

I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out My Defense #Chapter 11 - 11 Money Can Be Taken, But The Job Can't Be Done - Read I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out My Defense Chapter 11 - 11 Money Can Be Taken, But The Job Can't Be Done

Chapter 11: Chapter 11 Money Can Be Taken, But The Job Can't Be Done

The person outside seemed quite certain there was someone inside the house and spoke up directly.

"Brother Li, I'm an outer sect disciple, Yang Huan, and I want to talk to you about something."

The speaker was a woman. Li Xiaobai perked up—was a girl actually seeking him out at Misty Peak? Could it be that she was attracted to his otherworldly demeanor?

"Junior Sister, please come in. What brings you to me?"

Welcoming the female disciple into the house, Li Xiaobai said with a smile—she was quite pretty, with a nice figure, and a beauty mark on her forehead that added to her dignified elegance.

"Brother, I'm here to discuss a deal with you."

The female disciple looked at Li Xiaobai somewhat warily, as the intel suggested he was not a lecher.

"Please, go on."

"I know that with your skills, the next two matches will be no challenge for you, but for the fifth match, I would like you to lose on purpose. If you agree, I'm willing to offer a price that will satisfy you."

The female disciple spoke of a task given to her by a True Disciple. If she completed it successfully, she would be rewarded with a Foundation Establishment Pill, allowing her a chance to become a cultivator at the Foundation Establishment Stage in one fell swoop.

Li Xiaobai pondered. The fifth match was one to enter the top ten of the finals; it seemed someone was afraid he would take one of the top ten spots and wanted to buy his cooperation.

But these Spirit Stones being offered on a platter were not to be ignored.

"A price that will satisfy me?"

"It's up to how sincere you are, Brother. How much are you willing to offer?"

Li Xiaobai's eyes lit up as he probed.

"Fifty Lower Grade Spirit Stones," the female disciple said.

"You think you can buy my loss with just fifty? You're thinking too small; it's not enough," Li Xiaobai stated flatly, for he already had over a thousand Spirit Stones in his pocket and was not tempted by such a small sum.

"Brother, I know that you have no cultivation level, and that you have won your matches so far relying solely on your poison pills and a defensive magic treasure. Although the Elders turn a blind eye, if I were to make a big fuss about this, you wouldn't even have the qualification to step onto the stage."

"What's more, fifty Spirit Stones is half a year's salary for an ordinary disciple—not a small amount at all," the female disciple continued, still smiling confidently with the leverage she had, not worried that Li Xiaobai would refuse.

"What's your relation to my opponent in the third match? Was it him who sent you?"

Li Xiaobai frowned; he found this deal unpleasant.

"That's irrelevant to you, Brother. You just need to do as told," the female disciple replied.

"The longsword at your waist is quite nice; looks like a Divine Sword," Li Xiaobai remarked.

"If Brother likes it, I will give it to you," she said.

"And that thing you're wearing around your neck, it's a Jade Pendant, isn't it?"

"If Brother likes it, I will give them both to you," she said.

"Those earrings of yours are quite unique..."

"They're for Brother..."

"Those aren't ordinary shoes you're wearing, are they?"

"They're all for Brother..."

Minutes later,

the female disciple left barefoot with a crestfallen face.

Some little trinkets and fifty Lower Grade Spirit Stones were now in his possession. Ants may be small, but all are meat, and Li Xiaobai understood very well the principle that small gains accumulate. Precious items in the store were still waiting for him to unlock, and he couldn't miss any opportunity to earn Spirit Stones.

Having sent the female disciple away, Li Xiaobai's expression grew serious—he had to teach her a harsh lesson for attempting to blackmail him.

The Spirit Stones could be taken, but the task could not be done!

He swallowed the rest of the discarded elixirs in one gulp, and the System panel kept flickering.

[Attribute Point +1...]

[Defensive Power: Copper Skin, Iron Bone (0/5000)]

A faint coppery pattern spread over his skin, and Li Xiaobai felt a warm and indescribable sense of comfort engulf his body.

"With my defensive power advancing again, that bunch won't be able to touch me anymore!"

...

The following two matches posed no difficulty, as both opponents were mere lucky ones who had managed to survive the first two matches without facing any formidable adversaries.

Under a barrage of taunts and the effect of Muscle Flaccidity, Li Xiaobai won easily, adding another hundred to his Attribute Points.

With the defensive power of my Copper Skin, Iron Bone, these disciples hitting me now is practically like tickling. I'm afraid even if a few senior brothers and sisters came, they wouldn't be able to move me.

The third round of the competition started quickly. The number of remaining disciples grew sparser, and the pace of the matches sped up considerably, with three to four rounds a day being quite normal.

My third opponent was a true disciple, Hao Jian.

Unthinkably, even true disciples had to participate in rigged matches. Li Xiaobai, seething with murderous intent, stepped onto the stage, ready to crush his opponent to vent his frustrations.

"True Disciple Hao Jian, I am eager to experience your superior skills," he said.

Hao Jian's expression remained calm and unfazed, exemplifying the demeanor of a master.

Before stepping onto the stage, that female disciple had already told him that the deal was done and that Li Xiaobai would intentionally lose the match, securing his position in the top ten.

"Weaklings are not worthy of knowing the name of this genius."

Li Xiaobai got into character in a second, his hostility maxed out.

"Misty Peak's Li Xiaobai, no personal attacks," the referee interjected, unable to stand by and announced Li Xiaobai's name.

"So it's a disciple of Misty Peak... no wonder..." Hao Jian frowned, instinctively feeling that something was not quite right, but the trash talk had to continue.

"But I've never heard of this Li Xiaobai before."

Li Xiaobai understood that the opponent, confident in his own strength and status, was trying to unsettle him with words before the fight began.

However, this played right into his hands; after all, how could he draw hostility without a good dose of trash talking?

"Defeated Chen Tao in a single glance."

"Defeated Lin Feng with a single finger."

"Made Lin Mang obediently hand over Spirit Stones with just a word. That is who I am, the genius cultivator Li Xiaobai."

Li Xiaobai, with hands behind his back, remained calm and unfazed as well, as if he was merely discussing a trivial matter.

"Brother Hao, do not listen to his nonsense. This guy only wins by resorting to dirty tricks!"

"That's right, he relies on his Magic Treasure for protection. Brother Hao, teach him a lesson!"

"It's infuriating; he must be punished severely!"

"..."

The disciples below the stage were incensed, their clamor rising and falling. Having witnessed Li Xiaobai's devious tactics, they did not believe he possessed genuine skill.

Feng Wuxie was also hidden among the disciples. After observing the previous matches, he was utterly convinced that Li Xiaobai definitely had a protective Magic Treasure of no low grade. If he could get his hands on this treasure, his position as the eldest disciple would be solidified, and the path to becoming the Sect Leader in the future seemed possible.

"Defeating the likes of Chen Tao and Lin Feng is nothing remarkable."

"Without standing at my level, how could you understand the view I see?"

Li Xiaobai shook his head with a sigh, full of pretended grievance.

"What excellent rhetoric, junior brother. Since I can't out-talk you, let's see the truth in our actions," Hao Jian said, his complexion turning a bit dark, as he seemed to sense something was amiss. He drew the longsword at his waist and thrust vigorously towards Li Xiaobai in an attempt to probe him.

He wielded a Mid-Grade Spirit Sword, which was bound to penetrate even if the opponent had a protective Magic Treasure.

The Sword Qi was restrained; before the sword tip arrived, the force of the thrust had already torn Li Xiaobai's sleeve.

[Attribute Points +20...]

My skin felt a bit itchy.

Not bad in terms of strength, stronger than Lin Mang, but still no match for me, Li Xiaobai instantly assessed, activating Muscle Flaccidity.

Hao Jian's body trembled, and he retreated explosively, collapsing over a dozen meters away, soaked in sweat.

Just now, he had felt an inexplicable weakness in his body; had he not retreated swiftly, he likely would have lost the match on the spot.

Damn, this guy took the money but didn't hold up his end of the bargain!

No wonder the disciples below said he was sneaky; despite taking his Spirit Stones, he had gone back on his word, truly despicable!

Moreover, this poison had made him go limp in an instant, leaving him without the strength even to lift his hand; it was exceedingly strange.

"You've used poison!"

Struggling to speak these few words, Hao Jian swallowed several Detoxification Pills.

He was both shocked and angry to find himself in such a state after a mere exchange of blows with this unknown opponent. The poison was incredibly unusual, so potent that his cultivation at the tenth layer of the Foundation Establishment Stage couldn't resist it; it was utterly humiliating!

After consuming a few Revitalizing Pills, Hao Jian felt much recovered and his eyes hardened with malice. Since the opponent wasn't playing by the rules, he wouldn't be blamed for what came next.

He immediately bowed to the Elders in the distance, "Li Xiaobai has resorted to underhanded tactics during the match, seriously tarnishing the reputation of our Immortal Feather Sect. I implore the elders to see through his deception!"

Chapter 12: Chapter 12: No More Pretense, I'm Laying My Cards on the Table

Hao Jian knew he couldn't resist Li Xiaobai's poison, so he had no choice but to resort to this measure, as long as the Elders forbid Li Xiaobai from using such despicable tactics, he would be able to turn defeat into victory.

No matter what, he was determined to obtain the qualification to study at the Holy Demon Sect!

At this time, the disciples below the stage were also impassioned, believing that a martial arts competition should test true strength and cultivation level, not allow repeated use of poison.

"That's right, we must stop Li Xiaobai from using such shameful means again!"

"We want a fair fight!"

"Please, Elders, see the truth!"

On the high platform, the Elders looked at each other with smiles in their eyes; they were waiting for just such an opportunity to suppress the disciples of Misty Peak.

The Great Elder stood up, "Sect Leader, you can't protect them this time. These youngsters have gone too far."

Having said that, he flew down to the arena.

"The competition is about examining the disciples' cultivation level and discovering weaknesses, not about forcing you to win at all costs, Li Xiaobai, you are no longer allowed to use that kind of poison that causes muscle weakness. Winning with such means proves nothing!"

The Great Elder spoke righteously, garnering unanimous support from the disciples.

"Understood."

Li Xiaobai looked helpless, banned from using Muscle Flaccidity, but it couldn't be helped, he had already aroused the public indignation of the disciples.

He slowly drew his sword from his waist, a gift from the female disciple previously, nothing more than an ordinary longsword.

"I originally wanted to interact with you all as an ordinary person, but instead of acceptance, I received skepticism; no more pretending, I am a Sword Cultivator, laying my cards on the table."

"A clattering buffoon, utterly nonsensical!"

Hao Jian had a full chest of rage that needed venting, thinking that without his poison, Li Xiaobai was nothing.

"Qingfeng Sword!"

The Sword Qi turned into a fresh breeze slashing towards Li Xiaobai. The Qingfeng Sword was formless and invisible, difficult for the naked eye to discern, and a deadly move was used as soon as the fight began, causing the disciples watching to hold their breath.

Even the Great Elder's brow was furrowed, ready to save someone at a critical moment.

"Sword Shattering the Sky!"

Li Xiaobai casually drew his sword, and in an instant, light and shadow filled the arena, the air carried the eardrum-piercing friction sound, the stage cracked inch by inch, and the Qingfeng Sword was engulfed by Sword Qi in a flash, targeting Hao Jian directly.

Hao Jian was terrified, such Sword Qi, ten of him could not block, his brain turned blank, his mid-grade Spirit Sword was shattered to dust in an instant, and numerous sword marks tore through his body.

The Great Elder's face turned pale, even he had to take this level of power seriously.

He leaped forward, blocking the overwhelming Sword Qi, and struck from mid-air, knocking down a somewhat dazed Hao Jian off the platform.

"If I had not intervened, Hao Jian would've been torn apart. This round, Li Xiaobai wins!"

The Great Elder hid his bloodstained hands in his sleeves, his heart turned a turbulent sea.

He couldn't make out Li Xiaobai's cultivation level, but that Sword Qi he just unleashed was undeniable; even a novice disciple is not capable of such a level of swordplay, could it be that Li Xiaobai is indeed a supreme genius?

The disciples below were likewise stunned—who said Li Xiaobai had no cultivation?

Who said Li Xiaobai could only win by relying on Magic Treasures?

The truth was now in front of them, everything else could be faked, but not the Sword Qi just now, Li Xiaobai's ordinary longsword wasn't even a Spiritual Artifact, indicating that his overwhelming Sword Qi was entirely a product of his own cultivation level.

Such strength was incomprehensibly profound.

The disciples silently labeled Li Xiaobai as a dark horse who feigned weakness to deceive others.

Why didn't you show your strength earlier? You have genuine cultivation but choose to use dirty tricks, what's the meaning of this?

Indeed, Misty Peak has no normal people.

In the crowd, Feng Wuxie's eyes flickered with sharp light, Li Xiaobai's treasures had once again refreshed his perception, the world indeed had such marvelous and unique treasures, he must get his hands on them!

Li Xiaobai was very calm, for the skill that had been upgraded twice in a row was indeed powerful, defeating a True Disciple was not surprising.

"Heh, senior brother, thanks for letting me win."

With a bow to a still dazed Hao Jian, Li Xiaobai left with style.

After this battle, probably the entire Sect's disciples would know of him, Li Xiaobai of Misty Peak.

From now on, my title has one more accomplishment, defeating True Disciple Hao Jian with a single sword stroke.

This victory secured my place in the top ten of the Sect competition and qualified me to further my studies at the Holy Demon Sect.

Humming a little tune, Li Xiaobai felt somewhat elated. In just a matter of days, he had gone from an ordinary person to a super expert. Such speed of progression would be considered genius anywhere.

"Boy, stop right there, where did you get this cultivation level from?"

Feng Lingzi's voice came from behind, followed by several senior brother and sister disciples, who had all witnessed Li Xiaobai's performance.

Feng Lingzi knew Li Xiaobai too well, didn't he? How could others know if he didn't?

Ever since he entered Misty Peak, his little disciple hadn't practiced for a single day. He had given him a cultivation technique two days ago, but there was no sign of practice; how did he suddenly become a Sword Dao expert?

Even the power of the sword Qi Liu Xiaobai had just unleashed made him wary, could it be that he wouldn't be able to defeat even this newly accepted disciple?

"Sudden enlightenment, Master, do you know about sudden enlightenment?"

"Ancients became Buddhas in a single thought, today we have Li Xiaobai becoming a grandmaster in one."

Li Xiaobai was feeling a bit nervous inside, after all, he hadn't cultivated, so he was somewhat lacking in confidence.

"Grandmaster my ass!"

Feng Lingzi was about to curse.

Behind him Yang Chen interrupted, "Who cares? Everyone has their own opportunity. Why are you, an old sod, jealous?"

"Exactly, today little junior brother has successfully entered the top ten of the competition. It's a cause for celebration. No question about it, let's have a small barbecue tonight!" Liu Jinshui said.

"Master, you should be happy that your disciple has done well."

Su Yunbing said with a smile, pulling Li Xiaobai towards the mountaintop.

"On Misty Peak, it's normal for a master to be unable to defeat a disciple. Today, little junior brother has shown his divine might, without tarnishing the reputation of Misty Peak."

"Tonight's celebration feast, let's all get high!"

...

The celebration feast was at the mountaintop, where Liu Jinshui loved barbecuing wild game the most.

Seeing that the arena had been transformed into a bathhouse, everyone's expressions were somewhat peculiar.

"Who would've thought little junior brother had this particular taste?"

"An outdoor one, quite something!"

"It's got character, I like it."

Hearing the others' remarks, Li Xiaobai also felt a little embarrassed. These senior brothers were too irrepressible, even a bathhouse could set their imaginations running wild.

"Ahem, senior brothers, this bathhouse is for cultivation. As long as one soaks in it, one's cultivation level can slightly increase," Li Xiaobai explained.

Upon hearing this, everyone was surprised. Could there really be such a pool in the world?

"Little junior brother, don't joke around. Senior sister is proficient in pharmacology and has sensed nothing unusual about this pool."

Ye Wushuang stepped forward and tested the water temperature. In an instant, she felt a refreshing sensation sweep through her body, her Spiritual

Platform becoming clear. The cultivation problems she had accumulated over the days solved themselves effortlessly, and she couldn't help but immerse herself in it.

Su Yunbing felt it was strange as well and reached out to touch the water's surface, her expression instantly turning marvelous.

"What's going on with you?"

"This pool is really effective?"

The others, also curious, touched the water in the pool.

"Damn, little junior brother, you're not being honest, hiding such good skills from us."

"Let's not say anything more. Tonight, we're sleeping in this pool. Even if the Heavenly King comes, we won't leave!"

Liu Jinshui did not care about his image and, without stripping, plunged into the pool. The others quickly followed suit.

Su Yunbing and Ye Wushuang also dove headfirst into the pool, lying down comfortably, leaving Li Xiaobai staring in astonishment.

"The water's a bit cold. Number four, heat up the water."

"Got it..."

Chapter 13: Chapter 13: Bathing at Home is too One-Sided

At the same time, within the Immortal Feather Sect,

angry roars could be heard from various caves.

"Damn it, this elixir is totally useless!"

"Curse that Li Xiaobai, clearly it's just an ordinary Revitalizing Pill, yet he cheated me out of ten Lower Grade Spirit Stones!"

"Those ten Lower Grade Spirit Stones were all I had, I was counting on this breakthrough, Li Xiaobai is really despicable!"

"Enough said, from today onwards, I share no common sky with Li Xiaobai!"

"Li Xiaobai must die!"

"..."

The disciples were extremely angry, they had followed Li Xiaobai's advice to return to their caves and slowly assimilate the elixirs to achieve the best effect, only to realize that it was just a common Revitalizing Pill, which was used to heal physical injuries and recover Spiritual Energy.

It was the most common street stall item, which on normal days would cost as much as cabbage, not at all requiring Spirit Stones to buy, a few broken pieces of silver would suffice, yet now they had been swindled out of a full ten Lower Grade Spirit Stones, and spent on such a useless pill at that.

This was absolutely unbearable, they must find the person responsible and demand an explanation!

...

At the top of Misty Peak, seven brothers were comfortably soaking in the bath, oblivious to the commotion at the foot of the mountain.

Li Xiaobai had no idea that he had already made it onto the black list of many disciples, as he was earnestly gnawing on the chicken leg in his hand right now.

The cooking was done by the sixth senior brother, unquestionably, it was very good.

"Junior brother, this pool is still a bit small, after we move to the Holy Demon Sect, senior sister will build a bigger one for you, you just need to handle making this kind of bathwater," said Su Yunbing. She had soaked for only a while and felt a bit of strengthening in her internal Spiritual Energy, the benefits were indescribable.

The others felt the same.

"Indeed, it's just that the temperature of this water isn't quite right. Look how much more comfortable it is after fourth senior brother heats it up, right?"

Liu Jinshui said with a smile, Yang Chen's cultivation technique was extremely masculine and yang, most suitable for warming water.

At this moment, Yang Chen was a bit depressed, feeling like he was being used as cheap labor.

"Little junior brother, what did you make this bathwater from, why didn't I detect any scent of herbs?" asked Ye Wushuang. This water was too miraculous, without the slightest sign of anything unusual.

"Well, that, I can't say, I can't say..." Li Xiaobai chuckled, a product of the System naturally didn't need to follow conventional methods.

"Actually, bathing is about the method and approach. It's too simplistic to just say it's about getting clean."

Third Senior Brother Lin Yin said.

"Senior brother is studied in the art of bathing?" Ling Feng asked in surprise. On normal days, third senior brother was quite secretive, often traveling outside, rarely seen.

"Bathing isn't just about removing dirt, it's about shedding the complexities of human emotions and worldliness."

"If you want to make this bath profound, you first need to grasp the right atmosphere."

"Talk less, moan more. Talking less cultivates the atmosphere; moaning more expresses what's in the heart."

"In summary, the harsher the bath, the more stable the character you project."

Upon hearing this, everyone was astounded. Li Xiaobai looked anew at this mysterious third senior brother, who could even derive life insights from a mere bath, his indifferent expression coupled with his eloquently flirtatious attitude, grasping the atmosphere tightly.

"Third junior brother, you must have gone on a journey recently, has anything significant happened outside?"

Ye Wushuang did not want to talk about this topic; she felt very embarrassed.

"The Divine Beast Forest is not peaceful. The demonic beasts are restless, and it seems that the Monster Tide will come soon," Lin Yin said.

"What is a Monster Tide?"

Li Xiaobai, with his keen senses, caught the key term. He had not yet left the sect, and perhaps the outside environment would be more suitable for accumulating Attribute Points for the System.

"It's when the demonic beasts go on a collective rampage. A Monster Tide can affect the surrounding towns and sects. This time, the reason behind the beasts' uprising is not yet clear."

"If the Monster Tide really breaks out, we might be immediately dispatched to the vicinity of the Divine Beast Mountain Range," Lin Yin explained a bit further.

"If that's the case, it would be great. I've been itching for a real fight lately; there are no worthy opponents in the sect."

When it came to a rampage of demonic beasts, Su Yunbing was very excited. She was a violence enthusiast and never passed up an opportunity to fight.

"It doesn't concern us much. If something really happens, the Holy Demon Sect will bear the brunt, and we will at most provide some support."

Liu Jinshui did not care much. A rampage of demonic beasts was a big event and as a great sect, the Holy Demon Sect would definitely send out experts to clear them. Smaller sects would just pick off the stragglers.

Li Xiaobai quietly listened to the conversations of his senior brothers and sisters, silently noting down the key information.

The strength of demonic beasts varied. Those on the periphery of the Divine Beast Mountain Range were generally equivalent to cultivators in the Foundation Establishment Stage, while the powerful demonic beasts resided deep in the mountains, in the Golden Core Stage, or even the Nascent Soul Stage.

Golden Core Stage beasts probably couldn't break his Copper Skin, Iron Bone. Li Xiaobai thought he might have a chance to check it out.

The attacks of demonic beasts were fiercer than those of humans, which could increase more Attribute Points.

The more he heard, the more surprised Li Xiaobai felt. He was living in a world called the Immortal Spirit Continent, and the land under his feet was known as the Northern Region, a remote part of the mainland to the north.

It was a desolate place, and within this region, only the Holy Demon Sect and Tianwu Sect were considered Great Sects; all the other large and small sects were affiliates.

Though these two sects appeared to be on good terms, they were constantly fighting overtly and covertly in private, each wanting to swallow the other and become the sole dominant power.

As for the internal situation of the Holy Demon Sect, he would have to wait until he obtained the qualification for further study and went to the sect to cultivate before he could find out, but no matter what, a Great Sect was a better platform. Only by entering it would one have a chance to touch an even vaster world.

After chatting for a while, everyone stopped talking and entered serious cultivation mode, maximizing the benefits of the bath.

Li Xiaobai felt helpless; his senior brothers and sisters were too diligent. He felt a bit embarrassed.

The time spent bathing always passed quickly; before he knew it, the sky had begun to brighten.

Li Xiaobai checked the System panel.

[Attribute Points: 1100.]

No question about it. All invested in defense!

[Defensive Power: Copper Skin, Iron Bone (1100/5000) Advancement possible.]

Just one night of soaking and he had gained a thousand Attribute Points. Indeed, the System was quite good, very user-friendly!

Meanwhile, the others were also gradually waking up.

"This bathhouse is not bad, it's comparable to the Spiritual Springs outside."

"Yes, the cultivation speed is more than twice as fast as before; it's really good."

"I'm going to cultivate here from now on!"

"Junior Brother, change the bathwater tonight; your Senior Sister wants to bathe again."

With the competition about to begin, everyone dried their clothes through their cultivation level and began heading down the mountain one after another.

As they got closer, the noise from the foot of the mountain finally reached them, and hearing the clamor from the outer disciples, both Li Xiaobai and Liu Jinshui's faces turned pale.

The issue with the elixirs had been exposed!

The victims had come knocking!

Chapter 14: Chapter 14 Public Enemy Li Xiaobai

...

The rest also heard the commotion coming from the foot of the mountain, their expressions turning interesting.

"Junior brother, why don't you go down first?" Liu Jinshui said.

"Senior brother, you are older than me and also my senior, you should go down first," Li Xiaobai said.

"Stop dawdling, it's just a couple of Spirit Stones, what's the big deal?"

Yang Chen strutted out with an arrogant attitude, leading the way out of the sect gates and began driving away the disciples causing trouble nearby.

"Look, that damn Li Xiaobai is actually brothers with that fatso!"

"Damn it, the fatso is from Misty Peak too!"

"So he was a plant, we've been seriously scammed!"

"We must get an explanation for this, let's go to the arena and demand one from the elders!"

"Don't let him get away!"

Seeing the main culprit show his face, the disciples were fuming with anger, all following behind Li Xiaobai, wanting to seek justice.

Feeling panicked, Li Xiaobai saw that everyone was coming for him, afraid that this would not end well today.

The Spirit Stones were definitely gone, but his life was still his own.

On the arena,

The Sect Leader and more than a dozen elders had already arrived, ready to address the disciples. At this critical point in the competition, the slots for disciples to advance to the Holy Demon Sect had already been determined.

The following matches were merely for friendship's sake, without contention for anything.

"What's going on over there?"

"Aside from those from Misty Peak, what else could it be, they're bringing their complaints all the way to me!"

"I've also heard from Feng Wuxie, this Li Xiaobai actually scammed his fellow disciples, truly despicable!"

"Enough talk, the sect has given several hundred Lower Grade Spirit Stones to make up for Li Xiaobai's mess, it's an important day today; you elders should not squabble over every little detail!"

The Sect Leader said with a stern face.

The elders were grumbling inwardly, it sounded nice, but wasn't the sect's contribution simply deducted from their salary? Why should they clean up after the trouble Misty Peak caused? Feng Lingzi, that old guy, they had no idea where he had run off to.

Looking at Li Xiaobai, their eyes grew even colder, wishing they could give the boy a good beating.

Seeing that all the disciples had gathered, the Sect Leader raised his hand to signal everyone to calm down.

"I am already aware of the dispute between you and Li Xiaobai. All the disciples who were scammed can later go to the Salary Hall to receive compensation — each of you will be compensated with twenty Lower Grade Spirit Stones," he announced.

Hearing the Sect Leader say this, the disciples also quieted down. The most any of them had lost was around fifteen Spirit Stones, and now the Sect Leader was offering twenty Lower Grade Spirit Stones to each; by their calculations, they still came out ahead. However, they couldn't vent the frustration that was festering in their stomachs.

They were unhappy deep down.

Li Xiaobai also let out a sigh of relief; with the Sect Leader handling the aftermath, he could be at ease.

"Outstanding disciples can use this competition to spot their shortcomings and strengthen themselves," the Sect Leader said.

"I hope you all can..." the Sect Leader and the elders continued with some motivational words before handing over the stage to the ten participants of the upcoming matches.

Su Yunbing announced boldly, "Misty Peak claims the top ten in the great competition. Any objections?"

"It's a wrap, a wrap!" Yang Chen chimed in as well.

"We object!"

"I have a big problem with Li Xiaobai!"

"You can lose the big competition, but Li Xiaobai must die!"

"Hand over Li Xiaobai, we want to duel him!"

...

The surrounding disciples weren't buying it, even if the Sect Leader was willing to compensate them, they weren't easily going to let Li Xiaobai off the hook.

Only a small portion of them had witnessed Li Xiaobai's true strength; for the majority, he remained a figure known for deception and trickery.

"Li Xiaobai, what do you say?"

...

The Elders held a hint of mirth in their eyes, finally getting to witness Li Xiaobai make a fool of himself.

The Great Elder seemed like he wanted to say something but ultimately held back, believing that some lessons are best learned through personal experience.

Li Xiaobai was the epitome of "playing the pig to eat the tiger."

Even he couldn't fully defend against such sword qi; those disciples were merely delivering themselves to defeat.

Seeing the fervent disciples, Li Xiaobai felt helpless, it seemed that word of his victory over the True Disciple Hao Jian had not yet spread.

"I have no problem with it, if they want to challenge me, then let them come at me together."

Li Xiaobai got into the zone and leisurely stepped up to the arena.

The disciples were boiling with rage again. How arrogant, to think he would fight them all by himself, it was an outrageous insult!

"Li Xiaobai, you are far too arrogant. The first match is between you and me. I told you, when we meet again, I'll make your life worse than death!"

Lin Mang leaped onto the arena, his voice cold and stern, his goal today was to cripple Li Xiaobai.

"In my eyes, there is no difference between a True Disciple and an Outer Sect Disciple. Come at me, all of you."

"It's not that I'm targeting anyone in particular, I just want to say that everyone here is trash."

Li Xiaobai stood with his hands behind his back, his expression indifferent.

The emotions of the disciples below the stage exploded instantaneously, their fury burning fiercely as dozens of them jumped onto the arena at once.

"Elder Brother Lin, no offense, but this guy is too infuriating. Today, we have to let him bleed a bit!"

"That's right, Elder Brother Lin, this isn't just your fight."

"Today, Li Xiaobai must die!"

Lin Mang's face wore a mocking expression: "Junior Brother Li, it mustn't have been easy to become what you are."

"You flatter me, Elder Brother. Make your move!"

Li Xiaobai raised his eyebrows, his face full of a provoking expression that just begged for a beating, and with full loathing, the disciples struck out angrily, all attacking Li Xiaobai at once.

Brightly colored flashes erupted on the stage in an instant.

"Ice-Fire Dual Extremes!"

"Great Fireball Technique!"

"Lingyun Sword Technique!"

"Evil Banishing Sword Technique!"

The robust spiritual power created waves that swept across the entire field, and Li Xiaobai, thrilled in his heart at the overwhelming onslaught, knew a wave of Attribute Points was on its way.

[Attribute Point +1...]

[Attribute Point +5...]

[Attribute Point +10...]

[Attribute Point +30...]

The disciples' attacks were powerful, almost instantly netting him a hundred Attribute Points, but where did those thirty come from?

Li Xiaobai was puzzled. He knew the ten points were from Lin Feng, and none of the other disciples could surpass Lin Feng's strength. Could it be that someone else struck him from a place he couldn't see?

But even the thirty points couldn't break his defenses.

He added all the Attribute Points he received into his defense in one breath and continued to face the brutal attacks head-on.

Below the stage, several elder brothers and sisters were all wearing expressions of astonishment, not expecting that their Junior Brother Li would be so fierce, facing the attacks of so many without the slightest problem.

"It seems this Junior Brother does indeed have some fortuitous encounters," Liu Jinshui sighed.

From a distance,

Among the crowd, Feng Wuxie's face showed even greater surprise. He had quietly shot out a poisoned needle while people weren't paying attention, hoping to seriously injure Li Xiaobai amidst the chaos.

But to his utter disbelief, the poisoned needle couldn't even pierce the opponent's skin and was directly shattered.

It must be a Magic Treasure; the opponent was using a Magic Treasure to protect his body!

Feng Wuxie's eyes burned with an even more fervent gaze, wishing he could kill Li Xiaobai and seize his treasure right then and there.

"Heh, no matter, you are ultimately heading to the Holy Demon Sect. Dying in the wilderness wouldn't be surprising at all!"

Chapter 15: Chapter 15: Two Women in Conflict

Everyone in the arena had different thoughts, but the most surprised were certainly the disciples on the stage.

They had been fighting for a long time, hands sore from the effort, yet Li Xiaobai seemed totally unfazed, still all smiles.

[Defensive Power: Copper Skin, Iron Bone (2300/5000) Can be advanced.]

Not bad at all, these disciples are quite energetic, boosting my defensive power by a whole thousand points.

The frequency of the System Panel's numbers changing was dwindling, and the disciples on stage were getting sore hands from fatigue.

Lin Mang, however, looked ferocious, with bloodshot eyes that relentlessly attacked from all angles, trying to break through the opponent's defense.

With a chuckle, he grasped Lin Mang's sword blade, halting the Sword Qi abruptly, and with a slight squeeze of his fingers, crushed the blade to dust, leaving Lin Mang's eyes nearly popping out in shock.

Flesh harder than a lower grade Spirit Sword, what kind of maneuver is this?

He had thought his opponent was just a minor character he could easily crush, but unexpectedly, he had hit a steel plate and seemed likely to be humiliated this time.

"Sword Shattering the Sky!"

Li Xiaobai drew his sword from his waist, the arena filled with crisscrossing Sword Qi, causing the stage to crack, turning dozens of longswords to dust.

Many disciples were swept off the stage, including Lin Mang.

"This can't be possible!"

"How can you possibly have this kind of strength!"

"Referee, I refuse to accept this, Li Xiaobai must have cheated!"

Lin Mang's face was flushed with shock and anger.

How could the opponent possess such strength, wasn't he just a sneaky character?

"Silence!"

"So many of you ganging up on one person and still getting decimated, what face do you have to face your mentors? Go back and start from the basics, reforge yourselves starting with the foundation!"

The Sect Leader was furious; the performance of the sect's disciples was truly disappointing.

Most crucially, Li Xiaobai's move had just destroyed dozens of longswords, among which were Spiritual Artifacts, which would amount to a significant expense to replace!

The Elders whispered among themselves; nobody expected the always boisterous Li Xiaobai to possess such overwhelming strength, defeating dozens of disciples with a single sword stroke, including the True Disciple Lin Feng, which was truly a slap in the face.

"Defeating all the disciples present with one sword, this is the genius cultivator Li Xiaobai."

Li Xiaobai was not yet out of his state, the arena filled with a compelling presence.

"Well said!"

The disciples of Misty Peak clapped and cheered enthusiastically; this battle had indeed brought great honor to Misty Peak.

Li Xiaobai snapped back to reality and scurried down from the stage in a flash. The atmosphere was different off the stage; there were rules on stage, and he could act however he pleased, but it wasn't the same off stage. If he overplayed his hand down here, he could get chopped to death.

"The competition continues. Next match, let me reiterate, friendship comes first. You are all excellent disciples of the Immortal Feather Sect, winning or losing is not important. What is important is what you can learn from it."

The Sect Leader signaled for the competition to continue.

The previous incidents were just minor interruptions; now, it was time for proper and orderly exchanges between disciples.

"Second match, Misty Peak's Su Yunbing versus Misty Peak's Ye Wushuang!"

The referee announced the start of the match.

It was normal for seven out of the top ten to be Misty Peak disciples, and for fellow sect brothers to be grouped together.

The disciples below watched intently as the two on the stage, with Su Yunbing's fiery red attire making her look spirited and Ye Wushuang in her usual light green dress, embodied a certain detached tranquillity.

The Misty Peak disciples typically defeated their opponents in seconds, hardly revealing the depth of their strength.

Now, it was Misty Peak against Misty Peak, inevitably a fierce battle between dragons and tigers.

Neither of the two women on the stage made a move first.

"Junior Sister, was our last spar three years ago?"

Su Yunbing stared with her eyebrows knit tightly, exuding murderous intent.

"Yes, in the blink of an eye, three years have passed, and Senior Sister has added a few more crow's feet!"

Ye Wushuang covered her face with her hand and laughed lightly, causing the male disciples below the stage to drool.

Su Yunbing blew up immediately, she truly lacked feminine charm, a far cry from the gentle and affectionate Ye Wushuang.

Although she believed her strength to be superior to her opponent's, she always felt like she lost somewhere, which was an unpleasant feeling.

"Sister, your sharp tongue is impressive, but today I will teach you what proper conduct means!"

Amidst the arena, a red flash sparkled, and Su Yunbing instantly appeared behind Ye Wushuang, her palms slamming down fiercely. Before her palms had even reached, the pressure of the attack arrived, causing the platform to crack and break, with stones flying everywhere.

Ye Wushuang took graceful steps, dodging with ease as a series of faint green mists enveloped the entire stage.

This was her cultivation technique, the "Jade Lotus Sutra", which combined healing with poison and killed invisibly with every move.

The Elders quickly drove the disciples away from below the stage, as the poison up there was not ordinary, even a touch could leave an ordinary disciple dead or injured.

The crowd dispersed hastily, avoiding the green smoke as though it were the plague, fearing being caught in its wake. Soon, only seven people from Misty Peak and Feng Wuxie, the top elder brother from the Immortal Feather Sect, remained near the stage.

A wisp of green smoke brushed against Li Xiaobai.

[Attribute Points+100...]

Hiss!

Just a touch from the smoke and his attribute points increased by a hundred. This Second Senior Sister, who always seemed so amiable, was actually so ruthless when she fought.

However, Li Xiaobai didn't feel the slightest discomfort, even wishing he could inhale more.

It seemed that even when his Senior Sister was serious about fighting, he could still hold his own. Once his defensive power advanced again, he suspected his Senior Brothers and Sisters would no longer be able to land a blow on him.

He quietly took a deep breath, trying to inhale more of the green smoke.

Feng Wuxie caught this scene from the corner of his eye, and his lips unconsciously curved upward. The more he knew about Li Xiaobai, the more secrets seemed to spill out from him.

From these small details, one could tell that the treasures on him were extraordinary, able to defend against poison mist. What exactly were they?

No, Li Xiaobai was actively inhaling the poison mist. Could it be that inhaling the poison was somehow beneficial to the body?

Feng Wuxie also took a careful breath and immediately felt a burning sensation in his organs. He quickly circulated spiritual energy to recover from the injury, his anticipation for the treasure in Li Xiaobai's possession growing stronger.

Meanwhile, Li Xiaobai had already cleared the surrounding poison mist.

[Defensive Power: Copper Skin, Iron Bone (3000/5000), can be advanced.]

Just two thousand more to advance. Li Xiaobai was thrilled; his Senior Sister's strike was too powerful, with one inhale increasing one hundred attribute points. He truly wanted to keep on inhaling forever.

On the stage,

The battle between the two women had reached a critical intensity, the powerful presence sweeping across the entire arena. Ye Wushuang's movements were fluid, managing to escape at critical moments, while Su Yunbing went for overpowering brute force, foregoing any fanciness, swinging down her fists hard.

The stage was devastated beyond recognition, both women leaving deep craters with every step, and after a few exchanges, the stage was nearly flattened.

Watching the two on stage exchanging blows, Li Xiaobai was a bit puzzled and poked Liu Jinshui who was beside him.

"Senior Brother, the Senior Sisters are fighting well, but why aren't they using their powerful moves?"

"Hehe, the Senior Sisters are actually engaging in genuine sparring. Their Dao rhymes are subdued, they have abandoned their cultivation techniques and secret techniques, and are confronting each other with their purest cultivation levels. They're identifying their weaknesses and looking for areas to improve!"

"Junior Brother, take a good lesson from this..."