changhuai's face was as still as water.

He thought for a moment, then ordered someone to bring all of Flower Gentleman's personal effects, evidence, and Storage Bag to him.

Then, alone, he chose a quiet Court Official Room to sift through the items himself.

Mo Hua, at his side, craned his neck, also wanting to sneak a peek.

Seeing this, Gu Changhuai quickly covered the items and shook his head, "You can't look."

"Why?" Mo Hua asked.

"You're still young..."

Mo Hua didn't understand.

Realizing that Mo Hua genuinely didn't get it, Gu Changhuai sighed and reminded him,

"Flower Gentleman was a rapist..."

Inside his Storage Bag were things like sexual manuals, erotic paintings, Replenishing from others techniques, and records of his conquests... a pile of vulgar and indecent things... Not suitable for children...

He definitely shouldn't let Mo Hua see them.

Otherwise, the boy would be led astray.

Mo Hua suddenly understood, also recalling how Senior Sister Murong hadn't allowed him to see these things when they caught Flower Gentleman.

"Fine, if I can't look, then I can't look..."

Mo Hua lay on the side, gazing at Gu Changhuai.

Feeling uncomfortable under Mo Hua's scrutiny, Gu Changhuai spoke with slight irritation:

"Why are you looking at me? Do what you need to, I'm working on the case..."

Mo Hua raised three fingers:

"Let's set three rules!"

"The third one, if we go out, I follow you closely, not leaving your side, not acting rashly or recklessly..."

"That was your own words!"

Mo Hua stated assertively.

Gu Changhuai felt a headache coming on.

He had been careless, inadvertently shooting himself in the foot.

This kid was too quick-witted...

Seizing even the slightest opportunity.

"Alright..."

Gu Changhuai, resigned, ignored Mo Hua and continued rifling through Flower Gentleman's Storage Bag, looking for clues.

This Storage Bag had been sealed by the Dao Court Canon.

Cultivators outside had no access to it.

And if a Cultivator within were to tamper with it, they would certainly leave traces behind.

As far as he could tell thus far, no one had touched the contents.

Using his years of experience with Dao Court Canon investigations, Gu Changhuai meticulously examined each item, searching for any trace and usable leads.

But most of the items inside were distasteful.

The more he looked, the more annoyed Gu Changhuai became.

Finally, upon seeing a Jade Slip, his expression shifted, a glint of realization in his gaze.

Unable to look at the Storage Bag, but always watching Gu Changhuai, Mo Hua immediately caught the subtle change on Gu Changhuai's face.

Mo Hua's eyes sparkled, "Uncle Gu, have you found a clue?"

Gu Changhuai was about to nod, then hesitated and shook his head instead, putting the Jade Slip away and casually said, "No."

"I saw it!" Mo Hua insisted confidently.

"What did you see?"

"I saw your gaze change," Mo Hua said, "You must have discovered something!"

Gu Changhuai's scalp tingled, cursing inwardly:

This little devil Mo Hua, he must have been possessed by some ancient demon.

So cunning at such a young age, like a ghost.

But still, Gu Changhuai stubbornly insisted, "I said there is nothing."

"Fine." Mo Hua sighed.

What could he do after all? He was a mere Cultivator while Gu Changhuai was a Golden Core Realm Dao Court Canon, shamelessly playing dumb. There was little he could handle.

Mo Hua could only settle for the next best thing and asked:

"Uncle Gu, where are we headed next?"

Without hesitation, Gu Changhuai replied, "With Flower Gentleman dead, the lead is 'cut'..."

Then, noticing Mo Hua's doubtful gaze, Gu Changhuai coughed and averted his eyes, lightly saying:

"We can head back home now."

Mo Hua nodded, "Then Uncle Gu, you go back first."

"Hm." Gu Changhuai nodded, then suddenly paused, "You're not going back?"

"I've still got things to do."

"What things?"

Mo Hua didn't hide it, "I want to visit Bishan City, to see the fallen Xie family."

Gu Changhuai frowned, "Xie family's home is now ash, sealed by the Dao Court Canon, you won't be able to get in. And Bishan City is currently dangerous, you can't go."

Mo Hua quietly said, "Then how about you take me?"

"No," Gu Changhuai refused.

"Then I'll go on my own," Mo Hua said, "You go back, tell Aunt Wan, just say I won't be returning to Gu Family and after going to Bishan City, I will go back to the Sect myself."

Mo Hua's face was calm, but his eyes were sly.

Gu Changhuai was momentarily stunned, quickly grasping the situation.

This kid, Mo Hua, was threatening him.

Having taken the child out, if he didn't bring him back, he was bound to be blamed by his cousin, who would also be worried.

He surely needed to present Mo Hua safe and sound to his cousin.

Moreover, if Mo Hua didn't want to return, it wouldn't be right to force him.

Otherwise, forcibly taking him back would result in complaints, and he would have even more trouble explaining to his cousin.

After all, Mo Hua was considered a "little benefactor" of the Shangguan Family and deserved their respect.

So it seemed that he had no choice but to comply, to follow Mo Hua wherever he went...

Gu Changhuai was gritting his teeth in frustration.

Mo Hua waited calmly for Gu Changhuai's response.

After a long contemplation, Gu Changhuai finally compromised, "Fine, I'll take you, but we have an agreement. Once we get to Bishan City, you will return with me to the Gu Family and not entertain any other ideas."

"Mhm, mhm!" Mo Hua beamed, "It's a deal!"

...

It was late, not the time to set out, so the two of them stayed overnight at an inn in Luan Mountain City.

The next day at dawn, after a quick meal, they set out from Luan Mountain City, heading towards the nearby Bishan City.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 953: Burial Earth on Gen Mountain (3)

This was Mo Hua's second visit to Bishan City.

Cliffs hung suspended, with sheer walls rising a thousand ren, and mountain ridges interwoven.

Most of the cave dwellings were built against the steep cliffs, looking both extraordinary and majestic.

But within the city, the atmosphere was somewhat oppressive.

Passersby on the streets were all silent, their expressions anxious and solemn.

In the presence of the Taoist Court officials and the entire city's Cultivators, the Fire Buddha had massacred the entire Xie family of Cultivators.

Turning the Xie residence into a sea of flames, the whole family lineage ceased, eradicating centuries of foundation in an instant.

Many in Bishan City felt a sense of personal danger.

Gu Changhuai's expression became uglier by the minute, his face iron-blue with anger, almost wishing he could immediately behead the Fire Buddha and his gang of Sin Cultivators and display their heads to the public.

Soon, the two of them arrived at the ruins of the Xie family estate.

A sight of complete desolation greeted their eyes, with nothing but scorched earth left.

Tiles were embedded in the ground outside the Xie family estate, each marked with Formation Patterns that connected end to end, forming a faint, invisible barrier that cordoned off the charred remains of the Xie family estate, forbidding outsider entry.

This was the warning Formation laid by the Taoist Court.

"You stay here and watch," said Gu Changhuai.

Although Mo Hua disagreed, he had no choice but to peek inside from beyond the barriers of the warning Formation.

With that glance, he noticed some clues.

Though it was entirely blackened, there were still traces of Formation Patterns around the perimeter of the Xie estate.

"Second Grade Golden Earth Gen Mountain Compound Formation..."

Mo Hua muttered to himself.

Hearing the name of this Formation, Gu Changhuai froze in surprise.

Mo Hua continued to look, releasing his Divine Sense, no longer using Tricky Calculation but only employing Calculation to deduce the Spirit Traces left by the Formation Patterns, murmuring softly to himself:

"The perimeter of the Xie family estate..."

"Originally was... a Second Grade Golden Earth Gen Mountain Compound Formation, a defensive formation composed of the Five Elements Gold and Earth and the Eight Trigrams Gen Mountain..."

"But the Patterns have been altered..."

"Only the Golden Series Patterns were changed, the rest were untouched..."

"It's not that...through the alterations of the Golden Series Patterns, the changes to the Earth Series Formation, the effects have been altered..."

"The Second Grade Golden Earth Gen Mountain Compound Formation, turned into..."

"A Second Grade 'Burial' Earth Gen Mountain Compound Formation..."

"This Trapping Formation, has buried the entire Xie family within their own home..."

...

The more Gu Changhuai listened, the more horrified he became, his tone becoming grave:

"Who told you this?"

"What?" Mo Hua was slightly startled.

"The matter of the Xie family's Formation..." Gu Changhuai's face was serious.

Mo Hua expressed his confusion: "Do you still need to be told about such things? Can't you see it at a glance..."

See it at a glance...

Gu Changhuai turned his head to look at the pitch-black scorched earth in front of him.

See it at a glance, my ass?

How could you possibly see it?

It's pitch-black, all debris, everything is burned, what can you see?

Gu Changhuai found it somewhat unbelievable.

What Mo Hua said, was exactly the same as what the Taoist Court had verified...

The difference was, on the side of the Taoist Court, they had several Second Grade Formation Masters examine the site from morning till night for three full days, and after careful comparison, they only then reconstructed the changes in these Formations from the rubble.

Thus, they knew exactly what had been tampered with regarding the Xie family's Formation.

But Mo Hua...

He just walked over, took one look...

Even from outside the warning Formation, without entering, he saw everything?

Gu Changhuai's feelings were complex.

While the evidence was before his eyes, common sense made him refuse to believe such an absurd truth.

"Did you... really figure it out on your own?" Gu Changhuai asked, frowning.

"Of course!" Mo Hua said proudly, "I am a disciple of Taixu Gate after all!"

Not to mention, he had also learned Formation techniques from Elder Master Xun.

These days, whenever he had Merit Points, he would go to the Merit Pavilion to exchange them for Formation studies, and he had learned countless Second Grade Formations.

With Elder Master Xun's guidance, along with the profound Formation heritage accumulated by generations of Taixu Gate's predecessors, Mo Hua's foundation in Formation techniques was now even firmer than before.

He was now a true Second Grade Formation Master, backed by the real heritage of a Great Sect!

It was just that he had merit without name—it was just a matter of assessment.

Gu Changhuai's frown deepened.

What does this have to do with Taixu Gate?

Taixu Gate is not a Sect established on Formation techniques, so where could its disciples gain such incredible Formation expertise?

Even a Sect established on Formation principles couldn't possibly do this!

Besides, you haven't even been in the Sect for a full year...

How much could you have possibly learned?

Gu Changhuai stared at Mo Hua for a moment, and then with a slight shift in his thoughts, he asked:

"Do you want to go in and have a look?"

Mo Hua was startled, "Really?"

Gu Changhuai nodded.

Mo Hua was somewhat skeptical.

Uncle Gu... is acting out of character...

Originally, he didn't allow me to enter the Xie residence to look around.

Now, without me asking, he's actually allowing me to go in.

But he wasn't one to reject such an opportunity.

"Alright!" Mo Hua agreed, nodding.

Gu Changhuai pulled out a golden waistplate.

The waistplate, made of pure gold, was elegant and luxurious, far more valuable than the plain bronze waistplate Mo Hua owned.

Mo Hua looked on enviously.

But for now, he could only look.

Holding the gold waistplate, Gu Changhuai lightly traced it over the warning Formation.

A faint, invisible barrier was then opened.

"Let's go."

Gu Changhuai took the lead and walked in.

Hesitating for a moment, Mo Hua also stepped forward, following Gu Changhuai through the warning Formation and into the massacred Xie family estate.

The moment his foot touched the ground, stepping on the charred surface where the blood had been burnt dry, a scream suddenly filled his ears.

The voice was extremely harrowing, fraught with boundless pain.

Under the broad daylight, Mo Hua's vision blurred for a moment.

As if in the darkness of night, a sea of fire suddenly appeared before him.

Within the sea of flames, countless figures could be seen running, struggling, and screaming in agony, like tormented souls suffering in hell.

Executioners with ferocious faces raised their butcher knives, slaughtering, dismembering, reveling in the carnage.

Blades pierced flesh, slit open chests, cut open bellies, and removed blood-drenched organs...

The sea of fire churned as blood mingled with flame.

Faces twisted in cruelty, like demons dancing chaotically.

And those who died miserably looked like livestock sent to slaughter

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 954: Karmic Mutation

Mo Hua's pupils contracted sharply.

"This is... the scene of the Xie family's massacre?"

Were these the soul memories lingering here of the Xie family Cultivators, brutally murdered and burnt to death in agony?

Were these the Divine Thoughts of the Remnant Souls?

Beneath the broad daylight, there was a sea of fire before his eyes.

Mo Hua struggled to suppress his discomfort, concentrating his vision to witness this cruel "slaughter" to the end...

He wanted to know exactly what had happened to the Xie family...

The mingling of blood and fire in the massacre continued.

Demon Monsters resembling Sin Cultivators, with hideous smiles, raised their cleavers, slaughtering the Xie family Cultivators like pigs and cows, chopping them up one by one.

After the Xie family Cultivators were killed, their bodies were gathered together...

But in the unseen realm, it seemed something had started to operate.

The scene that followed suddenly became blurry.

The color of blood intensified suddenly, the sea of fire spread, obscuring everything before his eyes.

The screams and wails in his ears were also as if torn apart, intermittent.

It seemed that what followed was forbidden.

It was as if some being had covered up the cause and effect, preventing Mo Hua from seeing what exactly happened after the massacre...

Mo Hua frowned, his pupils pitch-black, Wily Minds possessing him as he employed the Heavenly Secret Calculation to continue peering.

It seemed that the sea of fire flared up violently in response to Mo Hua's prying, with the firelight blood-red like flaming blood, rising in the wind to envelop both the killers and the killed, blocking Mo Hua's line of sight.

Mo Hua didn't care and continued to look.

The sea of fire suddenly boiled over.

Flames spread like serpents, baring their fangs at Mo Hua as if to intimidate.

However, they did not dare offend Mo Hua.

And Mo Hua lacked the power to "see through" this sea of fire.

Mo Hua sighed, know that the power to obscure cause and effect was too strong, and his own capacity for Calculation was simply not enough.

Hence his gaze could not penetrate the facade of the sea of fire to peer at the true cause and effect.

His method of "Heavenly Secret Calculation" was based on his master's teachings, which he had tried to grasp by fumbling in the dark.

The Calculation of Formations went fairly well, but the Calculation of Heavenly Secrets, it fell short by a considerable margin.

After all, his master had not formally taught him the true Heavenly Secret Calculation.

Or rather, there hadn't been the opportunity to properly teach him...

The memory of a gentle and indulgent face surfaced in his mind...

Mo Hua felt a twinge of pain in his heart.

And soon, the sea of fire receded.

Mo Hua's vision cleared up a bit.

He saw that the sinister Sin Cultivators like Fire Buddha had disappeared.

The Xie family's Cultivators were also gone, as if everything from flesh to Divine Sense had been completely "evaporated."

Mo Hua frowned, puzzled.

Just then, a jolt went through Mo Hua's heart.

Cause and effect seemed to be disordered momentarily.

A trace of karmic mutation abruptly emerged, and the scene changed.

On the ground, bizarre shadows overlapped and reappeared, the Xie family Cultivators, who had been "dismembered" and died tragically, were piled up densely, numbering in the hundreds.

They were like ashes of burnt wood.

They were like slain livestock, drained of blood.

They seemed to have been drained of everything.

Casually discarded, unnoticed by anyone.

Soon, the aura of karmic mutation intensified, a distorted aura rippled out...

These remains of the Xie family began to stir, filled with resentment, they struggled and contorted, eerily standing up again.

At the same time, their limbs began to transform.

What were once human "hands and feet" slowly became the forelimbs of oxen, the hooves of horses, akin to the "livestock" of Non-Humans...

And they had become some kind of monstrous, sinful "karmic mutations."

They were already "dead," yet they lived in the form of "karma."

They were no longer human but seemed like creatures that "ate" humans...

"Demon Monsters?!"

Mo Hua's heart throbbed in shock.

Those freakish Demon Monsters that coveted Yu Er and haunted her nightmares appeared in his mind...

Mo Hua looked carefully, silently comparing the two, his gaze sharpened.

"Not the same..."

They seemed similar, but they were not the same thing.

The Demon Monsters in Yu Er's nightmares were the minions of Demon Wraiths, the incarnations of Evil Thoughts.

Their very existence was a sort of "thought form."

While the "animal" transformations of these Xie family Cultivators were closer to a mutation of the Heavenly Secret, a karmic mutation of cause and effect.

More like...

Taoist Demons?!

Mo Hua's heart chilled as his gaze grew heavy.

He could feel...

Though the signs of karmic mutations were very subtle and the scale minimal, everything before him was indeed a harbinger of a "Great Dao karmic mutation."

As Mo Hua was lost in thought with furrowed brows, these karmically mutated half-human half-beast "Demon Monsters" suddenly had blood-red eyes and turned to look at Mo Hua.

With hatred in their death, seeking to devour a human.

And Mo Hua was the only "human" within this layer of causality.

These "Demon Monsters," twisted and struggling, got up, and then one by one, their eyes fierce, they looked towards Mo Hua.

Mo Hua stood still, his expression calm.

In an instant, a surge of murderous intent swirled around.

These "Demon Monsters," with shrieks and roars, using hands, feet, and hooves together, opened their gaping maws and charged towards Mo Hua.

Mo Hua watched them silently, his expression filled with a trace of compassion.

At the same time, behind Mo Hua, a sea of blood rose.

A Corpse Mountain emerged abruptly.

The whole mountain was filled with sinister Walking Corpses and Iron Corpses.

A tall and majestic karmically mutated Corpse King, with blood-red eyes and a terrifying presence, reigned above countless hordes of corpses.

The karmically transformed Non-Humans, those wishing to devour Mo Hua, the Demon Monsters, stopped in fear.

The Corpse King's gaze was indifferent.

In its eyes, these mere karmic mutations, numbering only in the hundreds, were but a swarm of ants.

Moments later, the Corpse King let out a heaven-shaking roar.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 955: Karmic Mutation (2)

Countless groups of corpses boiled over, and hundreds of Demon Monsters panicked.

Later, blood stained the sky, and Walking Corpses from the mountains and ridges charged down like a raging torrent, immediately sweeping and tearing apart those "karmically mutated" Demon Monsters, completely exterminating them.

This slight sign of karmic mutation in the Xie family was also completely eradicated.

However, after killing the mutated "Demon Monsters," the group of corpses incited their ferocity and roared towards the sky, their killing intent pervading the air.

The sea of blood on Corpse Mountain became even more blood-red.

The aura of the Taoist Demon also became heavier.

Under the blood-covered sky, the aura of the Corpse King became more brutal.

Its grim eyes turned redder, faintly showing signs of breaking free from its shackles and further mutating.

Just then, a clear yet undeniable command sounded.

"Retreat!"

The previously restless Corpse Mountain instantly quieted down.

The group of corpses all bowed their heads in silence, not daring to make a sound.

The Corpse King's blood-red eyes, saturated with bone-chilling killing intent and tumultuous ferocity, stared intently at Mo Hua, its nominally "young master," almost wishing to slaughter him immediately.

Mo Hua's gaze was indifferent as he met the Corpse King's eyes.

This gaze, clear and transparent, also contained the irresistible authority of a "superior."

The message in his gaze seemed to be, "Don't make me say it a second time."

When the Corpse King met Mo Hua's gaze, it instantly flew into a rage.

Just as it was about to resist, a mark ingrained deep within its body suddenly caused it immense pain, and its body, with faint blue Spiritual Pivot Formation Patterns like Dao Laws and Karmic chains, tightly bound it.

The Corpse King, filled with fear, had no choice but to give up.

Its eyes still glimmered with savagery and defiance, but its body honestly "submitted."

The sea of blood receded, the zombies returned to their nests, and Corpse Mountain gradually vanished.

Only the Corpse King, before disappearing, still gave Mo Hua a terrifying and sharp glance...

As if to say, "I will return..."

Afterward, the sea of blood on Corpse Mountain completely receded, and the karmic sins dissipated.

The slight sign of karmic mutation in the Xie family was also eradicated and disappeared.

The raging fire also gradually extinguished...

Mo Hua felt his vision blur again, the red of fire and blood fading away, replaced by the piercing daylight, disorienting him and making it hard to open his eyes...

...

"Mo Hua?"

"Mo Hua!"

A series of urgent voices sounded.

Mo Hua was startled, slowly opened his eyes, and found himself lying next to Gu Changhuai.

Gu Changhuai was frowning, continuously calling his name.

Seeing that Mo Hua had awakened, he finally breathed a sigh of relief.

If something had happened to this child, he really would have had no way to explain to his cousin and Yu Er.

But immediately, he was full of doubts again.

The earlier scene was still vivid before his eyes.

As soon as Mo Hua entered the exterminated Xie family, his expression shocked, his face turned pale, and then his eyes lost focus, he closed his eyes and fainted.

It seemed like... he saw something he shouldn't have seen...

Moreover, even more bizarre was that after Mo Hua fainted, the atmosphere of the entire Xie family suddenly became gloomy and oppressive.

It seemed that some terrible thing was gradually mutating...

An Evil Spirit was growing.

Under the clear day, there was a bone-chilling coldness.

Even Gu Changhuai, who was at the Golden Core Realm, felt chest tightness and shortness of breath, his heart filled with trepidation.

And when Mo Hua opened his eyes, everything disappeared again...

Gu Changhuai looked at Mo Hua with a serious gaze and asked,

"What exactly... happened?"

Mo Hua rubbed his eyes, slowly sat up, and quickly reviewed the cause and effect in his mind.

Sea of fire... Xie family... massacre...

An obscured mystery enveloped by the sea of fire...

Signs of Dao mutation...

It seemed all these couldn't be mentioned.

Once spoken, it would bring serious trouble to himself.

Especially about the "Taoist Demon," this was a taboo for the Taoist Court...

After thinking it over, Mo Hua said,

"I studied Formation too hard, drew too much, and overused my Divine Sense, so I occasionally faint, but I'll be fine after a while..."

Gu Changhuai, upon hearing this, knew Mo Hua was talking nonsense.

He was energetic just before, his eyes brimming with life and gleaming, how could he suddenly faint due to an overuse of Divine Sense?

This kid definitely had something he didn't want to say...

Gu Changhuai deeply looked at Mo Hua and asked,

"So, will you still inspect this Xie family?"

Mo Hua nodded, "I will."

Gu Changhuai nodded, didn't say much, but took Mo Hua and spent two hours exploring the devastated, charred remains of the Xie family.

The entire Xie family was reduced to ashes.

Everything had turned into cinders.

After making a full round, Mo Hua didn't find any anomalies.

Occasionally, he would find a small clue, but these were already known to Gu Changhuai.

Gu Changhuai had deep Cultivation, rich experience, sharp observation, and the intuition of a Supervisor.

Besides some "incredibly strange" things beyond grasp—matters of Heavenly secrets and Karmic cause—whatever Mo Hua could find, Gu Changhuai had definitely noticed earlier.

The things Mo Hua couldn't discover, Gu Changhuai could also discern.

In terms of investigation, Gu Changhuai was extremely professional.

Mo Hua followed Gu Changhuai as they generally walked through the Xie family, inspecting the surroundings.

The Fire Buddha and his group had been very "clean."

From people to houses, the Xie family had been burnt to a piece of scorched earth, thus not leaving any excess traces.

Apart from the scenes seen in that sea of fire, there indeed weren't any further clues.

Mo Hua felt somewhat regretful.

Gu Changhuai, seeing Mo Hua's disappointed expression, wasn't surprised.

The Taoist Court had searched inside and out of the Xie family many times over; if there really was something, it would have been discovered long ago.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 956: - Karmic Mutation (3)

"It's impossible to wait for Mo Hua to figure anything out."

"Let's go back," Gu Changhuai said indifferently.

He wanted to take Mo Hua back to the Gu Family safely and give her to his cousin, which would also save him some trouble.

Otherwise, having this youngster with him while roaming around might cause complications and accidents.

Just like what had happened earlier...

"Okay." Mo Hua nodded.

He hadn't discovered anything and had no choice but to return for now.

But as he turned to leave, Mo Hua suddenly paused, turned his head, and took another look at the ruins of the Xie family's estate. His brows slowly furrowed.

Gu Changhuai, somewhat taken aback, asked, "What's wrong?"

Mo Hua pondered for a moment and then said slowly, "Uncle Gu, do you have the Taoist architectural plans of the Xie family's estate?"

Gu Changhuai nodded, "Yes."

"Can I see them?" Mo Hua asked.

Gu Changhuai's gaze darkened slightly, "What do you want to do?"

"I need to find a place..."

"Find a place?"

Gu Changhuai frowned, thought briefly, then without asking further, he nodded:

"Alright."

Gu Changhuai found a relatively clean area, took out a scroll from his storage bag, unrolled it on the ground, and said to Mo Hua:

"This is the architectural plan of the Xie family's estate..."

The plan marked the estate's terrain, buildings, and the formations used in the structures, among other things...

Mo Hua was very familiar with this type of plan.

He began to search painstakingly through the architectural plans...

In the fiery scene that had just emerged, after the Fire Buddha killed the Xie family cultivators, he gathered their corpses in one place.

The critical scenes after that were engulfed by flames, obscured the consequences, and Mo Hua couldn't see through it.

Although he couldn't see the secrets hidden beneath the flames and didn't know exactly what the Fire Buddha had done after killing,

He still vaguely remembered the nearby scenes.

These scenes were clearly within the Xie family's premises.

Yet, he had just explored the area and hadn't found any similar landmarks.

"There must be a place I overlooked..."

Mo Hua replayed the scenes in the sea of fire repeatedly in his mind, and then compared them with the map of the Xie estate to locate similar places.

Finally, Mo Hua's eyes brightened.

On the architectural plan, in one corner of the Xie family's backyard, there was a hidden attic with an open space in front of it, surrounded by side chambers and potted plants for planting flowers.

The entire layout and setting matched the scenes in his memory.

Mo Hua pointed to the attic's courtyard on the map, "Uncle Gu, let's go check this place."

Gu Changhuai looked at Mo Hua in surprise and then nodded slightly.

Then, the two followed the map, walking through paths that were unrecognizable, stepping on ashes, until they arrived at the location of the attic.

The area around the attic had collapsed, and the charred wooden beams and walls had fallen, blocking the path.

That's why Mo Hua hadn't discovered it before.

Gu Changhuai took out a paper fan, waved it casually, and a surge of spiritual power burst forth, clearing the path.

Mo Hua continued inside and reached the courtyard in front of the attic.

This place was secluded and hidden,

And the attic had also been burned, with even bigger fire damage here, leaving fewer remnants of the building.

The courtyard was desolate with everything still appearing scorched-black, no different from other areas.

After searching for a while, they found no clues.

Gu Changhuai looked back at Mo Hua.

Mo Hua frowned deeply, lost in thought.

"There are no traces..."

"It can't be..."

Mo Hua released his Divine Sense, and in the void, it was still a scene of nothingness, with only the residual Fire Spiritual Power from the ruins and nothing else out of the ordinary.

"Nothing?"

Mo Hua's brow furrowed even more deeply, then suddenly, he paused and couldn't help but sniff.

"Uncle Gu, do you smell anything?"

"The smell?" Gu Changhuai also sniffed lightly and frowned, "A burnt smell?"

"No..."

Mo Hua said, and then sniffed again, his eyes slightly focused.

"Very faint..."

"Refreshing, but with a slightly strange scent, it seems a bit sticky and moist..."

Gu Changhuai, somewhat speechless, frowned and said:

"Are you sure you're referring to a smell you detected with your nose, not a taste you're savoring in your mouth?"

"A taste hidden in the mouth?"

Mo Hua paused, suddenly startled.

He remembered!

Is this...

The scent of golden marrow?

Sheep-Horned Enforcer... Essence of Divine Thought!

Is this... the breath of an Evil God?!

Mo Hua's spirits lifted, he perked up his nose, sniffed again, and then following the faint "scent" of the Divine Thought, found a corner of the courtyard.

Mo Hua sniffed again, then rummaged around, and from the corner, he turned up a heap of charred residue.

Gu Changhuai stepped forward to take a look and also sniffed, even checking with Divine Sense, then ultimately looked somewhat disappointed:

"Just ordinary residue, nothing special."

"Just not sure... what was burnt to form it..."

Mo Hua shook his head, a grave look on his face, "This isn't ordinary!"

He had smelled the "scent of the Evil God" on it.

However, he also didn't know exactly what these pitch-black residues were.

Nor could he distinguish them.

But these residues were definitely not ordinary.

They were the truth hidden under the great fire, remnants left by some unknown entities after obscuring causality.

Likely, astonishing secrets were hidden within.

Seeing Mo Hua, who was usually innocent and crafty, showing such a serious expression, Gu Changhuai couldn't help but take it more seriously.

He took out a storage bag, divided the residues into two portions, and carefully sealed them for preservation.

"I'll take them back and have the Taoist Court Official in charge of inspections look into it to see what these residues are remnants of..."

Whether they're Spiritual Artifacts, Spiritual Objects, Pills, or...

Human flesh.

Mo Hua nodded, then asked, "If they find out..."

Gu Changhuai sighed, "If they find out, I'll tell you."

"Okay."

Mo Hua looked up at the Xie family, which had been exterminated and erased.

Extermination of the entire family, destruction of the corpses and traces.

Obscuring of causality.

Traces of karmic mutation.

And...

The scent of the Evil God on the pitch-black residues...

Mo Hua's brow tightened.

He had originally thought this was just a ruthless act of inhuman slaughter led by the Fire Buddha and a group of Sin Cultivators.

But now, it seemed the water here might run very, very deep...

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 957: Passing the Message

The Xie family's mansion had been thoroughly inspected, both visibly and otherwise.

Once everything was done here, the Xie family's residence was no place for an extended stay.

Mo Hua then followed Gu Changhuai to leave.

As they reached the entrance, Mo Hua suddenly remembered something and pulled out a flask of wine from his storage bag.

However, it was fruit wine, which seemed rather inappropriate.

So, Mo Hua raised his head and asked Gu Changhuai, "Uncle Gu, do you have any strong liquor?"

Gu Changhuai was taken aback, nodded, and said, "Yes."

Then, without asking further, he took out an exquisite jade flask from his storage bag and handed it to Mo Hua.

A strong aroma of liquor dispersed into the air.

Mo Hua poured the flask of strong liquor over the doorstep of the Xie family's home.

The images of the Xie family members, slaughtered like "livestock" and dying tragic deaths, their bodies grotesquely mutated, surfaced in his mind...

Mo Hua silently said in his heart:

"Rest in peace..."

"I will ensure that Fire Buddha will join you in your burial..."

...

On the way back, Mo Hua sat in the carriage, kept silent, and furrowed his brows in contemplation:

Why did Fire Buddha kill the entire Xie family?

What did he do after slaughtering them all?

What was the black residue?

Why does it have the aura of the Great Wilderness Evil God?

What's the connection between this matter and the one who claims to be "Master of the Great Wilderness"?

A sacrifice?

Were the cultivators of the Xie family treated as offerings?

Are those Sin Cultivators under Fire Buddha the servants of the Master of the Great Wilderness?

But what exactly is the ritual of this sacrifice?

And that "fleeting as the bloom of a night-blooming cereus," the poppy-like, black and purple, exceedingly ugly yet decaying, soaked in depraved desires, the effect of Heavenly Secret Karma he once witnessed...

Could it also be related to this matter?

The most puzzling thing was the Taoist Demon...

Mo Hua initially thought that "Taoist Demons" could only emerge in destitute places where low-ranking cultivators suffered persecution, giving rise to despair and sin.

But unexpectedly, signs of a Taoist Demon appeared near the prosperous Qianxue State Boundary, a place known for its devotion to the scholarly pursuit of Tao Cultivation.

Moreover, it seemed...

Nobody had realized it.

Was it because the Qianxue region had fallen out of the Heavenly Secret Calculation, leaving no cultivator able to predict it?

Or was it due to greedy desires blinding them, being too obsessed with fame and fortune to see it?

Or perhaps, was the Heavenly Secret obscured?

Just like that sea of flames, which concealed some of Fire Buddha's actions, was the matter of the Taoist Demon also covered up by someone?

Mo Hua's eyebrows locked tightly, the more he thought about it, the stranger it seemed, and the more riddles filled his mind, leaving his thoughts in utter chaos...

After pondering for a long time, he began to feel a headache.

This time his Divine Sense really had become a bit overtaxed...

Mo Hua then cleared his mind, lay on the soft blanket, and looked at the scenery outside the carriage, thinking about nothing.

Eventually, the answers would be revealed step by step.

To start with capturing "Fire Buddha"...

He had promised those tragically deceased cultivators of the Xie family that he would have Fire Buddha join them in their burial.

Although all the cultivators from the Xie family were dead, their bodies and Remnant Souls vanished, knowing nothing anymore.

But since he had said it, he needed to follow through.

Mo Hua nodded slightly, his eyes resolute.

On the other side, Gu Changhuai also silently observed Mo Hua.

Having brought Mo Hua along was a choice made of necessity, but to his surprise, Mo Hua had indeed found some clues that even he, a Dao Court Canon, had missed.

This child...

Was it because of his young age and the purity of a child's heart that his thoughts differed from those of ordinary people?

Or was he inherently sharp-witted, with a meticulous mind and keen Divine Sense?

Or perhaps...

It was some other reason...

Gu Changhuai had many doubts in his heart.

He realized that he could no longer treat Mo Hua as just a simple, ten-year-old child.

The same was true for the matter of Yu Er.

Although reluctant to admit it, this child might indeed be able to see some unknown secrets that ordinary cultivators could not...

Since that was the case...

Gu Changhuai's slender fingers gently tapped on the table, and after contemplating for a moment, he gradually formed a plan in his heart...

...

As evening approached, the sun began to set.

When twilight descended, the sunset was like spilled ink, staining the sky with a myriad of colors.

Mo Hua and company finally returned to the Gu residence.

Wenren Wan was waiting at the entrance; seeing that Mo Hua appeared tired but was unharmed in limb and body, she then relaxed.

Afterward, she chided Gu Changhuai:

"Why so late?"

"Mo Hua's break is only two days; he has classes and cultivation practice tomorrow. What if his studies are delayed?"

"As an adult, how can you still lack such judgment..."

Gu Changhuai wore a helpless expression and sighed.

Ever since he was a child staying at his cousin's house, he had often been scolded by her.

Now, being over a hundred years old, a Golden Core Great Cultivator, a Dao Court Court Official, he still couldn't avoid it...

Mo Hua tried to make excuses for him: "Aunt Wan, it's my fault, I played around too much, which caused us to be late..."

Mo Hua looked apologetic.

Wenren Wan patted Mo Hua's shoulder, "It's not your fault..."

Then she glanced at Gu Changhuai again, "See, a child like Mo Hua knows better than you do..."

Gu Changhuai's face showed a bitter smile.

Mo Hua felt helpless and gave him an 'I can't help you' expression.

Aunt Wan only caught Uncle Gu to reprimand, and he couldn't assist.

The group then had dinner together.

Wenren Wan had prepared many delicious dishes, and both Mo Hua and Yu Er ate joyfully, while Gu Changhuai sullenly sat to the side.

After dinner was done, it was getting late, and Wenren Wan decided to personally send the two children back to the Taixu Gate.

Gu Changhuai said, "Sister, let me do it."

Wenren Wan gave Gu Changhuai a look, and said with a softened tone, "You go rest, the business of the Dao Court is hectic; don't overwork yourself."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 958: Delivering a Message (2)

Gu Changhuai was taken aback, warmth blossomed in his heart, though it was hard to tell from his expression.

Wenren Wan stopped paying attention to him, holding Yu Er, she proceeded to the carriage first.

Having eaten to his fill, Mo Hua followed contently behind and walked towards the carriage as well.

"Mo Hua."

Gu Changhuai suddenly spoke.

Mo Hua was somewhat puzzled and turned to look at Gu Changhuai.

Gu Changhuai hesitated for a moment, then took out a token and handed it to Mo Hua.

The token was made of white jade, lustrous throughout, but unmarked, leaving its purpose a mystery.

Mo Hua skeptically received the token, scrutinized it briefly, and his heart skipped a beat, "Uncle Gu, this is..."

"Letter Token."

Gu Changhuai looked somewhat reluctant as he spoke softly,

"If there's anything in the future, use this jade token to send me a message..."

"But there are limitations to this token. It cannot be too far. If we are not in the same state boundary, I won't receive your messages..."

"When I'm on official duties at times, I might not carry the Letter Token, so I won't receive anything you send..."

"Be careful when using it too, don't lose or damage it..."

"Though it's just a Second Grade Letter Token, it's not easy to acquire, especially these specially made ones from the Dao Court Canon, with good confidentiality, there are no places to buy even with Spirit Stones..."

Gu Changhuai was stern-faced but still detailed these precautions to Mo Hua with "care."

"Mhm!"

Mo Hua took the jade token, incredibly delighted.

Letter Token!

This was a complete, fully functional Letter Token!

Mo Hua's eyes were glowing.

Gu Changhuai, seeing Mo Hua's gaze, suddenly felt a bit uneasy.

He suddenly felt that perhaps... he should not have given this Letter Token to Mo Hua.

And the feeling was very strong.

Like...

Using a little white rabbit to feed a big grey wolf...

This was his intuition as a Dao Court Canon.

But it had already been given, he couldn't take it back, could he?

Wouldn't that be embarrassing?

Gu Changhuai frowned.

In that instant, Mo Hua seemed to have sensed Gu Changhuai's thoughts, and with a swoosh, creating a blur with the speed of blocking one's ears against thunder, he tucked the Letter Token away.

It entered Mo Hua's Storage Bag without giving Gu Changhuai time to react, let alone reconsider.

"Thank you, Uncle Gu!"

Mo Hua cheerfully said.

Gu Changhuai was stunned for a moment but had to brace himself, adopting a stiff look, "No need to be polite..."

Inside the carriage, Wenren Wan saw this scene and was somewhat surprised.

This cousin of hers, whom she had watched grow up, was a bit reclusive and proud, rarely engaging in much conversation.

But unexpectedly, he now seemed to be on such "good" terms with Mo Hua.

Even going as far as to give Mo Hua a gift.

It was as if the sun had risen from the west.

It seemed her decision was right...

Wenren Wan felt reassured in her heart.

Mo Hua, with the Letter Token pocketed, bid farewell to Gu Changhuai and then boarded the Gu Family's carriage, escorted by Wenren Wan and Yu Er back to Taixu Gate.

It was getting dark, deepening into night.

The carriage moved along the road, bordered by long swaths of pitch-black night curtain, adorned with specks of dim yellow lights.

It was quiet and tranquil.

The carriage, accompanied by the "clip-clop clip-clop" of horse hooves, moved along.

Mo Hua had been running around since yesterday from the Daoist Prison of Luan Mountain City to the ruins of the Xie family, barely resting.

Now feeling relaxed with Aunt Wan by his side, weariness quickly swept over him.

Mo Hua's eyelids fought a losing battle, and he soon gently closed his eyes, quietly falling asleep.

His breathing was even, his dark eyelashes casting onto his tender cheeks, looking innocently lovely, painting quite a breathtaking picture under the light of the lamps.

Wenren Wan took a glance and was amazed.

Mo Hua was indeed good-looking.

With a pure aura and gentle eyes, his mixed qualities naturally formed a translucent jade-like beauty.

He was still young, his face still carrying traces of youthful naivety, looking adorable.

If he grew up, he would definitely be extremely handsome.

Just didn't know which young lady would be so fortunate in the future...

Wenren Wan smiled subtly, playfully thinking to herself, then gently covered Mo Hua with a blanket.

When Mo Hua woke up, he had already arrived at Taixu Gate.

He bid farewell to Wenren Wan and, holding Yu Er's hand, walked into the mountain gate of Taixu Gate.

Yu Er was somewhat reluctant to leave her mother, looking back every few steps, her eyes moist.

Wenren Wan also felt reluctant, but still gently waved her hand.

At the base of Mount Taixu, the cold night wind began to rise.

Wenren Wan stood alone in the night at the foot of the mountain, watching as Yu Er was led by Mo Hua into the brightly lit Taixu Gate.

...

Back in the Sect after returning, the days went on as usual.

Mo Hua practiced his cultivation every day, and his cultivation was slowly growing.

His proficiency in formations deepened bit by bit.

And when he had free time, he began to ponder the Letter Token that Uncle Gu had given him.

This was his first time using such a Letter Token.

Taixu Token could also send messages, but its functions were too many, and the internal formation structure was too complicated for him to understand.

Unlike the Letter Token in his hand, which was simple and straightforward.

While sending messages, Mo Hua could even sense the emergence of Magnetic Ink, the changing of Unfixed Magnetic Patterns, and the faint sensing of Secondary Thunder Patterns.

The formation logic of the Letter Token was based on the common Beacon Fire Yuan Magnet Formation, but it was more complex.

In an attempt to understand this formation, and to inquire about the news of the Fire Buddha, Mo Hua would, when he had time, try to send messages to Gu Changhuai:

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 959: Passing the Book (3)

"Uncle Gu."

Gu Changhuai didn't respond.

After a while, Mo Hua sent another message, "Uncle Gu..."

Gu Changhuai still didn't respond.

"Is the Letter Token broken?"

"Didn't you receive it?"

Mo Hua muttered to himself and thought about it before continuing to send messages:

"Uncle Gu?"

"Uncle Gu?"

"Are you there?"

Perhaps unable to bear the annoyance any longer, the person on the other end finally replied:

"Not here."

Mo Hua: "If you're not here, who is replying to me?"

Gu Changhuai seemed to be quite irritated, and after a while, he calmed down and asked,

"What is it?"

Mo Hua: "That black residue, have you found anything?"

"Not yet, not so fast..."

"What about Flower Gentleman's Letter Token? Is there any information on it?"

"No..."

Gu Changhuai was halfway through sending his reply when he suddenly hesitated, "How did you know it was a Letter Token?"

Mo Hua: "I could tell at a glance!"

The day Flower Gentleman died in the Taoist Prison, Uncle Gu had searched Flower Gentleman's Storage Bag.

Mo Hua had been watching him closely and noticed that his expression changed when he flipped through a Jade Slip, so he guessed that the Jade Slip must have something wrong with it.

Mo Hua suspected it was a Letter Token.

Initially, he wasn't quite sure, but looking at Uncle Gu's tone now, it certainly was.

Gu Changhuai was a bit exasperated:

"Can't you find a better excuse?"

You can tell at a glance every day...

Do you have three eyes?

Mo Hua sent a message back: "These are trivial matters, don't worry about it."

Then Mo Hua quickly changed the topic: "Uncle Gu, is there any clue in the Letter Token?"

"I can't tell you that."

"Nothing then..."

Gu Changhuai helplessly: "Why are you so sure there isn't?"

"I guessed, but I'm sure there isn't, the message on it must have been erased..."

Mo Hua had experience with this.

If it wasn't erased by Flower Gentleman himself, it might have been an "inside job" by someone in the Dao Court.

But it was definitely erased.

He had a Letter Token in his possession with its message erased.

It came from the man who was bald but wore a wig, and his head bore the Four Symbols Hawk Claw Formation, known as "Bald Eagle."

Mo Hua had always wanted to restore the erased text on this Letter Token.

But now, he had limited access to the Yuan Magnetic Formation and his skills were lacking, he could only try his luck with "unsealing" or "decrypting."

He still couldn't "restore" the Magnetic Patterns to recover text.

Restoring was much more complicated.

Mo Hua still hadn't figured it out.

While working in the Dao Court office, Gu Changhuai sighed.

He looked around and always felt as if Mo Hua had installed some surveillance formation nearby, watching his every move...

Or maybe this kid could predict and divine like a god...

Gu Changhuai shook his head and sighed,

"Yes, it was erased..."

Mo Hua immediately asked, "Can it be restored?"

"Not sure."

Not sure, but not impossible to restore...

Does that mean there is a way to restore the Letter Token at the Dao Court office?

Is there at least a method to restore a Letter Token?

"How can this be restored?" Mo Hua asked earnestly.

Gu Changhuai alertly: "Why do you ask?"

Mo Hua used Magnetic Ink to create an image of a "smiley face": "I'm curious..."

Gu Changhuai: "I'm not a Formation Master."

Meaning he didn't know the specifics of how to "restore" it.

Mo Hua felt a bit disappointed but then asked, "Then who do you guys get to 'restore' the Letter Token?"

Gu Changhuai hadn't answered when Mo Hua suddenly remembered:

"Heaven Shu Pavilion?"

Gu Changhuai was startled.

Mo Hua: "Right?"

Gu Changhuai: "How did you know?"

Mo Hua thought for a moment and replied, "I learned it in the Sect, the Yuan Magnetic Formation is a secret formation, not something general Formation Masters would learn."

"The external Formation Masters hired by the Dao Court may know the basic Yuan Magnetic Formation, but they most likely wouldn't know how to restore Magnetic Patterns."

"Because restoring a Letter Token involves complex Formation principles..."

He hadn't even mastered it yet...

Mo Hua muttered to himself and then continued sending messages:

"Heaven Shu Pavilion externally hired Formation Masters, couldn't 'restore' it, so we had to find the central Heaven Shu Pavilion of the Daoist Court."

"Heaven Shu Pavilion is affiliated with the Central Daoist Court and is responsible for Formation Master assessments. It's rich in Formation Study and has countless Great Formation Masters, certainly capable of 'restoring' the Letter Token..."

Mo Hua spoke logically and fluently.

Gu Changhuai was expressionless.

He didn't want to admit that his actions had all been "guessed" by Mo Hua.

But the fact was, Mo Hua guessed everything correctly, and everything he said was indeed true.

Really like a "Minor Religious Con Artist"...

Gu Changhuai: "Suppose so..."

Mo Hua curiously asked, "Can it really be 'restored'?"

Gu Changhuai: "Hard to say."

Mo Hua drew a "speechless little face."

Gu Changhuai, feeling helpless, sighed and explained:

"'Restoring' the Letter Token is quite troublesome, indeed, it has to be handled by Heaven Shu Pavilion..."

"In the Heaven Shu Pavilion of the Central Daoist Court, I have an old friend, so I entrusted the Letter Token..."

Mo Hua exclaimed, "Uncle Gu, you still have old friends?"

Such a bad temper, not good with people, yet still has old friends...

Gu Changhuai felt annoyed and sent a: "Do you still want to know?"

"Oh oh."

Mo Hua quickly behaved himself.

Gu Changhuai gathered his thoughts and continued: "I handed over the Flower Gentleman's Letter Token to Heaven Shu Pavilion, asking someone to 'restore' it..."

"But the process is long, costly, and the application procedures are complicated..."

"The Yuan Magnetic Formations are rather obscure, not all Formation Masters are proficient in it."

"And the Formation Masters who can really 'restore' a Letter Token are all prominent Great Formation Masters, with very prestigious statuses, and limited time, hardly available to handle a second-grade case for the Daoist Court, to 'restore' such a small Letter Token..."

"Moreover, the Daoist Court Officials are subordinates of the Daoist Court, in terms of status, in terms of authority, even a fifth-grade Daoist Court Official is far less prestigious than any one of the Seven Stars Pavilion within Tian Shu Pavilion..."

"Whether they're willing to help depends on their time, their mood, and also their disposition..."

Gu Changhuai said displeasedly: "Formation Masters really put on airs..."

Mo Hua said, "I'm also a Formation Master, and I don't put on airs!"

Gu Changhuai looked down with disdain: "You're not even a second-grade Formation Master, are you?"

"I have the capability of a second-grade, just haven't been assessed yet."

"Oh," Gu Changhuai said noncommittally, "Every unassessed Formation Master says that."

Mo Hua snorted coldly, deciding not to explain to Uncle Gu, this "Formation illiterate."

Mo Hua said, "If... Heaven Shu Pavilion there doesn't want to 'restore' this Letter Token, let me try..."

Gu Changhuai paused for a long time on the other side, no reply.

After who knows how long, he replied with a single word:

"You?"

Mo Hua felt the strong doubt.

He was somewhat unconvinced.

Don't underestimate the young due to poverty.

Although he didn't know how yet, he had already learned to unseal and decrypt, further 'restoring' magnetic patterns was only a matter of time.

He just needed to study a bit more himself.

Mo Hua snorted coldly.

Once he truly learned how to 'restore' magnetic patterns, Uncle Gu would probably have to watch his "mood."

He was a Supervisor, dealing with cases every day, sooner or later he would encounter a situation requiring the restoration of a Letter Token, by then he would definitely come asking for help...

Thinking of Uncle Gu asking him for help, Mo Hua felt slightly victorious.

But for now, since he didn't know how, he still needed to keep a low profile.

Mo Hua: "I'm learning it..."

Gu Changhuai didn't know what to say, so he replied noncommittally again:

"Fine, talk when you've learned it..."

"I'm busy, don't bother me anymore."

Gu Changhuai finished speaking and added two more lines:

"Contact me only if it's urgent!"

"This Letter Token isn't meant for you to chat with!"

After that, Gu Changhuai disappeared from the conversation.

Mo Hua was puzzled.

He was discussing serious matters...

At most, he was just a bit talkative...

What could be more serious than catching clues about Fire Buddha?

If not this, what else could they talk about?

Mo Hua shook his head.

Uncle Gu, what a man, no wonder he's so unpopular, nobody wants to play with him.

It's only because I'm kind-hearted that I don't mind his bad temper...

Although I don't mind it, I can't be looked down upon either.

Mo Hua decided to set aside other matters for now and learn how to 'restore' the Letter Token first.

One must stand up for oneself.

Eventually, he would show Uncle Gu some "color."

And Uncle Gu had also said that this kind of magnetic pattern 'restoration' only Great Formation Masters from Heaven Shu Pavilion could do.

Only Great Formation Masters!

Then he must learn it too! To become a "Great Formation Master" in the future!

Mo Hua nodded, then began flipping through the Merit Scrolls and some Yuan Magnetic Formation Books, studying the principles of magnetic pattern 'restoration' in the Letter Token.

He wanted to deepen his understanding of Yuan Magnetic Formations based on the knowledge of unsealing and decrypting, and grasp more profound applications of formation principles...

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 960: Restore

"How do you 'restore' the Letter Token?"

After several days of exploration and a review of numerous Formation Books, combined with his own understanding of the Beacon Fire Yuan Magnet Formation, Mo Hua had some ideas.

Restoring the Letter Token was based on the principle of "Yuan Magnetic Letter Transfer."

The Yuan Magnetic Formation in ordinary Jade Slips was a Single Formation.

However, the Yuan Magnetic Formation involved in the Letter Token was a Compound Formation.

The Compound Yuan Magnetic Formation required the Formation Pivot to control the transfer of Magnetic Patterns between different Yuan Magnetic Formations and the conveyance of messages.

Through the Letter Token in his hand, Mo Hua discovered:

If he wanted to send a message to Uncle Gu, he first had to use his Divine Sense to manipulate the Magnetic Ink and reveal the text.

As the text appeared and the Magnetic Ink changed, it would cause the Unfixed Magnetic Patterns to change.

These Unfixed Magnetic Patterns would then be conveyed through subtle Secondary Thunder Patterns to the Fixed Magnetic Patterns.

The control of the Formation Pivot within the Fixed Magnetic Patterns and the sensing of Magnetic Patterns would transmit these pattern changes to another Letter Token within the same Compound Formation—the one belonging to Uncle Gu and the underlying Fixed Magnetic Patterns in his "Letter Token."

Afterward, Uncle Gu's Letter Token, via the underlying Fixed Magnetic Patterns, would receive the sensing.

Then, through the processes of Secondary Thunder Patterns, Unfixed Magnetic Patterns, Magnetic Ink, and text, this sensing would manifest as text.

The entire process was the transmission of text information in one Letter Token, from the surface to the core, successively through Magnetic Ink, Unfixed Magnetic Patterns, Secondary Thunder Patterns, Fixed Magnetic Patterns, and Formation Pivot sensing, to another Letter Token.

The other Letter Token, from the core to the surface, through the underlying Fixed Magnetic Patterns, Secondary Thunder Patterns, Unfixed Magnetic Patterns, Magnetic Ink in succession, ultimately manifested as text.

When put together, this was a complete, complex cycle of the Compound Yuan Magnetic Formation.

Mo Hua sighed.

These were not things he could learn at present.

With his current level of Divine Sense, he could not learn this type of compound Yuan Magnetic Formation method.

At least not until he had reached the Seventeen Patterns, Foundation Establishment Late Stage.

Fortunately, to "restore" the text of the Letter Token, there was no need to master the entire set of Yuan Magnetic sensing in the Compound Formation, only to intercept the final segment of the Yuan Magnetic transmission.

Once the text was transmitted, the entire process was fixed.

Erasing the text merely erased the final Magnetic Ink and altered the Unfixed Magnetic Patterns; the other processes would not change.

The Fixed Magnetic Patterns were immutable.

The Magnetic Flow was the Secondary Thunder Flow, latent, fixed remnants of the Yuan Magnetic Flow within the Secondary Thunder Patterns.

Thus, it was only necessary to reconstruct the Fixed Magnetic Patterns within the Letter Token.

Concurrently, using Calculation, he peered into and recorded the traces left by the Magnetic Flow in the form of Secondary Thunder Patterns.

With the Fixed Magnetic Patterns and the Secondary Thunder Patterns, it was possible to simulate the Unfixed Magnetic Patterns.

Once the Unfixed Magnetic Patterns were determined, they could be "restored" to text using Magnetic Ink.

Mo Hua nodded.

This entire set of Formation logic was something he had figured out on his own. It might have some flaws, but overall there should be no significant errors.

Once a Letter Token was used, it inevitably produced Magnetic Flows, leaving traces of Secondary Thunder Patterns.

Such Secondary Thunder Patterns were faint and obscure, invisible to ordinary cultivators.

By integrating the Heavenly Secret Calculation to amplify his Divine Sense, he could observe these hidden traces of Secondary Thunder Patterns.

Currently, the only issue was actually the Fixed Magnetic Patterns...

Mo Hua realized that the Fixed Magnetic Patterns in different Letter Tokens were actually different.

This was something he hadn't realized before.

It was after dismantling the Letter Token sent to him by Gu Changhuai that Mo Hua truly understood...

Looking at the Letter Token in his hand, now split into two pieces, exposing the underlying Fixed Formation Pattern but slightly damaged due to his "crude" technique—with some cracks on the Jade Token—it was already a "battle-damaged" version of the "Letter Token," and he couldn't help but sigh...

To study the Formation, Mo Hua "reluctantly" dismantled the Letter Token Uncle Gu gave him...

He had three Tokens involving the Yuan Magnetic Letter Formation principle.

The Taixu Token from Taixu Gate, he definitely couldn't dismantle.

Even if he wanted to, he lacked the ability...

The Bald Eagle's Letter Token also couldn't be dismantled for the time being.

There might be secrets inside. If damaged during dismantling, the secrets would be lost.

So, after much consideration, he could only dismantle the Letter Token sent by Uncle Gu.

If destroyed, at most he would apologize to Uncle Gu, but there wouldn't be much loss.

Through this "learning by doing" disassembly, Mo Hua truly understood some of the Formation logic inside.

He also realized that if he wanted to restore the "Magnetic Patterns" to recreate the "text," the biggest obstacle at present was the Fixed Magnetic Patterns.

Because Mo Hua discovered he couldn't understand the Fixed Magnetic Patterns within the Letter Token...

Having learned the Fixed Magnetic Patterns in the Second Grade Sixteen Patterns, Beacon Fire Yuan Magnetic Formation by heart...

But the Fixed Formation Patterns in the Letter Token were a complete mystery to him.

Although similar in form to each other, the variation in details was vast.

It was clear they were a type of Formation Pattern, but it was impossible to discern what precisely these specific Formation Patterns meant.

This was different from the Five Elements and Eight Trigrams Formation Patterns.

While variations exist in the Five Elements Bagua Formation Patterns, the basic styles were the same.

It was clear what each Formation Pattern corresponded to within the Five Elements and Eight Trigrams, such as the Fire-series Formation Patterns naturally symbolizing "Fire."

But the Yuan Magnetic Formation Patterns were very abstract, more like a type of "self-explanatory" or "ideographic" text.

There was no clear indication of what they were exactly "symbolizing".

And the functionality recorded in Jade Slips, Letter Tokens, even Taixu Tokens, was all decided by the Fixed Magnetic Patterns.

Not understanding the meaning of these Fixed Magnetic Patterns, in the future, learning Yuan Magnetic type Formations would probably be limited to "imitating without true understanding."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.