

## Protect OCL VL3 11

Chapter 11 Prominent Family! Connections are Very Important\_1

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At the same time.

In the VIP room of Tian Yuan's Danfang, all the heads of the prominent families had already learned about the scoring results of the test papers and knew everyone's ranking order.

Meanwhile, the thirteen young alchemists who made the cut were also called into the VIP room. They waited beside their respective family heads for the results to be announced.

Only Si Xinghai - who had no family - found a spot in the corner to stand. He didn't engage in conversations with the people from the prominent families around him, as if he existed in a separate time and space from them.

On the corner desk, a red copper incense burner was emitting wisps of smoke that spiraled upwards. Above their heads from the crossbeam hung a beautifully carved Fluorescent Stone Spirit Lamp, spreading bright and warm light.

The decoration of this VIP room was luxurious but not overly fancy, carrying an elegant atmosphere.

However, even so, it could not hide the undercurrent that was surging in the room.

"Hahaha~ Congratulations, brother Yuwen," Qian Jingde, the elder of the Qian family, raised his tea cup, and laughed as he glanced at the elder of the Yuwen Clan beside him. "Your family's Nianjing is ranked third, this spot is most likely secured."

This elder was the grandfather of Qian Xuefu and one of the Celestial Realm elders of the large Qian family.

Unlike the Celestial families, only cultivators in the Purple Abode Realm were considered real ancestors in the prominent Purple Abode families.

But even as an elder in the Celestial Realm, Qian Jingde carried significant grandeur when he ventured outside. His status was a step above an ordinary old ancestor of a 7th-rank aristocratic family.

"Nianjing's participation this time is just to refine her skills," Yuwen Jinghong laughed heartily, without taking his lead, "The position of third place is not stable. It depends on Master Danding's opinion. It is rather the Dongfang clan, which has produced an amazing Kylin child, who managed to take first place among many young and outstanding alchemists, demonstrating their deep foundation."

Yuwen Jinghong, naturally, was also an elder of the Celestial Realm from the Yuwen Clan.

As soon as this remark was made, everyone's attention was instantly focused on Dongfang Bohua, the old Celestial ancestor of the Dongfang Clan.

This elder of the Dongfang Clan, Dongfang Bohua, was over three hundred years old. His beard was completely white, and his lifespan wasn't much left. He looked like a withered old man.

However, his eyes were extremely bright at this moment, exuding a color of excitement.

Finally, the Dongfang Clan's hard days have come to an end~

Earlier, the Celestial-type seed of their family had failed twice in impacting the realm of heaven and mankind, which had already emptied the Dongfang clan's family resources. If it weren't for Dongfang Yuxi, an exceptional child, the Dongfang clan might have fallen into decline and been reduced to a Grade Eight Prominent Family.

Now, Dongfang Yuxi has scored first place and is bound to be taken as a disciple by Master Danding. With this, even if Dongfang Bohua runs out of life in the future, the Dongfang family will rise again and may even climb higher.

However, even with such excitement in his heart, elder Bohua, who had lived for hundreds of years, didn't show it much on his face. He maintained a modest and kind demeanor, stroking his beard and laughing, "Hahaha~ You're too kind~ Yuxi is just a bit more diligent in her studies, she is not as impressive as brother Yuwen described!"

Behind elder Bohua, Dongfang Yuxi maintained an unaffected and calm demeanor as if getting the first place was not something worth boasting about.

Everyone couldn't help but nod their heads silently.

At such a young age, she was already indifferent to honor and disgrace. This youngling, her future potential must be very high.

During the back and forth chat, none of the big shots revealed too much, yet they all had their own judgments in their hearts. Naturally, they conveyed some sense of wanting to win over the elder and the young master of the Dongfang Clan in the words they exchanged.

Which one of the people who can act as the clan leader or elder in a prominent family isn't a sharp individual?

They naturally understood that if Dongfang Yuxi truly becomes the disciple of Master Danding today, the Dongfang clan will inevitably rise in the future, and might even become a Rank Six Prominent Family.

It would be beneficial without any harm to establish connections with them at this time.

It's just a pity for the others...

The elders of the Qian family, Yuwen family, and other large families glanced at Wang Shouzhe and Wang Shouye casually, feeling a sense of regret in their hearts.

That Wang Shouye was not too old and his basic skills were also very solid, obviously, a good seedling. Unfortunately, he only got second place. Master Danding only took three disciples, and the chance of him being selected was very slim.

Who asked the Wang family to be just a small seventh-rank family from a remote area?

If Wang Shouye cannot become a disciple of Master Danding this time, his future growth will undoubtedly be inferior to Dongfang Yuxi, and the gap between them will only get larger as time goes by.

What a pity, truly a pity.

Under the casual glances of everyone present, Wang Shouye felt as if he were sitting on pins and needles, so nervous he didn't know where to put his hands.

On the other hand, Wang Shouzhe was not much affected. He still had that demeanor of calm and composed self-discipline, even having the leisure to appropriately savor his tea and indulge in some refreshments.

Just then.

The door of the room suddenly "squeaked" open, and a figure in light blue appeared at the doorway.

Under the lamp light, her skirt swaying, her temperament pure and clear as if she was a fresh lotus emerged from the water, she was the "Pill Doctor Par Excellence" - Gu Hanyu.

The room suddenly grew silent.

Gu Hanyu is Master Danding's disciple and also in charge of this selection event. Her appearance at this time naturally signifies she is here to announce the results.

Everyone stopped their discussions, rose to welcome her, and anticipation unconsciously surfaced on their faces.

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"You all should already know this, but for this selection of apprentices, the Master will choose three alchemists to become his disciples." Gu Hanyu took a few delicate steps towards the front of the crowd and spoke, "The first person selected is a third-grade alchemist, Qian Xuefu."

While the words echoed, a flurry of "I knew it" expressions surfaced on everyone's faces.

Although everyone had their suspicions, they all secretly nursed a little hope that Master Danding wouldn't be swayed by family connections and influence, thus giving them a greater chance of being selected.

However, seeing that Master Danding did indeed choose the prestigious Qian Xuefu, they couldn't help but feel disappointment.

Indeed, being from a prominent family has its advantages, even when it comes to finding a master.

Feeling the envious and jealous glances from the crowd, Qian Xuefu puffed up his chest with pride, secretly delighted with himself.

He knew he would be one of the selected few.

"Everyone, please be quiet."

Hearing the buzzing discussions around her, Gu Hanyu furrowed her flawless brows.

Although she wasn't entirely pleased with Qian Xuefu either, the Master's wishes were final and should not be subject to other people's criticism.

Upon hearing her words, the scene immediately fell silent.

Even though Gu Hanyu was not yet in the Heavenly Human Realm, her accomplishments in medicine, alchemy, and her status as a disciple of Master Danding, made her extremely significant.

However, even though the discussions were curbed, the crowd was still highly curious.

"May I ask who the second selected apprentice is?" a venerable elder tactfully asked.

Gu Hanyu replied indifferently: "The second selected apprentice is the Independent Cultivator Si Xinghai."

"Si Xinghai?"

The highranking nobles were momentarily taken aback.

Even though Master Danding had already hinted he admired Independent Cultivator Si Xinghai, making everyone somewhat prepared, the actual announcement still left them somewhat disgruntled.

Master Danding had the capacity to accept three disciples, which was the limit; if an independent cultivator was included, this would mean fewer places were available for the young scions of influential families.

However, Master Danding was ultimately a powerful cultivator at the Purple Abode Realm, and what's more, he was also an esteemed Grandmaster of Alchemy. Thus, no matter how displeased the crowd, they had no choice but to swallow their discontent.

Gu Hanyu, unconcerned by their reactions, congratulated Si Xinghai with a soft gaze after announcing the second selected apprentice, "Congratulations, junior brother Si."

Si Xinghai quickly shed his aloof attitude, and respectfully bowed, "Thank you for your guidance, senior sister."

Although he was overjoyed to be selected, he didn't become conceited, but was actually even more respectful than before.

Seeing this, the many nobles present silently nodded their approval.

This young man has a good disposition; he seems stable and steady.

As an independent cultivator, both cultivation and alchemy come with greater challenges than those facing the young sons of influential families, hence they are generally more willing to endure hardships and are more mature.

The young alchemists looked at Si Xinghai with complex expressions, filled with both envy and unwillingness.

Now, only the last spot remains. It's highly likely Master Danding will choose Dongfang Yuxi. They probably don't stand a chance anymore.

Only Dongfang Yuxi still stood there, eyes half-closed and arms crossed over his chest, as calm and collected as a deep pool or towering mountain.

"Haha, who the Master selects as his disciples has a lot to do with his own considerations." Elder Qian Jingde laughed, "Stop beating around the bush, Scholar Gu. Who's the final choice? Dongfang Yuxi or Wuwen Nianjing?"

These two were the most likely candidates. Still, everyone knew that the Wuwen Clan was not a 5th-grade Purple Abode Clan, and Master Danding might not necessarily forsake the potentially more promising Dongfang Yuxi for them.

Upon hearing these words...

Both Yuwen Jinghong and Dongfang Bohua tensed up slightly. Until the official announcement, anything could happen.

Gu Hanyu glanced meaningfully at Wang Shouzhe who was calmly drinking his tea and replied evenly, "The third disciple the Master has accepted is Wang Shouye from the Changning Wang Clan."

"What?"

The entire room was silent, in particular, the old and the young of the Dongfang Family. They were visibly shaken, disbelief colored their countenances. The eyes of countless people had landed on Wang Shouye who was restlessly looking around.

Listening to their discussions, he thought he was out of the running, feeling overwhelmingly guilty. When he thought about how much he disagreed with how his family raised him, he didn't expect good fortune to come knocking.

"You, young man, did good." Qian Xuefu slapped Wang Shouye's shoulder, and said with a grin, "You've obviously got a excellent skill in alchemy and had family connections, yet you were acting like you knew nothing."

Wang Shouye helplessly smiled and said, "I honestly did not know..."

The young people who had passed the examination looked at him with complex expressions.

Especially, Wuwen Nianjing, her eyes were particularly profound.

If it was said that Wang Shouye did not have a strong backing, she would be the first not to believe it.

After all, her Yuwen Clan's Old Ancestor, who was a heavenly human, had personally intervened and gave Master Danding a generous gift. Her score was nearly identical to Wang Shouye's, yet she was usurped by him. Clearly, this was the result behind the manipulation of the Changning Wang Clan.

Wang Shouye looked nonplussed. Suddenly, he thought of a possibility.

Was all of this controlled by his fourth brother behind the scenes?

Looking at Wang Shouzhe from far away, he noticed that his fourth brother was as calm as ever, as if all of this was within his calculations.

Then, the most unacceptable reaction was from the Dongfang Clan. There,

Dongfang Bohua stood out and said, "It's impossible. It just can't be. Dongfang Yuxi from our family got first place in this examination. Why should this kid from the Wang Clan be selected?"

In extreme anger, his beard flared out like a furious old lion.

Gu Hanyu seemed to have anticipated this scene. Her beautiful eyes half-lidded, she calmly said, "Ancestor Bohua, please calm down. This was Master's wish."

Master Danding's wish?

Dongfang Bohua showed a hint of apprehension, but became excited almost immediately, "I demand to see Master Danding and ask him for an explanation." The tone of his words was almost accusatory towards Master Danding.



Gu Hanyu's face turned cold, she reprimanded firmly, "Ancestor Bohua, mind your words. Before the examination, the Master had declared that the examination would serve only as a reference. As to whom he would take as an apprentice, Master has his own judgment. You are in no position to interfere."

Her words were very blunt. After all, the Dongfang Family was only a declining 7th rank aristocratic family. Did they have any right to question a respectable master like Danding?

Dongfang Bohua's face turned red, he hastily bowed and explained, "Miss Hanyu, you might have misunderstood my meaning. I was just too shocked and lost my bearing."

Master Danding was easy-going. He may be tolerant, but he was still a respected master that must not be questioned by anyone. If he truly angered him, it would probably mean tough times ahead for the Dongfang Family.

This is the misery of a clan with insufficient power. No matter where they go, they always need to see other people's faces.

Also showing an unsightly expression, was Dongfang Yuxi, who previously ascertained to be the winner of the examination.

His face turned red then pale as he suppressed the rage welling up in him, "According to reason, I should naturally not question the Master's decision. However, I, Dongfang Yuxi, put so much effort into this examination."

"Since the Master chose Wang Shouye, there must be something unique about him. I would like to learn from Brother Shouye. No matter what the result is, I will undoubtedly accept it."

As his words fell, the crowd revealed varying expressions. Some were gloating, others were worried for the Wang clan.

After all, what Dongfang Yuxi said made sense. He merely wanted to learn from Wang Shouye. If Wang Shouye refused to accept the challenge, it wouldn't look good if it were to be announced to the masses and it would be even more damaging to the reputations of both Master Danding and the Changning Wang Clan.

However, Dongfang Yuxi was obviously picking an easy target. He didn't challenge Si Xinghai, nor did he challenge Qian Xuefu, clearly because he thought it would be easier to bully the 7th rank Changning Wang Clan.

All eyes then fell on Wang Shouzhe. As the current head of the Wang Clan, it was ultimately his call to accept or reject the challenge.

Wang Shouzhe swept his gaze over the two members of the Dongfang clan. He had used his connections to suppress them this time. Yet, that's how the world works. If it wasn't so, then why would he expend the effort to nurture his own network while expanding his family's power?

The Wang Clan had poured a lot into building their networks.

This wasn't just a game, it's not like you can get through just by slashing your way along.

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Of course, although network relationships are crucial, personal capability is also very important. Otherwise, what's so-called networking would just be a joke.

Because, fundamentally, networking is built upon the basis of mutual benefits. If you don't have the ability or potential, who would pay any attention to you?

Take this moment, for instance.

Every person in attendance is savvy. They certainly can guess which strings the Wang family had to pull to trigger Master Danding's involvement, so he had to save their faces.

But, then again, what does it matter?

The Wang family is just a newly promoted 7th-rank Aristocratic Family. Even if they worked strenuously to establish some contacts, amongst those present, other than those who are aware of some of their circumstances, who would really take the Wang family seriously?

Wang Shouzhe has been through ups and downs for two lifetimes, he had clearly seen the intentions of these people.

The previous use of connections was only so that he wouldn't be suppressed and bullied. Now, since the other party has directly provoked him, it's time to show what he's capable of, let everyone see the might of the Changning Wang Clan.

Seeing that everyone's gaze was fixed on him, he calmly put down his teacup, glanced over at Wang Shouye, and lightly said, "Shouye, since it has come to this, you shall have a match with him."

"Yes, Fourth Brother." Wang Shouye promptly cupped his fists obsequiously.

He took a deep breath and gathered some courage. Since his Fourth Brother had already agreed, he had no choice but to compete. At any cost, he would do his best.

Dongfang Yuxi's face brightened.

He did not expect that the Wang Family Head would be so easily enraged to the point where he agreed to the competition.

He immediately seized the opportunity, saying to Wang Shouye, "Little Brother Shouye, since we both are Alchemists at the Spirit Platform Realm, why not concoct a Level Three Spirit Pill, what do you think?"

Wang Shouye politely answered, "Brother Dongfang, in terms of Grade Three Dan medicine, I can only concoct Solid Yuan Pill, Enlightenment Pill, and Large Solid Yuan Pill."

In fact, there are many prescriptions for Level Three Dan medicine, but an alchemist's energy is limited, and most alchemists aren't capable of mastering all the prescriptions. After all, it's not an easy task to master the process of concocting a single type of pill.

Wang Shouye chose to focus on these pills based on the needs of his family.

"I did not expect little brother Shouye at such a young age could already concoct the Large Solid Yuan Pill." A look of admiration appeared on Dongfang Yuxi's face. "The Large Solid Yuan Pill is a

great thing, with wide applicability. If you make it well, it will yield a substantial profit. As it happens, I also have a bit of insight on concocting the Large Solid Yuan Pill.

Why don't we focus the competition on the Large Solid Yuan Pill, what do you think, Brother Shouye?"

Hearing this, Qian Xuefu's face changed slightly. He wanted to intervene, but he saw Wang Shouye had already nodded in agreement.

"So we'll go with Brother Dongfang's suggestion."

Qian Xuefu couldn't help but lament, "Brother Shouye, you agreed too quickly. You were fooled!~ Dongfang Yuxi has been making a living by selling Large Solid Yuan Pills because his family is impoverished. If you compete with him on this, you're certainly going to be at a disadvantage!~"

The Large Solid Yuan Pill is among the more expensive Level Three Spirit Pills. A batch's raw materials and other costs add up to about one thousand five hundred Qian Gold. However, the normal selling price of a Large Solid Yuan Pill is three hundred Qian Gold per piece. Therefore, a batch has to yield at least five pills just to break even.

Because it's expensive, a Level Three Alchemist only has limited opportunities to practice each year. Even if he carefully studies and digests the gains and losses after concocting each batch, hoping to understand as much as possible, his rate of progress won't be very fast.

"Dongfang Yuxi, you're much older than Shouye, aren't you?" Wuwen Nianjing also joined in, "The Large Solid Yuan Pill is difficult to concoct. It requires time and age to accumulate experience. At Shouye's age, the number of times he's concocted the Large Solid Yuan Pill must be far less than yours!"

Although she didn't pass the selection either, she was, after all, from Yuwen Clan, a strong Grade Six Prominent Families, and she had potential future development, so she didn't mind too much about the result of the selection.

"Mr. Qian, Miss Wuwen." Dongfang Yuxi dared not to offend the strong Rank Six and Fifth Grade Prominent Families, he played diplomatically, "Brother Shouye has gained the favor of Master Danding, he obviously has his own unique aspects, I just want to learn from him."

Just as Wuwen Nianjing was about to say something else, Wang Shouye cupped his hands and said, "Mr. Qian, Miss Wuwen, thank you for your righteous words. However, first, victories and defeats are common in the military, even if I lose, I will learn my weaknesses. Second, I also have some insights on the Large Solid Yuan Pill, I may not necessarily be able to win with other pills."

Watching from the side, Wang Shouzhe quietly nodded. His seventh brother's temperament was as gentle as jade from a young age, he did not like to go against people. However, he was extremely persistent in the art of alchemy, and had a lot of patience.

"Brother Shouye is right." Dongfang Yuxi laughed, "After all, it's just a friendly exchange. Please start as soon as possible."

Once both sides had agreed, Gu Hanyu had a brief discussion with Tian Yuan Danfang.

Tian Yuan Danfang has a massive scale, with Large Solid Yuan Pill being one of the routinely concocted medicines. The Great Steward of Danfang stated that there were two batches of Large Solid Yuan Pill nearly ready for the final stage, ready to enter the pill collection phase.

A batch of pill usually takes several days to prepare and construct, but the pill collection stage only takes two hours. However, those two hours are the most critical for testing an alchemist's skill. Success or failure, good or bad results of the pill, mostly fall within those two hours.

Given this, Gu Hanyu let them compete directly during the pill collection phase.

Under the arrangements of the principal of Tian Yuan Danfang, both men each entered a Dan Furnace Room, with young alchemist apprentices assisting them.

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It didn't last more than two hours.

Members of the Qian Family, the Yuwen Clan, and the young alchemists were unwilling to leave. They all rushed over to spectate, eager to witness the final result.

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Two hours later, the doors of both alchemy rooms opened virtually at the same time. Dongfang Yuxi and Wang Shouye emerged from inside.

The process of making the Large Solid Yuan Pill is very draining, both mentally and on the spiritual sense. Even though they were merely gathering the pills, they were both very tired after over two hours. They both had a weary look on their faces at this moment.

Seeing all the big shots had been waiting for a long time, they immediately surrounded them.

"Yuxi, how did it go?"

Old Ancestor Bohua asked in a low voice.

"Relax, Elder. I performed well this time. I'm certain we can win." Dongfang Yuxi's lips curled up in a slight smile, looking utterly confident, as if victory was already in his hands.

Old Ancestor Bohua was instantly relieved.

Upon hearing this, Wang Shouye looked ashamed, not daring to even meet Wang Shouzhe's eyes: "Brother, I didn't do well this time. I performed worse than usual. I'm sure I'm going to embarrass you... I think I was too nervous."

Wang Shouzhe paused for a moment, comforting him: "Don't worry. You're still young. There's plenty of room for growth in the future."

Wang Shouye felt no consolation from his words, instead hanging his head even lower. He was blaming himself, wondering how he could have failed at such a crucial moment.

"Hmph~"

Dongfang Yuxi let out an almost imperceptible scoff upon hearing their conversation.

If it weren't for the need to maintain the decorum of a prominent family in front of this large crowd, he would surely have ridiculed Wang Shouye thoroughly. Without any real skill, he dared to make a fool of himself. Did he think anyone could be an alchemist?

By defeating Master Danding's "disciple" this time around, he could prove that Master Danding was blind and elevate his own worth in the process.

At this moment, Gu Hanyu also came over to assess the results of the alchemy process.

"Miss Gu, this is the Large Solid Yuan Pill I've refined. Please examine it."

Dongfang Yuxi suppressed his distractions, held his box of pills with both hands, and respectfully handed it to Gu Hanyu.

Gu Hanyu took it, opened it up, and was surprised to raise an eyebrow at what she saw.

In the box held in her hands were seven Large Solid Yuan Pills, the size of human nails. They were perfectly round and had a greenish hue. In fact, they even faintly glowed. It was clear at first glance that they were of good quality.

"Seven pills, good quality." She looked back at Dongfang Yuxi, traces of admiration and regret in her eyes. "For someone your age to have such capabilities is quite impressive. It truly is a pity."

"Many thanks for your praises, Miss Gu."

Dongfang Yuxi smiled politely, simmering with bitter mockery inside his heart. Master Danding, oh Master Danding, I wonder if you will regret your lack of insight secretly?

My skills in alchemy promise me an achievement not inferior to yours in the future!

Usually, he could only produce five to six pills, and he might only make four when he was not in his best condition. Today, he managed to make seven pills. It's like he had a run of good luck.

The big shots present were also very surprised. They didn't expect Dongfang Yuxi to have such capabilities.

"To produce seven pills is the ability of a mature third-grade alchemist. He is still so young and already has such strength. It is truly remarkable." Elder Yuwen Jinghong of the Yuwen Clan couldn't help but express his deep admiration. "If we'd known he had such skill..."

At this point, he sighed. It was Master Danding's turf, after all; he couldn't voice his complete thoughts.

But those present were all shrewd men. How could they not understand what he meant?

Master Danding might regret not having taken Dongfang Yuxi as a disciple once he found out about this.

The big shots behind him, Qian Xuefu and Situ Nianjing, also couldn't help but shake their heads and sigh.

"Alas, what a pity~" Qian Xuefu lamented with regret. "Dongfang Yuxi isn't normally this good. He must have had a stroke of luck today."

Situ Nianjing looked anxious: "If Dongfang Yuxi's performance was a little bit worse, Shouye might have stood a chance. Now, hasn't Shouye already lost?"

The two of them were full of regret and couldn't help but look at Wang Shouye's face. But they saw that Wang Shouye was also full of shock and disorientation. It seemed as if he had encountered something difficult to understand, "This... something doesn't feel right."

"Brother Shouye."

Qian Xuefu thought Wang Shouye couldn't accept the reality of defeat and started to console him but was interrupted by Dongfang Yuxi.

"It's your turn, Brother Shouye."

Dongfang Yuxi gestured a polite salute to Wang Shouye. He appeared to be the perfect gentleman, but his eyes couldn't hide the smugness and expectation.

Wang Shouye finally snapped back to reality and quickly took out his pill box, holding it up to Gu Hanyu: "Big Sister Hanyu, please examine my pills."



Gu Hanyu had lost hope for Wang Shouye after seeing that Dongfang Yuxi had made seven Large Solid Yuan Pills.

But considering Wang Shouye's feelings, she didn't say anything. She received his pill box just like before and casually opened it. When she left Changning Town, Wang Shouye had only begun working with Large Solid Yuan Pills not long before.

Suddenly!

A box of Large Solid Yuan Pills that were neatly arranged was thrust into her sight.

Gu Hanyu was instantly stunned. Her beautiful eyes widened unconsciously. For a moment, she was slightly disoriented and felt as if she were living in a dream.

Dongfang Yuxi's expression also instantly froze, his eyes wide open. "How... How could this be? Impossible! No, this can't be real..."

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"Miss Gu, how many pills have you successfully created?" A few heavyweights, who were standing quite far away and had their view blocked by Dongfang Yuxi, couldn't help but ask curiously.

If it weren't for the fact that using Spiritual Sense within Danfang might cause misunderstandings, they were afraid they might have directly peeked at the situation using Spiritual Sense.

"Pills..." Gu Hanyu looked up and glanced at Wang Shouye in a peculiar way, "Eight. The quality is excellent."

"What?! Eight?! And they're excellent quality?"

The influential figures present were instantly shocked.

Yuwen Jinghong, Qian Jingde and the others exchanged glances, then looked at Wang Shouye oddly.

Eight successful pills was something only seasoned pill masters of the Third Grade could achieve.

Dongfang Yuxi, being able to concoct seven successful pills at the age of around thirty-seven, was already considered a genius. But Wang Shouye, who was even younger, could actually make eight successful pills. Wasn't this a bit too amazing?

How exactly had the Changning Wang Clan managed to nurture such a prodigy?

"Impossible!! There must be something wrong!"

At this point, Dongfang Yuxi finally snapped out of the huge shock that the eight pills brought him.

He grabbed the pill box and suspiciously picked up a pill to scrutinize it.

The pill in his hand, however, had a lustrous surface, emitted a faint glow, and even subtly released the scent of medicine, just like it was fresh out of the oven!

He nervously checked one pill after another, yet he couldn't find any issues whatsoever, causing his face to pale a little.

Out of character, he yelled at Wang Shouye, "You, you... didn't you say you didn't perform well?"

"Well... I really didn't perform well..." Wang Shouye scratched his head, looking wronged when faced with this angry questioning, "Usually, when I'm in good form, there's a high probability of producing nine pills. But this time, I was too nervous when extracting the pills, which affected my performance, so I only produced eight."

Eight successful pills due to underperformance, and he emphasized "only"?

Upon hearing these words, everyone present, except for Wang Shouzhe, looked extremely puzzled.

Dongfang Yuxi was even so angry that both his hands were shaking, and he almost spat out blood.

Nine successful pills in a session is the level of a top-tier Third Grade Pill Master!

With this level of skill, given his age and cultivation base, any Alchemy Grandmaster, let alone Master Danding, would be eager to accept him as a disciple if they knew about his results.

But he'd pretended as if he was about to lose and had deliberately played him for a fool. Did he think fooling others was fun?! Huh?! Was it entertaining?

"Ahem~ Brother Shouye, that's enough." Seeing Dongfang Yuxi in this state, Qian Xuefu couldn't help but feel a bit sympathetic towards him. He quietly nudged Wang Shouye, "Dongfang Yuxi is already on the verge of spitting blood from anger. Don't intentionally rile him up any further. Be careful, the Dongfang Family might hold you accountable if he dies from anger."

"Old Brother Qian, I didn't intentionally want to upset him..." Wang Shouye sheepishly said, "I've been solely focusing on alchemy these years, and no one has ever told me about the level of other people's alchemy skills... I genuinely did not expect his capabilities to be this weak."

"..." Qian Xuefu's mouth twitched uncontrollably from the shock. So, such a thing could actually happen? This kid had practiced and practiced, and before he realized it, he'd become invincible.

At that moment, Qian Xuefu genuinely felt a pang of sympathy for Dongfang Yuxi.

Poor Dongfang Yuxi, if he hadn't insisted on this competition, he would have been praised wherever he went, and people would have said it was a shame that he had been crowded out.

But no one could have predicted that Wang Shouye, who looked a bit simple and weak, had turned out to be an extraordinarily tough nut to crack. By kicking him, Dongfang Yuxi had basically broken his own foot.

Once today's events spread out, everyone would praise Master Danding for his discerning eye and knack for spotting talent. They'd also say that Dongfang Yuxi had overestimated himself, repeatedly harassing an opponent who was clearly superior and refusing to admit defeat.

The reputation that Dongfang Yuxi had painstakingly built up was instantly destroyed.

What left Qian Xuefu lost for words was the fact that the kid didn't even know his own strength...

Only Wang Shouzhe remained as calm and composed as ever.

Joking aside, his seventh brother, Wang Shouye, now possessed the Threefold Lihuo Bloodline. He had to refine more than a hundred batches of Large Solid Yuan Pills each year, and just the cost of raw materials was nearly two hundred thousand Qian Gold!

Moreover, he had been refining for several years, and he was far from making up for the loss. Hence, one can imagine that with such resources thrown in, even a pig would become a pill master!

Besides the Wang Clan, which family can afford to spend so much to cultivate an alchemist?

Chapter 13 Li Yao! I'm Coming to the Academic Palace\_1

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Perhaps it was Wang Shouye's "astonishing" declaration that was too shocking, as the people present at the scene looked somewhat bewildered for a moment, their faces an odd mixture of expressions, and the atmosphere slightly eerie.

However, the people present were all shrewd and worldly-wise, and the leading figures were quick to recover.

"Ha, ha, ha~ Master Shouzhe is indeed exceptional~ He has cultivated such an outstanding alchemist with such subtlety." Yuwen Jinghong laughed and bowed to Wang Shouzhe, "This young man's entry into Master Danding's disciple lineage will undoubtedly lead to great success in future. Congratulations~ Congratulations~"

At these words, the other leaders also grasped the situation and offered their congratulations to Wang Shouzhe. Their flattering words were filled with evident intentions of courting and alliance-building.

The speed at which they changed their attitudes, it was as if the previous disdain and stirrings were not their doing at all.

"Not at all~ Not at all~"

Wang Shouzhe was secretly thrilled, but he was not about to bring these people down at this moment. He humbly exchanged flatteries with them, always presenting himself as humble and polite, a picture of gracefulness, beyond any reproach.

The feelings of Qian Xuefu and Wuwen Nianjing at this moment were quite complex. On one hand, they were both somewhat speechless at Wang Shouye's "ignorance", on the other hand, they were genuinely happy for him.

Speaking of resources and wealth, Qian Xuefu was born into the Qian Family, a Prominent Family of the Purple Abode. Even if his family didn't lean heavily on him for resources, he had the foundation of a Prominent Family, so his resources were not worse than Wang Shouye's.

This showed that the gap in strength was not simply a matter of "resources".

Perhaps it was Wang Shouye's undisturbed devotion and focus that led to his current success~

Qian Xuefu admitted that he would never be able to achieve this.

"Brother Shouye, from today onwards, we will be brothers in the same sect." He quickly composed himself and joked to Wang Shouye, "Now, you as the elder brother, you'll have to take good care of me, the younger brother~"

"Don't say that, what ability do I have?" Wang Shouye scratched his head in embarrassment. Growing up, this was his first time experiencing such fanfare and he felt quite overwhelmed.

In a corner, Si Xinghai narrowed his eyes at Wang Shouye's back, his eyes revealing rare seriousness and scrutiny.

Gu Hanyu happened to glance at the interactions between the young people and smiled, feeling genuinely pleased for Wang Shouye.

When she guided Wang Shouye, she admired his earnestness to study, which prompted her to put in a good word for him. Wang Shouye's performance now proved that she made the right judgement.

Seeing the harmonious atmosphere around them and how the Prominent Family leaders, who had been surrounding the Dongfang Family just moments ago, quickly flocked to the Wang family, Dongfang Bohua found himself in an embarrassing situation, feeling extremely out of place.

At this moment, the Dongfang Family had essentially become a laughingstock.

He frowned tight, grabbed Dongfang Yuxi.

"Old Ancestor, I..." Dongfang Yuxi turned his head to look at his family's Old Ancestor, still bewildered. He hadn't recovered from the shock up until now.

"Let's go."

Seeing his state, Dongfang Bohua whose words of reprimand got stuck in his throat, could only drag him out.

At this time, there was no need for the Dongfang Family to stay. If they didn't leave now, did they want to remain and continue to be the laughingstock?

Soon, Dongfang Bohua and Dongfang Yuxi, along with the others who had accompanied them from the Dongfang Family, completely left Tian Yuan Danfang.

At the same time, Gu Hanyu received a message from Master Danding.

"Qian Xuefu, Sī Xīnghǎi, Wang Shouye, the three of you, come with me. Master wants to meet you." She called the three of them and bid farewell to the dignitaries present.

The dignitaries in attendance understood that it was time for the official apprentice ceremony.

Naturally, they wouldn't obstruct this, and after exchanging some polite words with Gu Hanyu, they watched the four individuals enter the inner hall.

"Sister Hanyu, what kind of person is Master?" Wang Shouye asked nervously as he followed behind Gu Hanyu, "Are there any special considerations to keep in mind when meeting him in a little while?"

On hearing this, both Qian Xuefu and Sī Xīnghǎi perked up their ears, though neither said anything.

Gu Hanyu chuckled, "Relax~ Aside from being strict when it comes to alchemy, Master is an easygoing person in other ways, and his personality is quite amiable."

While talking, the group had ventured deep into Tian Yuan Danfang and had stopped in front of a room.

"We're here, let's all go in~"

Gu Hanyu pushed open the door and walked in, followed quickly by Wang Shouye, Qian Xuefu, and Sī Xīnghǎi.

The room was surprisingly modest, without any extravagant decorations or elaborate furnishings. The only thing of note was a gigantic bookshelf against the wall, teeming with books of all colors.

Under the bright light, an elderly man in a grey robe was sitting behind a low table in the middle of the room, leisurely flipping through a book.

Clearly, this elderly man was Master Danding.

"Master," Gu Hanyu stepped forward, respectfully bowed, "they have arrived."

At her words, Master Danding put down the book in his hand and turned his gaze to the three men.

Qian Xuefu, Sī Xīnghǎi, Wang Shouye hurried forward and made a bow of great respect: "Greetings, Master."

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Under Gu Hanyu's guidance, the three of them stepped forward, each giving Master Danding a respectful cup of tea, before following the customary ritual of paying homage to him as their spiritual master. Only after this, seating themselves cautiously in their new master's presence, did they wait for ensuing questions.

"There are not so many rules here, you don't need to be overly formal." Master Danding glanced at the three of them, speaking in a neutral tone, "I already have a general idea of your alchemy capabilities. However, now that you have become my disciples, I need to understand more about your cultivation progress in order to give proper guidance. Please introduce your cultivation statuses."

With that, he turned his gaze to Qian Xuefu.

"You can go first."

"Yes, Master." Qian Xuefu respectfully complied, quickly introducing his cultivation situation, "I am 37 years old, and I am at Spirit Platform Realm Level Two. I have awakened the Lihuo Bloodline, and am currently at the Middle Segment of the Second Level."

Hearing this, Master Danding nodded in slight approval, expression fairly satisfied: "Very good."

Praised by his master, Qian Xuefu couldn't help but puff out his chest slightly, an unmistakable pride showing on his face.

Among his direct-line siblings, his talent was rather impressive; he had awakened his bloodline at birth. When he was in the Qi Refinement Realm, his great-grandfather Qian Jingde spent a fortune to buy a Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill for him, which elevated his bloodline up to the middle of Level One.

Without this intervention, he wouldn't have been supported and developed by the family to become an alchemist.

At present, his bloodline talent ranks highly amongst the whole younger generation of the Purple Abode Qian Clan, with only a few individuals of the direct line lineage slightly surpassing his abilities.

"I am 35 years old, at Spirit Platform Realm Level One, and I have also awakened the Lihuo Bloodline. Due to some previous fortunate encounters, I am at present at the High Segment of the Second Level." Sī Xīnghǎi recounted in an indifferent tone.

What?

High Segment of the Second Level?

Qian Xuefu's face fell immediately, his neck retracting as he didn't dare to say more.



"Very good, very good." Master Danding exclaimed with admiration, "Xinghai, as an independent cultivator, you have done well to come this far. I won't mention the bloodline for now, but your determination alone is not something others can compare to.

If you find a way to step into Level Three Bloodline in the Spirit Platform Realm, you won't be any worse than any of the top prodigies in the Academic Palace. As long as there is enough opportunity, there is a chance to step into the Purple Abode Realm."

"Thank you, Master, for your praise and kindness." Sī Xīnghǎi said, slightly moved, with his master's words, his future seemed paved with promise.

Being an alchemist involves heavy consumption, but it is also very profitable. Otherwise, Sī Xīnghǎi wouldn't have made it this far.

Finally.

Master Danding's gaze fell on Wang Shouye. His eyes flashed with admiration. Initially, he had accepted Wang Shouye as a disciple because of his decent examination results, and because the Commandery Prince personally recommended him.

But he did not expect Wang Shouye to be so promising. He had effortlessly defeated Dongfang Yuxi, regaining face for Master Danding.

"Shouye, tell me about your current state." Master Danding asked in a friendly tone. He had already decided that even if this boy's bloodline was a bit deficient, he would do whatever he could to help him elevate it.

"As you command, Master." Wang Shouye answered honestly, "Originally, my bloodline was quite ordinary, but my fourth brother found a way to upgrade my bloodline. I am now twenty-eight years old, at Peak Level One of the Spirit Platform Realm, with Third Level Lihuo Bloodline."

What?

Third Level Lihuo Bloodline?

Qian Xuefu looked a bit desolate. When he heard about the ordinary bloodline, he had felt a brief surge of relief. But then came the mention of the third level fire departure bloodline! This guy, always pushing people to the limit, he just wasn't content.

Sī Xīnghǎi was also stunned to the point of speechlessness, his eyes somewhat vacant, the last fragments of his pride shattered.

"Very good, very good!" Master Danding laughed heartily, "I did not expect to find such a gem! I picked up a disciple casually, only to discover he's a sky pride!"

Even Purple Abode masters would find it challenging to casually accept a Sky Pride as a disciple. After all, youngsters of the sky pride level are either talents of the Sacred Lands, or pillars of extraordinary families.

Though not every sky pride ultimately steps into the Purple Abode Realm, their chances are much higher compared to the lesser prodigies.

Wang Shouye couldn't help but feel amazed.

Now he finally understood how much effort his fourth brother had put into him, and he also realized how profound the foundation of their family was. After all, his bloodline was not considered prominent in his own family...

...

Almost simultaneously as Wang Shouye was being accepted as a disciple,

in Longzuo County, at the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

As one of the branches of Lingyun Holy Ground, Purple Abode Academic Palace has a transcendent status within Longzuo County. It covers a vast area, not only occupying a chain of Spiritual Mountain ranges with plentiful spirit veins but was also named after the Palace – the "Purple Abode Sacred Mountain".

Within the Sacred Mountain, apart from peaks and veins led by the Palace's masters, a variety of trial areas, herb gardens, alchemy halls, and spirit beast gardens, there are also many Palace buildings with various functions.

It is these complex buildings that form the foundation network of the whole Academic Palace.

In the region close to the entrance of the Palace, there is a group of old and charming buildings called the "Thousand Autumn Hall".

This Thousand Autumn Hall is an important administrative body of the Palace. Palace disciples receive and complete Palace tasks here, and also trade in their study points for resources.

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This Thousand Autumn Hall, accompanying generation after generation of Academic Palace disciples, has also witnessed countless disciples evolving from insignificant figures to influential individuals.

Outside the Thousand Autumn Hall.

There is a huge square paved with thick bluestone. On one side of the square, a large beast stable is built.

The stables are designed to accommodate the mounts of Academic Palace disciples. For a small amount of study points, mounts are professionally fed and taken care of. Students who do not own mounts can rent Spirit Mounts from the stables in their quests to complete tasks or visit home, which make their journeys faster.

The variety of beast mounts ranges from the majestic and elegant spirit horses of all kinds to the gigantic and stable spirit cows of various colors, including camels, elephants, and even turtles, as well as the extremely rare flying mounts.

Each spiritual platform and sect occupy vast territories scattered throughout the Sacred Mountain. Ordinary horses can't adapt to complex terrains nor do they meet the speed demands of Academic Palace disciples. Due to these reasons, Spirit Beast mounts have become their first choice for travel.

However, the price of spirit beast mounts is prohibitive, making them unaffordable for most disciples.

Under such circumstances, Academic Palace disciples can rent spirit beast mounts from their school. One study point allows a month-long rental, which can save a lot of time.

However, some student disciples are so strapped for cash that they can't even afford to rent a spirit mount, leaving them with no choice but to rely on their own movement techniques to travel.

Lu Xianghui hails from a small and insignificant 9th Rank Aristocratic Family in Guard City.

After hundreds of years of development, the land within Guard City is home to many prominent families. The lowest-ranking families fight a hard battle for survival due to entrenched class structures and clearly allocated interests.

Most of these lesser families are somewhat reliant on 8th Rank families and act as part of their production chains, taking charge of planting and supplying raw materials in order to survive.

Similarly, the 8th Rank families are often dependent on 7th Rank families, forming a part of their production chains.

This clear hierarchical structure leads to distinct higher and lower classes.

For lower-ranking families to climb the social ladder, it's significantly more challenging than in remote cities like Changning.

Therefore, for many lesser families, the Academic Palace becomes a path to prominence. If someone from their family manages to secure a high position in the Academic Palace, the entire family will have more opportunities for social mobility.

Since he was little, Lu Xianghui had an outstanding bloodline talent and ranked at the peak of lower Class A. Due to this, his family scrimped and saved to provide whatever support they could to cultivate him.

Fortunately, Lu Xianghui didn't disappoint everyone's hopes. Four years ago, he made his way through the selections in Guard City and passed successfully. Later, he passed the retest in Purple Abode Academic Palace, becoming an honored general student in the Academic Palace.

Lu Xianghui used his movement technique to traverse the steep mountain road at an impressive speed.

Every stride he took covered several yards, his body dragging along a faint blue shadow.

This was a top-quality movement technique of the Tian Lake School from the Purple Abode Academic Palace – the Water flow shadow method.

This wasn't a speed-based technique but when practiced to a high degree, it could make one appear formless like flowing water, even creating illusory shadows of running water – an incredibly powerful method of movement.

In the years since enrolling in the Academic Palace, Lu Xianghui worked hard to cultivate while also actively taking on tasks from the school. From running errands to the simple tasks of tilling, harvesting, and repairing spirit fields, he earned about thirty to forty study points per year.

However, don't underestimate these thirty to forty study points. In accordance with the value of the Academic Palace study points, each point is worth about ten Qian Gold. Lu Xianghui managed to secure a foothold in the school with his study points and the annual allowance of about 200 Qian Gold provided by his family.

In addition, he saved some study points to exchange for Tian Lake School's Qi Refining Chapter of the True Verses of Primordial Water and the first two layers of the Water flow shadow method and Spirit Shield techniques.

At his current rate, he is expected to complete the long road of Qi Refinement by the age of 38 or 39, and then eligible to apply for breakthrough materials like the Heavenly Spirit Pill from the school.

Of course, this precious breakthrough supply won't be granted for free, and the Academic Palace offers it on credit in the form of study points. But once reaching the Spirit Platform Realm and significantly improving his abilities, earning study points should be easier and he should eventually be able to pay off the debt.

By then, he would be able to discreetly support the development of his family. As his family continues to prosper, the support they can provide him would increase, creating a virtuous cycle.

Consequently, Lu Xianghui's life at the school is filled with ambition and drive.

Among various tasks, he enjoyed taking on errand tasks the most, as they compensated him while simultaneously helping him to practice his Water flow shadow method.

Since Tian Lake School is quite a distance away from the Thousand Autumn Hall, his fellow students often asked him to take care of their errands when they want to exchange something.

When he was seven or eight yards away from the Thousand Autumn Hall's square, Lu Xianghui's speed suddenly surged, and a long light blue water-like shadow was drawn out as he landed steadily on the thick bluestone floor.

"Huff~"

Lu Xianghui exhaled deeply, revealing a satisfied smile. After more than two years of diligent practice, he had fully mastered the first layer of the water flow shadow method. Now, his focus would shift to practicing the second layer, which would enhance his speed for errand-running.

"Lu Junior Brother, congratulations. Not only has your cultivation base reached the mid-level of the seventh rank in Qi refinement, but you've also mastered the first layer of the water flow shadow method," a tall and robust young man not too far off spoke cheerfully.

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Lu Xianghui looked toward the voice and greeted politely, "It's Senior Brother Jiang from Changchun Valley. Looking at your calm presence and refined grace, I suspect you're already at Level Eight of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. Congratulations, Senior Brother Jiang."

This Senior Brother Jiang was named Jiang Kangpeng, roughly around twenty-four or twenty-five, and had entered the academy three years before him. Though they were not from the same lineage, they had become acquainted due to shared interest in undertaking small tasks within the academy.

Jiang Kangpeng was a kind person who had given Lu Xianghui lots of guidance and assistance in the early days, which Lu Xianghui still remembered gratefully.

The two of them headed to the Thousand Autumn Hall, chatting along the way.

In the Thousand Autumn Hall, as usual, a crowd of academy disciples had gathered to receive their tasks and exchange their study points.

Because a triennial inter-academy contest was held recently, there was an unusual number of disciples exchanging study points. As there were some disciples in the hall who had taken leave, the hall was momentarily overwhelmed. There they waited, scattered in groups of three or four, chatting and laughing among themselves.

With numerous disciples in the academy, and each peak and lineage operating independently, there were always amusing or newsworthy events happening each day, leaving no shortage of topics to discuss.

However, their most frequent topic of conversation remained the recently-held inter-academy contest.

Before each intake of new disciples, the academy hosts an intra-academy contest to test the learning outcomes of the disciples. The winning lineage gets the privilege of selecting some of the most promising new disciples of their choice.

Moreover, following the contest, the disciples from each peak and lineage can receive study points rewards based on their performance. Some who perform exceptionally well might be selected by a master to become a Core Disciple, or even a Direct Disciple.

As a result, those who performed well and scored well naturally became the center of attention. Especially the core disciples from each peak and lineage, they were the main focus of everyone's attention.

"In this contest, Senior Brothers Zongsheng and Jianye from Mysterious Ice Palace stole the show again. In my opinion, Mysterious Ice Palace's next core disciple will probably be chosen from the two of them."

"Also, Senior Brother Lexian from Tian Lake School of the Primordial Water performed spectacularly in the contest. I was there watching during the contest... His strength was truly commendable! Core Disciples are indeed in a league of their own, we are no match for them."

"I heard that Master Yuan Shui plans to take a Direct Disciple this year. Isn't Senior Brother Lexian's dedication in the contest for the Direct Disciple position? I think he has a high chance of achieving his goal this time."

A few young disciples gathered together to share their observations and experiences from the previous day, their faces ablaze with awe and excitement.

"What a shame that the Direct Disciples didn't participate in the contest, otherwise, we could have seen their prowess up close." One disciple sighed regretfully.

Another disciple sneered, "If the Direct Disciples participated in the contest, would the Core Disciples have had a chance to shine? And the reward for first place in the group under sixty years old is only three hundred study points, what use would that be for a Direct Disciple?"

"I've heard that Direct Disciples in the Spirit Platform Realm are granted one hundred study points every month, which is more than what we can earn in a year. Even the Core Disciples in the Spirit Platform Realm receive a fixed allowance of thirty study points each month. If not for the race to secure the position of a Direct Disciple, they would not have participated so eagerly in the contest."

Lu Xianghui and Jiang Kangpeng were standing in the crowd, listening to this conversation with both excitement and anticipation. Sadly, they were still at the Vital Energy Refining Realm and not eligible to participate in the contest.

However, considering their qualifications and strengths, even if they reach the Spirit Platform Realm and participate in the contest, they would only be bit-part players. For a disciple to truly shine in the contest, they would at least need to be an excellent disciple in the Spirit Platform Realm with a Double Bloodline.

As the disciples continued to chat among themselves,

Suddenly, a massive elephant-like spirit mount stepped onto the square, causing the ground to tremble with each step.

Lu Xianghui's eyes lit up, "Isn't that Senior Brother Zhang Xiuping from Leisure Peak with his spirit mount, the Ancient Blood Spiritual Elephant?"

Zhang Xiuping was the Core Disciple of Leisure Peak, already at Level Four in the Spirit Platform Realm. However, as he was over sixty years old, he no longer participated in the triennial contests.



Despite this, his name still echoed loudly through the academy. At over sixty years of age, he had already reached the Mid Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm; it seemed inevitable that he would reach the Heavenly Human Realm in the coming future.

He was naturally one of the idols many young disciples admired.

After leaving his Ancient Blood Spiritual Elephant behind, Zhang Xiuping set off for the Thousand Autumn Hall. Many greeted and saluted him respectfully along the way.

In his earlier years, Zhang Xiuping was competitive and enjoyed practicing martial arts against others. Now, he was much more reserved, and would nod in response to salutes from Vital Energy Refining Realm disciples.

Just as Lu Xianghui was saluting Zhang Xiuping, he suddenly heard a sweet voice beside his ear, "Excuse me, senior brother, are you a disciple from the Tian Lake School of the Primordial Water?"

Lu Xianghui quickly turned his head, only to find an ordinary looking girl greeting him.

"Greetings, junior sister." Lu Xianghui returned the greeting, "My name is Lu Xianghui, I am indeed an ordinary disciple of Tian Lake School of Primordial Water, may I ask where you are from, junior sister?"

After a brief glance, he couldn't figure out her cultivation base, assuming that she must be using concealment equipment.

"My name is Wang Liyao, I am a prospective disciple preparing to join the academy this year." Said the "plain-looking" Wang Liyao, in a polite manner.

The "ordinary-looking" Wang Liyao was naturally Wang Shouzhe's beloved daughter.

Chapter 14: Prestige! Return of the Twin Beauties

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"A new disciple? Congratulations, junior sister..." After congratulating Wang Liyao, Lu Xianghui looked slightly puzzled and said, "However, isn't the new disciple recruitment meet still a few days away?"

"That's why I said, I haven't officially joined the Academic Palace yet." Wang Liyao spoke up, "I wanted to take a look around before joining, especially to see the Primordial Water Heavenly Lake. I saw that Senior Brother Lu is wearing the uniform of the Heavenly Lake School, so I was wondering if you could serve as a guide? Don't worry, you won't be helping for nothing, here are the guide fees."

With that, Wang Liyao handed him a Qian Gold Note.

"One hundred Qian Gold?" Lu Xianghui was taken aback, hurriedly shaking his head, "That's too much, too much, purely as a guide, two Qian Gold would suffice for a day. However, since you haven't joined the Academic Palace, I can't casually take you there."

"No worries about that, I've got an Academic Palace Pass Order, I can visit every mountain and lineage." Wang Liyao said, "You can keep this Qian Gold, the excess can be used to rent a couple of Spirit Mounts, it could also be used to talk more about the interesting stories of the Primordial Water Heavenly Lake."

To her, one hundred Qian Gold really was nothing, normally eating a Large Solid Yuan Pill alone would cost three hundred Qian Gold.

"This..." Lu Xianghui initially checked the pass permit conscientiously, then confidently took the Qian Gold and said, "Then I accept this task, but I ask Sister Wang to wait a moment, I need to first hand over a few tasks at the Thousand Autumn Hall, and pick up some messages for a few of my senior brothers and sisters."

"No problem, I am just looking around casually, I'm in no rush." Wang Liyao spoke, "It's good for me to get acquainted with the handover process too, I will definitely need it in the future."

Wang Liyao's early arrival was intended to see the Purple Abode Academy from an independent perspective, as well as to observe the underlying world of the Heavenly Lake School.

Her life had been settled by her parents from an early age. During this recruitment period, the Heavenly Master would directly take her as a direct disciple. By that time, there would be no chance to view the Heavenly Lake from a low angle.

A direct Disciple would everywhere become the center of attention, it would be unlikely that others would interact without being defensive.

Furthermore, Wang Liyao had been independent-minded since childhood, she preferred to observe the world herself and have her own opinions. This behavior was within reason.

Lu Xianghui, on the other hand, began faithfully performing his duties as a guide, introducing various aspects of the Thousand Autumn Hall to Wang Liyao as they walked.

As they passed by Zhang Xiuping, Zhang Xiuping suddenly trembled slightly, instinctively sensing a thrill of intuition.

He looked around in confusion but couldn't see anything unusual.

This left his brow furrowed. Could it be that he had secluded himself for too long and his mind had become muddled?

Just then.

Suddenly.

A piercing cry of a crane echoed through the clouds and resonated across the mountain peak.

In the cry of the crane, a giant Vermilion Crowned Crane towing a flying carriage spiraled down from the clouds and steadily descended to the square in front of the Thousand Autumn Hall.

This Vermilion Crowned Crane, with its slender skeleton and beautiful figure, moved elegantly and gracefully with each flutter of its wings, like dancing in the sky, and instantly attracted the attention of many.

Behind it, the carriage-like flying carriage as a whole exuded a faint flowing light, especially dazzling under the sunlight.

This flying carriage is a unique means of transportation within the academy. The Vermilion Crowned Cranes that pull the carriages are proud by nature and only the Beast Tamers within the academy know how to train them.

Even within the academy, only direct disciples have the privilege to use the flying carriage when leaving the academy for tasks. For the academy disciples, it is not just a means of transportation, it is a symbol of status.

The direct disciples of the academy are few, and most of them are not in the academy. As soon as the Vermilion Crowned Crane flying carriage appeared, the disciples near the Thousand Autumn Hall were immediately excited.

It must be a direct disciple coming back from a task.

"How imposing it is." Lu Xianghui, looking at the slowly descending flying carriage from afar, was filled with excitement, "I have been in the academy for three years, and haven't seen a direct disciple yet."

Even Zhang Xiuping paused, looking a little curious.

Which senior brother direct disciple has returned at this time?

As the crowd buzzed, the Vermilion Crowned crane and the flying carriage finally landed in the square outside the Thousand Autumn Hall. The slim and slender bird's claw cushioned a few steps on the ground and the carriage quickly stopped.

Under the sunlight, the black and white feathers of the Vermilion Crowned Crane looked as if they were covered with a layer of luster, the colors gleaming like jade, making its aura particularly noble and elegant.

The flowing brilliance on the flying carriage, and the formation aura it emitted, became increasingly impressive.

As the flying carriage would land, two graceful figures flew out from inside the carriage and landed lightly on the square.

One of the two women was dressed in a dark color and was very beautiful, giving off a vibrant aura. The other, dressed in a light purple long skirt, has a reserved aura and carries a big cage on her back, they were none other than Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu, the two sisters.

Both of them were mid-stage cultivators in the Spirit Platform Realm. Even if they didn't deliberately exert their power, they naturally carried a kind of imposing aura peculiar to powerful individuals.

"It's junior sisters Luo Jing and Luoqiu." At the same time, Zhang Xiuping was slightly surprised and couldn't help but bitterly smile, these two junior sisters were truly pride of the heavens.

It took him, Zhang Xiuping, more than forty years to step into the mid-stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm in the academy. Yet these two genius junior sisters were only in their early thirties and had already caught up with his progress.

He even feared that by the time they advanced to the Heavenly Human Realm, whether or not he, Zhang Xiuping, could reach the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm would still be a question!

#### Chapter 14: Prestige! Return of the Twin Beauties

The differences between people really are vast.

"It turns out that it's Fifth Aunt and Sixth Aunt," Wang Liyao muttered quietly, fortunate to have used the disguise technique she learned from Aunt Mei to slightly alter her looks.

Otherwise, her plan to secretly visit the Academic Palace would have fallen through.

...

"We greet Senior Sister Luo Jing and Senior Sister Luo Qiu."

Over the years in the Academic Palace, the pair built a strong reputation with their formidable strength and exceptional cultivation speed. Seeing them now, the disciples of the Academic Palace were well-behaved without exception.

Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu, although they were direct disciples, were not aloof or distant. They nodded their heads in return to the greetings.

Even Zhang Xiuping respectfully offered a greeting, "Sister Luo Jing, Sister Luo Qiu, I trust you've been well."

"We greet Senior Brother Xiuping." Luo Jing and Luo Qiu courteously responded, engaging briefly in friendly banter.

At that moment, the manager disciple inside the Thousand Autumn Palace rushed out to greet them.

"Senior Sister Luo Jing, Senior Sister Luo Qiu, what may I assist you with?" The attentive manager disciple bowed to the two and asked.

Wang Luo Jing glanced at Luo Qiu.

Wang Luoqiu casually took over the conversation. She reached into her pocket, pulled out three tokens, and handed over a large package, "We are turning in a task."

"Understood. Please wait a moment, Senior Sisters, I'll handle the procedures for you right away."

The manager disciple in charge quickly grabbed the items and briskly entered the inner hall to handle the paperwork.

The two women leisurely followed him into the hall.

Because of their status as direct disciples, they enjoyed many privileges in the Academic Palace. Not only could they utilize points to call on a flying carriage, there were also many places in the palace where they had priority, and they did not need to queue like ordinary disciples.

The other disciples were accustomed to this, and no one felt jealous. Instead, they curiously craned their necks, trying to figure out what task the two women had completed.

By now, the manager disciple had checked over the tasks represented by the tokens and examined the package's content.

A look of surprise crossed his face. He paused for a moment before announcing, "Direct disciples Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing have successfully captured and killed the independent cultivators known as 'Flower Scorpion', 'Poison Fang', and 'Bamboo Tiger'. In total, they are awarded eleven thousand points."

Upon hearing this, the other disciples present were full of amazement and admiration.

"Impressive!" Lu Xianghui, their guide exclaimed. "As expected of our senior sisters. They not only eliminated three infamous cultivators from the bounty list, but one of them was even Flower Scorpion, the 19th on the blacklist."

"Dealing with Flower Scorpion is no easy task. Before, Brother Hongjin from the Mysterious Ice Palace took on this task. After finally tracking down the target, he was tricked and the target escaped. As a result, Hongjin brother lost face and hid for several months."

"To think that this Flower Scorpion would finally fall under the powerful hands of Senior Sisters Luo Jing and Luo Qiu."

The disciples of the Academic Palace were full of admiration. Their excitement was evident.

Watching from the side, pride flickered within Wang Liyao's clear eyes. So, her aunts were so commanding and formidable in the Academic Palace. When they usually returned for family visits, there was no hint of their dominating presence.

The life in the Academic Palace really is different from the family, there's a much larger platform to showcase their abilities.

Amidst the buzzing discussions, the manager disciple had quickly finished the registration.

He took out the spiritual artifact used for tracking points and respectfully asked Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing to bring out their direct disciples identity cards. As he proceeded with the records, he turned to the pair with a question, "Would you like to distribute the reward points evenly as before?"

"Yes."

Wang Luoqiu nodded.

This time, they cooperatively killed three independent cultivators, each garnering five thousand five hundred points. This was just enough for her to exchange for the Cultivation Method, "True Martial Body Tempering Mantra (Level Three)" and the corresponding spiritual medicine for tempering the body. Her "True Martial Body Tempering Mantra" can now advance to the third level.

When she first joined the Academic Palace, her master Xuan Yao noticed that her awakened bloodline was special; her War Body bloodline was slanted towards the element of Primordial Water.

So, apart from the cultivation technique "Mysterious Void True Verses" as her main cultivation, he also selected another supplementary body tempering technique known as "True Martial Body Tempering Mantra" for her.

The "True Martial Body Tempering Mantra" consists of nine levels, and it's said that after reaching full mastery, one would possess a physical strength equivalent to that of a divine treasure.

However, due to a late start and shorter practice time, she has so far only cultivated to the second level and is not particularly powerful yet.

If she could break through to the third level this time, her physical strength could be compared to a typical spiritual artifact. Then, even without using any weapons, she could break mountains and split stones with her bare hands.

As her thoughts flew swiftly, the manager disciple of Thousand Autumn Palace had already transferred the reward points into their identity cards.

Wang Luoqiu thanked the manager disciple and left the Thousand Autumn Palace with Wang Luo Jing.

"I'm going to the Pill Hall to exchange for some Large Solid Yuan Pills for cultivation practice," spoke Wang Luo Jing, who was always succinct. Although the family would send some Large Solid Yuan Pills every year, they were still insufficient to cover the cost of accelerated cultivation.

"I won't be joining you." said Wang Luoqiu, "I will go to the Mysterious Ice Palace to find Zongsheng, then head back to Leisure Peak. Uncle Yong will be here in two days. I need to hand



over the spiritual artifacts and cultivation techniques collected from those three to Zongsheng so he can send them back to our clan and exchange them for family contribution points."

Although the Academic Palace also recycles spiritual artifacts and cultivation techniques, the palace wasn't particularly in need of them, and their quoted price was lower than the market price. In contrast, their clan was in a booming developmental stage and lacked resources, so these spiritual artifacts and techniques could be sent back to increase the clan's power.

Of course, their share of the family contributions wouldn't be forgotten either.

Every time Uncle Yong arrived, he would bring along the spirit pills and pocket money provided by their clan, and they could also exchange their saved family contributions for various items according to their needs.

On the whole, this was their way of giving back to the clan.

As they were speaking, they were about to split up at the square.

Suddenly, a piece of news shocked them both.

Some of the newly arrived disciples around them were discussing an incident that had just occurred.

The two sisters initially paid no attention, but upon hearing a familiar name, they immediately stopped one of the disciples to ask: "What are you discussing?"

"Sister Luoqiu, Sister Luo Jing," the disciple greeted respectfully before explaining: "I just heard about it too. Apparently, Senior Brother Yu Hang from the Tian Lake School of Primordial Water returned about two hours ago. It's said that he was severely injured on the foreign battlefield and was almost dead when he was brought back.

Master Primordial Water specifically invited Master Changchun to treat him."

"I see. You may go now~"

Wang Luoqiu nodded, dismissively waved the disciple away. However, her face was no longer as relaxed as before.

Senior Brother Yu Hang was the second senior brother of the Tian Lake School and one of Master Primordial Water's most valued disciples, with a cultivation base at the advanced stage of the Heavenly Human Realm.

Although she had never met him, his reputation was well known in the Academic Palace, with many disciples admiring him like an idol.

However, she never expected that her first opportunity to see Senior Brother Yu Hang would be under such circumstances.

This foreign battlefield...

"Something must have happened on the foreign battlefield." Wang Luo Jing also shared her concern, speaking with a serious look on her face.

"Unfortunately, since I'm only at the Spirit Platform Realm, even if I ask, our master probably won't tell." Wang Luoqiu frowned, torn between frustration at her own lack of power and worry about the possible happenings on the foreign battlefield.

Having been at the Academic Palace for many years, she knew well the significance of the foreign battlefield. Any changes could potentially affect the entire human society.

She hated her own powerlessness, unable to do anything about it.

"Either way, let's head to Tian Lake School first to check things out~" Wang Luo Jing suggested. "We also need to gather some information to prepare for the future."

"Okay."

Wang Luoqiu nodded, not arguing with Luo Jing for once. This matter was affecting her s well. It wasn't until she came to the Academic Palace that she realized the world was far more complex than she had thought.

## Chapter 15: Primordial Water Heavenly Lake! Li Yao has arrived \_1

...

Primordial Water Celestial Mountain.

This mountain stands tremendously high with abundant vegetation covering its slopes and casting thick shadows. A wide mountain path winds its way up from the foot of the mountain, leading all the way to the Heavenly Lake of the Primordial Water.

Golden sunlight filters through the dense forest, casting specks of light onto the winding path.

The path is paved with dark poulder stones. These stones, having been trodden on year after year, now bear indents and are covered in cracks, from which ruthless green moss pushes through, bringing out a jade-like sheen under the sunlight.

"Clump~" "Clump~" "Clump~"

A rhythmic clatter of hooves arises.

Two robust, azure Spirit Cows appear on the mountain path.

These Spirit Cows are both of exotic breeds, with ink-black hooves and crystal-clear eyes. Their stride is incredibly sturdy, and they move faster than average Spirit Cows.

On their back ride a man and a woman.

The two riders are none other than Wang Liyao and her guide, Lu Xianghui.

"Junior sister, our Primordial Water Heavenly Lake lineage is one of the oldest and most powerful within the Academic Palace. However, our lineage has always kept a low profile, hence our fame is somewhat shadowed by the Mysterious Ice Palace."

"Our Master of the Primordial Water school, is directly taught by the Academy Principal. The Principal has been in retreat for many years and is no longer involved in administrative matters,

which are now mostly handled by the Primordial Water Master. Junior sister, there are indeed many benefits if you can join our Primordial Water Heavenly Lake lineage."

While leading the Spirit Cow, Lu Xianghui expounded on the nature of the Primordial Water Heavenly Lake lineage to Wang Liyao.

During their conversation, they passed a massive ancient tree with an exceptionally thick canopy.

Lu Xianghui pointed at the tree and remarked, "This is the Fusang Spiritual Wood. It was planted 1,300 years ago by the Principal. Of all the hundreds of trees planted at the same time, only this one still exists."

"This white stone has been jokingly termed the 'Commitment Stone' by fellow disciples. It is rumoured that Master Wan and Sister Qiao pledged their love for each other here."

"During the summer nights, lots of fireflies can be seen here. A number of older female students and junior sisters like to come here to practice their sword skills."

"And, there is a grove ahead, which was a Rhododendron grove. But it was destroyed during a sibling's show down a decade ago, and was then replaced by a Plum grove, which is why it is shorter than the surrounding trees."

The Primordial Water Heavenly Lake lineage has a long history, and every piece of grass and tree on the mountain has its own story. As they made their way, Wang Liyao listened to numerous anecdotes from Lu Xianghui, her eyes were opened to many new perspectives.

While talking, the two had already left the plum grove, and other figures started to appear sporadically on the mountain path ahead.

A gentle breeze rustled the tree shadows, streaks of misty moisture wafted in.

"The intensity of the Water Aura in the surrounding atmosphere has increased," Wang Liyao with her strikingly keen senses, raised an eyebrow, "Are we close?"

"Junior sister, you are truly sharp," Lu Xianghui laughed, "Once we pass the grove ahead, we would be at the Heavenly Lake of the Primordial Water. At our current pace, we should reach in another fifteen minutes at most."

As he said this, his heart is filled with a deeply hidden awe. The Spirit Mount is truly fast.

Usually, when he travels using movement techniques, he has to take a break after every quarter of an hour. The journey from the Thousand Autumn Hall to here typically takes a full day, how could it be so quick?

It seems like he has truly benefited from the presence of his junior female disciple today.

Fifteen minutes passed quickly.

After passing a towering black rock on their Spirit Cows, Wang Liyao's eyes suddenly lit up as the surrounding trees became sparser, and the sunlight grew brighter.

A little further and the view suddenly cleared up. A vast expanse of blue suddenly came into view.

It was a colossal, azure lake.

The sunlight pouring down made the smooth surface of the lake shine as brilliantly and translucently as a sapphire. As gentle breezes blew, ripples appeared on the lake surface, casting off countless specks of floating light and scattering the reflection of the blue sky and white clouds, creating even more fluid brilliance.

In the sky, there were even faint traces of luminous strands, flowing softly like silken ribbons. Ever-changing in color and shape, they wove into myriad strange illusions.

All these in front of her, formed a grand canvas, radiating an unreal yet stunning beauty.

The overwhelming beauty was so stunning that Wang Liyao couldn't help but widen her eyes slightly, left speechless by the spectacle.

"What do you think? Beautiful isn't it?"

With a flip of the reins, Lu Xianghui led the Spirit Cow a few steps forward, his face brimming with proud satisfaction. Just like Wang Liyao was now, he too had once been on the receiving end of such an awe-inspiring shock when he first saw the lake. Thus, he understood her feelings well.

"The Heavenly Lake of the Primordial Water, indeed lives up to its reputation."

At his words, Wang Liyao pulled herself back to reality, taking a deep breath, her expression filled with emotion.

Her home's Zhuwei Lake, though beautiful, was incomparable with the sight before her eyes.

The beauty of Zhuwei Lake, filled with poetic charm, while the beauty before her, the Heavenly Lake, is like a gem that had fallen from the heavens into the world. It possessed an ethereal and pure beauty, untouched by the mundanity of the secular world. As such, it seemed extra pure and untouchable.

Apart from the picturesque scene, she was also astounded by the density of Spiritual Energy surrounding her.

The Spiritual Energy here was several leagues denser than at her home.

Merely standing here, every breath she took was infused with the dense Water Aura. The feeling of being permeated by the Water Aura was extremely soothing and pleasant.

Chapter 15: Primordial Water Heavenly Lake! Li Yao has arrived \_2

Under the Heavenly Lake of Primordial Water, there must be a powerful Spirit Vein.

"What is that floating light in the sky?"

At this time, Wang Li Yao had also recovered from her shock. She pointed to the floating light in the sky and asked.

"Oh, that is the Water Curtain Sky." Lu Xianghui explained, "This is the guardian formation of the Tian Lake School. It is daytime now, so it's not very clear. However, at night, the floating lights in the sky flow like the Milky Way. It is ten times more beautiful than it is now."

"I see."

Wang Li Yao understood.

As they spoke, they had already ridden the Spirit Cows to the lakeside.

Not far from the lakeside, there was a ferry dock. A medium-sized ferry boat was docked at the pier. Several young people wearing the disciple uniforms of the Tian Lake School were in line to register and board the boat.

"Even though the entire Mountain of Primordial Water belongs to the Tian Lake School, our usual cultivation and study spots are actually located on an island in the middle of the lake. The palace of our Master of Primordial Water is also on this Lake Heart Island."

Lu Xianghui tied the two Spirit Cows to the animal railings on the shore and led Wang Li Yao towards the lake. As they walked, he explained.

"Soon we will take the ferry boat over. Once we reach the island, I will introduce you to it. Trust me, you will not regret joining the Tian Lake School."

As they spoke, they had already arrived at the ferry.

Lu Xianghui registered his identity with familiarity, and let Wang Li Yao show her pass token to the disciples in charge. He then led her onto the ferry and sat near the ship's side.

This ferry was not much different from the ones in Peace River. After Wang Li Yao had taken her seat, she turned her attention back to the lake outside.

Soon, the ferry set off.

Halfway through, Wang Li Yao's gaze suddenly fell on the lake: "Hmm? What is that?"

On the lake, there were many large and small black dots swimming. Their shape and silhouette were incredibly similar to the Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise her family kept. This made her feel both familiar and comforted.

Besides, she noticed that there were even people standing on top of two tortoises. It appeared they were using them as mounts.

"Oh, you mean the Primordial Water Spirit Turtles~" Lu Xianghui peered out and instantly understood, "Our Heavenly Lake of Primordial Water is home to a large group of Primordial Water Spirit Turtles. Many of our seniors use these turtles as mounts. You'll get used to seeing this."

Wang Li Yao was a bit surprised: "But there are so many. There must be at least a hundred here."

It was not surprising that the Academic Palace kept Spirit Beasts, but the number of Primordial Water Spirit Turtles was truly astonishing.

"Sister disciple might not know~" Lu Xianghui answered with a proud smile, "A Level Seven Divine Spirit Tortoise lives in our Heavenly Lake of Primordial Water. These turtles are its clansmen and descendants. Because of the protection of the Old Turtle, these Spirit Turtles practically rule the lake, and even the disciples of the Academic Palace don't dare to provoke them easily."

"However, there are many among these Spirit Turtles that are quite friendly. Occasionally, some disciples get lucky or demonstrate exceptional ability and win the favor of a Spirit Turtle, allowing them to take one as their mount." He pointed at the two tortoises with people on their backs floating in the lake, "Both of them are Core Disciples of our Tian Lake School."

Numerous disciples in the Academic Palace are envious of them~"

"I see."

Wang Li Yao realized and felt a sense of amazement.

Her family at Wang's kept one Primordial Water Spirit Turtle, which had already attracted the envy of many prominent families. She didn't expect that the Heavenly Lake of Primordial Water harbored such a large group.



A few younger disciples were sitting next to them. Hearing their conversation, they couldn't help but laugh.

"Little sister, is this your first time here?" one of the young men laughed, "The Old Turtle in this lake is the spiritual pet of our Master. It enjoys a noble status among us. There are several among its offspring who are very talented. It's said that in the future, they may become Level Six or even Level Seven Spirit Beasts~"

At this, another young disciple added: "If you're interested, little sister, you could try your luck. Maybe one of the Spirit Turtles will take a liking to you~"

As they were talking.

Suddenly.

A commotion erupted from the lake ahead.

"Hurry, hurry, hurry! Block it! Don't let it escape!"

"To the right! Block its way to the right!"

"Watch out for the water arrow!"

Wang Liyao turned her head towards the sound, and saw a boat of almost the same size as theirs floating on the lake to the left. On the deck, a few young people dressed in the clothes of the Tian Lake School's disciples were surrounding a circle, rolling up their sleeves, using tools, trying to capture a gigantic pearl clam that was frantically trying to escape.

She found it strange and couldn't help asking curiously, "What are they doing?"

"Oh. That's also a specialty of our Tianhe Lake, the Primordial Water Pearl Clam." Lu Xianghui explained, "Those senior brothers are pearl harvesting. The pearls produced by the Primordial Water Pearl Clam are Grade Four spirit materials.

They can not only be used for medicine, but their crafted ornaments can also nourish the skin improving skin quality, making it quite popular among female cultivators."

"You can take pearl harvesting tasks from the Thousand Autumn Hall at the academy. The rewards in study points for completing the tasks are quite generous." The young man on the side looked envious. "However, only disciples in the Spirit Platform Realm can take such tasks. Our cultivation base isn't enough, even if we wanted to take them, we couldn't."

"Oh."

Wang Liyao suddenly realized.

While they were talking, the senior brothers on the boat finally managed to subdue the Primordial Water Pearl Clam, which was more than half the height of a person. They fixed it on a frame on the deck.

Then, one of the senior brothers took out a green spirit grass. Using some unknown method, he managed to make it open its shell and crawled in to remove a few fist-sized multicolored pearls from the shell.

Occasionally, they could even hear fragments of conversations coming from the boat.

"Don't forget to plant a new pearl..."

"Just one more clam to complete the task..."

"Hurry up, you never know..."

Wang Liyao watched with great interest, finding it all exceedingly fascinating.

The academy really was different from home~

Throughout the journey, what she observed and learned at the academy varied greatly from the outside world. Here, it was as if she was in a separate world with its own set of rules.

No wonder her father insisted on sending her to the academy, even saying "Without stepping out to see the world, one cannot comprehend the vastness of the universe." There really was some truth to his words.

Apart from cultivation, impliedly the academy had a lot more to teach her.

...

Meanwhile, inside the main hall of the Primordial Water Island.

Inside the Purple Abode Academy, all the masters who did not go out gathered in one place.

"Master Changchun, how is disciple Yu Hang's injury?" A man in a light blue robe, like a warm and gentle gentleman, spoke to Master Changchun, who just came out from the secret room.

The Primordial Water School was also skilled at treatment, but this time his beloved disciple, Yu Hang, was severely injured. His Qi Sea Mysterious Nucleus was nearly broken, and the Xuan Yin Poison had almost spread to his five viscera. If it weren't for his high cultivation base and the Yuan nurturing potion propping him up, Yu Hang might not have survived until he returned home.

Therefore, the master of Primordial Water had placed all his hopes on Master Changchun.

Master Changchun, with his baby-like mellow face, looked a bit pale and exhausted: "It's fortunate that his mastery of the 'True Water Verses' is profound. For now, his injuries are just about stable. However, the damage to the Yuan Water Mysterious Nucleus in his Qi Sea is too severe, requiring long-term use of Yuan Water Essence to gradually heal."

"The most troublesome thing is the Xuan Yin Poison. The poison is several times more virulent and dangerous than ordinary Yin poisons. Now it has penetrated his five internal organs and all the meridians in his body. If the poison isn't removed within a day, I'm afraid his condition will not improve.

He needs to take a Fifth Grade Fire System Pill - the Xuan Yang Fierce Fire Pill over a long period, gradually neutralize and remove the Xuan Yin Poison, and use the Fifth Grade Yuan Nurturing Pill to nurture the damaged organs and meridians."

"However, this method is going to consume a lot of resources. It might take eight to ten years for full recovery."

The master of Primordial Water's tightly knotted brows relaxed a bit: "Yu Hang was injured on the extraterritorial battlefield. Both Lingyun Holy Land and Great Qian Land can't ignore this. Adding the additional subsidies from our academy, we can meet the resource consumption."

The rest of the masters quietly nodded in agreement. They couldn't just leave the disciples who were fighting out there for the country and all humanity to fend for themselves after they got injured, could they?

Slowly say that the master of Primordial Water wouldn't agree, they wouldn't agree either, who didn't have a direct disciple carrying out tasks on the extraterritorial battlefield?

Chapter 16 Miss 9! Who is the Destined One? \_1

...

"Ah~ what a pity for Yu Hang!" Even the whimsically charming Lady Huandie let out a sigh, her tone heavy, "Based on Yu Hang's potential, he originally had a three to four-tenths chance to step into the Purple Abode. After this disaster, his probability of successfully entering the Purple Abode has fallen below twenty percent."

A probability of less than twenty percent essentially sentenced Yu Hang to death.

On Master Yuan Shui's jade-like face, a layer of anger emerged: "The little bastards of the Demonic Land are too vicious, picking on the weak with their number advantage. This is intolerable! I, Master Yuan Shui, will not let this matter rest."

"Yuan Shui, my disciple Longyan has also experienced the infiltration of Yin Sha into her body for decades." Said Master Binglan, who wore a veil over her face, "She resolved the crisis by using Yin Sha for her own purposes. If this method works, it can quickly alleviate Yu Hang's injury."

"Master Binglan, surely our dignified Purple Abode Academic Palace can't all dabble in the Yin Sha method?" Master Changchun subtly expressed his dissatisfaction, "If we open this door without careful consideration, our Purple Abode Academic Palace might as well be renamed the Yin Sha Demonic Clan."

"Moreover, I have some understanding of Wang Longyan's condition. She has been eroded by Yin Sha for a full fifty years. Every day, she is fighting against Yin Sha, making her understanding of it stronger than typical Demonic Cultivators. Only then did she have the ability to neutralize Yin Sha and use it for herself. Yu Hang certainly can't accomplish that."

"Hmph, Changchun, what does an old fossil like you know? My disciple Longyan suffered immensely." Master Binglan rebutted, "Why don't you try it?"

"Alright, alright, we've reached a conclusion on this matter before, we made an exception for Wang Longyan." Master Yuan Shui, playing peacemaker, said, "However, senior brother Changchun is correct, it does not bode well for the reputation of the Purple Abode Academic Palace if we casually allow the practice of Yin Sha."

Instead, I would request master Binglan to write a letter inviting Wang Longyan to the Academic Palace, to see if she can neutralize the Xuan Yin Poison in Yu Hang."

Xuan Yin Poison, even more virulent than the ordinary Yin Sha, is taken by Master Yuan Shui with just a try-and-see attitude.

"No need to write a letter, my disciple Longyan is conducting business in the county town, I can just send a disciple to invite her." Master Binglan respected Master Yuan Shui and chose not to continue her confrontation with Master Changchun on this matter.

After all, it was Master Yuan Shui who smoothed things over last time, creating an exception for Wang Longyan.

"Well, then thank you, Master Binglan." Master Yuan Shui expressed gratitude with a bow, Yu Hang was his most promising direct disciple. They had been together for nearly three hundred years, sharing deep and affectionate bonds that were akin to father and son.

"The issue of Yu Hang boils down to the lack of strength in our high-end combat force in the outer realm battlefield." Master Xuanyao said, "Even though our principal is constantly in retreat and the deputy principal is wandering around...However, on the issue of Yu Hang, we, the Longzuo Purple Abode Academic Palace, must make a statement."

"How about this, since I have nothing to do lately anyway, I'll take a trip to the outer realm battlefield to prevent those old things from the Yin Sha Demonic Cult from thinking we don't have anyone to attend."

Right then, a harsh light flashed across Master Xuanyao's eyes.

"I'll also take a trip to the outer realm." Master Binglan said with a calm, "Furthermore, my disciple Yu An has been making great progress recently, he's due to go out to temper himself."

Master Changchun, stroking his beard, said: "This old bone of mine hasn't been out to the outer realm battlefield in quite some time. Green Fern has reached the Heavenly Human Realm, I will take her out to see the world."

The three Masters expressed their opinions one by one.

Lady Huandie spoke: "The presence of the three of you is enough. I'll stay home with Yuan Shui. All core disciples amongst us who have reached the Heavenly Human Realm should go and temper themselves in the outer realm battlefield. You three look after them."

Despite some competitions within the Longzuo Purple Abode Academic Palace, there remains strong unity among the Masters once it comes to external matters.

"Even though we can fight, in the end, it all relies on the next generation." Master Xuanyao responded regretfully, "It's a shame that my disciple Luo Qiu is too young, if only she were a few decades older. She would have had the chance to reach the Heavenly Human Realm and experience the world. Given some time, she can definitely make those youngsters run away in terror."

"The same goes for my disciple Luo Jing." Lady Huandie proudly added, "Jing is steady and calm in nature, good with strategy, she is bound to achieve great things in the future."

"Although the recent young people are all quite good, there are just too few of them." Master Changchun said, "However, Master Yuan Shui, I heard you have already selected Wang Shouzhe's daughter, Wang Liyao, as your direct disciple. Could it be that this child also possesses the Heavenly Arrogance Bloodline?"

When it came to Wang Liyao, Master Yuan Shui's previously gloomy mood improved greatly as he laughed, "Of course, otherwise I wouldn't have confirmed her as my direct disciple before she even started cultivating. This child has a Top Grade Class B talent, and possesses an exceptionally pure Primordial Water Bloodline."

Top Grade Class B talent?

The Masters cast envious looks around. With such a bloodline talent, even among the Heavenly Arrogance, she would stand out from the crowd. This Master Yuan Shui really has some luck, he picked up a great treasure.

Not sure what kind of great luck the Changning Wang Clan has stumbled upon, one Heavenly Arrogance after another keeps emerging from their family. If the Changning Wang Clan continues to develop like this, they will definitely be an exceedingly powerful clan in the future.

...

While the Masters were discussing major events,

On Sky Lake Island,

Wang Liyao, who has been "pre-set" as Master Yuan Shui's direct disciple, is still enjoying her tour under the guidance of Lu Xianghui, getting to know the environment, culture, and various facilities of Yuan Shui's Heavenly Lake.

Speaking of which, Wang Liyao is quite satisfied with the environment, human touch, facilities, and other aspects of Yuan Shui's Heavenly Lake.

I didn't know if it was because they cultivated the elements of the Primordial Water, but many disciples from the Tian Lake School, had a temperament that was mostly polite, gentle and extraordinarily mannered.

However, this thought evaporated in Wang Liyao's mind. Cultivating the "True Verses of Primordial Water" couldn't possibly improve one's temper. A representative example was her mother, Liu Ruolan.

Since childhood, Wang Liyao was never afraid of her father's discipline, as he greatly pampered her. Her mother on the other hand, made her feel helplessly weak. When her mother's temper flared, the whole family shivered.

Just as Wang Liyao felt she had toured enough and decided to visit the other peaks, she was interrupted.

Suddenly!

A commotion arose from the square up ahead.

"Senior Brother Lexion, give it your all, and show what you can do. If any of us from the Tian Lake School are going to be approved by Miss Nine, it has to be you."

"Who said? In my opinion, Senior Sister Yujun is Miss Nine's best match. Look how beautiful and gentle she is, Miss Nine would certainly be happy with her."

"I think Senior Brother Zhenghua has the highest chance, being in the middle stage of the second level in the Spirit Platform Realm with a Primordial Water Spirit body. Moreover, he comes from a well-off family and is said to receive plenty of subsidies every year, ensuring Miss Nine will live comfortably."

"I support Senior Brother Lexion." "I support Senior Sister Yujun." "I support Senior Brother Zhenghua."

People were endlessly debating, shouting, expressing support for their idols. Granted, there were a few who represented the minority views, but relative to the three main individuals, they were in the minority.

"Miss Nine?" Wang Liyao wore a puzzled expression. Who on earth was this Miss Nine who was causing both senior brothers and sisters to simultaneously initiate "attacks" on her favor?

"Actually..." Lu Xianghui wore an embarrassed expression as he rushed to explain, "Junior Sister, please don't misunderstand. Miss Nine is one of the youngest descendants of the Old Turtle Ancestor.

She has just been born less than fifty years ago, and has already advanced to the ranks of a Level Three Spirit Beast, displaying the richness of her bloodline and the favor and indulgence she receives from the Old Turtle Ancestor."



"Recently, the Old Turtle Ancestor stated that Miss Nine's opportunity has arrived, and it should be with us from Tian Lake School. Therefore, all eligible senior brothers and sisters are trying to win Miss Nine's favor. Presumably, anyone who acquires Miss Nine as a Spirit Pet will surely have a chance at becoming a direct disciple."

As Lu Xianghui's explanation ended, the two of them squeezed into the crowd.

They saw a few senior brothers and sisters, young in age but not low in cultivation base, surrounding a Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise as big as a small car. They were holding various rare fruits in their hands, and even Spirit Stones and Gold Tickets as "proof of wealth", doing their best to please and flatter the Tortoise.

The Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise was lying leisurely on a "turtle basking deck" made of Primordial Water Stone bricks, occasionally enjoying a delicious treat offered by someone, then closing its eyes to catch a nap.

The Tortoise seemed to welcome everyone that showed it attention, but seemed to favor none.

But the senior brothers and sisters didn't show the slightest anger. Instead, they were all smiling and maintaining a gentle and respectful demeanor, increasing their efforts to curry favor with the Spirit Turtle.

"This is a Primordial Water Spirit Fruit." Senior Brother Lexion finally decided, taking out a fruit that was emitting a strong aura of Water Spirit energy from his storage ring, "As long as Miss Nine is willing to form a contract with me, I will offer her one Primordial Water Spirit Fruit every ten years in addition to the previous generous conditions."

Primordial Water Spirit Fruit?

This is a natural treasure of the same rank as the Vermilion Fruit and worth a fortune. Once consumed, it slightly improves the bloodline. Of course, the stronger the bloodline, the less effective the Primordial Water Spirit Fruit becomes.

But from this, it was clear that Senior Brother Lexion's family wasn't doing too bad either.

Obviously, the Primordial Water Spirit Fruit had sparked "Miss Nine's" interest. She raised her turtle head, looked at the spirit fruit with her big watery eyes filled with eager anticipation.

"Deal!" Senior Brother Lexion's heart soared with joy. Although giving away the Primordial Water Spirit Fruit was a huge sacrifice, everything would be worth it if he won Miss Nine's favor.

Suddenly!

With a tilt of her head, Miss Nine looked out at the crowd. She hesitated, then quickly swallowed the Primordial Water Spirit Fruit from Senior Brother Lexion and stretched her neck, the fruit went straight into her stomach.

Immediately, Senior Brother Lexion was overjoyed, while the other senior brothers and sisters felt a bitter disappointment. Had they known how much Miss Nine liked the Primordial Water Spirit Fruit, they would have paid any price to get one.

Just as the crowd was getting ready to congratulate Senior Brother Lexion,

Miss Nine suddenly changed her lazy attitude. She moved, quickly rushing into the crowd like a gust of wind. In the blink of an eye, she was in front of Wang Liyao, rubbing her head affectionately against her body.

What...

What on earth just happened?

Chapter 17: The Girl of Destiny! The Rivalry of Two Spirits\_1

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Even Wang Liyao's eyes were wide open, looking at the flattering tortoise in surprise.

She hadn't actually done anything, so what was this tortoise up to?

However, since she was a child, she had been accompanied by a Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise and was quite familiar with its temperament and body language. She knew that this young Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise really liked her, and it was trying to please her.

So, Wang Liyao also stroked its head to show she liked it too.

With this, "Miss Nine" became even more excited, circling Wang Liyao round and round. Its turtle nose sniffed continually, as if trying to remember the scent of its future owner.

The rich and pure Primordial Water scent, her master's so impressive. Wow, wow~ The old ancestor was right, my Miss Nine's opportunity has arrived. Its mouth moved, emitting excited sounds.

Unfortunately, she's only a level-three Spirit Tortoise, unable to communicate with her master directly. Except for a few rare breeds, fierce beasts and spirit beasts cannot speak human language until they reach level seven. Some special species can't even speak human language at level seven.

Miss Nine's excitement and flattery rendered the surrounding onlookers silent, as if they were stunned by this unexpected scene.

What's going on? Miss Nine, who was always proud and aloof, suddenly changed her temperament and began to flatter humans?

Especially Brother Lexian, whose face turned pale in surprise. It's as if the ice queen he has been courting for who knows how long has suddenly fallen into someone else's arms with such fiery passion.

Before they could react.

A small bag hanging on Wang Liyao's waist suddenly started shaking violently, as if something wanted to break free from it. Her brows furrowed slightly, and she gently patted the bag, whispering to reassure it: "Little Sparrow, be good, it's not convenient to let you out now. When we get back, I'll feed you some good food."

Unexpectedly.

The thing in the bag struggled even harder, and a faint chirping sound could be heard.

Left with no choice, Wang Liyao loosened the knot of the small bag slightly, and a red bird head suddenly popped out of it.

On its fluffy head were two tufts of long red feathers. The moment its sparkling eyes saw Wang Liyao, it started chirping and protesting. What did she mean by letting it out later?

If it came out any later, the noble Departure Fire "God" Sparrow would be outshone by a stupid tortoise.

A stupid tortoise?

Miss Nine, the Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise, whether she actually understood the words or just sensed the hostility, glared back with its turtle eyes and began to grumble.

Of course, this angered the Departure Fire Sparrow, which flew out of the bag, chirping and fussing. Its body with transformative magic became larger, and in the blink of an eye, it turned into a "big bird" over a yard long. The feathers all over its body were red, like a ball of jumping flames. Its tail fanned out like a hand fan.

The only thing that seemed slightly out of place was that the Departure Fire Sparrow, which should have been somewhat slender, was now overly round, giving it the appearance of a robust, chubby bird.

"Chirp, chirp, chirp." The Departure Fire Sparrow flapped its wings and stretched out its fat head, which was so large that it almost couldn't see its neck, spraying the Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise incessantly.

"This...this..." The shocked faces of the disciples watching from the line of Primordial Water were stunned. What kind of background does that "ordinary" looking girl have?

Not only did she possess a Departure Fire Beast, but she also carried it in a bag specifically for spirit beasts. Those who know, know that spatial bags for spirit beasts are much more expensive than storage rings. Even the core disciples of the Primordial Water lineage can rarely afford such a thing.

"This girl must come from a distinguished family." Sister Yu Yun, who was enjoying the scene from a distance, said with a slightly serious face, "She's probably the daughter of some Grade Six Prominent Family."

"So what if it's a Grade Six Prominent Family?" Brother Zhenghua's face also turned slightly displeased, "I also come from a Grade Six Prominent Family. You're talking as if you think highly of me. In a fight, wouldn't I still get pinned down and trampled on?"

In the Purple Abode Academic Palace, it is generally not allowed to discuss one's family background. However, people like Brother Zhenghua from the Rank Six families cannot hide their origins for long.

Ordinary disciples might care about this, while core disciples are mostly envious. After all, those who have reached the level of core disciples mostly come from families with decent conditions. Given their potential and status as a core disciple, they will at least be a local advanced Stage Heaven Human Realm big shot, even if they don't reach the Purple Abode Realm.

As core disciples of the grand Purple Abode Academic Palace, their horizons naturally aren't ordinary.

The only ones they truly fear are those from fifth-grade Purple Abode Prominent Families or direct disciples of some major figure.

Therefore, the Academic Palace and prominent families always represent two completely different paths. Their life trajectories and expectations for the future are also entirely different.

While everyone was shocked and discussing.

The bird and the turtle got louder and more lively, one chirping non-stop, while the other groaning. Even though their "language" was unintelligible to everyone, it didn't prevent them from understanding that they were cursing at each other.

Naturally, both the Departure Fire Sparrow and the Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise, who both have quite a temper, started fighting, spraying fire and water alternately. Fire and water intertwined and collided intensely, making the scene look quite realistic.

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However, they were both still quite young, so their overall power was limited. Especially the Departure Fire Sparrow, which was only hatching a few years ago, is only at the peak of Level Two now.

Wang Liyao on the side was sweating coldly. Of course, she understood that the Departure Fire Sparrow and Water Element Spirit Tortoise were fighting out of jealousy for her. She touched her forehead helplessly and said, "Little Sparrow, Little Tortoise, can you two stop first? Let's talk it out."

This Departure Fire Sparrow was her prize when she defeated in the Divine Martial Dynasty recruitment test years ago. Until then, she had taken all five final rewards for the Wang family.

Wang Liyao spent a lot of effort to hatch the Departure Fire Sparrow egg successfully and signed the main pet contract with the Departure Fire Sparrow according to the method given by the Artifact Spirit.

Therefore, it made sense for Little Sparrow to lose her temper. Suddenly a tortoise appeared and competed with her for the master, can she bear it?

And Water Spirit Tortoise species are known for their longevity. Even a Level Two Spirit Tortoise can easily live for hundreds of years, while a Level Three Spirit Tortoise can live for a thousand years.

How can other spirit species live if such long-lived Spirit Tortoise has cultivation growth further added? Miss Water Spirit Tortoise, who was able to advance to Level Three in just fifty years, is already a prominent figure in her species' bloodline talent.

Even so, the Departure Fire Sparrow was not easy to bully, after some effort, the Water Spirit Tortoise pressed the Departure Fire Sparrow on the ground and rubbed it vigorously.

However, the Departure Fire Sparrow was not the kind to easily admit defeat. She had waited in the egg for many years before hatching successfully after meeting her owner.

During her days in the Wang family, she enjoyed good food every day and lived a carefree life. How could she tolerate a tortoise that seemed to eat more than she did?

She seized an opportunity to escape from the Water Spirit Tortoise's suppression and hid behind Wang Liyao, poking her head out and continuing to shriek, "You ugly turtle, dare to steal my master? Look at yourself first."

"A mere sparrow dares to boast. If you have the courage, let's fight another three hundred rounds. Miss Nine will let you see why the flowers are so red." The Water Spirit Tortoise waved its claws and hissed.

"Enough!" Wang Liyao could no longer stand it. She grabbed the neck of the Departure Fire Sparrow and stuffed it back into the Spiritual Beast Bag. There was much more peace around her ears.

Her face was also a little dark, blaming herself for spoiling the Departure Fire Sparrow too much. This led to it getting too fat to even fly properly. Otherwise, even if she couldn't beat the Water Spirit Tortoise, she could at least fly away.

At this rate, when would she be able to ride it and soar in the sky?

"Whoo whoo~" Miss Nine, the Water Spirit Tortoise, immediately changed her face when she saw her competitor being stuffed away, and started cuddling Wang Liyao's thigh coquettishly.

How could those stupid humans not detect the intoxicating water aura on her? Holding Miss's thigh, the Water Spirit Tortoise felt a little dizzy. She really wished to hold on to it for the rest of her life.

As Wang Liyao was carrying a high-quality aura-concealing treasure, it could deceive most people but not Miss Nine who was also of the Water Spirit attribute.

At this moment.

Didn't Wang Liyao understand that the Water Spirit Tortoise had recognized that she was a Water spiritual body and wanted to be her pet willingly? However, she was a bit hesitant.

On the one hand, she already had a Departure Fire Sparrow. After entering the Academic Palace, she would have to earn many resources on her own, and it was already hard to feed one pet, let alone two...

On the other hand, her seniors had put a lot of effort into pleasing the Water Spirit Tortoise. She felt a bit embarrassed to take advantage. Although she could feel that this Water Spirit Tortoise had a noble bloodline and could grow into a Level Six Spirit beast with proper cultivation in the future.

Just in terms of the level of bloodline talent, it was indeed on par with the Departure Fire Sparrow. This was why Wang Liyao was tempted yet indecisive.

Unexpectedly...

The Water Spirit Tortoise was very intuitive and seemed to feel Wang Liyao's dilemma. She immediately stretched her neck and opened her mouth to spit out a crystal-clear jade sphere.

This peculiar jade sphere was a storage pearl refined by Miss Nine's great-grandfather for her using natural space materials. She usually swallowed it in her belly.

After a space fluctuation.

A treasure fell from the jade sphere one after another, including a large pile of water spirit stones, more than ten water spirit crystals that were a hundred times more valuable, and all kinds of precious spirit fruits and treasures.

"Eh? Brother Zhenghua, isn't that your Ice Marrow Jade Pillar? Isn't that the cultivation treasure that you saved a lot of points to exchange?" Senior Sister Yuyun asked incredulously, "When did you secretly give it to Miss Nine?"

"This..." Brother Zhenghua was embarrassed, "I happened to meet Miss Nine by the lake last time...Let's not talk about that. Isn't that three-hundred-year-old Water Jade Lotus your treasured possession? How did it end up with Miss Nine?"

Uh...

This time, it was Senior Sister Yuyun's turn to look a bit awkward, dodging and saying, "I also met Miss Nine by the lake when I was taking a walk."

The two were silent for a while.

By this point, they had tacitly understood.



Everyone once took advantage of the opponent's inattention to please Miss Nine in private, hoping to get ahead. Unfortunately, it seems like they both regretted that all their investments were about to be lost!

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Miss Nine clearly had set her heart on a real favorite, which was that "ordinary-looking" girl.

The only thing that slightly comforted Senior Sister Yu Yun and Senior Brother Zhenghua was that it seemed that they were not the ones who suffered the most severe losses. They cast a slightly sympathetic look at the side towards Senior Brother Le Xian, whose face had already turned purplish-black.

Half of the treasures in Miss Nine's Storage Pearl probably came from Senior Brother Le Xian. It seemed that he had secretly interacted with Miss Nine often and gave out all his family's assets to please Miss Nine.

Happiness and pain were all relative. Though Yu Yun and Zhenghua were extraordinarily distressed, they felt much better when they looked at Senior Brother Le Xian. Instead, schadenfreude feeling took over.

"Miss Nine!" Senior Brother Le Xian couldn't stand it anymore, stepped forward and suppressed his anger, "Miss Nine, you are still too young. Don't be fooled by others."

This feeling was like he had been always buying things to please his goddess, but she would turn around and use all those things to please other people.

Even though he was so angry inside that he wanted to strangle Miss Nine, he didn't dare to lose his temper at her.

Everyone knew that Miss Nine was deeply loved by the Old Turtle Ancestor at level seven. Even his master would greet Miss Nine in a friendly way.

Then, Senior Brother Le Xian stared deadly at Wang Liyao, "Who are you, girl? I have never seen you on Sky Lake Island before. Do you understand what you are doing?"

"Wu wu a a~" Miss Nine, the Primordial Spirit Tortoise, turned around, projected her head arrogantly at Senior Brother Le Xian, and scolded him loudly. The meaning was clear without translation: Who do you think you are to question my owner?

Just as Wang Liyao was about to speak, someone in the onlooking crowd burst out, "Senior Brother Le Xian, she doesn't seem to be from our Primordial Water sect. Lu Xianghui brought her here."

Not from our Primordial Water sect? Senior Brother Le Xian was taken aback. Then he turned to Lu Xianghui, "Lu Xianghui, who is this woman? Why did you bring her to our Primordial Water Heavenly Lake?"

The aura of a Core Senior Brother pressed down on Lu Xianghui, making it hard for him to catch his breath. He was caught off guard by the sudden twist and turn of the situation.

Despite this, he still withstood the pressure from Senior Brother Le Xian, assertively replied, "Disciple Liyao came to participate in the Academic Palace recruitment this year. She possesses a pass that allows her unrestricted access in non-forbidden areas. I beg for your understanding, Senior Brother Le Xian."

"Humph! A pass? Normally, that would be fine." Senior Brother Le Xian reprimanded, "But have you forgotten the time? Senior Brother Yu Hang just had an accident, and both Master and the others are holding a meeting. It's the most critical time for our Primordial Water sect! How dare you casually bring outsiders here?"

"Senior Brother Le Xian, I..." Lu Xianghui, beads of cold sweat dripping down his forehead, was about to argue just as...

Senior Brother Le Xian waved his hand to cut him off, "Lu Xianghui, there is no need for you to defend yourself. As your senior brother, I have the right to discipline you. After this, go to the Law Enforcement Hall and take your punishment. As for you, a girl who didn't even pass the Academic Palace's second-round examination, you are not considered a part of the Academic Palace.

What right do you have to vie for the Spirit Tortoise contract? I will give you half an hour to leave Sky Lake Island, or don't blame me for being impolite."

If he hadn't seen her Spiritual Beast Bag and her Spirit Beast, which suggested that she was not from an ordinary prominent family, he probably wouldn't just be trying to get rid of her, but rather would have directly attacked her instead.

Lu Xianghui's face turned extremely ugly. Despite feeling wronged, he dared not oppose the Core Disciple. He quickly bowed his head and said, "Yes, Senior Brother Le Xian."

"Wait!"

Wang Liyao's eyebrows twitched slightly, "I indeed am not an official disciple of the Academic Palace yet. If you, as a Core Disciple of the Primordial Water lineage, wish to expel me, I accept. But Brother Lu, from beginning to end, has acted according to the rules of the Academic Palace. What wrong has he done? On what basis are you punishing him?"

Senior Brother Le Xian was taken aback. He laughed in anger with his hands behind his back, "Girl, I've already let you off lightly for intruding into the Primordial Water Heavenly Lake without permission. As a Core Senior Brother, do I need you to teach me how to punish my misbehaving junior brothers?"

A massive aura of dominance emanated from him. It seemed that Wang Liyao's words had thoroughly angered him.

"Senior Brother Le Xian, please calm down. This is all my fault and has nothing to do with Sister Liyao." Lu Xianhui quickly stepped forward to shield Wang Liyao, bowing his head and pleading, "Sister Liyao has not officially joined the Academic Palace yet, please, senior brother, do not take it personally."

While speaking, he stealthily winked at Wang Liyao, signaling her to leave quickly.

If Lu Xianghui had not stepped forward, everything would have been fine. Now that he did, it only incensed Senior Brother Le Xian further. Had it not been for this kid bringing outsiders onto the island, how could such a disturbance have unfolded today? Perhaps, by now, Miss Nine would already have signed a Spirit Contract with him.

He laughed out of anger, "Good, good, good. It seems my authority as a Core Senior Brother no longer holds any value. Lu Xianhui, not only did you err, but you also repeatedly provoked and offended me. Today, if I don't teach you a lesson, I fear everyone will walk all over me in the future."

Senior Brother Le Xian clenched his fingers, thick Primordial Water energy spreading around him.

"Le Xian, this goes too far." Senior Brother Zhenghua frowned and tried to stop him, "Junior Brother Xianghui simply made an unintentional mistake. As his Senior Brother, you don't need to be so petty, do you?"

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"Zhenghua, who do you think you are? If it weren't for your decent family background, do you really think you could reach the core level?" Senior Brother Lexian rebuked angrily.

"You..." Senior Brother Zhenghua's complexion faded slightly; he did not respond. But in terms of pure talent, he couldn't contest Lexian.

"Hmph, an errant junior disciple deserves to be taught a lesson. Or are you suggesting I, a senior core disciple, do not have such authority?" Core Brother Lexian, furious beyond measure, released a surge of elemental water aura, transforming it into an attack aimed at Lu Xianghui. "Junior Brother Xianghui, today I'll teach you a lesson you'll never forget: do not offend a core disciple at will."

The auratic energy erupted into a gleaming pale blue light, charging straight at Lu Xianghui.

Among the onlookers from the Tian Lake School, many looked upon Senior Brother Lexian's domineering and unseemly behavior with distaste. However, due to his formidable presence, no one dared voice their view.

Hadn't they just witnessed even Senior Brother Zhenghua being shot down?

"Sigh~" Many sighed inwardly. Normally, Senior Brother Lexian was a picture of grace and elegance but once cornered, he showed no mercy. Lu Xianghui was truly unfortunate today. To have encountered this series of unfortunate events.

Besides, the "Elemental Water Finger" technique by Senior Brother Lexian was both domineering and fierce, aimed directly at Lu Xianghui's shoulder blades. He wouldn't die, but it was estimated it could take a year or two to fully recover.

Simultaneously Lu Xianghui was filled with horror and fear. How could he at his current stage of cultivation - a mere seventh level of the Qi Refinement Realm - escape the Elemental Water Finger? He resigned himself to his fate. All is decided by destiny!

In the blink of an eye, Lu Xianghui had already given up on resisting, closing his eyes preparing to fully absorb the harsh lesson.

Suddenly!

He heard a whistling sound right next to his ear. In his blurry state, he sensed an aura of intense elemental water zipping past him, closely followed by the technique used by Senior Brother Lexian, clashing less than a few feet in front of him.

"Boom!"

Under the fierce collision of the two streams of energy, elemental water energy began to diffuse outwards like ripples of shockwaves. Lu Xianghui, being too close, was hit by the shockwave, stepping back in quick succession before falling flat on his buttocks.

This unexpected change made the crowd fall silent in surprise, their gazes involuntarily turning towards the girl who had made the move. She remained composed while a vestige of elemental water aura lingered around her.

"How is this possible?" Sister Yuyun's beautiful face changed slightly, "The Elemental Water Finger technique...does she also know it? Could it be that she also cultivates the Elemental Water True Verses?"

"It seems likely..." Senior Brother Zhenghua's expression became incredibly animated. "Although this girl looks ordinary, she appears to be quite young and has already reached the Spirit Platform Realm. Moreover, her Elemental Water Finger has a strong, mature presence that is by no means inferior to Lexian. Could this little girl be the Sky Pride?"

"Interesting...this is really unexpected. This young lady could be on the verge of becoming a Sky Pride. It seems Lexian, who has always been arrogant due to an elder in his family being part of our Tian Lake School, and has always been domineering, will get a taste of his own medicine."

The most astonished of all was perhaps Senior Brother Lexian, who was both startled and enraged. Only to have his attack blocked by the same technique from that little girl.

The Sky Pride. Could this girl be a Sky Pride? No wonder she looked so calm and composed.

After a few moments of stunned silence, he returned to his senses, "Girl, at such a young age, you've actually reached the Spirit Platform Realm? What's your name? Who's the elder in your clan?"

"I have nothing to hide. My name is Wang Liyao. If you have a problem, you can aim it at me. Is it particularly interesting for a renowned disciple in the Spirit Platform Realm to humiliate a disciple in the Qi Refinement Realm?"

Wang Liyao's eyes were slightly icy, clearly disgusted with Senior Brother Lexian.

A Wang?

Among the high-ranking elders of the Academic Palace, it didn't seem like any of them had 'Wang' as their family name. The Tian Lake School also didn't seem to have any 'Wang'. Senior Brother Lexian had quickly run through all the possibilities, and retorted with a sneer, "Wang Liyao, right? Do you realize that you've made a huge mistake?"

I don't know who your elders are, but I know that even they will be implicated this time. Any Academia's secret teachings cannot be learned by an outsider who has not yet been admitted into the academia. Admit it, who taught you the Elemental Water True Verses?"

The Sky Pride was undoubtedly important to the academia, but no one, regardless of their status, was allowed to impart Academia's secret teachings and techniques without the academia's approval. Otherwise, were there no rules to speak of in the academia?

Wang Liyao smiled scornfully, "You seem so concerned, Senior Brother. Where I learned it from is none of your business. Also, I'll take this turtle. I'd like to see what you're going to do."

Taking it?

The Elemental Water Spirit Tortoise, Miss Nine, seemed thrilled and was about to leap onto Wang Liyao when she heard Wang Liyao's calm voice, "Miss Nine, you have already taken a lot of benefits. Go and wait there. After this matter is resolved, I will keep you."

Elemental Water Spirit Turtle gave a long whimper but obediently retreated to one side, its eyes filled with anticipation to watch its master show her prowess.

This scene irked Senior Brother Lexian to no end and he said, laughing angrily, "Well, I don't care about the background you're from. Even if you're from the prestigious Purple Abode family, or have an Elder of the academia as a backing, you cannot go against the thousands of years of academia's rules. I will capture you first, and then notify the master. We will investigate this matter thoroughly.

No one can escape."

As the words left his mouth, a solid-like aura of elemental water started to rise, pressing down on Wang Liyao.

"Buzz!"

At the same time, a sound of sword whistling broke the silence.

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In the midst of the humming sword, a beam of sword light suddenly shot out from Senior Brother Le Xian's waist, heading towards Wang Liyao with great speed.

The sword light was like water, gently brushing through the air like an autumn wind over the lake, yet its speed was astoundingly swift. In the blink of an eye, it had swept in front of Wang Liyao.

The biting sword force exploded with a sharp tearing sound.

Wang Liyao's hair that lies against her cheeks was instantly thrust up by the sword energy.

Seeing this, the disciples of the Tian Lake School from the Primordial Water lineage in the audience couldn't help but exclaim in surprise.

It was well known that Senior Brother Le Xian's "Water Adjoining Sword" was a middle-grade spiritual artifact, incredibly powerful. None of them expected him to use his trusted middle-grade Spirit Sword right off the bat!

This young girl is in danger now!

However, Wang Liyao only let out a cold snort, showing no signs of panic.

Her figure seemed to flicker, and she glided out as smoothly as flowing water.

In the sunshine, her tiptoes touched the ground lightly, her figure was as graceful and sprightly as a flying stream or waterfall, devoid of any vulgarity.

Water leaves no shadow, and none shall disturb flight feathers.

The speed of the spirit sword was so fast that it almost exceeded the limit that the naked eye could capture, yet it couldn't touch her figure, and flew past her by a hair's breadth.

The whooshing spirit sword didn't stop, and struck a Sunlight Turtle Platform behind her with full force.

In an instant, stone chips were flying around, and a huge pit was immediately poked into the surface of the Sunlight Turtle Platform, made from Primordial Water Stone.

Wang Liyao herself was unscathed, even the edge of her clothes wasn't tarnished by the stone chips.

"Water Flow Shadow?!"

As soon as this graceful movement technique appeared, the disciples of the Tian Lake School from the Primordial Water lineage present all froze in surprise.

The Water Flow Shadow movement technique was the hallmark technique of the Tian Lake School of the Primordial Water lineage. Everyone in the lineage, from the core disciples to ordinary disciples, had to practice it without exception. Having all been disciples of the Tian Lake School of the Primordial Water lineage, how would they not recognise it?

"She can even do the Water Flow Shadow movement technique. Isn't that the masterstroke level?" Senior Brother Zhenghua was incredulous. "At such a young age, she has perfected the Water Flow Shadow movement technique to this extent, impressive..."



Honestly, even if he were to perform the Water Flow Shadow movement technique himself, he might not do better than her.

"Her movement technique is even better than mine by so much? It's gotten to a level I completely don't understand~" Lu Xianghui was also astounded. The Water Flow Shadow movement technique was his fort  , and he had also truly devoted a lot of effort into this.

But compared to this junior sister, his Water Flow Shadow movement technique seemed like a joke, making him feel that his efforts had been wasted. How could he not be shocked?

However, how could they possibly guess that Wang Liyao was in fact a "Great Heavenly Proud" who, according to legends, had awakened her quadruple bloodline at the Spirit Platform Realm?

The body of a person with her Primordial Water spiritual body naturally resonated strongly with the primordial water spiritual energy between heaven and earth, and her affinity with the Laws of Heaven and Earth was also higher. Naturally, her cultivation practice of techniques from the primordial water lineage would be twice as fruitful and would progress rapidly.

And this was the fundamental reason why Profound Martial cultivators valued bloodline talent so much.

"Good! You indeed have some abilities, no wonder you are so arrogant!" Senior Brother Le Xian missed with his attack, which made him laugh out of rage. "Unfortunately, practicing a private technique is a major taboo in the Academic Palace. No matter how well you've practiced, nobody can save you! After I catch you, not only will you be in trouble, but so will the person who taught you the technique!"

The moment his words fell, he made an incantation gesture with his hand, and the Water Adjoining Sword flew back into his hands like a flash of lightning.

"Condense water into a sword, part waves create shadows!"

Both his hands continually formed sword techniques, a strong water aura gathered like hundreds of rivers flowing into the sea. The middle-grade spiritual artifact Water Adjoining Sword turned in mid-air, and in the blink of an eye, it transformed into six identical sword shadows.

The sword shadows were like water, and the sword light was like snow.

The robust sword energy interconnected to form a united whole, like an array. In an instant, it formed a sword array and radiated dazzling water-blue light.

Copious sword energy surged forth, dispelling all strong winds in the surroundings. Even the light breeze that brushed over the surface of the lake avoided it automatically.

Senior Brother Le Xian had a stern look in his eyes and sneered, "You're good at movement techniques, aren't you? I want to see how you'll dodge this time!"

As soon as his words fell, he beckoned with both hands, and the sword array burst forth with a whoosh, carrying the boundless sword intent and covering Wang Liyao.

The sword point was intimidating, and the sword energy was solemn and lethal.

In an instant, the overwhelming force overwhelmingly crushed down, even the light breeze passing by seemed to carry a sombre air with it.

"It's Senior Brother Le Xian's best Water Shadow Sword Technique!"

Seeing this, Lu Xianghui immediately widened his eyes, extremely anxious.

The rest of the disciples of the Tian Lake School's Primordial Water lineage were even more astonished: "Senior Brother Le Xian's Water Shadow Sword Technique has six sword shadows!"

It was well known that the Tian Lake School's Primordial Water lineage's "Water Shadow Sword Technique" was easy to learn but hard to master, the deeper one practiced, the more sword shadows one could create and the greater the power.

However, not too long ago during the big competition, Senior Brother Le Xian had only managed to create five sword shadows using the Water Shadow Sword Technique. Now he could create six sword shadows, this was...

Seeing this, Senior Brother Zhenghua and Senior Sister Yuyun, who had previously competed with Le Xian for "Lady Nine" looked at each other in disbelief.

They initially thought that five sword shadows was Le Xian's limit, who could have thought that during the big competition, he still had something up his sleeve?!

Unfortunately, at this moment, there was no time left for them to be amazed.

In the short span of two breaths while they were speaking, the surging sword intent whistled through the air, and was about to reach Wang Liyao's face.

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The crowd held their breaths.

However, at this moment, which ought to be the most tense for Wang Liyao, her expression seemed the most relaxed of all.

In fact, she was not only not nervous, she even looked somewhat dismissive.

Originally, she intended to save some face for him due to her own presumed guilt. But since he refused to behave sensibly, he could blame no one but himself.

In the blink of an eye, her hand finally reached the hilt of the sword at her waist.

"Clang~!"

A long sword chime sounded, and the "Autumn Water Sword" suddenly left its sheath!

Yes, the sword she bore now was indeed her mother, Liu Ruolan's, "Autumn Water Sword", a top grade Spiritual Sword.

Before coming to the Academic Palace, her mother Liu Ruolan had loaned her the "Autumn Water Sword". She told her that she could use the sword until she found one more suited to herself, at which point she can give back the Autumn Water Sword.

Moreover, with Liu Ruolan's current cultivation realm, her demand for the Autumn Water Sword became relatively low. Now, she favored seeking a powerful magical treasure instead.

Now was the time for the "Autumn Water Sword" to show its might.

During the sword chime, Wang Liyao's momentum surged instantly.

The next moment, the stern sword energy burst forth, and the Autumn Water Sword shot into the sky, suddenly releasing a surge of sword energy.

"Condense water into a sword, divide light into shadows."

She made a sword technique with her hands, her delicate jade fingertips pointed forward. To everyone's surprise, she also performed "Water Shadow Sword Technique", exactly like Senior Brother Lexian.

In an instant.

A massive amount of water spirit energy seemed to sense something and crazily gathered. Even the calm Tian Lake's Primordial Water had waves appearing although there was no wind.

The next moment.

"Hum~~~~~"

A long sword chime sounded, the Autumn Water Sword shuddered, suddenly splitting into nine identical, illusory sword shadows like water!

Once the sword array was activated, a terrifying pressure suddenly burst open.

In an instant, even the surrounding air seemed filled with countless tiny fragments of sword energy, becoming cold and somber. Several petals spun down from the sky, and before they had time to touch the ground, they were chopped into countless pieces by the surging sword light.

"Nine, nine sword shadows?!"

The disciples of Tian Lake School present at the scene all widened their eyes almost simultaneously, their voices trembling.

Nine sword shadows, this was the limit of the Water Shadow Sword Technique!

It was said that as long as one can cultivate the Water Shadow Sword Technique to the point of distinguishing nine sword shadows, one might comprehend the Sword Intent, thereby breaking through the existing realm and stepping into the threshold of the Heavenly Human Realm.

This girl was only how many years old, and she had already produced nine sword shadows?!

Only Yuan the Spirit Tortoise, who was ordered not to participate in this dispute, widened his turtle eyes, staring dead straight at this scene, even if he thought it was inevitable, he was also excited.

Indeed, she is the master of fate that the old Ancestor said, the master is indeed strong enough and awesome. How can Lexian compare to the master?

Simultaneously.

Senior Brother Lexian's face also changed dramatically, and the storm in his heart surged.

Nine swords, she actually turned out nine Primordial Water Sword Shadows... what on earth happened to this world?

Although he had anticipated that this girl was not ordinary, where could he imagine that Wang Liyao's strength would be so great? As a Spirit Platform cultivator, the ability to transform the Water Shadow Sword into nine sword shadows was unheard and unseen by him.

In a flash, a tinge of regret passed through his heart. No matter what the girl's identity was, he should not have provoked her.

However, what's done was done, and it was too late for him to regret at this moment.

At this point, what Lexian could do was to frantically mobilize the Mysterious Energy inside his body and push his Water Shadow Sword Technique to the extreme. He hoped that the Water

Shadow Sword Shadows she had differentiated were just forcibly increased in number, and the power of each was far less than his.

In the blink of an eye, the two sword arrays had collided in mid-air.

"Boom~~!"

Amidst the deafening roar, Lexian's six sword shadows persisted for less than a breath's time before they were shattered by the powerful sword array composed of nine sword shadows.

Only five of Wang Liyao's nine sword shadows were shattered. The remaining four sword shadows, their momentum undiminished, continued to rush towards Lexian's direction.

Le Xian's face changed drastically, this... how is this possible? Not only was he inferior to his opponent in terms of the number of Primordial Water Sword shadows, but also in terms of quality.

In a flash, he could only hastily summon a lower-grade Primordial Water Spirit Shield to protect himself, his figure already overwhelmed by the sword shadows.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

A series of collision sounds echoed continuously.

Heavy sword shadows surrounded senior brother Le Xian, who nearly exhausted all his abilities, pulling out a Primordial Water Spirit Shield to protect himself, while frantically inducing his movement technique, his figure swiftly altering its direction like flowing water, doing his utmost to evade the sword shadows.

It was only after he had barely neutralized the remaining four sword shadows that he found his mysterious energy mostly depleted, his internal organs churned with pounding blood and qi; uncontrollably, a few streaks of blood seeped from the corner of his mouth.

The disciples of the Primordial Water Tian Lake School present at the scene were stunned by this spectacle, only giving out a chorus of gasps of surprise after they finally came to their senses.

"Hiss! So strong!"

"My heavens, isn't this too powerful?"

It was only when people reacted to the fact that the Spirit Sword in Wang Liyao's hand was actually a "Top Grade Spiritual Artifact"! If it were just a top-grade spiritual artifact, that would be fine, but her understanding and grasp of the Primordial Water School's Water Shadow Sword Technique were already beyond their comprehension.

A senior brother excitedly grabbed Lu Xianghui, who was standing dumbstruck, and hurriedly asked, "Lu Xianghui, come clean, what's the story behind this junior sister you brought back?"

"I, I, I... I don't know either~~"

Lu Xianghui had a bewildered look on his face, and he looked completely innocent.

He only happened to meet Wang Liyao in the Thousand Autumn Hall, and it was only after a bit of "persuasion" from her that he agreed to be a mere guide. How would he know about her background?

If he knew earlier that Wang Liyao was so powerful, he would have definitely treated her reverentially, not daring to call her "junior sister" so casually.

He felt a chill go down his spine, feeling that he was pushing his luck. This wasn't just any junior sister, not even Yu Yun School Sister, could compare to her. If he had to give a title to his current feelings, he would rather call her - old ancestor!

"One should reciprocate a move with another. That's common courtesy." Amid the exclamations of the crowd, Wang Liyao's slightly cold voice came again, "Senior Brother Le Xian, as a core disciple, you are disrespectful to your fellow disciples, taking advantage of your status to bully others, you have entirely shamed the face of the Primordial Water Tian Lake School."

"Today, I will teach you a lesson on behalf of the Primordial Water Tian Lake School."

As her words fell, Wang Liyao's toes pointed lightly, and her figure suddenly rose into the air.

At mid-air, her slender hand suddenly stretched out, and the Autumn Water Sword automatically fell into her palm.

In that moment.

Her already overwhelmingly powerful aura suddenly surged again.

A vast amount of water spirit energy converged, just like many rivers merging into a sea, they gathered around her.

The dense water spirit energy swirled around her, giving off waves of water-blue light due to its richness, even without using spiritual sense, one could clearly feel the surging spiritual energy.

The fierce wind stirred, her ink-black hair was lifted by the wind, her clothes fluttering, the whole person was like a goddess in water, carrying an awe-inspiring aura not to be desecrated.

Under this aura, even her rather "ordinary" face seemed to become extraordinary.

The crowd's attention was unconsciously drawn to her, all were holding their breath and riveting their eyes on her, almost forgetting to breathe.

Under the attention of the crowd.

Wang Liyao flicked her wrist, and the Autumn Water Sword swept across the sky.

In an instant, a sword light like water, like a rainbow piercing through the sun, broke through the air and charged towards Senior Brother Le Xian.

The sword light was cold and fierce, without making a sound when it swept through the air.

Compared to the previous nine magnificent sword shadows, the pressure released by this one sword was less than one-tenth of theirs, and even the spiritual light it radiated wasn't as dazzling.



However, within that sword light, a trace of nebulous, indescribable atmosphere was engendered. It was like the horizontal waves of autumn water, yet also like the reflected shadow of spring water. It was light, yet also water.

In that instant, the vast Primordial Water Tian Lake roared, as countless Spirit Fish, startled, leapt from the surface of the lake, causing numerous ripple splashes.

"Sword Intent!"

"It's actually Sword Intent!"

The disciples of the Primordial Water Tian Lake School present were dumbstruck, so shocked that they almost stopped breathing.

Primordial Water Sword Intent! They had only occasionally seen this before on the body of a Celestial being who is a direct disciple!

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...

The so-called Sword Intent is the "Intent" comprehended from one's own study of swordsmanship when practiced to a certain extent.

Generally speaking, Profound Martial cultivators only realize Sword Intent after reaching the Heavenly Human Realm, and some even fail to realize it even after reaching this realm.

However, everything has exceptions. There are always some exceptional individuals in this world, possessing superior bones, wisdom, bloodline talents, etc., capable of comprehending their own "Sword Intent" in the Spirit Platform Realm.

Therefore, it is believed that a Spirit Platform Realm cultivator who develops Sword Intent is half a step into the Heavenly Human Realm.

Anyone who can achieve this step, all without exception, will become a powerful force!

"I-I-I didn't see it wrong, right?" Senior Brother Zhenghua's eyes widened in shock, "Sh-she-she-she-she..."

Elder Sister Yuyun felt her scalp tingling: "Oh my god! Sh-she's not even twenty yet, is she?"

The impact on Lu Xianghui was even greater.

At that moment, his mind was almost blank, leaving only one thought: Brother Lexian, it's over...

The appearance of Sword Intent was like ripples of autumn water.

In an instant, the sword light, carrying some inexplicable intent, had already spanned several feet, moving effortlessly across like ripples on a lake, landing gently right in front of Brother Lexian.

A terrible sense of crisis suddenly overwhelmed him. Brother Lexian's scalp tingled, and he trembled uncontrollably.

It's over!

He was terrified out of his wits, hurriedly circulating the mysterious energy, controlling the Middle Grade Spirit Sword - Water Adjoining Sword to perform at full strength, trying to resist.

However, why would Sword Intent, so highly regarded by sword cultivators, be easily blocked?

Almost at the moment the Primordial Water Sword Intent and the Water Adjoining Sword came into contact, a terrifying force erupted like a volcano, hitting the Water Adjoining Sword in his hand directly.

"Pff~"

His body trembled, a mouthful of uncontrollable blood spewed out.

At the same time, his body was hurled back like a cannonball, slamming heavily into the Sunlight Turtle Platform behind him.

With a "bang", the Sunlight Turtle Platform instantly cracked open.

Brother Lexian's body jolted, another mouthful of blood sprayed out, staining his clothes a vivid red.

But it wasn't over.

In the sky, the shattered Sword Intent wasn't completely dissipated, but instead it turned into countless fragmented sword shadows that showered down on Brother Lexian.

The howling wind, shadows of swords torrenting down like rain, the terrible force almost completely enveloped Brother Lexian.

It's over!

A hint of despair appeared in Brother Lexian's eyes.

His internal organs severely damaged, it was difficult for him to move. There was no way for him to dodge this volley of Sword Rain.

If hit by this Sword Rain, while it won't kill him, he will definitely have to lie in bed for several years, and there is a strong chance he'll lose the first place in core disciples, let alone the title of Direct Disciple.

"Junior sister! Miss Liyao! Show mercy with your sword!"

Seeing the situation, Senior Brother Zhenghua and Elder Sister Yuyun grew anxious.

Although they disliked Brother Lexian, they certainly wouldn't want him seriously harmed. At this point, if there was a chance, they would try to intervene.

But everything happened too quickly, they were not mentally prepared at all. They were too far from the battlefield to intervene in time.

It seemed Brother Lexian was about to be completely drowned in Sword Rain.

Suddenly.

A cyan light appeared on the lake surface.

It carried an overwhelming force from afar, and in an instant, it landed next to Brother Lexian, transforming into a cyan spheroid shield which enveloped him, formed from condensed water aura.

Sword shadows fell like raindrops on the shield, shattering on impact as if they had hit a solid wall.

A moment later, the sword shadows dissipated, but the shield remained firm.

Everyone sighed with relief.

Meanwhile, in mid-air, a figure came into view, descending and landing in front of Brother Lexian.

This figure appeared to be an old man, with a dignified and majestic demeanor and a sky-blue robe, embroidered with the insignia of the Tian Lake School, clearly an elder of the Tian Lake School.

With his appearance, an overwhelming aura spread out, washing over the surroundings.

Everyone's expression involuntarily became serious, even Wang Liyao slowly descended from mid-air, no longer engaged in conflict.

Seeing the newcomer, Brother Lexian felt a sense of relief as if surviving a calamity and quickly knelt and greeted, "Lexian pays respects to Grandfather."

"How many times have I told you, in the Academic Palace, you should call me Elder." The old man dressed as an Elder of the Tian Lake School frowned slightly, speaking unhappily, "Lexian, what exactly happened? Why did a public brawl occur between disciples, causing such a disorder?"

"Elder Shang, the situation is like this..."

Brother Lexian looked shocked and hurriedly bowed his head to explain.

"It's Elder Shang." Seeing this, Senior Brother Zhenghua's face changed, "This is not good. That young girl will probably be at a disadvantage."

Elder Sister Yuyun also showed worry in her eyes, "Elder Shang has always been strict, and very protective. Let's hope that girl has significant backing."

Apart from them, the only ones who dared to whisper were the ordinary disciples, or even the excellent pupils who did not dare to say a word.

Though everyone is a disciple of the Tian Lake School in name, most of the instructions and training are given by these Elders.

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These elders were also once the elite core disciples of the Academic Palace. After reaching the age of over two hundred years old with no hopes of ascending to the Purple Abode, they would be assigned to various positions. Some stayed with the Academy as elders, while others were sent on various tasks outside.

Moreover, the vast majority of elders held significant real power. After all, there were countless disciples in the Academic Palace, and each branch only had one person in the Purple Abode Realm, who could possibly have so much time and effort to manage and mentor all the disciples?

Just when everyone was tense and apprehensive, Elder Shang over there had already heard Senior Brother Le Xian's report.

His face was dark and solemn as he stared at Wang Liyao, "You are bold. Not only did you dare to steal our Primordial Water energy cultivation techniques, but you also dared to be ruthless towards your fellow apprentices from the Academic Palace."

Wang Liyao frowned slightly and retorted in a cold voice, "Elder Shang, are you planning to condemn me without distinguishing right from wrong? It's clear that it was this Senior Brother Le Xian who provoked trouble and bullied the younger brother..."

"Shut up! It's not your place to tell me how to handle affairs." Elder Shang's tone became even more imposing as he sharply cut her off. "If you have anything to say, save it for when you appear before the Law Enforcement Hall of the palace. Will you surrender immediately, or should I personally take action?"

"Tsk!" Wang Liyao scoffed discontentedly, "Just as expected, like those in the popular books, it's the same old scenario - if the weak can't beat you, they call for stronger backing. No wonder that Senior Brother Le Xian is so arrogant, he has people supporting him after all. I'm a bit disappointed in this Tian Lake School..."

She had disguised herself and come here precisely to observe the true situation of the Tian Lake School. After all, this would be the place where she would live and practise cultivation for a long time. Unfortunately, although she felt quite satisfied at the beginning, now...

"Good, good, good! You are so young and yet so insolent and stubborn, even I feel compelled to be rude." Elder Shang laughed in anger, and his rich and deep Primordial Water energy immediately rose up.

"Wu wu ah ah!"

The spiritual tortoise, Ninth Miss, suddenly became anxious.

She had finally found a master she liked, how could she be captured?

Immediately, she ignored the previous warning from her "master" and stood in front of Wang Liyao, pleading frantically on behalf of her master.

"Ninth Miss, you are still young and do not know the wickedness of the human heart." Ninth Miss was after all a direct descendant of the old ghost, so Elder Shang could not be too harsh on her. He could only soften his tone and look kindly at the Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise, "This girl has violated the prohibition of the academy, how can we let her off easily?"

Ninth Miss, you should rest aside for a while."

With that said, he flicked his sleeve, and a stream of Primordial Water energy rolled out like a gentle stream, taking the Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise to the side.

At the same time, another tide of Primordial Water energy fell down, forming numerous light shadows enclosing Ninth Miss at the center.

A mere little spirit tortoise, even if it would be inappropriate to take action against it because of the old turtle's prestige, he would never allow it to interfere with him.

"Wu wu wu ah ah!!!"

Ninth Miss was both angry and anxious, constantly scratching with her front paws. But how could it compete with an elder in the Heavenly Human Realm? No matter how hard she tried to scratch, the mysterious energy in front of her was as solid as a wall of bronze and iron.

"Little Nine, he is right. Try not to worry." Wang Liyao gave it a glance. Her eyes were as calm as ever, and she even comforted it, "This Miss is curious as to what he can do to me."

A streak of self-confident and cold light flashed across her eyes.

From a young age, Wang Liyao had always been a girl with her own ideas and plans. Even her impressive father and mother could not make her blindly follow them. Her father, Wang Shouzhe, once said that she should use her own eyes and heart to observe the world and gain insight into life. All he could do was to provide her with as much support and protection as possible.

"Good, good, good! I have lived for three hundred years, and I have seen countless talented young people, but not many are as arrogant and domineering as you!" With no more interruptions from Ninth Miss, Elder Shang let out a cold laugh, and a sharp gleam shot from his eyes, "Young lady, come with me to the Law Enforcement Hall obediently!"

The last word "bā" sounded like an evening drum or a morning bell, booming and rumbling, causing an intense ringing in the ears.

At the same time.

He opened his right hand, and abruptly made a clawing gesture towards Wang Liyao.

The thick Primordial Water energy burst forth and instantly transformed into a huge, Primordial Water energy-formed palm, which ruthlessly gripped towards Wang Liyao.

This was the Primordial Water Spirit Hand, one of the basic uses of mysterious energy in the "Primordial Water True Verses (Sky Human Chapter)". It was not an extraordinarily powerful move, but it was more than enough to deal with a Spirit Platform Realm Profound Martial cultivator!

The colossal palm hovered in the air, and the overwhelming pressure suddenly felt like Mount Tai pressing from above.

In an instant, the air around Wang Liyao seemed to stagnate and became oppressive.

"I have lived for nineteen years, and this is the first time I have seen an old man who is presumptuous, disrespectful, and likes to bully the weak." Wang Liyao sneered.

Facing the oncoming Primordial Water Spirit Hand, she showed no fear. Immediately she executed the movement technique "Water Shadow Flow".

Water has no form, it is unpredictable.

Her figure was as nimble and light as water, elusive and constant, seemingly a water shadow that had cleverly slipped away and dodged the incoming giant hand.

However, the giant hand did not press down as expected, but instead continued to pursue her like a lingering illness, no matter how swift her movements were, or how gracefully she moved, she could not escape.

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However, as she failed to escape, the enormous hand also failed to capture Wang Liyao's figure. Thus, both parties ended in a stalemate.

"This girl, indeed only nineteen..."

The faces of Senior Sister Yuyun and Senior Brother Zhenghua were quite awkward as they looked at each other...



A nineteen-year-old girl, not only has her cultivation base reached the second level of the Spirit Platform Realm, but she also skillfully grasps the Primordial Water Sword Intent, and her movement technique, the Water Shadow Flow, has reached a masterstroke.

Even if they both entered the fray, they wouldn't be able to withstand Elder Shang's move "Primordial Water Spirit Hand" for several breaths' time.

Yet Wang Liyao repeatedly shattered their imagined limits with her performance, which made both Senior Sister Yuyun and Senior Brother Zhenghua feel like they had lived their fifty-plus years in vain.

"Such an impressive Sky Pride, truly eye-opening. It's a pity..." Senior Brother Zhenghua was growing more and more appreciative of Wang Liyao, "It's a shame that she made a mistake by secretly practicing the 'Primordial Water True Verses' before officially joining the Academic Palace.

If nobody knew about it, that would be fine, but now the matter has blown up so much, I'm afraid even Master Primordial Water wouldn't dare to break the rules in order to protect her."

Senior Sister Yuyun also shook her head and sighed, "Her understanding and control of the 'Water Shadow Flow' are inconceivably good. But Elder Shang, who has been alive for three hundred years, is an experienced Heavenly Human Realm. She will eventually be captured."

Indeed, even if she is that excellent, she is only at the early stage of the Spirit Platform Realm. She is more than a dozen ranks behind the mid-stage of the Heavenly Human Realm!

However, everyone underestimated Wang Liyao.

In the eyes of the crowd, Wang Liyao, who should have been anxiously worried, remained as calm as usual.

However, facing the Primordial Water Spirit Hand, which was attached to her like a bone maggot and unable to shake off, she still couldn't help pondering: The Heavenly Human Realm of the Purple Abode Academy is indeed difficult to deal with.

On the other hand, seeing that his Primordial Water Spirit Hand wasn't able to capture Wang Liyao instantly, Elder Shang let out a cold snort and suddenly increased his output of Mysterious Energy.

The giant Primordial Water Spirit Hand suddenly accelerated and reached Wang Liyao's side in a blink.

It seemed that Wang Liyao was about to be captured by the Primordial Water Spirit Hand.

All of a sudden!

Wang Liyao's pretty eyes glanced open, and a pair of wings suddenly unfolded behind her.

These wings were thin and transparent, like glimmering waterlight. They were especially translucent and elegant under the sun.

"Whoosh~"

With a light flap of the wings, gusts of wind were immediately generated.

Wang Liyao's already fast speed suddenly surged, she dodged the Spirit Hand with a flash and calmly floated to the other side like a light breeze.

The seemingly infallible Primordial Water Spirit Hand was actually empty-handed.

"This..." Senior Brother Zhenghua's face changed, "This is a Feiyu Spirit Treasure! How can she have a Feiyu Spirit Treasure?"

He was, after all, from a Rank Six Prominent Family with considerable wealth, and he had heard of Feiyu Spirit Treasures.

He had even seen such a treasure on a 'friend' s body, who was from a Purple Abode Prominent Family and was an extremely favored Purple Abode Seed in his family. Even then, his friend boasted about having a Feiyu Spirit Treasure.

As for Senior Sister Yuyun, her family background was not as distinguished, she hadn't even heard of what a Feiyu Spirit Treasure was. She was only gazing with sparkling eyes, "What beautiful

wings, what a fast speed. Such an explosive speed, even a Heavenly Human Realm might not be comparable, right?"

"How could it not be fast?"

A thick trace of envy flashed in Senior Brother Zhenghua's eyes, as he muttered to himself, the Feiyu Spirit Treasures are extremely expensive, his entire fortune couldn't afford even half a wing! If the effects weren't good, would it justify its price?

Up until now, he had been somewhat proud of his direct descent from a Rank Six Prominent Family, with some sense of superiority, and his status as a Rank Six pre-eminent family member was always leaking out inadvertently from his words and action.

This led to many people aware that he was from a Rank Six family with an extraordinary family background, which made him envied and jealous of others.

But compared to this petite, beautiful girl, with an 'average appearance', his limited fortune was like comparing a wealthy man to an extremely poor tenant farmer.

"Responding to a previous move is proper etiquette; old man, take my sword!"

By this time, Wang Liyao had also been angered by Elder Shang, her pretty eyes narrowed, and the Autumn Water Sword was drawn once more.

The next moment,

A surge of Primordial Water Sword Intent darted out.

The Sword Intent transformed into light, reminiscent of Autumn Water's horizontal undulations, charming and stirring, yet bearing a suffocating majestic pressure.

Compared to the Sword Intent used against Senior Brother Lexian last time, this time's Sword Intent had less etherealness but more grandeur, just like a mighty river's water, gentle and tender, yet capable of bearing immense power!

In an instant, uproarious waves billowed up on the Heavenly Lake, carrying continuous waves, as if reflecting the Sword Intent she displayed, illuminating thousands of acres of sparkling waves.

Obviously, she had been holding back when dealing with Shang Lexian, she hadn't truly used her full strength!

Facing the Primordial Water Sword Intent that was like an unstoppable torrent, Elder Shang's face finally turned pale.

This girl was still holding back just then! That Water Spirit Sword in her hand is not a Mid-Grade Spiritual Artifact, but a Top-Grade Spiritual Artifact?

A Top-Grade Spiritual Artifact, Feiyu Spirit Treasure, such pure and robust Primordial Water Sword Intent!

This-this-...

Damn Lexian, exactly what kind of a monster did he provoke for me!

Merely at the Early Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm, yet the overall strength displayed is worthy of comparison to that of the Heavenly Human Realm!

For a moment, remorse and anger filled Elder Shang's heart, but it was too late to back out.

He had no choice but to mobilize his robust Primordial Water Mysterious Energy to brace himself for the impact.

Within moments, the aura around him surged, and a Primordial Water Spirit Shield appeared in front of him almost instantly.

Under the sunlight, this Primordial Water Spirit Shield condensed as if it were tangible, radiating a profound blue glow and an indestructible majesty.

The next moment.

"Boom!"

The colossal Sword Shadow imbued with Primordial Water Sword Intent fiercely crashed into Elder Shang's Primordial Water Spirit Shield.

In an instant, a terrifying shockwave exploded like a volcanic eruption, fragments of Sword Intent wrapped in the unruly Primordial Water Mysterious Energy blasted outward, the strength of its power was simply shocking.

Even the trees on the banks more than a dozen feet away swayed wildly under the impact.

Elder Shang, bearing the brunt, his complexion swiftly changed, his body uncontrollably pushed backward by the powerful shockwave for several meters before he barely managed to stabilize his figure.

The Primordial Water Spirit Shield in front of him didn't shatter, but its color became remarkably faded, as if at any moment it would shatter completely.

Even the Heavenly Lake beneath their feet couldn't withstand it and exploded into several waves, countless Spirit Fish and Spirit Tortoises frantically escaped, causing momentary chaos.

"This-this-..."

Witnessing this scene, all of the surrounding disciples were stunned, disbelief filling all of their expressions.

The situation before them completely exceeded their understanding.

A girl at the Early Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm, not only dares to resist when facing an Elder at the Mid-Stage of the Heavenly Human realm, but she also dares to fight back.

It would also be forgiven if she had simply fought back, yet she managed to force the Elder back, almost shattering his Primordial Water Spirit Shield.

Could it be that Elder Shang didn't have his fill at breakfast today?

Many people couldn't help but cast doubtful eyes on Elder Shang.

Elder Shang's aged face constantly changed from green to red, an extremely embarrassed expression on his face.

This damnable girl!

That Sword just now didn't cause him significant harm, yet it was extremely humiliating!

Chapter 20 Oh no! What terrible little monster have I provoked?\_1

...

No matter what, Elder Shang is a veteran Profound Martial Cultivator who is in the middle stage of the Heavenly Human Realm. In his youth, he had always been one of the core disciples of the Academic Palace, and even now, his overall combat power is still extremely formidable.

If he were to fight for his life, relying on his experienced and sophisticated ways, even if compared to some famous young Sky Prides in the Heavenly Human Realm, such as Fang Youan and others, he would not be much weaker.

Today, he was caught off guard by a junior under twenty years old, truly like a ship capsizing in the gutter.

With everyone watching, how could he save face?

"Very well! Very good!" He said angrily, but laughed, his face twisted with embarrassment, "I, as Elder, have been lenient with you on account of your youth. But unexpectedly, you junior don't appreciate kindness. If that's the case, I will suppress you first, report to the Master and the headmaster, and then settle the score with your elders!"

Having said this, he threw out his wide sleeve, and a water-blue magical long saber suddenly appeared in his palm.

The magical long saber was more than three feet long, covered with profound patterns, its surface shimmering with a fascinating glow, and the blade even emitted a daunting sharpness that was chilling to the bone.

As soon as this long saber appeared, its overwhelming force suddenly swept out, even stimulating the surrounding Water Aura, making it boil and churn.

"That's bad! This is Elder Shang's famous magical treasure, the Primordial Water Sword." The watching senior brother Zhenghua felt his heart tighten with worry, "This treasure is a Medium Grade Magical Weapon. Coupled with Elder Shang's training of more than a hundred years, it is extraordinarily powerful. Rumor has it that it has even injured cultivators of the same level.

This girl...why did she have to provoke Elder Shang?"

"This...the little girl is too young, too proud and arrogant." Senior sister Yuyun couldn't help but frown, her heart filled with blame for Elder Shang.

His actions as a senior were indeed too much.

This was clearly a deliberate excuse to give Wang Li Yao a hard lesson and was suspected of bullying the small by the big.

As they were talking, in the sky, Elder Shang's eyes sharpened as he made an incantation gesture.

"Go!"

The water-blue magical long saber shuddered, and then whizzed out.

The saber is known as the king of all weapons, and it's the most fierce and domineering.

With the rise of the saber light, the fierce and domineering Blade Intent slashed out like a rainbow piercing the sun, instantly breaking through the air, and slashing furiously towards Wang Li Yao!

His attack slashed across the waves with immense sharpness.

The power of the Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse was fully displayed in this attack, showing a overwhelming force and dominance that ordinary Spirit Platform Realm powerhouses could not match.

As the saber light whizzed past, the sound of surging waves even rang out in the air, making one's heart palpitate.

Moreover, this Blade Intent was too fast! It even had the ability to lock onto the opponent!

Even though Wang Li Yao had used the water flow shadow method, and even utilized her Feiyu Spiritual Treasure, she still couldn't escape the lock of this Blade Intent.

In just the blink of an eye, the distance between the Blade Intent and Wang Li Yao had rapidly shortened.

Seemingly, Wang Li Yao was about to be struck by the Blade Intent.

"Junior sister, be careful!"

Lu Xianghui unconsciously clenched his fist, his face flushed in tension.

The lady of the Primordial Water Tortoise was so anxious that she was desperately scratching at the restraints, trying to help her "master", but it was all in vain.

Although others were not as nervous as they were, their hearts were involuntarily hanging.

Even the expression on Wang Li Yao's face became extremely solemn.

However, just when everyone thought that Wang Li Yao would be severely injured, if not killed, by this attack, the hand she had lowered suddenly lifted and threw out an object.

It was a white Spirit Shield.

This Spirit Shield, resembling a pot lid, looked unspectacular but was thick and solid.



As Wang Li Yao made the incantation gesture, the Spirit Shield instantly "awakened". Rings of aura burst out, and the thick wood attribute Aura and Water Aura suddenly exploded around the Spirit Shield.

In an instant, a huge energy shield, nearly two feet in diameter, stretched out centered around the Spirit Shield, like a giant umbrella, protecting Wang Li Yao behind it in a flash.

The next moment.

The fierce and domineering Blade Intent crashed onto the energy shield.

"Boom!"

In the violent explosion, the huge energy shield trembled like a lotus leaf battered by a storm, holding out for less than three seconds before it shattered.

Wang Li Yao was blasted back by the huge shock, as if a cannonball, she smashed heavily towards the shore.

With a loud "boom", a huge pit was smashed on the shore.

Under the massive impact, she couldn't stand firm and knelt on the ground, her innards shaken, a few strands of blood seeping from the corner of her mouth.

However, even so, her face remained extremely calm, showing no signs of panic.

Anyone could tell that although the sword just now had put her at a disadvantage, it only caused her minor injuries, and was nowhere near severely wounded or incapacitated.

Undoubtedly, that unattractive spirit shield was the top-grade spirit shield - Guardian Heart Spirit Shield - that Wang Shouzhe had acquired years ago! Wang Shouzhe knew that his beloved daughter had a hot temper and feared that she might suffer during disputes with other disciples, so he persuaded his wife to fully equip their beloved daughter.

But even Wang Shouzhe could not have expected that his daughter would clash with a mid-stage Heavenly Human Realm elder even before she had entered the Academic Palace!

Chapter 20 Oh no! What terrible little monster have I provoked?\_2

"This... this... this..."

Both Senior Brother Zhenghua and the surrounding spectators were stunned by the scene.

That was a full-force blow from a mid-stage Heavenly Human Elder, yet it wasn't able to severely wound her! The white spirit shield possessed such power, could it be another top-grade spiritual artifact?

It is well known that top-grade spiritual artifacts possess extraordinary power, comparable to lower-grade magical treasures, and have a low threshold for mastery. Even cultivators at the Spirit Platform Realm can refine and use them at will, making them treasures among spiritual artifacts!

However, while top-grade spiritual artifacts are useful, their only problem is their "cost".

Their price is even a bit higher than "medium-grade magical treasures". This price is extravagantly high, so much so that ordinary prominent families can only look and dream of them at night.

This price also means that it is not a necessity for a family, but a luxury they cannot afford.

A family may grit their teeth, tighten their belts and invest hundreds of thousands of Qian Gold in a big project, or even sell everything to buy a "Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill" to cultivate the family's seed, but they will never bite the bullet to buy a top-grade spiritual artifact.

Only those long-established old-brand six-rank, or even fifth-grade families might have top-grade spiritual artifacts as part of their heritage. However, only the direct lineage and their seeds will have the privilege to equip them.

Wang Liyao, this girl, possesses two top-grade spiritual artifacts for attack and defense, along with a Feiyu Spirit Treasure that is even more expensive. The total value of all these might even overshadow that of the few high-ranked Heavenly Human Transmitted Directly Disciples from the Primordial Water lineage.

"This..."

At this moment, even the face of Elder Shang was fluctuating indeterminately.

With just a summon, the Primordial Water Sword flew back to his side, moving as nimbly as a living creature.

If it were just a top-grade spiritual artifact or a Feiyu Spirit Treasure, he still couldn't definitively judge the girl's background. After all, in some long-standing declining families, such good things might exist.

But the simultaneous appearance of two top-grade spiritual artifacts made the last shred of luck in Elder Shang's heart completely vanish. He could almost be certain that the girl's background might indeed be extraordinary.

...

While Wang Liyao was crossing swords with Elder Shang.

In the middle of the vast Primordial Water Sky Lake Island Heart, under the protection of the defensive array, several Masters were still having a meeting in the main hall of the Primordial Water lineage, discussing the next layout.

Suddenly.

Master Binglan slightly raised her eyebrows and glanced outside: "This noise... Is it two Heavenly Human Realm cultivators from the Primordial Water lineage fighting or sparring?"

"It should be two Heavenly Human Realm core disciples." Master Xuanyao said indifferently, "These days have been too peaceful, and they have energy but nowhere to put it. Didn't we also go through this when we were young? For those with excessive energy, throw them on the battlefield for a few rounds, and they will naturally calm down."

The other Masters also sensed the energy fluctuations outside and looked at Master Primordial Water one after another.

An awkward expression appeared on Master Primordial Water's stern face.

It is common for Profound Martial cultivators to spar. However, given that Yu Hang was injured and all the Masters were gathered together, it was somewhat inappropriate to spar at this time, which also made him slightly displeased.

"It's normal for disciples to spar." Lady Huandie from the Valley of Ten Thousand Butterflies said with a sweet smile, "Let's not bother with these two youngsters for now. Brother Primordial Water, you are now acting as the dean.

I want to ask why the resource allocation for my Valley of Ten Thousand Butterflies in the next thirty years is one-tenth less than before, yet the Mysterious Ice Palace gets more..."

"My Mysterious Ice Palace is the main combat force..."

The several big shots instantly put the "trivial matter" behind them and began to fight for their own lineage's rights.

...

"Cough, cough!"

Wang Liyao rose to her feet, wiped the blood from the corner of her mouth, and casually swallowed a fourth-grade healing pill. At the same time, the Primordial Water aura around her body slowly converged, automatically healing her.

Although she was somewhat injured, her gaze was still very firm, showing no signs of giving in or retreating to Elder Shang.

Seeing this, Elder Shang felt his heart "thump" with concern.

He couldn't help but contemplate that this may lead to some trouble as if he had provoked something terrifying.

The anger in his heart rose abruptly, and he couldn't help but glare at Shang Lexian who was hiding to the side, his face full of consternation.

What kind of demon did this boy bring back for him?

From the fact that her Primordial Water aura automatically gathered to heal her, her Primordial Water bloodline awakening level must be extremely high, even surpassing his own mid-stage triple-bloodline awakening level.

Thinking about a certain probability, Elder Shang's face became even more unpleasant. His heart was filled with trepidation, and he couldn't help but feel fearful.

"Hahahaha~ I haven't had such a good fight in a long time~ Elder Shang, thank you for your teachings."

However, Wang Liyao had no such concerns.

She looked up at Elder Shang in the sky, and a burst of flames ignited in her beautiful eyes.

At that moment, she felt as if she had gone back to the old days when she had burnt her teacher's beard. The more others tried to impose their thoughts on her, the more she resisted and wanted to fight.

Since Elder Shang insisted on distorting right and wrong, she was resolved to teach him a lesson, even if it took all her strength.

Once she had made up her mind, Wang Liyao's eyes suddenly became resolute.

She let go of the Autumn Water Sword, allowing it to circle around her. Her hands began to fly, intricate and profound hand signs rapidly forming.

Chapter 20 Oh no! What terrible little monster have I provoked?\_3

The next moment.

A flash of light appeared at the center of her eyebrows.

Like a fish floating to the surface, a small, square stamp slowly emerged from the center of her eyebrows, instantly levitating.

In an instant, the entire Primordial Water Heavenly Lake seemed to be disturbed, causing countless ripples. Fishes jumped in shock, birds flew away in alarm. Even the ground on the shore began to tremble slightly.

With the surges of ripples, countless streams of Elemental Water Aura madly converged, forming radiant, spiraling lights around the pure white stamp.

Under this radiant light, the patterns of mountains and rivers on the small stamp seemed to come to life, emitting an extremely mysterious aura.

"What is this...?" Elder Shang's old face twitched, revealing a look of disbelief, "Could this be the legendary Divine Soul Spiritual Tool?!"

He had heard about it, legends about spiritual artifacts that surpassed the top grade. They could be refined and integrated into the Spiritual Platform to become one with the Divine Soul. However, every spiritual artifact that could reach this level was a rarity in the world.

He heard that a senior brother from the Academic Palace had obtained a similar treasure when he was young. It had infinite power once it was used, and fighting above one's grade was not a problem.

Apart from Elder Shang's astonishment, Wang Liyao was also not feeling well at this moment.

As the momentum of the small stamp became stronger and stronger, droplets of sweat slid down her cheeks. It was obvious that controlling the Divine Soul Spiritual Tool was quite strenuous with her spiritual sense or rather, divine sense.

This Divine Soul Spiritual Tool is known as the "Mountain and River Stamp".

Back then, when Wang Liyao was at the peak of the Qi Refinement Realm and entered the replication, there were no suitable top-grade spiritual artifacts for her when she broke through the third stage. In addition, she effortlessly killed the Spirit Platform Realm demon puppet with her Threefold Primordial Water Bloodline, impressing the Artifact Spirit.

Then, the Artifact Spirit began to flatter her, believing that with her talent, she had the potential to enter the upper echelons of the Divine Martial Army in the future. It stated that there was a flawed "boutique weapon" among the inventory that was not listed.

This so-called flawed "boutique weapon" was the "Mountain and River Stamp".

A very rare "Divine Soul Spiritual Tool" in Da Qian was just a "boutique weapon" during the Divine Martial Dynasty Era, which shows how terrifying the background of the Divine Martial Dynasty was.

However, there are two flaws in this Mountain and River Stamp.

One, during the original refining process, the emphasis on power made the usage threshold too high. It requires a bloodline of four or more to control it. Moreover, even a great Sky Pride at the Spirit Platform Realm would find it challenging to control.

Two, the Mountain and River Stamp needs to be nourished in the Spiritual Platform for a long time. It can only be used after it has accumulated enough energy. The stronger the divine sense, the shorter the nurturing period, and each use requires recharging.

With Wang Liyao's current divine sense strength, it would take a year to fully charge the Mountain and River Stamp.

But today, she must use this move.

She wanted to use this method to tell Elder Shang not to bully the young casually. Even if she couldn't defeat him, even if she would be at a disadvantage, she had to give him a profound lesson.

"Mountain and River Stamp, go!"

Wang Liyao's eyes opened wide, and the Mountain and River Stamp suddenly shot out, instantly reaching the sky.

"Hum~!"

A low humming noise suddenly echoed between heaven and earth.

At the same time, a huge phantom shadow centered on the Mountain and River Stamp and presented the sky and the earth as a backdrop, slowly unveiled.

It was a hazy yet real light silhouette, within which there were continuous mountains and surging rivers, and even chirping birds. It seemed so real as if it truly existed, yet it was so illusory that it seemed as if it would dissipate at any moment.

However, the profound aura that it exuded was chillingly enchanting. Vaguely, it seemed to have merged with the surrounding heaven and earth.

As the Mountain and River Stamp slowly descended, the giant illusion of mountains and rivers slowly pressed down.

The terrifying pressure, like Mount Tai being on top, unbearable and domineering, its power was stronger, and even more domineering than Elder Shang's Blade Intent!

Even the powerful Elder Shang felt a chill run down his spine in the face of this formidable strike. The power of this strike was probably infinitely close to the advanced stage of the Heavenly Human Realm!

Damn it!

What kind of terrifying creature had he provoked?