

Teacher 101

Chapter 101: All Attributes +1

The erupting spirit qi seethed like chaotic clouds. It then instantly surged back, forming a typhoon-like torrent over his head that got channeled into his body.

A few minutes later, everything returned to a peaceful state.

The golden light on Sun Mo's body had also dissipated.

Ding!

"Congratulations. All attributes +1!"

The system congratulated Sun Mo, but its tone sounded monotonous and insincere.

Sun Mo wasn't bothered about it. He was sensing the changes to his body. His hearing had gotten a lot sharper. The sound of the birds' chirping outside was a lot louder than when he had first come in.

His vision had improved as well. He looked out of the window and could see further. As for his sense of smell, the presence of the dust in the air gave him the urge to sneeze.

"The Diamond Fruit that has a value of 3,000 favorable impression points is very worth it. You'll slowly find out the benefits of having your attributes increase!"

Sun Mo ignored the system and went straight to the combat strength dojo.

Du Xiao was about to leave when she saw Sun Mo entering. She felt a little surprised. What was this? Have lunch, take a break, and then beat a bronze man?

She didn't expect that Sun Mo had such interests!

Sun Mo nodded as a form of greeting. He then walked up to a bronze man and punched out.

Bang!

A huge sound rang out.

Du Xiao frowned. The impact was a lot louder than before. Thus, she couldn't help but walk over, taking a look at the bronze man's stomach.

"320?"

Du Xiao was surprised. The force of Sun Mo's punch had risen by 10 after a meal? This must be a joke, right?

Moreover, Sun Mo's attack didn't seem to have any prior preparation. He had just struck out casually.

Could it be that he hadn't used his full force earlier on?

No, that couldn't be. She had witnessed the entire process in which Sun Mo had beaten the bronze man. He definitely hadn't held back.

“Teacher Du, aren’t you going for your meal?”

As Sun Mo said this, he drew his blade and struck out.

Golden Sun Annihilation.

Bang!

Du Xiao’s eyelids twitched furiously. Sun Mo’s control over this attack was a lot better now.

She subconsciously stared at the bronze man’s stomach, couldn’t wait to find out about the actual numbers.

345!

The eruptive surge didn’t come as a surprise.

“I’m planning to go now!”

After Du Xiao said that, Sun Mo launched another blade attack.

Gale Shooting Moon!

Ding!

The wooden blade struck the bronze man’s heart.

As Du Xiao was distracted from replying to Sun Mo’s question, she almost missed out on this attack.

“So fast!”

These two words popped up in Du Xiao’s mind.

Sun Mo didn’t chat with her. After preparing himself, he swung his blade again

Eighteen Words Order!

Pa pa pa!

The sounds that rang out this time around were a lot denser, like the consecutive pops from an exploding firecracker. If one’s hearing was a little weaker, they might not be able to tell how many times Sun Mo had struck the bronze man.

Du Xiao stared at the bronze man’s stomach. When the image stabilized, she couldn’t help but gasp.

“380?”

Du Xiao was utterly shocked.

What on earth had Sun Mo done? It had only been slightly over half an hour but his battle prowess had gone through an explosive increase to this level?

To a cultivator, every bit of increment would require them to put in a great amount of hard work. It was because one’s battle prowess clearly reflected their body condition.

This was like how sportsmen's body functions would plunge if they were to slack for a few days and didn't keep up with their training. It was the same for battle prowess.

"You've leveled up?"

Du Xiao subconsciously thought of this possibility but then quickly shook her head. That wasn't right. If Sun Mo had leveled up, his strength would increase tremendously, and his battle prowess would reach the 400 tier.

"I'm full now!"

Sun Mo smiled, satisfied with his current state. If it wasn't because there were outsiders, he'd really want to perform a set of Immemorial Vairocana at the bronze man.

Du Xiao's lips twitched. (Who the hell are you kidding?)

At each cultivation realm, the higher the battle prowess, the harder it would be to increase it. It was like how for a test, if a person wasn't stupid and had put in some work, it'd be easy for them to progress from a failing grade to a passing grade. However, it would be very difficult to move from 90 marks to full marks.

It was because each additional point was no longer just a test of the student's learning capabilities. It also tested how meticulous one was, their mental condition when taking the test, their body condition, and other things.

Sun Mo put the wooden blade back to his belt and then activated the Divine Sight.

Du Xiao, 24 years old. Sixth level of the blood-ignition realm.

Strength 22. Strength isn't your forte.

Intellect 24. Exceeds average standards.

Agility 23. Mediocre!

Endurance 28, Will 27. As you came from an ordinary family of farmers, the training you've received since young gave you strong endurance and will.

...

Above-average potential!

Remark: You're a girl who can tolerate hard work. The success that you crave for will definitely come. Your period has come recently, so you should rest more.

"Tsk!"

Looking at the various statistics and the ratings, Sun Mo couldn't help but feel surprised. All of them were positive reviews. Moreover, that remark also caused him to feel a good impression on her.

Sun Mo liked people like her who worked hard.

Du Xiao felt a little embarrassed from the way Sun Mo was looking at her. Her face that looked mediocre flushed up with a layer of red.

Du Xiao had lived for 24 years as an ordinary woman and hadn't met a single guy who would try to curry up to her.

Hence, she had never experienced being stared at in the way Sun Mo was looking at her. She wasn't accustomed to it and felt that her entire person had been seen through.

Du Xiao subconsciously clutched her collar.

"If you aren't feeling well, then don't cultivate or test your capabilities. Take a few days to rest!"

As Sun Mo's impression of Du Xiao wasn't bad, he gave her a word of advice. There'd be no benefit to cultivate when she was on her period.

This was how humans were. They should rest when it was time to do so. If they were to hang on forcibly, things might turn out differently from the plan.

"Huh?"

Du Xiao was stunned and she uncontrollably clamped her legs tightly together. How did he know that she wasn't feeling well? Although there were rumors that he had God Hands, he didn't touch her.

Could it be that he was able to tell her body's condition just by looking? Wouldn't that be too terrifying?

Wait a minute...

Du Xiao suddenly thought of something, and her face flushed up thoroughly. The reason she wasn't feeling well was because she was on her period. With Sun Mo saying that, wouldn't it mean that he knew of her condition?

(That can't be, that can't be. How can someone know if you're on your period just by taking a look?)

Du Xiao shook her head and smiled. She then raised her arm to her nose and took a whiff. It couldn't be that there was the scent of blood, right?

That wasn't right either. She had been changing her underwear very frequently over the past few days.

By the time Du Xiao had come back to her senses, Sun Mo had already left. This teacher with a mediocre look gave chase, hesitated for a moment, but eventually said it.

"Teacher Sun, do you have time? Why don't we have a meal together?"

After saying that, Du Xiao's flushed up even more. She hadn't invited any guys before, but after saying this, her heart started palpitating.

"I'm sorry. I have to go out of the school to buy some things. Maybe another day. I'll treat you then!"

Sun Mo rejected her.

"Oh!"

Du Xiao was a little surprised to hear this reply. However, she didn't insist.

Sun Mo's figure disappeared at the end of the road.

Du Xiao stood on the spot, frowning slightly.

There were rumors that Sun Mo sponged off a woman, but the capabilities he displayed weren't bad. He should be of the average standard amongst those at the first level of the blood-ignition realm.

No, he should be above-average.

As for his teaching capabilities, it would still require further observations. However, based on what Jiang Yongnian and the others said, it seemed that it wasn't weak based on the effects of his first public lecture.

"Sun Mo's title as a guy who sponges off a woman isn't that right!"

Du Xiao was amused. An Xinhui was a great beauty with both talent and beauty and was ranked seventh on the Devastating Beauty Rankings. Amongst the people of her age, one could count the guys who were more outstanding than her with a single hand.

Usually, the husband should be more outstanding than the wife, assuming more responsibilities. Once the wife became more outstanding, capable of earning more money than the husband, having a better job, and enjoying a high social status, even if the husband was more outstanding than most people, he'd still be criticized by everyone else. He'd be considered to be useless.

There was no other way around it. This was how the values in this world were like.

...

Sun Mo got a bowl of beef noodles from the canteen and left the school after eating it. The system had given him a mission to draw the 1000 Spirit-Gathering Runes within a month. Therefore, he needed to purchase some tools to draw them.

Areas around schools would have places that sold things like that.

Sun Mo didn't have to go too far. The street in front of Central Province Academy had all sorts of shops. As for the spirit rune shops alone, there were seven to eight of them.

Sun Mo picked out one that was pleasing to the eye and entered it.

"What would you like to buy, teacher? Our shop has just brought in a new batch of ink that has a greater effect on holding spirit qi!"

When the shop owner who was in his forties saw Sun Mo's clothes, he immediately broke into smiles and came over to welcome him.

(The azure-colored long robe is the Central Province Academy's teacher attire. But since this person looks very unfamiliar, he should be a new teacher, right?)

"I need the complete set of tools for depicting spirit runes. Recommend me some!"

As he had sold the manuscript for [Journey to the West] and received 1,000 taels for it. Sun Mo's had a lot of money and thus dared to say something like this.

“It’s a big customer!”

The shop owner’s eyes lit up and he tried hard to give recommendations.

Three basic items were required for depicting spirit runes—the rune brush, ink, and rune paper.

Rune brushes were usually made from animal bones, certain ores, or the stems of spirit plants. Because the user would have to channel their spirit qi onto the rune paper when depicting the spirit runes, not only would the rune brushes need to be sturdy and able to withstand the gushing spirit qi, but they would also have to minimize the dissipation of spirit qi through the brush.

Any ink, as long as they were liquid that contained spirit qi, regardless if they were artificial or natural, such as certain spiritual beasts’ blood or plants’ saps, could be referred to as ink.

The rune paper were papers that could store spirit qis. However, they weren’t limited to only papers.

Jade stones, bones, metals, and other things could all be used. However, it was too hard to depict spirit runes on these materials and thus most people used paper.

“How much is this brush?”

Sun Mo looked at the rune brush that seemed to be made from bamboo. It looked very artistic.

“5,000 silver taels!”

The shop owner smiled, even more certain that Sun Mo was a big customer now. (Look at him. The things he picks are all good stuff!)

“Haha, bye!”

Sun Mo put down the brush and turned to leave. He thought that he was considered to have a small fortune, but it turned out that he was just a pauper. He couldn’t even afford a few brush hair, let alone spending extravagantly.

Chapter 102: Spirit Rune Grandmaster

“Huh?”

The shop owner, who was in his forties and was balding, had two thoughts flashing past his mind. Did this teacher really have no money? Or was he thinking of bargaining for a better price by taking a step back?

By the looks of his age, he should be in his twenties and probably hadn’t learned of such bargaining skills that experienced people like himself knew.

The shop owner’s gaze landed on Sun Mo’s feet. If Sun Mo was trying to haggle for the price, then he would slow down, waiting for the shop owner to take the initiative to call him back and offer a lower price.

But he didn’t!

“So he is really poor!”

The shop owner felt upset, but he still gave chase. His shop wasn't an antique shop where he would be able to provide for his living expenses for a year by just selling a single item.

These tools for spirit runes brought in low profits, and it was hard-earned money.

"This teacher, why don't you take a look at other things? I dare say that there aren't more than three shops on this street who sell spirit rune tools that are better than mine."

The shop owner smiled.

"I thought that you'd say you're the best!" Sun Mo teased.

"You're a teacher and will definitely browse other shops as well. If I were to boast, wouldn't I be exposed?"

Looking down on others to raise his own stance was something that the slightly balded shop owner didn't dare to do. Moreover, this customer was a teacher.

If he was a teacher, he would have students. If a teacher were to use the tools from his shop, then he'd be a walking advertisement.

"You're a teacher. I can give you a 20% discount. If you spend over 1,000 taels, then I'll give you a 30% discount!"

The shop owner grinned. He had a good brain for business.

"I want some cheap goods!"

Sun Mo didn't feel embarrassed. He only needed to complete 1,000 Spirit-Gathering Runes, and there weren't any requirements for the ink and rune paper used!

Only a fool would spend a huge amount of money to buy high-quality stuff!

"You must be using them for practice, right? Then these few spirit brushes will do. They aren't expensive either, only costing 100 taels at most."

The shop owner took out five brushes and handed them to Sun Mo.

Almost all of them were made from bamboo.

The shop owner had a well-trained judgment over the years and could tell that Sun Mo liked spirit brushes with this kind of style and material.

Sun Mo took them and tried holding them.

The shop owner took out a rune paper, placing it on the table. He then opened a bottle of ink that had been used before. He told Sun Mo, "Teacher, you can try drawing a spirit rune!"

Sun Mo didn't stand on ceremony. He stood next to the table, picked up a spirit brush that had the best grip, dipped it with some ink, and then channeled in spirit qi into the brush. He then drew the first stroke on the rune paper.

A grandmaster-grade Spirit-Gathering Rune Depiction Technique caused the spirit rune's complicated diagram to seem as if it was engraved in his mind. It had become instinctive.

Sun Mo didn't need to give it much thought and was able to draw it out with the most perfect arch.

"Beautiful!"

As the owner of a shop selling spirit rune tools, this slightly bald man in his forties had seen many spirit runes before. However, when he saw Sun Mo starting to draw, he couldn't help but praise.

When an expert made a move, it was clear if they had the skill!

Sun Mo's posture was light, charming, and pleasing to the eye. It was clear that he had been practicing for very long!

To be honest, Sun Mo hadn't practiced before. But what was 'grandmaster-grade'?

A grandmaster was someone who had been immersed in a certain domain for several decades. They had achieved great mastery, had their own comprehensions and takeaways, and could start up a school to accept disciples.

Being able to be addressed as a grandmaster meant that this person was almost standing at the very top of the domain. If he were to go further, then he'd reach the ancestor-grade, being an even rarer existence.

Sun Mo had only wanted to try a few strokes, but once he started drawing, he felt exhilarated and didn't want to stop.

Sun Mo's current state was like he was high from completing questions, being able to finish any difficult question without any troubles. Therefore, he was unable to come to a stop.

Every single stroke!

Natural and unforced!

Exhilarating!

About 15 minutes later, a Spirit-Gathering Rune was complete.

When the very last stroke was completed, Sun Mo lifted the brush and with a 'boom', the Spirit-Gathering Rune suddenly lit up in a golden glow.

The spirit qi in the surroundings immediately gushed over, forming a vortex that was over ten centimeters tall at a rate that could be seen by the naked eye.

"This... this..."

The balding shop owner was astonished and almost bit off his own tongue.

This Spirit-Gathering Rune must at least be at level 5!

Take a fruit for example. For the same type of fruit, a difference in the quality would result in different pricing. Therefore, there were naturally differences in spirit runes as well.

Spirit runes were differentiated into nine levels by their quality, with level 1 being the lowest and level 9 the highest.

Level 1 to 3 were low-quality goods that could be sold in various spirit runes shops by the roadside. They weren't considered too expensive either. Level 4 to 6 spirit runes, on the other hand, weren't something that ordinary people would be able to afford. One would have to be from a slightly richer family to be able to afford them.

Spirit runes that were level 7 or higher weren't often seen in the market. Even if there were, they'd be prized items in some large-scale spirit runes shops. Their price would be quite expensive as well.

If one's family didn't have ore mines, they could forget about being able to buy such spirit runes.

The Spirit-Gathering Rune was one of the most commonly seen foundational spirit runes. Its effect was to gather the surrounding spirit qi, forming a space within a radius of several meters with a slightly higher density of spirit qi. This would allow the cultivator to be able to cultivate with greater ease and success.

This Spirit-Gathering Rune that Sun Mo drew had resulted in a spirit qi vortex upon completion. This meant that the rate at which the Spirit-Gathering Rune was gathering the spirit qi was extremely fast, and the amount gathered was tremendous as well.

Gulp!

The shop owner gulped and couldn't help but assess Sun Mo in greater detail.

Spirit qi vortex was a unique phenomenon that would only appear when a spirit rune that was at level 5 or higher took form. And such Spirit-Gathering Runes would be sold for at least 500 silver taels.

Ding!

+15 favorable impression points from the shop owner, prestige connection initiated. Neutral (15/100).

"Was it alright?"

Sun Mo admired his first completed work, feeling a little happy inside.

If even the shop owner, who knew his stuff, contributed favorable impression points, then it meant that his Spirit-Gathering Rune was done quite well.

"Yes! It's quite good!"

The shop owner wasn't hesitant in giving his praise. He wasn't trying to give a polite talk but was sincerely praising Sun Mo.

"I'll take this brush, and you can just give me any ink. As for rune paper, I'll take this."

Sun Mo chose the tools.

"Huh?"

The balding shop owner was surprised

“What’s the matter?” Sun Mo frowned. “Are there no stocks left?”

“No... It’s not that...” The shop owner pointed at the ink and then at the rune paper. “You’re going to use these?”

“I told you, I’m a pauper!”

(Even if I want to change to higher quality ones, I must be able to afford them in the first place!)

“May I know how to address you?”

The shop owner’s attitude was a lot more respectful.

“Sun Mo!”

There was nothing to conceal.

“Teacher Sun, to speak the truth, this paper isn’t fitting for your technique. No, it’d be putting your technique to waste!”

The balding shop owner hadn’t brought out the cheapest paper, but they weren’t expensive either.

It was because Sun Mo was a teacher that the balding shop owner wanted him as a returning customer. Otherwise, he would have brought out the worst rune paper.

Even the lousiest ones shouldn’t be looked down upon. For students, he’d bring out ordinary white paper meant for normal writing.

There was no other way out. Even the cheapest rune papers would cost 20 to 30 coins.

This money would be enough for him to buy two trays of buns. Those odd job workers, who carried loads at the pier, would only earn this much money after slogging for an entire day.

“I have no money!”

Sun Mo shrugged.

“Sigh, the Spirit-Gathering Rune you drew has already reached such a grade, yet you’re saying that you have no money? You’re really...”

The balding shop owner didn’t know what to say. When he saw the Spirit-Gathering Rune on the table, he felt so regretful that he wanted to slap himself in the face.

(If I had been more generous earlier, bringing out good ink and high-quality rune paper, then wouldn’t this be a level 6 spirit rune?)

A spirit rune of this level could be easily sold for 1,000 silver taels!

The quality of a spirit rune, other than being related to the rune master’s level, was also tied to the materials used. After all, if the materials were too bad, they wouldn’t be able to produce much effect.

However, who would have thought that a young teacher could produce such a high-quality Spirit-Gathering Rune so casually?

Hold on!

He had only drawn it casually?

At the thought of this, the shop owner's gaze had an additional hint of astonishment.

Since the balding shop owner was working in a spirit runes related field, his son had grown up with exposure to spirit runes. The Spirit-Gathering Rune was the first spirit rune that his son had learned. After ten years, he could be said to have achieved a small level of success in it.

However, it'd take him close to an hour to complete one.

This Teacher Sun had merely taken over 15 minutes to complete it easily. It was three times faster than his son. Moreover, the quality was so good...

"I thought that rascal had talent in spirit rune words!"

The shop owner had been dealt a blow. He decided to give his son a thrashing to vent his anger when the latter came back tonight.

"You wish to purchase my Spirit-Gathering Rune?"

Sun Mo understood the shop owner's intentions.

"Would you sell it? I can provide you with the best tools for spirit runes and pay you 200 taels for each spirit rune of this quality!"

The shop owner offered.

"200 taels?"

Sun Mo was a little surprised. He hadn't expected for spirit runes to be able to bring him so much money.

He had gone to so much trouble over a few days to write Journey to the West. Even if it became popular, he'd only get an income over 10,000 silver taels. However, he'd only need to draw 200 Spirit-Gathering Runes to earn 20,000 taels.

Of course, the amount of time he'd need to take would also be a few days. However, this would be money that he earned using his own skills!

"Sun Mo, you've neglected one point. Your Spirit-Gathering Rune Depiction Technique is at the grandmaster-grade. Ordinary spirit rune masters would need to take at least 20 years to be able to reach this level. By the time they've reached the grandmaster-grade, they'd have gotten famous. Would they still need to rely on drawing Spirit-Gathering Runes to earn money?"

"That's true!" said Sun Mo

"Teacher Sun, the level of your Spirit-Gathering Rune is excellent and can be sold for a lot of money. However, the market isn't big and not many students can afford such an expensive Spirit-Gathering Rune," the shop owner said honestly.

"Too little!" Sun Mo said outright,

“250 taels!” the shop owner added.

“Are you treating me as an idiot?”

Sun Mo frowned.

“I wouldn’t dare! I wouldn’t dare!”

The shop owner quickly apologized. He then gritted his teeth and offered, “300 taels!”

Sun Mo kept quiet.

“Teacher Sun, if I were to offer a higher price, I wouldn’t be able to earn much. After all, I’m the one forking out all the materials and responsible for the sales. I can’t possibly not earn anything from this,” the shop owner cried. This price was actually quite good.

“I’ll go to another spirit rune shop to ask around!”

Sun Mo wanted to leave.

After hearing the system’s words, Sun Mo understood that he was someone who would become a great teacher. His goal was to have countless students under him and not to earn a lot of money.

This made sense. Being able to nurture a spear saint, who would bring about a great impact, was a lot cooler than earning a lot of money. Moreover, there was a sense of achievement as well.

However, who would think that they had too much money?

At the very least, if he could earn a couple hundred taels, then he’d be able to improve the papaya girl’s food.

“330 taels!”

This time around, the shop owner was sincere in his offer.

Compared to earning money, he decided to build a good relationship with Sun Mo first. If his son could secretly learn some tricks, it’d be more important than earning money.

“Alright!”

Sun Mo was satisfied.

“Teacher Sun, I’m saying it first. The spirit runes must all be of this level for me to purchase them.”

The shop owner then quickly added, “The number of defective products and accidental depletion of materials must be controlled within 10%.”

“Certainly.”

Sun Mo wasn’t planning on fooling the shop owner.

Seeing that Sun Mo didn’t find any excuses but agreed straightaway, the shop owner heaved a sigh of relief. This teacher was someone easy to get along with. However, the shop owner rubbed his hands together.

“Erm...”

The shop owner was hesitant to speak up.

“Go on!” Sun Mo said calmly.

“Can you draw another one?”

As the shop owner said this, he immediately brought the spirit brush that Sun Mo liked, along with the best ink and rune paper. He placed them down neatly on the table.

Sun Mo didn't mind. He picked up the brush, dipped it in some ink, and then channeled the spirit qi into the brush.

“Urgh!”

The shop owner's heart trembled fiercely. (Don't you need to make mental preparations? The materials used this time around are very expensive. If there are any mistakes, then over 100 silver taels will be wasted).

However, as Sun Mo drew the spirit rune, the shop owner realized that he had been worrying needlessly.

The same as earlier, Sun Mo had only taken 15 minutes to complete the Spirit-Gathering Rune. Throughout the entire process, Sun Mo appeared very relaxed, not stopping or thinking at all.

It was as if drawing Spirit-Gathering Runes had become something as instinctive as drinking water or eating food.

As the materials used were better, a greater vortex was produced. Since the spirit qi density was too high, some flashing light spots glowed like the stars in the night sky.

“Beautiful!”

“It's so beautiful!”

Other than this, the shop owner couldn't find any other praises.

Ding!

+21 favorable impression points from the shop owner. Neutral (35/100).

Sun Mo put down the brush.

When the shop owner saw the Spirit-Gathering Rune on the table, he subconsciously reached out to it, wanting to pick it up to admire it. However, he quickly stopped.

He was worried that he'd dirty this spirit rune.

“Level 6! This is definitely a level 6 spirit rune! It can be sold for at least 1,000 silver taels!”

The shop owner was very agitated.

“Is it done? Wrap up the tools for me first. I still have something on and need to leave.”

Sun Mo didn't wish to waste time.

The shop owner didn't dare to treat Sun Mo shabbily. He quickly packed the best ink and rune papers in the shop and placed them before Sun Mo.

"I don't have money to pay any deposit!" Sun Mo reminded.

"There's no need to pay any deposit!" the shop owner said generously.

He had wanted to ask for a deposit, but what would happen if he were to offend Sun Mo? It was hard to encounter such an amazing spirit rune master. Even if one were to encounter one, they wouldn't be able to collaborate either.

Therefore, the shop owner had to keep Sun Mo in a good mood.

Since Sun Mo was a teacher of the Central Province Academy, the shop owner only needed to go there and ask around. Even if Sun Mo were to run away, the academy would still be there.

Sun Mo took the tools and left.

After the shop owner sent Sun Mo off, the former quickly returned to the shop and carefully admired this Spirit-Gathering Rune. This was simply a piece of art!

A student walked in and saw the spirit qi vortex that had yet to completely dissipate. His eyes lit up and he immediately dashed over.

"I'm taking this spirit rune!"

Look, this was what it meant to be rich. They never asked for the price, but would just purchase the thing straightaway!

The shop owner couldn't help but feel emotional.

If he were to encounter such a customer, he'd usually serve them with smiles. However, he couldn't do that today.

"I'm sorry, I'm not selling it!" The shop owner refused.

"Why?"

Fang Yan was perplexed. He put his hand out to touch this Spirit-Gathering Rune.

Earlier on, Fang Yan had only seen the size of the spirit qi vortex. However, he was already certain that this was a good Spirit-Gathering Rune. Now that he had gotten a closer look, he realized that his earlier rating had been too superficial.

The direction, arrangement, and thickness of each of the spirit rune's lines were pleasant to the eyes, filled with a great sense of beauty. If Fang Yan were to get his hands on it, he wouldn't bear to use it. Instead, he'd frame it and hang it up on a wall to admire.

"I'm going to leave it for my son to use!" the shop owner said outright. The reason he was earning money was to provide for his family and nurture his son. Now that he had come across such a good Spirit-Gathering Rune, he must give it to his son.

“You... you... you’re wasting such a precious thing!”

Fang Yan was almost driven to death from fury.

(You’re going to use up such a beautiful spirit rune? Don’t you know that you’ll be punished by God if you do that?)

Seeing the angry Fang Yan, the shop owner was shocked and backed off a few steps.

There was no other way out. This guy had a height of over two meters and bulging muscles, looking strong like a huge metal tower. When he became angry, he gave off the feeling as if he was going to tear his enemies up and swallow them alive.

“State a price!” Fang Yan urged.

“I said I’m not selling it!”

The shop owner rolled up the rune paper and then hid it behind his back. Worried that Fang Yan would snatch it, he gave Fang Yan a warning. “Judging from your uniform, you must be from the Central Province Academy. If you dare to act recklessly, I’ll go complain to Headmaster An!”

“Hehe!”

Fang Yan laughed out of fury. But seeing how the shop owner was acting, he knew that he wouldn’t be able to purchase this Spirit-Gathering Rune.

Sigh, he really couldn’t accept this!

“My shop will have Spirit-Gathering Runes of a similar grade to this. If you want them, I can put them aside for you next time.”

The shop owner was very sly. He didn’t say that he was going to sell them, but said that he was going to put them aside. This made it sound like his goods were very popular.

“Given my level, why would I still want Spirit-Gathering Runes?”

Fang Yan shook his head, smiling.

The Spirit-Gathering Rune was a spirit rune that cultivators could use during the body-refinement realm and the earlier phase of the spirit-refinement realm. When one’s level got higher, the bit of spirit qi the Spirit-Gathering Rune could gather would be insignificant. They’d be used up in a few breaths.

The reason Fang Yan wanted this Spirit-Gathering Rune was purely because he had taken a liking to this spirit rune. He had planned on keeping it as a collection.

Use?

He couldn’t bear to!

“For collection!”

The shop owner was struck by a realization. He then recalled Sun Mo's leisure state when drawing this Spirit-Gathering Rune. If Sun Mo were to be serious, he should be able to draw one that was better than this, right?

Chapter 103: Only Winners Gain Respect

"Come and take a look a few days later, I'll save it for you if I have it!"

The shop owner didn't wish to lose such a generous customer.

"Do you treat such spirit runes as baked sesame cakes that you can get every day? For such a piece of artwork, I'm afraid it's time-consuming to draw it."

Fang Yan snorted disdainfully. He studied spirit runes, so how could he not know the amount of time needed to draw such a beautiful spirit rune?

The shop owner's mouth twitched, but he still decided to tell this iron-tower man [1] that Teacher Sun had only drawn it within an hour.

However, Teacher Sun was really awesome. This iron-tower man majored in the field of spirit runes. If he even mentioned that the item was good, then it must be really good.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from the shop owner +15, Neutral (50/100).

"Help me to prepare these!"

Fang Yan passed a list of items to the shop owner.

Normally, he would be purchasing these items from another spirit rune store. However, that shop had a lack of supplies today and he was in urgent need of these items; hence, he came to this store instead.

The shop owner hurriedly did as instructed. When he was sending Fang Yan out of the store, he was unwilling to give up and reminded him, "When you're free the next few days, come and have a look. That piece of Spirit-Gathering Rune might be in stock again"

Fang Yan was unwilling to respond. For someone to be able to draw such a Spirit-Gathering Rune, they must be a great spirit rune master.

Such a spirit rune master would be extremely busy. Who would be so free to draw a pain in the ass Spirit-Gathering Rune? If that master were to have free time, he'd have drawn awesome spirit runes that could fetch him more money.

...

Lu Changhe's house, which was the spirit runes store, was on the east side of the long street outside the campus, about 200 m away. As the distance was very near, he would always return home for dinner.

Today, as Lu Changhe reached home, he was dragged into the study room by his dad.

"What happened?"

Lu Changhe touched his stomach as his thoughts wandered. He could already smell the fragrance of the food and knew that there was definitely chicken stew today.

“Come and take a look at this Spirit-Gathering Rune!”

The shop owner lifted the red cloth that was covering the table as though he was presenting a valuable treasure. He revealed the Spirit-Gathering Rune drawn by Sun Mo.

“Beautiful!”

Lu Changhe’s eyes brightened. He walked quickly toward the front of the table and lowered his head in admiration. “Look at this arrangement of the spirit runes and this is a drawing of Spirit-Gathering Rune, how beautifully portrayed!”

“This is the sixth level!” the shop owner flaunted.

“Sss, this must have cost a lot of money, where did you get it from?”

Lu Changhe also studied spirit runes; hence, he could appreciate the excellence and aesthetical aspect of this spirit rune.

“I didn’t spend any money. It was drawn by one of the teachers in your school.”

The shop owner chuckled.

“Our school?”

Lu Changhe frowned and looked at the Spirit-Gathering Rune. Suspicion filled his face. “Our teachers who are able to draw such spirit runes, I reckon there aren’t more than 10 of them. Since they are all significant characters, why would they interact with a small store like ours?”

“What do you mean by a small store?”

Hearing these words from his son, the shop owner wasn’t happy. He raised his hand and knocked Lu Changhe’s head. “Didn’t I depend on this small store to raise the few of you up?”

“Yes yes yes, it’s my fault!”

Lu Changhe, who was quite hungry, now sat on the stool and was delicately appreciating the spirit rune.

“Sun Mo this teacher, have you heard of him?”

Seeing how his son appeared to be engrossed in the rune, the shop owner was very proud. His son must have been very hardworking. He would definitely achieve some results in the study of spirit runes.

“Of course I’ve heard of him. He’s the intern teacher who’s currently under the public’s limelight in our school. Why? Have you heard of things about him too?”

Lu Changhe was curious.

“Intern teacher?”

The shop owner frowned.

“Oh, that’s not right. He has been officially employed a few days ago.”

Lu Changhe had recalled the past events regarding Sun Mo.

“Eh? Don’t the intern teachers in your school have to go through one year of internship before being officially employed?”

The shop owner had been operating this shop for over twenty years now. He was naturally quite familiar with the rules of Central Province Academy.

“Sun Mo is just that awesome. He managed to recruit 5 personal disciples during the student recruitment meet. Hence, there was an exception and he was accepted in advance,” Lu Changhe explained.

“Oh, I see!”

The shop owner wasn’t surprised at all. Since Sun Mo had such a formidable spirit runes technique, it was definitely a piece of cake for him to recruit a few students.

“After his first public lecture, Sun Mo’s Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands became well known in our school. Everyone says that he possesses God Hands, and they all want to let him touch their bodies to experience it firsthand.”

Lu Changhe wished for that as well, but he knew that he wouldn’t have much opportunity.

“Huh? Ancient Capturing what Hands? What are you talking about?”

The shop owner’s face was dumbfounded. He felt that his son didn’t seem to be talking about a human being.

“Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands, by using it to touch the students, he can find out the state of the student’s health. How awesome is that?!”

Lu Changhe hadn’t even finished saying but had been interrupted.

“That’s not him, I’m talking about the Sun Mo who’s exceptionally good at spirit rune drawing”

The shop owner shook his head.

“There’s only one Sun Mo in our school!”

It was Lu Changhe’s turn to be dumbfounded, but he gradually came to a realization and pointed to the Spirit-Gathering Rune on the table. “You mean this is drawn by Teacher Sun Mo?”

“Yes!”

The shop owner nodded.

“...”

Lu Changhe held onto his forehead. “You hold on, let me have a touch!”

Then, Lu Changhe’s gaze landed on the Spirit-Gathering Rune again and after having an attentive look, he laughed. “Father, you’re trying to test me, right?”

“What am I testing you on?”

The shop owner didn't understand. (What are you even imagining?)

“Dad, you're still trying to play dumb. This drawing of Spirit-Gathering Rune has such a high completeness index, and its details are illustrated clearly. The person who drew this must have over ten years of experience in Spirit Rune Depiction Technique, so how could it be drawn by Sun Mo? He's only twenty years old!”

Lu Changhe was speechless.

Professor He Yuanjin's spirit rune class was very popular in the Central Province Academy. One would need to snatch a seat 2 hours prior to the class; otherwise, there would be no seat at all.

Lu Changhe came to his classes without missing out on any session; hence, he had seen the kind of Spirit-Gathering Rune drawn by Teacher He Yuanjin, and it was comparable to this one.

No, maybe it was not even as good as this.

The drawing in front of him was really too beautiful.

“That Teacher Sun who came today also appeared to be twenty years old!”

After the shop owner finished talking, he came to a sudden realization. (The Spirit-Gathering Rune of this tier and grade actually came from the hands of a young teacher?)

“Did he start to draw spirit runes ever since he was in his mothers' womb?”

The shop owner was in shock.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from the shop owner +25, Neutral (75/100).

“Dad, you're really not joking?” Lu Changhe frowned.

“Why will I lie to you?” The shop owner glared at his son.

Lu Changhe was astonished and could hardly believe this fact.

He was afraid that he couldn't reach such a stage even if he were to practice diligently for 10 years.

“Sun Mo took less than an hour to finish drawing this,” the shop owner added.

“Dad!”

Lu Changhe started grumbling. In an instant, he felt that life had become even duller.

“Teacher Sun Mo's mastery in the field of spirit runes is already so high, so he would definitely start a public lecture on this subject. You should never miss it.”

The shop owner reminded his son.

“I got it.”

He didn't need to be reminded. Once he was certain that Sun Mo had a public lecture on the study of spirit runes, Lu Changhe would definitely go and listen to it.

"You must maintain your respect for Teacher Sun Mo," the shop owner added another sentence.

"I know!"

Lu Changhe finished speaking and ran off after grabbing the Spirit-Gathering Rune on the table. "This is mine now!"

"You little rascal!"

The shop owner was so angry. He didn't bother looking for the feather duster and started chasing after his son with a wooden stool. "If you were to spoil it, I'll break your legs."

After seeing the attitudes of Fang Yan and his son, the shop owner decided not to use this Spirit-Gathering Rune anymore. He would frame it up and leave it for commemoration.

...

Sun Mo didn't even think that drawing a piece of Spirit-Gathering Rune would bring about such a great impact.

The library was quiet, but when Sun Mo's spirit runes started to take shape, it would absorb the spirit qi from around him and form a small tornado. This would disturb other people from studying.

If he were to go to the teaching building, he could find a small classroom with a capacity of 30 people. However, when people heard the sounds, they would come and watch too.

Sun Mo didn't like to be watched. According to his character, he wouldn't occupy the classroom alone for an entire afternoon either. That was such a tacky thing to do.

Similarly, the meditation room couldn't be occupied for more than half a day. After all, he wasn't the only teacher in the Central Province Academy.

As for the dorm, Sun Mo didn't want to see Zhang Sheng's face.

"Could it be that I've to rent a room outside of the school?"

During dinner time, Sun Mo started to think about this question seriously.

The school had 2 buildings for the teachers to stay in. However, Sun Mo was only employed recently. Whether it was his experience or achievement, they were insufficient to get him a room allocation.

Life wouldn't become stagnant just because you didn't get what you wanted. It would even beat you up badly by giving you an uppercut.

Sun Mo only returned to the dorm very late in the night. After a short sleep, he woke up early and went to the teaching building with his lesson plan. Today, he still had to teach his 5 students and in the afternoon, it was the first session of public lecture.

After Sun Mo left the dorm, Zhang Sheng lifted the blanket that was covering his head.

If it wasn't that Zhang Sheng didn't have a place to stay, he'd have moved out of the dorm already. After having several rounds of arguments with Sun Mo, he had been avoiding the latter all along.

"How envious!"

Ludi sighed. Someone else was holding onto a lesson plan and teaching students. As for himself, he was plucking pig's fur and showing respect to some teachers.

"What's there to be envious about? I'll also become an official teacher soon!"

Zhang Sheng snorted.

"Very soon? The internship lasts for a year, just slowly wait!"

Ludi sneered at him.

"Hmm?"

Zhang Sheng was stunned and couldn't help but look toward Ludi with an unhappy tone. "What did you just say?"

"I'm saying that there's still 1 year of internship period!" Ludi repeated.

"You..."

Zhang Sheng's face changed in that instant.

(This Ludi, ever since he came into the dorm, even though he didn't try to curry favor with me, he was always coupled with a smiling face when talking to me. He always had appropriate behavior and a good attitude, why did he try to provoke me now?)

Ludi continued to pluck the pig's fur with his head lowered. He didn't care if Zhang Sheng was angry or not.

Zhang Sheng was outstanding and had a great opportunity to join the faculty in the past. However, now that he had been defeated continuously, Ludi had realized the true colors of this fella.

He wouldn't be able to do it!

Since everyone's probability of joining the faculty was similar, why did he have to curry favor with him? Moreover, this fella had offended Sun Mo before.

Zhang Sheng looked at Ludi and recalled that when Yuan Feng had been around, Sun Mo had been the one being ostracized by the 3 of them. However, it was his turn now.

A loser would never receive any form of respect!

As for Sun Mo, he had gained Ludi's respect with his genuine capabilities. Clearly, in Ludi's heart, Zhang Sheng was no longer a figure to be curried favor with but someone who could be provoked any time.

His status took a devastating decline.

Sun Mo didn't know about the argument between Ludi and Zhang Sheng. His ears were only filled with the system's notification now.

[1] Referring to how his build was as strong as iron and as tall as a tower

Chapter 104: I, Li Ziqi, Will Throw Money at You!

Ding!

“Congratulations, you’ve started prestige connections with 10 students and completed the achievement of ‘Beginner Teacher’. The reward is 1 black-iron treasure chest. Please continue to work hard!”

A black-iron treasure chest fell in front of Sun Mo’s eyes.

Sun Mo held back the urge to open the treasure chest immediately. Being an extremely unlucky person, without touching the papaya girl first to increase his luck, he would never open the treasure chest.

Otherwise, even if it was a diamond treasure chest, Sun Mo would possibly receive a rubbish item.

...

Sun Mo didn’t let Lu Zhiruo wait outside the dorm anymore, but the papaya girl still woke up early and did her morning cultivation every day. After that, she ate her breakfast and went to wait in front of the teaching building.

“Eh? Zhiruo? You’re really early!”

Li Ziqi had also come early today as she had planned to select a 30 pax classroom with good sunlight and field of view. That would be the fixed venue for everyone’s lessons in the future.

“Eldest martial sister!”

Lu Zhiruo, who was sitting on the steps, quickly stood up and bowed her head in greeting.

“Junior martial sister!”

Li Ziqi’s face immediately blossomed into a smile. It felt amazing to be addressed as the eldest martial sister. “Let’s go, come and pick a classroom with me!”

Lu Zhiruo followed behind obediently.

Li Ziqi’s foresight was extremely high. She didn’t pick those from 1st to 3rd stories as they didn’t have a good field of view. Hence, she immediately wandered around every level from the 4th story onward.

After half an hour, she finally found 3 classrooms that were to her liking.

“Which classroom do you think is good?”

Li Ziqi stood next to the window and looked toward the Sorrowless Lake in the distance. Today, there was a drizzle and it enveloped the entire campus with a layer of water vapor.

The scene was just like a young lady who had just taken a bath and was laying on the bedside, reading from a scroll in her hand. How poetic!

“This one!”

Lu Zhiruo was also fond of this classroom.

“Then let’s choose this!”

Li Ziqi made the decision and walked toward the blackboard. She took a chalk and wrote the words “there’s a lesson at 8 o’clock, we hope for your understanding!”.

Various major academies would have this kind of customary common usage agreements. If you needed to use the classroom, you should notify people in advance so that the students who wanted to use it would know.

Otherwise, when people had been self-studying in the classroom for a long time and it was close to class commencement, if someone suddenly came to inform them that the classroom was reserved, it would not only be disturbing their situation but was too disrespectful as well.

In the classroom, there were originally 6 students. After seeing the words that Li Ziqi had written, they started to pack their books and went in search of another location.

“Thank you, everyone!”

Li Ziqi was very thoughtful. She stood at the door and handed over the pastries that she had bought in the morning as a form of her gratitude.

“Wow, it’s the osmanthus cake from Daoji, how generous!”

One of the female students saw that there was a big ‘Dao’ word on the pastries’ wrapping paper, so she was startled.

The pastries from Daoji were the most well-known in Jinling City and they had the highest popularity among pastry circles.

Regardless of whether it was a girl from a wealthy family or a daughter from a humble family, they all loved it.

Of course, the price was very expensive as well.

An ordinary daughter of a humble family had to save up a month’s worth of pocket money to be able to afford it.

“Thank you!”

Li Ziqi’s smile was reserved but not lacking in manners, leaving a great impression in the hearts of everyone.

Very soon, the classroom became empty.

“Alright, this is our territory now.” Li Ziqi was very pleased. “There are still a few cakes left, have it for yourself.”

“En!”

Lu Zhiruo nodded.

Some students came in one after another. But after seeing the message on the blackboard, they left. However, there was an exception when 3 male students came in.

They had seen the message on the blackboard, but they still walked into the classroom and sat down at the last row. They started to talk in a low voice.

Li Ziqi frowned and was prepared to go explain to them.

“Don’t.”

Lu Zhiruo extended her hand and pulled Li Ziqi back. “Maybe they will leave in a moment.”

“I hope so!”

Li Ziqi wrinkled her dyed eyebrows slightly, taking out her pocket watch to have a look from time to time.

Seeing this scene, Fu Chao’s eyes brightened. “It’s unexpected that this girl is quite rich. The pocket watch in her hand is a product of the western countries, and even the cheapest one will cost at least tens of thousands of taels of silver.”

“Are you for real?”

Zhang Wentao turned his head and looked toward Li Ziqi as well.

To the west of Middle Earth Nine Provinces, reputed as the western regions, was a continent. It was named as Western Country by the people of Nine Provinces.

If one were to go there on foot, it would take several years. However, if one were to go by boat, it was said that it would take more than a year sailing to arrive on this continent.

On this continent lived a type of human with blonde hair and blue eyes. And this kind of western pocket watch that was named as a machinery clock was produced by them.

This kind of pocket watch could indicate the time accurately and was much more convenient than a sundial.

Li Ziqi took another glance at her pocket watch and saw that it was less than 5 minutes until the 8 o’clock class. She couldn’t wait anymore, so she took the pastries and walked toward the 3 male students.

“I’m sorry, we’ve borrowed this classroom for use!”

Li Ziqi was wearing a smile as she handed over the pastries.

“Please don’t disturb me, I’m about to solve this problem.”

Zhang Wentao indicated for Li Ziqi to stop talking.

Fu Chao took a glance.

It was pastries from Daoji. It was said that these kinds of pastries were very expensive, and the cost of one was equivalent to the living expenses of an ordinary family for 2 to 3 days.

Fu Chao’s mouth started secreting saliva, but he started feeling uncomfortable very quickly.

He recalled how his mother used to wake up early and return home late to wash clothes for people. She worked hard for a few years to be able to earn enough money for his school fees.

His mother was extremely tired from working. Many times, she couldn't even have lunch because if she couldn't finish the tasks on time, her boss wouldn't pay her any salary.

Also, during winter, the well's water was ice-cold and his mother's hands would be frozen with cuts. However, she couldn't even rest, because resting meant that she couldn't earn the school fees for her son.

"How unfair!"

Fu Chao looked toward Li Ziqi's hands. They were soft and tender with slender fingers that seemed like scallions. Any man who saw this pair of hands would definitely want to hold and fondle it.

However, at that moment, Fu Chao could only feel disgusted in his heart.

This pair of hands must have never done any kind of heavy manual job since young. No, he was afraid that she had never even done light tasks like sweeping and sewing.

Li Ziqi didn't speak anymore. She was waiting while casting a glance at the problem that Zhang Wentao was trying to solve.

Any academy would have mathematical lessons because that was the foundation.

For example, the study of engineering would require it when drawing diagrams and the study of alchemy would require it for calculating and allocation of ingredients.

(You can't even solve such a simple problem?)

Li Ziqi frowned slightly. When the time was less than 2 minutes, she opened her mouth to speak again.

"Sorry, this classroom..."

Without waiting for Li Ziqi to finish speaking, he interrupted her again.

"I've already said to not disturb me."

Zhang Wentao was very unhappy. "My train of thoughts is now interrupted again."

"Looking at the steps you're taking to solve this problem, you're planning to use the division method, right? From the 3rd step onward, you've already calculated wrongly. Hence, the steps after that will all go to waste."

Li Ziqi couldn't help but say it. Looking at Zhang Wentao's appearance, this problem had clearly exceeded the extent of his capability. She would thank the heavens if he were able to solve it by the end of the morning, but Li Ziqi couldn't wait for so long.

Zhang Wentao looked toward the 3rd step and calculated it all over again, then his expression turned gloomy because it was indeed where he had calculated wrongly.

"This division method that you're using is not wrong, but it's too time-consuming. Why don't you replace it with the repeated subtraction method instead? The final answer is 16."

Li Ziqi suggested.

“Wow!”

Lu Zhiruo looked at Li Ziqi with admiration, and both of her eyes were filled with stars. The eldest martial sister’s brain was so awesome!

Hearing this sentence, Zhang Wentao’s face became even gloomier. He threw the book on the table with a loud bang and glared at Li Ziqi.

“What do you mean by this? Trying to flaunt your superiority? My math is not as good as yours, but do I need you to solve it for me? Who do you think you are?”

Zhang Wentao opened his mouth and couldn’t stop scolding.

Actually, apart from being unhappy with Li Ziqi, Zhang Wentao was angry because he was furious about his own incompetence. Li Ziqi’s appearance seemed to be of similar age as him, but she was able to solve the problem that he had been calculating for 3 days without much effort. This feeling of defeat was extremely hard to bear.

Zhang Wentao’s math was pretty good and he had always been proud of it. He would always take the initiative to find tricky problems to solve and then take these problems to challenge the students from the Mathematic Club.

Seeing how they were stumped with such problems and eventually seeking his advice, Zhang Wentao would develop a sense of indescribable thrill.

But now, he had been defeated.

“I’m not. I’m just trying to ask you guys to leave this classroom to us.”

Li Ziqi held back her anger.

“Why should I leave it to you? Does this classroom belong to your family?”

Zhang Wentao’s voice was very loud.

“I’ve already written the message.”

Li Ziqi pointed at the blackboard.

“I’m most fond of studying under the afternoon sunlight of this classroom. Just because you want to use this classroom, I have to leave? Why is that so?”

Zhang Wentao chastised.

This was just an excuse. His objective was to trigger a conflict.

“Eldest martial sister, forget it, let’s find another classroom, shall we?”

Lu Zhiruo was most afraid of people yelling. She stood behind Li Ziqi and tugged at her clothes.

“I can give you some compensation for it!”

Li Ziqi frowned. She was especially not fond of giving up halfway when handling things.

“This girl’s temper is pretty good!”

Zhang Wulue, who hadn’t been speaking, secretly looked at Li Ziqi from head to toe. Even though the shorter girl at the side had bigger breasts, he had more admiration for this girl with an oval face.

Hearing this, Zhang Wentao was still pondering over how to refute, but Fu Chao had already exploded.

“Compensate? What’s there to flaunt about being wealthy? Give us 1,000 taels of silver and we’ll leave!”

Fu Chao disliked these wealthy people the most. Hence, he quoted a price that he thought was extremely expensive.

Li Ziqi opened up her little purse. She took out a banknote from Great Tang Bank and placed it on the desk with a smack.

Pow!

“This is a banknote worth 1,000 taels of silver, you may leave now!”

Li Ziqi opened her mouth to speak. It was because these 2 male students didn’t have a good attitude; hence, she was a little angry and smacked the table. Otherwise, she would have handed over the banknote to them nicely.

Anything that could be solved with money wasn’t a problem at all.

If she couldn’t even settle a classroom with a pretty good environment, it would make her little martial siblings doubt her capability as an eldest martial sister, and her prestige would be damaged.

Zhang Wentao and the rest were stunned. None of them had thought that Li Ziqi would really take out 1,000 taels of silver. The words ‘local tycoon’ immediately burst into their minds.

Zhang Wentao and Zhang Wulue hadn’t reacted, but Fu Chao was just like an ill cat whose leg had been stabbed. He jumped up. Then, he grabbed the banknote with one hand and threw it out.

Chapter 105: The Protective Sun Mo

“Who cares about your smelly money?”

Fu Chao roared, feeling like his pride had been trampled on. But in his heart, he felt a deep fear because there was an instant he truly wanted to stuff that banknote into his pocket and leave.

Fu Chao knew that if it wasn’t for the fact that the Wentao and Wulue brothers were here, he might really have taken the money.

“Why are you so fierce? We didn’t do anything wrong.”

Lu Zhiruo stretched out her head from behind Li Ziqi, feeling anger against a common enemy.

“How am I fierce?”

Fu Chao glared at her with his eyes widened in rage.

The papaya girl was so scared that she cowered behind Li Ziqi. However, when she thought that she couldn't allow her senior martial sister to face these fellows alone, she forcefully endured her fright and stood out again.

"You...you are being fierce by acting like this!"

Even Lu Zhiruo's voice was trembling now.

"Stop talking, let's go!"

Li Ziqi stopped the papaya girl and held her hand as she turned to leave.

Zhang Wentao and the other two's expressions changed. They couldn't let the girls leave like that or how would they proceed on with their plans?

Li Ziqi was extremely sharp. She noticed the change in their expressions and decided to halt her steps.

"The three of you, it seems that you are here because you are looking for trouble with us."

Although Li Ziqi's exercise ability was 0, her courage wasn't. She had never fled in the face of troubles before. Earlier, she had acted like she was about to leave because she had wanted to test the three of them.

Basically, the majority of students of the Central Province Academy were very cultured.

Li Ziqi talked to them nicely and even offered them money. This was already considered very polite.

Naturally, given Li Ziqi's beautiful appearance and her elegant style of conversation, there would be many who wanted to be friendly with her. Let alone guys, even girls wouldn't have rejected her request.

However, these three guys didn't leave and even stared at her with that expression. Clearly, they were here because they wanted to look for trouble with her.

No, they should be doing this because of Teacher Sun Mo.

The Zhang brothers frowned. This wealthy girl was very intelligent, but Fu Chao grew nervous and was hurriedly rebutting.

"What do you mean finding trouble? We don't even know you!"

After hearing this, Li Ziqi chortled and felt even surer of her guess.

"Fool!"

Zhang Wentao was speechless. The most correct method to deal with this now was to change the topic or act ignorant. (Why are you in such a hurry to defend us?)

Wasn't this simply making things worse?

Upon thinking that this fellow was his junior martial brother, Zhang Wentao felt a little revolted. But luckily, he had a good point. He was able to fight very well and wouldn't complain if he had to do all the dirty and tiring tasks.

It was like this for this time as well. After he told his martial brothers his plan, Fu Chao was the only one who agreed without hesitation.

Lu Zhiruo panicked. So, they were being deliberately targeted by others. What should they do now?

If they really came to blows, she and her senior martial sister wouldn't be their opponents. Should she hold the enemy back by hugging their legs so her senior sister could flee?

No, this wouldn't work! There were three enemies and they had six legs in total. She only had two hands and couldn't hug all their legs. Also, this senior martial sister of hers would even fall down when walking on a normal pathway. If Li Ziqi was to run, she might fall so badly that her front teeth got knocked out!

"I'll go get help? Right, Xuanyuan Po and the others are just at the teaching building's entrance. If I get them here, this problem would be solved."

Upon thinking of this, Lu Zhiruo immediately started running.

When Fu Chao saw this, he instinctively wanted to chase her, but Li Ziqi stepped up and blocked his way.

"Teacher Sun's judgment is truly inferior. How could his disciples be so afraid easily?"

Fu Chao mocked.

"I thought you said you weren't here to look for trouble?"

Li Ziqi ridiculed.

"Eh."

Fu Chao was stumped, right now he wanted nothing more than to slap himself.

His IQ wasn't too high, but he could still understand this logic. If they weren't here looking for trouble, how would they know that these two girls were Sun Mo's students?

...

Lu Zhiruo rushed back as quickly as possible, heading straight for the teaching building's entrance.

The male students who saw her on the way back were all dumbstruck. There was no solution to this because the jogging caused her papaya boobs to heave up and down violently. It was simply too conspicuous.

Bang!

A button on the chest area of her shirt couldn't withstand such pressure and directly popped off, revealing a stretch of white.

Dang! Dang! Dang!

The bell rang, 8 a.m. had arrived.

Sun Mo frowned because Li Ziqi and Lu Zhiruo hadn't reached the class yet. Just when he wanted to ask Tantai Yutang if he knew where they went, Lu Zhiruo burst into the classroom.

“Tea...teacher, something happened!”

Sun Mo took two steps forward and carried Lu Zhiruo up as he rushed out with her.

“There’s a fight we can participate in?”

Xuanyuan Po’s eyes brightened as he immediately followed them.

“The reactions of our teacher aren’t slow at all!”

Tantai Yutang praised.

Jiang Leng didn’t say anything, but he understood Tantai Yutang’s meaning. An ordinary person would definitely react by first telling Lu Zhiruo to calm down and ask her what happened exactly. If not, they wouldn’t know what to do at all.

But as for Sun Mo, he carried Lu Zhiruo and immediately rushed out.

The direction Lu Zhiruo came from was definitely their destination. Sun Mo carried her and immediately rushed out, so he could listen to her mid-way. By doing so, he could save quite a lot of time.

The papaya girl’s figure was truly voluptuous. Her giant chest that was pressing against him wasn’t uncomfortable at all.

Very soon, Sun Mo arrived at the classroom’s entrance.

“Are you alright?”

Sun Mo quickly walked in and surveyed Li Ziqi.

“Teacher Sun...”

Now that Sun Mo was here, Zhang Wentao opened his mouth.

“Shut up!” Sun Mo shouted.

“Did they attack you?”

Sun Mo could see that Li Ziqi’s eyes were red, but luckily, she wasn’t injured.

“No!”

Li Ziqi shook her head. Although the three of them didn’t attack, that Zhang Wentao had said extremely excessive things.

“What’s going on?” Sun Mo inquired.

“Because of this classroom...” Zhang Tao interrupted.

“I told you to shut up!”

Sun Mo turned his head and shot a ruthless glare over. “You should feel very lucky to be a student of the Central Province Academy. If you were not, I would have knocked all your teeth out.”

Sun Mo's tone was very fierce, and it gave Zhang Wentao a shock. His prepared excuses got stuck in his throat.

"Yay, teacher is so tyrannical!"

Lu Zhiruo was relieved and even felt a little sense of worship for Sun Mo. Her teacher hadn't even heard the full story from her and rushed here immediately. From this, one could see that he cared about his students very much.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Lu Zhiruo +10. Friendly (428/1,000)

Li Ziqi's verbal speed was fast, and she managed to explain everything in just a few sentences.

"It's my fault!"

Sun Mo sighed. After listening to Li Ziqi's summary of the whole situation, he knew that the other party was doing all this to target him. Li Ziqi was merely implicated by it.

"No, we are teacher's students. Your matters are our matters!"

Li Ziqi shook his head, not accepting Sun Mo's words. She had never resented the fact that she was dragged into this trouble because of Sun Mo.

"Where's your teacher? Call him over!"

Sun Mo directly commanded the three male students.

Although these three students were very repulsive, Sun Mo was a teacher after all. At most, he could only scold them vehemently and not hit them. However, if he was facing their teacher instead, there wouldn't be a need for so many considerations.

"This is our matter!"

Zhang Wentao still persisted.

"Shut up!"

Sun Mo roared, "I hate repeating my words the most. Now, hurry up and get your teacher over."

Fu Chao couldn't endure the pressure Sun Mo exerted. He tugged on Zhang Wentao's sleeves. "Let's look for teacher."

"Why get them to call for their teacher? How about letting me fight with them first?"

Xuanyuan Po carried his spear and walked in.

Tantai Yutang stood at the door, somewhat taken aback as he looked at Sun Mo. This fellow was very protective of his kin regardless of them being in the right or wrong. His anger didn't seem to be fake.

"Go to the side and wait!"

After ascertaining that Li Ziqi was fine, Sun Mo sat down.

Not long later, Gao Ben arrived.

“What’s going on?”

Gao Ben frowned.

“If you are unhappy with me, just come at me directly. Don’t act against my students. If not, I won’t dare to guarantee I won’t do anything.” Sun Mo exploded.

“Are you threatening me?”

Gao Ben’s voice also increased in volume. “Do you think that your daddy here was being intimidated all the way until I grew up?”

“Yes, I’m threatening you.”

Sun Mo didn’t mince his words.

“Eh?!”

Upon hearing this, the students of the two groups stared at Sun Mo in puzzlement. (Is it alright for you to be so direct? No matter what, you guys are still colleagues, right? Also, both of you are from the same batch. By saying this...you are not saving any ounce of face for the other party!)

After Li Ziqi started for a while, a smile appeared on her lips.

This was the feeling of being cared for by a teacher!

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Li Ziqi +15. Friendly (201/1,000).

“Sun Mo, what the hell are you acting crazy for?”

Gao Ben was already very unhappy with Sun Mo. Now that he was angered even further, he naturally began to curse.

“What are the two of you doing?”

Lian Zheng hurriedly rushed over.

He was the year’s head and would often wander around the teaching buildings area.

At the classroom on the side, there was a teacher currently giving a lesson. Upon hearing the commotion, he hurriedly sent a few of his students to look for Lian Zheng.

After Lian Zheng heard about this, he didn’t dare to delay and immediately rush over.

“How do you want to settle this? By literary style or combat style? Choose anything you want!”

Sun Mo inclined his chin.

“Hehe, you are still talking about literary or combat style? I’m afraid I might beat you to death!”

Gao Ben recalled that day when he watched the battle between Sun Mo and the two intern teachers. Hence, his heart was filled with a sense of superiority.

“We will settle it via the combat style then!”

Sun Mo pulled out his wooden blade.

“Everyone stop. What happened exactly? Can you guys fill me in first?”

Lian Zheng moved between them.

“Head Lian Zheng, the conflict occurred because of this classroom!”

Zhang Wentao hurriedly interjected, wanting to avoid the important details and dwell on the trivial.

“Head Lian Zheng, it’s because of this...”

Li Ziqi prepared to explain.

“There’s no need to explain because it’s useless no matter if you are in the right or wrong.”

Sun Mo stopped Li Ziqi.

After hearing this, Li Ziqi furrowed her brows and soon fell silent.

That was right, even if they argued all the way to the end, Lian Zheng would at most berate Gao Ben and his students. What was the use of that? Since the other party had the intention to look for trouble with them, if they failed once, there would always be a second time. Hence, they might as well settle everything right now.

Yes, they should completely crush Gao Ben right now, so he and his students wouldn’t dare to make trouble ever again in the future!

“Eh? Why is it useless no matter if we are in the right or wrong?”

Lu Zhiruo didn’t understand.

Initially, Gao Ben only felt disdain for Sun Mo. But because of this sentence, he began to seriously survey the latter. This fellow with a handsome face had a pretty strong will.

Given his attitude, how could Sun Mo be someone who ate ‘soft rice’?

Because Gao Ben was also like this, the pride in his bones was the real deal. If someone wanted to mess with him, he wouldn’t find someone to judge the situation or complain. His choice would be to f*** the other party up, f*** them ruthlessly to the point where his enemies would no longer want to find trouble with him in the future.

“Since that’s the case, let’s duel then!”

Zhang Wentao was worried that the course of the matter would drift away from his plans; hence, he hurriedly interjected, “This matter is caused by us, students. In that case, let us handle it ourselves and use the format of a duel to determine victory.”

Gao Ben turned his eyes to Zhang Wentao.

Zhang Wentao avoided Gao Ben's eyes, but a few moments later, the former stared imploringly at the latter.

"Sure!"

Xuanyuan Po was extremely happy. His philosophy in life was that there was nothing that couldn't be solved by a good fight. If there was really something unsolvable by a good fight, he would simply fight twice.

"Nonsense!" Lian Zheng berated.

"Do you all dare to accept our challenge?"

Fu Chao was worried that their plans would end up falling through. Hence, he roared at Li Ziqi and the others.

"We naturally dare!"

As the senior martial sister, Li Ziqi stepped up and expressed her opinion on behalf of her fellow martial siblings.

"Alright, let's make it two out of three wins then. See you guys in the arena one month later!"

Fu Chao then stated the conditions of the duel, which he and his fellow students had discussed long ago.

"What about the bet?"

Tantai Yutang suddenly interrupted, wanting to watch the world burn.

"If you guys win, we will apologize to you all publicly. If we meet you again in the future, we will even bow to show our respect."

Zhang Wentao smoothly stated. Evidently, he had thought about this since a long time ago. "But if we win, you guys just have to take the initiative to avoid us from a distance in the future!"

Zhang Wentao didn't dare to make the bet too excessive. If not, what would happen if they got scared and didn't dare to compete in the duel?

"No need. If we lose, we will also bow to pay respect every time we see you."

Li Ziqi was very angry. (You guys feel that you would win for sure? All of you are looking down on us too much!)

"All of you, shut up!"

Lian Zheng roared. The students nowadays truly loved to act on their own initiative and were becoming tougher and tougher to manage. "Teacher Gao, Teacher Sun. Are you guys intending to stand there and not say anything?"

Lian Zheng was very particular about rules. Hence, although Gao Ben and Sun Mo just joined the school, he still added the word 'teacher' before their surnames when addressing them. He didn't flaunt his seniority.

“Teacher Sun, since the students have already put it this way, it wouldn’t be too good for us to blunt their drive, right? What do you think?”

Gao Ben originally planned to make trouble for Sun Mo. In the end, his students acted first, so there was no need for him to personally do it then.

“Sure!”

Sun Mo coldly laughed. In the no. 2 high school, whether a student was outstanding or not would depend on their comparison of academic results. But here in this world, combat power was the determinant.

Although Sun Mo wasn’t very experienced, he felt no fear. After all, he would have to experience this sooner or later.

“Alright then, we shall meet at the victory dojo one month from now!”

After Gao Ben finished speaking, he glanced at Lian Zheng. “Year’s Head, we would have to trouble you to be the witness.”

The victory dojo was a sporting venue in the Central Province Academy that had a history of several hundred years. It was specially used for combat or showcasing an exhibition match.

The place was named ‘Victory’ because the school hoped that the students would be victorious every time with no defeats.

“Are you guys sure you all have no objections?”

Lian Zheng made the final inquiry. After both of them nodded, he then turned to the students. “Report your year and cultivation level!”

In the various academies, duels were simply too common.

Because it was forbidden for students to fight privately as they would be expelled if they were discovered, if the students had a conflict, they could resolve it by fighting on the arena.

“Zhang Wentao, first year. Second level of the body-refinement realm!”

“Zhang Wulue, first year. Third level of the body-refinement realm!”

“Fu Chao, first year. Second level of the body-refinement realm!”

Zhang Wentao and the other two had long since been prepared; they didn’t hesitate. After reporting their cultivation level, they simply stared at the five personal students under Sun Mo.

Out of the five, Xuanyuan Po was the one that attracted the most gazes.

They also understood that if they wished to shoot to fame after a single battle, they naturally had to challenge this genius that even Liu Mubai regarded highly.

“Li Ziqi, first year. First level of the body-refinement realm!”

As the eldest martial sister, Li Ziqi was the first to speak. In addition, her eyes were staring straight at Zhang Wentao. She had decided that her target would be this fellow.

“Lu...Lu Zhiruo, first year. Bod...body-refinement...” Lu Zhiruo stuttered.

“What level of the body-refinement realm are you at?”

Lian Zheng frowned.

“I haven’t broken through to the body-refinement realm yet!”

After Lu Zhiruo finished speaking, she had a depressed and ashamed look as she hid behind Sun Mo. She hadn’t even broken through to the body-refinement realm yet. How embarrassing.

Zhang Wentao and the other two had never treated Lu Zhiruo as their opponent. In fact, even Li Ziqi wasn’t counted. Their gazes were all fixed on Xuanyuan Po.

“Stop looking at me. I think I won’t get up to the arena. You guys aren’t my match!”

Xuanyuan Po loved battles, but he had no interest in these low-level nobodies.

“You...”

Fu Chao was angered. This fellow belittled them.

“How do you know we aren’t able to jump levels and defeat you?” Zhang Wulue questioned. He could tell that Xuanyuan Po was definitely someone at the fifth level or higher.

“Hehe... Against people like you? I can even give you a handicap and not use both my hands.”

Xuanyuan Po smiled lightly.

“Don’t speak nonsense. Report your year and cultivation level!”

Lian Zheng urged.

“Little Po, do things according to the rules!”

“Who the hell is Little Po?”

Xuanyuan Po mumbled quietly, but he also didn’t want to quarrel. He decided to simply report his year and cultivation level. “First year, fifth level of the body-refinement realm!”

Upon hearing this, Zhang Wentao and the other two heaved a sigh of relief.

In the various countries of the nine provinces, there was an unwritten rule. It was that for a duel between two parties, the difference in their cultivation levels mustn’t exceed three levels.

“Tantai Yutang, first year. First level of the body-refinement realm.”

Tantai Yutang shrugged.

Everyone then turned their gazes onto Jiang Leng. Tantai Yutang was so weak, so there was nothing worthy to be proud of even if they won against him.

Under the gazes of everyone, Jiang Leng remained silent.

Just when Lian Zheng wanted to urge him, Jiang Leng spoke.

“Jiang Leng!”

After that, he no longer spoke.

Lian Zheng was growing impatient from the wait. Just when he wanted to hurry Jiang Leng up, he heard the words ‘first year’ and nothing else after that.

“...”

Everyone was speechless. They were all thinking whether this fellow with the word ‘trash’ carved on his forehead had something wrong with his brain or not?

“You...”

Lian Zheng felt he was about to go crazy and just when he wanted to urge again, Jiang Leng spoke once more.

“Ninth level of the body-refinement realm!”

Si~!

When these words rang out, only amazement remained in everyone’s hearts. No one expected that this youth would be the one with the highest cultivation base.

However, since this was the case, he wouldn’t be able to join the duel.

“I’ve remembered your cultivation levels. A month later, I will wait for you all at the victory dojo. The duel will start at 8 a.m. If any of you are late, you will be judged as forfeiting the match!”

After Lian Zheng finished speaking, he glanced at the two parties. “Before the duel, all disputes between your two groups are forbidden. If not, I will punish you with the school rules. Alright, you guys can disperse now!”

The two groups of people then departed.

Gao Ben didn’t speak all the while until they reached the Sorrowless Lake where there was no one else near them. “Speak, why did you guys want to provoke Sun Mo’s students?”

Thud!

Zhang Wentao and the other two knelt down. “Teacher, please punish us!”

“Tell me the reason first!”

Gao Ben glanced toward Zhang Wentao. This brat should be the mastermind.

“We did this for the first batch of fifty name slots that will be allowed to enter the Darkness Continent!”

Zhang Wentao wasn't that bored to the extent where he had nothing to do. If it wasn't for the fact that the name slots were simply too tempting, he absolutely wouldn't take the initiative to provoke Li Ziqi and her fellow students.

Chapter 106: The Mysterious Darkness Continent

The Darkness Continent was mysterious and unknown. Because the living environment there was different from the living environment in the Middle-Earth Nine Provinces, it had a lot of strange creatures that couldn't be found anywhere else.

Other than the creatures, the 'spirit pressure' of the Darkness Continent, the types of minerals, the laws of nature, etc, were all different from Middle-Earth.

Naturally, the most important thing was that there were many ancient abandoned ruins on this continent.

These ruins, to people of Middle-Earth, were unfathomable places. They completely had no idea how the ruins existed in the first place.

No, in fact, they couldn't even read the language found in the ruins.

These ruins were like Atlantis, the disappeared Maya Civilization, and the destroyed El Dorado.

They were unsolved mysteries.

The people from Middle Earth would take the knowledge, technology, cultivation arts, corpses, antiques, and souvenirs dug out from that place as legacies and inheritances.

It was precisely because of these legacies that the cultivation of Middle-Earth reached its current height.

Several ten thousand years ago, the people of Middle-Earth were like the Tang People from ancient China. Their lives were difficult and their lifespans were short. But due to the unexpected discovery of Darkness Continent, legacies were brought back. Also, after they were solved, the civilization of Middle-Earth began to develop in a different way compared to ancient China.

This continent was named Darkness Continent by the Saint Gate because it was too dangerous. Even cultivators would still die if they were the slightest bit careless.

However, this continent was also a place of hope. Because it was mysterious and unknown, it contained countless possibilities.

It's said that one could find the secret to eternal life here!

It's said that one could shed their mortal bodies and become gods here!

It's said that love exists between countless civilizations despite their differences!

Why were cultivators willing to suffer and endure hardships as they continued to cultivate unceasingly?

To become the champion among humans? To have a better life?

This would be the answer to many people. However, the ultimate pursuit was always for the power to control their own destinies.

And the Darkness Continent gave cultivators this possibility.

Although the Darkness Continent had been founded several tens of thousand years ago, to humans of the Middle-Earth Nine Provinces whose level of technology was low, the Darkness Continent was still a piece of undeveloped land that hadn't been fully explored.

This meant that anyone could head there and excavate gold, gemstones, as well as their own destinies.

Since the Darkness Continent was so mysterious, how should one head there?

It was only accessible through teleportation gates!

...

This continent was first discovered by a group of young people. When they entered the Dragonsparrow Mountain to cultivate, they discovered ancient tribal ruins.

When they were exploring it, a few of them entered a building that seemed relatively undamaged as they wanted to see if there was anything valuable in it. In the end, the Darkness Continent appeared.

That building was actually a teleportation gate!

The story, later on, grew endlessly.

Naturally, it was also filled with the feel of a legendary story!

This group of young people took the risk and experienced the dangers of the Darkness Continent. They managed to survive and brought back many souvenirs, eventually building the Saint Gate.

Naturally, many people couldn't see the difficulty of their experiences because all of this was recorded on sheepskin and stored in the great library of the Saint Gate.

It was classified as an ultimate secret.

The number of people on Middle-Earth who were qualified to read it could be counted on one hand.

...

The Saint Gate spent thousands of years and a huge amount of money. It was unknown how many cultivators they had lost before they finally gained the technique to control the teleportation gates.

Through these teleportation gates, cultivators could enter the Darkness Continent.

However, because the Darkness Continent was filled with dangers and death was ever-present, the Saint Gate had strict requirements for those who wanted to enter.

Why were schools in the Nine Provinces classified into five grades known as the supreme grade, 'a' grade, 'b' grade, 'c' grade, and 'd' grade?

The Saint Gate implemented this system because it wanted to maximize the nurturing of talents and research new strategies.

It made sense if one thought about it. If everyone entered the Darkness Continent, it was one thing if the lousy ones all died, but what if those geniuses with good aptitudes died as well? That would truly be too much of a pity.

Hence, this strategy was born.

The higher the grade of a school was, the more slots they would have.

These name slots were the available slots for people to enter the Darkness Continent.

To obtain more name slots, the various schools had always been working hard to upgrade their education facilities, the capabilities of teachers, and the talented students.

Under such an intense competitive environment, the education quality of the schools would become better and better. Hence, the students they taught would naturally become increasingly outstanding.

The Saint Gate used this school grading system to build a good ladder for students. Those qualified enough could enter the Darkness Continent. This system guaranteed the highest chances of survival for those who entered.

This control measure also guaranteed that talents of the Middle-Earth Nine Provinces wouldn't all wither away and die out in one go in the event of a major accident, leading to huge gaps in the schools.

...

After hearing Zhang Wentao's reason, Gao Ben could understand his motivations but also felt a little disappointed.

Honestly speaking, right at the start, he had thought that his students were here to find trouble with Sun Mo's students because his public lecture was less successful than Sun Mo's.

Now, it seemed that he was thinking too much.

"Teacher?"

Seeing Gao Ben not talking and lapsing into silence, Fu Chao felt a little worried and involuntarily called out.

"I can understand your feelings of wanting to head to the Darkness Continent as soon as possible. However, by taking matters into your own hands, do you guys still have any regards for me at all?" Gao Ben counter-asked.

"Teacher, it's us that's unfilial!"

The three students kowtowed once again to plead for forgiveness.

"Zhang Wentao, tell me more about your idea!"

Gao Ben didn't continue berating them, but he didn't allow them to get up. If he didn't punish them a little, how would he still discipline them in the future?

"There's a culture in the Central Province Academy. In three months, the top fifty new students would be given the right to enter the Darkness Continent."

Zhang Wentao had already investigated this.

Three months was very short. In addition, the new students just joined the school and were still familiarizing themselves with the environment on campus. It was impossible to select the top fifty through combat duels.

Hence, these fifty name slots would go to students who were recommended by teachers.

The more outstanding the performance of a student, the higher the chance he or she would be recommended.

To students, how could they quickly increase their game and display outstanding performance?

Naturally, it was to challenge those famous students and defeat them.

The target chosen by Zhang Wentao was Sun Mo.

“In the recruitment meet and his first public lecture, Sun Mo was completely in the limelight, causing his reputation to be boosted greatly. In addition, given his identity as An Xinhui’s fiance, he is currently a new teacher that everyone in the Central Province Academy knows.

“If we can defeat the students he guides, our fame would immediately circulate in the entire school. This is the quickest way to become famous.”

Zhang Wentao stated fervently.

Gao Ben couldn’t help but nod. If he were in their shoes, he would do this as well. By stepping on famous people, it was easier to shoot to fame in a single battle.

“Since Liu Mubai regarded Xuanyuan Po highly when he first joined the school, he is pretty famous as well. However, I shall surpass him soon.”

Zhang Wulue interrupted, his words were full of confidence.

“Do you all have any trump cards that would allow you to win for sure?”

Gao Ben was no longer angry. As a teacher, one had to give encouragement with regard to the ambitions of students at appropriate moments.

The three students cast mutual glances at each other. In the end, Zhang Wentao spoke, “Does confidence in ourselves count as a trump card?”

Gao Ben shook his head, “No!”

“Hence, it will depend on your teaching abilities, teacher. We believe that you will allow our strength to rise greatly within a month!”

Zhang Wentao had a glib tongue and immediately gave Gao Ben a tall hat to wear.

“Haha!”

Gao Ben laughed. “I know you are praising me, but I still have to tell you all this. After all, I’m a graduate from the Westshore Military School, one of the Nine Greats. For me to impart my Mystic Ice Spear Art,

the amount of time is too short, and you guys won't be able to learn it for sure. Hence, I will impart my experiences and a trump card to you all."

The eyes of Zhang Wentao and the other two brightened as they were staring at Gao Ben.

"I have a body-refinement art handed down from my family. Adding on some medical baths, it should be enough to allow you all to raise your cultivation bases by a level within a month!"

When Gao Ben said this, he felt very proud.

"For real?"

Fu Chao was extremely joyful.

"We would win for sure then!"

Zhang Wulue was very excited. He couldn't wait to smash Xuanyuan Po's head, making him kneel and concede.

Zhang Wentao's expression had some hesitation.

"Don't worry, this body-refinement art of mine is a massage technique. I wouldn't use a secret art to overdraft your potential, so it wouldn't create any hidden traumas for you all in the future. The medical baths are the same as well. They have been used by the cultivators of my family for hundreds of years."

Gao Ben understood the reason for Zhang Wentao's hesitation. Hence, he explained a little more.

"Sorry, I was thinking too much," Zhang Wentao apologized.

"You guys are my students, as well as my future. I wouldn't use you guys as jokes."

Gao Ben's tone was solemn. He didn't lie to Zhang Wentao and the other two. Since they had taken him as their teacher, he would give it his all and do his best to nurture them.

Because they shared secrets, the atmosphere now was very harmonious.

After both parties chatted for a little while, the topic of discussion turned to the Darkness Continent again.

"Teacher, you are a graduate of the Westshore Military School. You must have visited the Darkness Continent before, right?"

After Fu Chao asked the question, the three of them stared at Gao Ben expectantly, wanting him to talk about stuff he had encountered on the Darkness Continent.

"How should I say this? That place is filled with the unknowns. It's mysterious, and death is present everywhere. But at the same time, it is filled with opportunities. Everyone that headed to the Darkness Continent and managed to survive can all be counted as experts!"

Gao Ben considered for some time before he spoke.

"Honestly speaking, I've never considered competing for the name slots to the Darkness Continent. Because if you head there now, the risk of dying is too great.

“The Darkness Continent is a place where the weak is food for the strong. Over there, might makes right. The stronger you are, the more weight your words would have!

“You must know that the Darkness Continent is too vast. Even the light of the Saint Gate has no way to illuminate any place there. Hence, it’s a common sight to see people seizing legacies, secret treasures, valuable herbs and species, and even killing each other!

“On the Darkness Continent, there’s an iron rule all newbies must follow. And that’s never to travel alone, or you run an 80 to 90% risk of dying!”

The blood of youth would always be hot and never turn cold. They were filled with fighting spirit.

Zhang Wentao and the other two basically didn’t really bear in mind the dangers Gao Ben was talking about. They only heard the words ‘legacies, secret treasures, valuable souvenirs...’

They wished to explore the Darkness Continent and return after gaining a huge number of rewards!

Chapter 107: 0 points

Sun Mo brought his five students and searched for another classroom before getting in.

“Teacher, teacher, things are dire now!”

Before Sun Mo could speak, Li Ziqi’s melon face became that of a bitter melon from frowning. Her heart was filled with worry.

“Eh? Were you not very confident earlier? Why did your confidence deflate so quickly?”

Tantai Yutang was puzzled.

“Hmph, regardless of what we compete on, I would win against them for sure. However, my confidence doesn’t include combat stuff!”

It was very embarrassing to admit that she was lacking in some aspects. However, Sun Mo was Li Ziqi’s most respected and loved teacher. This was why she didn’t mind saying it out.

“Teacher, quickly think of a solution!”

Li Ziqi felt that her teacher would surely be able to think of a good solution for her to defeat that loathsome Zhang Wentao.

“Very difficult!”

Sun Mo surveyed Li Ziqi.

=====

Strength: 5 – Standard of an ordinary girl, you have the strength to hold a chicken bare-handed!

Intellect: 10 – Max value at the current stage. You can look at other humans like how you are looking at monkeys. Don’t have to feel any doubts, before you, all of them are trash.

Agility: 1 – Evaluated you at 1 point because I’m afraid you might feel inferior. I originally wanted to evaluate you as 0!

Will: 5 – Very ordinary, a flower in a greenhouse, you have not suffered before.

Endurance: 4 – You don't want to run because you are afraid of fatigue.

Potential Value: Extremely high!

Note: Although you are flat-chested, your potential value is extremely high.

Note 2: Your talent in all other aspects is considered top-notch, save for combat!

=====

Sun Mo didn't know what to say after looking at these data.

Li Ziqi loved reading and was fond of researching various subjects. In addition, she had a highly retentive memory. This was why her dream was to build the largest library ever in Middle-Earth.

As for exercising, she didn't even like to do stretches.

If this was in China, Li Ziqi wouldn't even be known as a top student. People would greet her with the title of 'academic goddess'. Maybe, she might even get the Nobel Prize a few years later and become an authority in a certain domain.

However, in the various countries of the Nine Provinces, because of the existence of spirit qi, martial force was the king. Li Ziqi's exercising ability was 0, and this caused her cultivation speed to become extremely slow, thereby becoming her greatest flaw.

Why would Li Ziqi's father spend astronomical amounts of money and tapped on all his social connections to seek out the secondary saint for her daughter?

Because Li Ziqi truly had no future on the path of cultivation.

One must know that above the Divine Force Realm was the Longevity Realm. As the name implied, it meant that the lifespan of the cultivators would begin to increase.

For the lesser cases, the increase in lifespan would be about several tens of years up to a hundred years. For the higher cases, one's lifespan could even increase by several hundred years. Reportedly, there had once been a former sage whose lifespan exceeded a thousand. He had lived to be over 1,000 years old.

For experts like this, the number of years they were alive for exceeded even the majority of dynasties. Even if their intellect was slightly lower, given the huge amount of time they had, it was sufficient for them to have great accomplishments in any field they chose.

Given Li Ziqi's current state, even if she paid attention to her diet and wellness, she would at most live to a hundred years old. To waste time and effort to nurture a disciple that was destined to 'die early', it was considered a huge waste to secondary saints.

At the level of secondary saints, they treated fame and power as floating clouds. They had higher pursuits in life. At the very least, they would hope that a secondary saint would appear from one of their disciples, right?

So, in Middle-Earth Nine Provinces, as long as your cultivation speed was slow and your cultivation base was low, it would be considered a sin.

No one would be willing to waste resources on such people.

Upon hearing Sun Mo's words, Li Ziqi's eyes turned red. Tears revolved in her eyes, but she endured them forcefully, not allowing them to flow.

"However, I will use all methods I can think of to ensure you step into the Longevity Realm."

Sun Mo patted Li Ziqi's head and looked at her with doting love. "I will make sure you have enough time to build the largest and grandest library in the Nine Provinces."

"Teacher!"

Staring at Sun Mo's serious expression while listening to his gentle voice, Li Ziqi couldn't endure it any longer. Sparkling tears began flowing down her face.

No one had said something like that to her ever before!

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Li Ziqi +30. Friendly (231/1,000).

"Teacher is so gentle!"

Lu Zhiruo was deeply moved.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Lu Zhiruo +15. Friendly (488/1,000)

After hearing the notification that the papaya girl contributed favorable impression points, Sun Mo almost felt a little embarrassed. (Are you really going to become my crazy fan?)

Then Sun Mo looked at the other three...Xuanyuan Po was meditating. Other than combat, he didn't care about other things.

Tantai Yutang was smiling, appearing as though he was very touched by the harmonious relationship between this pair of teacher and disciple. But actually, his mind was wandering somewhere.

As for Jiang Leng, there was no expression on his face and he remained silent. He stared at the space ahead and seemed to be in a daze.

"Ai, the path of teachers and students is long and filled with heavy responsibilities!"

Sun Mo understood. After all, all of them had only interacted for a few days. It was definitely not possible for his students to trust him fully and feel a sense of worship for him.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Jiang Leng +10. Neutral (85/100)

"Mn?"

After hearing yet another system notification, Sun Mo couldn't help but glance at Jiang Leng. (What the hell? Why would you contribute favorable impression points a few minutes after that has passed?)

Could it be that Jiang Leng's reflex arc was longer than others?

Jiang Leng only appeared to be cold and unconcerned with everything. Actually, his emotions were very rich. He was a warmhearted youth!

"Teacher, the problem now is that both Xuanyuan Po and Jiang Leng's cultivation bases are too high, and they are unable to fight. I can still try my best for one match. But what should we do for the other two matches?"

Li Ziqi swiftly entered strategist mode.

Tantai Yutang was sickly and coughed up blood every day. He was so weak that even a gust of wind could take him down. If he went on the arena, he might really be beaten to death.

As for Lu Zhiruo, she hadn't even entered the body-refinement realm. One could say that she was a blank slate.

"This is what I should worry about!"

Sun Mo didn't want to let Li Ziqi worry about this. "During these two days, I will impart to you and Zhiruo a cultivation art. You all should practice according to it!"

Sun Mo decided to impart the first level of the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art to the two girls.

The first level of this cultivation art would stimulate their potential, causing their body to remain at the 'eruption' state at every moment, allowing their control of strength to be extremely precise.

Sun Mo wanted to test this and see if Li Ziqi's exercising ability would improve after her potential was stimulated. As for Lu Zhiruo, her body quality was too bad. This first-level of the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art was precisely the right medicine for her illness.

"Mn!"

The two girls hurriedly nodded to indicate that they understood.

"I'm not teaching it to the three of you not because of favoritism. Rather, Tantai Yutang, your body is too weak, and there's no potential that can be stimulated. If you learn this cultivation art, you will die even earlier."

Sun Mo explained.

"Xuanyuan Po, you should just focus on training your Prairie Blazing Fire Spear Technique. Before you reach major completion in it, don't cultivate in other cultivation arts. You spar with me every morning."

Sun Mo had already considered this. He would use the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art and Immemorial Vairocana to spar against Xuanyuan Po to 'feed' moves to him while taking the opportunity to see what flaws he had in his cultivation.

At the same time, Sun Mo would use Divine Sight and look through Xuanyuan Po's saint-tier cultivation art to see if there was anything to improve or if there was a plausible shortcut.

If it was other low-level cultivation arts and battle techniques, there were no problems for Xuanyuan Po to study them. However, Sun Mo's cultivation art was the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art.

To cultivators, cultivation arts of this level were akin to absolute beauties. If they learned it, they would definitely cultivate it. No one would be able to endure the itch.

If Xuanyuan Po fell into the temptation, his losses would surely outweigh his gains. After all, the main purpose of this cultivation art was to guide students, while the Prairie Blazing Fire Spear Technique was then the art most suited to Xuanyuan Po's personality and body.

"Jiang Leng, you are still recuperating now. You shouldn't cultivate for the time being. Those broken spirit runes would not only disrupt the spirit qi circulation, but they would also cause you extreme pain and the effect wouldn't be good. If you really feel bored, you can consider delving into the study of spirit runes."

Sun Mo suggested.

"Mn!"

Jiang Leng's countenance dimmed. He knew what Sun Mo said was right, but he couldn't help but feel reluctant!

"Jiang Leng, don't take this period of stagnation as a waste of time. Use it to temper your heart. I'll do my best to find a method to restore the spirit runes on your body!"

Sun Mo consoled.

"Mn!"

Jiang Leng nodded.

"Alright. For the lesson today, I won't be lecturing on anything or answering any difficult questions you might have. I'll use my Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands to check your body to understand each of your situations."

Sun Mo explained while touching Lu Zhiruo's head in the passing.

His plan was to first design a cultivation plan that was tailored to each of his students.

"Tantai, come over!"

Sun Mo called out. Because Li Ziqi and Lu Zhiruo were girls, these checks had to be done privately.

"During these two days, the entire school has been talking about our teacher's 'God Hands'. Today, we can finally witness its prowess!"

Tantai Yutang chortled.

When Sun Mo touched Tantai Yutang's shoulder blade, the former blinked twice and summoned a black-colored cubic-shaped cabinet. He then took out the black-iron treasure chest he had received this morning.

"Open!"

Black light flashed as the treasure popped open, leaving behind a medicine packet.

"Ding!"

"Congratulations on obtaining a giant medicine packet. Usage instruction: During a bath, just place it in your bathwater. If you use it often, you can strengthen your body and gain a powerful physique akin to giants!"

Sun Mo's expression turned dark. The effect was pretty good, but the value of this item was only 100 favorable impression points in the merchant store.

From its pricing, he could tell that this wasn't that good of a reward.

Sun Mo's gaze landed on Tantai Yutang's body. This wouldn't do. In the future, when he opened the treasure chests, he couldn't touch anyone else after Lu Zhiruo. If not, his luck would definitely dwindle.

To an unlucky person like Sun Mo, if he didn't believe in metaphysics, he could only cry.

After Sun Mo checked the bodies of the three male students, the lesson ended. He announced that they could leave.

After the three guys left, Li Ziqi raised her hand. "Teacher, I'm already prepared. Should we do the check before or after lunch?"

Sun Mo turned his head and looked at the sky. There was still a bit of time before lunch.

"Let's start with the massage first!"

After that, Sun Mo and Lu Zhiruo were brought out of the campus by Li Ziqi.

"Where are we going?"

Sun Mo was bewildered. But very soon later, the answer was revealed.

The three of them turned left after walking out of school. They headed west for three hundred meters and turned a corner.

This place was a residential area. Considering the size of the houses, their designs and renovation, and the people entering and exiting the district, the houses here were probably only for wealthy people.

Creak!

Li Ziqi pushed a huge gate open and stood at the side before making an invitational gesture. "Teacher, please enter!"

Honestly speaking, if it wasn't for Lu Zhiruo being here, Sun Mo wouldn't have dared to enter the house alone with Li Ziqi.

As a teacher, you actually entered a house so close to the school alone with a female student? What was going on? The circumstances seemed suspicious. Also, once someone gossiped about this and rumors started to spread, things would be troublesome.

Chapter 108: Contrast between Past and Present

At this moment, Sun Mo couldn't help but recall that during his university years, once weekends arrived, those affluent second-generation friends in his dorm would immediately pack up and get a room nearby the school with their girlfriends, playing for two days straight.

At that time, Sun Mo would either stay in his dorm to play world of warcraft or head to internet cafes all night. He also secretly despised those affluent second-generation friends.

At that time, the pure and innocent Sun Mo thought that the couples missed each other too much and were reluctant to part; hence, they wanted to stay together and say sweet things to each other. Only after he had graduated and started working, after he had seen some adult movies by chance, did he suddenly realize and understand his dorm-mates' motivation for doing such things.

Che, it would only make him sad when he thought of this.

Single dogs didn't even know the ultimate meaning of love!

"Teacher?"

Li Ziqi called lightly. Sun Mo seemed to be in a daze?

"Mn!"

Sun Mo lifted his feet and entered the gate.

This was a house with three entrances. Vines climbed all over the walls, resembling a green waterfall.

Through the decorated gate, there was a courtyard with over ten laurus nobilis (a type of tree) planted. The gentle breeze of the wind caused the shadows of the tree to flicker.

Gua! Gua!

On the left, there was a tiny pond with lotus leaves floating on the surface. There were frogs hiding beneath the fake mountain for the shade.

Sun Mo inclined his head and stared at the greenery and the high ceilings over his head. A thick sense of ancient beauty filled his heart.

"Teacher, should we head to the east wing?"

Li Ziqi suggested.

This house was something Li Ziqi asked her old servant to buy yesterday. She had also arranged for some servants to clean it through the night. All the beddings and pillows were changed and the daily necessities were added.

"Mn!"

Sun Mo nodded and followed Li Ziqi to the east wing.

The rooms were cleaned very well. There was even a faint fragrance of sandalwood lingering in the atmosphere.

“Should we start now?”

As she said this, Li Ziqi’s voice quivered a little. She suddenly recalled that burly fellow whose body muscles were glistening as though there was a layer of oil applied.

“Go and make some preparations!”

Sun Mo lifted a copper basin. “I’ll go and get some clean water!”

“I’ll do it!”

Lu Zhiruo snatched the copper basin and ran toward the well in the courtyard.

“Ziqi, if you are not used to it, it’s fine if you remain clothed too!”

Sun Mo could tell what was making Li Ziqi uneasy.

This place was the Tang Country of Central Province. The customs here were similar to ancient China. Although it wasn’t to the extent where there couldn’t even be the slightest physical contact between men and women, if there was no need for it, men and women wouldn’t usually have any physical contact prior to marriage.

When females went on the street, regardless of them wearing plain cotton clothing or luxurious silk clothing, they would cover themselves completely in a fitting manner.

If one wanted to see a female wearing slightly skimpier clothing, it was absolutely impossible.

“Forget it.”

Li Ziqi shook her head. In order to perform massage for her aunt, she had also learned quite a few massage techniques. She knew that if the target was clothed, the effect wouldn’t be that good. “Also, you are my teacher. There’s no need for me to treat you like an outsider.”

Li Ziqi entered the back of the screen and soon after, the sounds of changing clothes could be heard.

“Teacher, the clean water is here!”

Lu Zhiruo returned with the basin.

Sun Mo took out the ancient whale oil and began to adjust the proportions before pouring some into the water.

When the bottle stopper was pulled out, a strange fragrance permeated the area. Lu Zhiruo couldn’t control it as she sniffed.

“Teac...Teacher, I’m pre...prepared!”

Li Ziqi’s voice drifted over, filled with a little nervousness.

“Zhiruo, be my assistant!”

Sun Mo instructed.

Actually, he didn't need an assistant. But no matter what, he couldn't possibly be in the same room with a female student alone. Hence, the papaya girl's purpose was here to be an observer to prove his innocence.

Behind the screen, there was a bamboo bed. Li Zi was standing at the side, wearing silk short pants and a white singlet.

“Get up on it!” Sun Mo instructed.

“Mn!”

Li Ziqi lay on the bamboo bed. Her entire body was shivering.

Sun Mo poured a little ancient whale oil solution onto Li Ziqi's back. After that, his hands pressed on her back.

Swish!

Li Ziqi was like a wild cat getting a fright. Her entire body tensed up, and even her fine hairs were standing.

“Relax.”

Sun Mo gently comforted her. He began to execute his muscleforge technique. In order to alleviate Li Ziqi's nervousness, he began to speak, “Your muscles are very good. Their conditions are not bad at all. If it wasn't for the fact that your motoric nerves are too inferior, you could still be considered as someone having a bright future on the path of cultivation.

“Mn!”

Li Ziqi's father had long since found a great teacher to look over her condition. This was the diagnosis too. However, motoric nerves were something that one was innately born with. She couldn't do anything to improve them.

“Don't be disheartened. I know a circulation technique and it might help to improve your motoric nerves.”

Sun Mo could only try everything in a desperate situation.

“Genie, why are you not coming out yet?”

Sun Mo roared from the bottom of his heart.

BOOM!

Spirit qi surged. A genie with a purple headband, a golden corset, and a muscled body covered with oil materialized.

However, this time around, the genie didn't act immediately. It began to adopt various poses and show off its muscles.

"Go on!" Sun Mo urged.

"Mn, mn!"

The genie nodded. After that, it spread out its fingers and shot out ten strands of spirit qi, linking his fingers with Sun Mo's.

Pak!

The genie then knocked Sun Mo with its shoulder, pushing Sun Mo toward Li Ziqi.

"F***!"

Sun Mo was shocked. He stumbled and directly fell onto Li Ziqi's back. Luckily, his speed was fast enough and he quickly got up.

Yet, the genie had no other reactions. It was like controlling Sun Mo as a puppet. When its fingers moved, Sun Mo's would move as well, roaming around Li Ziqi's body.

"Oi! Oi! What are you doing?"

Sun Mo grew angry.

The genie didn't care about human customs at all. It would only ensure that its massage would bring out the most outstanding effects.

"Stop! Quickly stop!" Sun Mo berated.

"If you get him to stop, what happens then? Should he end the massage?" the system spoke.

"Why did that fellow suddenly make me act?"

Sun Mo didn't understand.

"Because he doesn't like to give females massages!"

The system replied in a manner as though it should be by rights. Yet, this answer gave Sun Mo a fright.

"Ah?"

Sun Mo was taken aback. This genie had a pretty philosophical look. Who could have expected that it was a gay guy!

"What are you 'ah-ing' for? Focus and learn, you can't possibly depend on it forever, right? Let me tell you this, by having an appropriate amount of contact with females, you will be able to improve your relationships and reduce the sense of distance with them."

The system guided, "Oh, I've forgotten that you are a single dog. You don't understand women!"

"Come on out right now, I promise not to beat you to death!"

Sun Mo was infuriated. (After this daddy becomes thirty years old, I will turn into a wizard and blast you to death with a giant fireball!!)

Li Ziqi lay on the bamboo bed unmoving.

The effects of the ancient massage technique began to be unleashed. Sensations of soreness, itch, and pain could be felt, but in the end, all of these sensations turned into a sense of numbing comfort.

Ten minutes later, the massage ended.

Li Ziqi lay limply on the bamboo bed. Her eyes stared at the ceiling listlessly, and she had a feeling as though her soul was about to fly out.

“Help her wipe the oil clean and dress up!”

Sun Mo went out of the east wing and to the courtyard to wash his hands. After that, he sat on the bench and planned out a training plan for Li Ziqi.

After Li Ziqi regained her senses, she felt her body was very sticky. She glanced at the bamboo bed and discovered that Lu Zhiruo was currently wiping it.

“Do you want to shower first? Teacher’s Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands is truly impressive. Quite a large amount of impurities in your body was expelled.”

Lu Zhiruo was very pure. She didn’t associate Sun Mo’s massage for Li Ziqi with anything impure.

Li Ziqi raised her hand and sniffed it. As expected, there was quite an unpleasant smell. However, she also felt that her body was much lighter and her condition was very good. She could absolutely memorize a book of 100,000 words within fifteen minutes

“We can wash up together after you are done with the massage!”

Li Ziqi tidied up and helped Lu Zhiruo change her clothes. After that, she went out to call Sun Mo.

When Sun Mo looked at Lu Zhiruo, he wanted to close his eyes. The clothes Li Ziqi prepared for the papaya girl didn’t fit her too well.

“In the future, there’s no need to stand up and wait for me. You can directly lie down!” Sun Mo instructed.

“Oh!”

Lu Zhiruo lay on the bamboo bed, resembling a salted fish.

This time around, Sun Mo really closed his eyes. If Lu Zhiruo moved the slightest bit, her two large papayas would undulate like waves and dazzle the eyes of those who looked at them.

“See no evil! I must calm down, calm down!”

Sun Mo silently mumbled.

Li Ziqi’s lips twitched, feeling that the heavens were unfair. Why were their sizes so different?

Sun Mo saw some towels prepared at the side. He took one up and folded it before placing it around his eyes.

(Very good, not transparent at all. Why didn't I think of this earlier?)

In any case, his hands were controlled by the genie. It didn't matter even if Sun Mo couldn't see anything.

Naturally, by blocking his vision, it would affect his learning of the ancient massage technique. However, Sun Mo didn't mind learning it slowly.

"Teacher, how's my constitution?"

Lu Zhiruo sat up from the bed. She was worried but also filled with anticipation when she asked this question. As for other thoughts, her mind was as pure as a piece of blank paper.

Sun Mo fell silent. How should he say it?

The grandmaster-level muscleforge technique told Sun Mo that Lu Zhiruo's constitution was truly very bad. No wonder she hadn't succeeded in reaching the body-refinement realm. If she wanted to level up, the amount of effort she must put in had to be ten times greater compared to others before it would be possible.

Chapter 109 The School's Ultimate Divine Art

"You should have learned over 30 types of cultivation arts, right?"

Sun Mo shifted the topic away.

"I've learned over 80 types I think, I can't remember clearly!"

Lu Zhiruo had always wanted to find a cultivation art suited for herself. But no matter how she practiced, her efforts would always end in failure.

Upon hearing the number, Li Ziqi stared at the papaya girl in shock. "No wonder you haven't reached the body-refinement realm yet. Did you waste your time cultivating too many arts at once?"

"No, my father said that I'm too stupid!"

Lu Zhiruo's tone became gloomy. When she first heard her father say that, she suffered such a heavy psychological impact that she was sick for an entire month. In fact, she almost died.

Li Ziqi fell silent. Given her intelligence, she understood Sun Mo was shifting the topic away on purpose. This meant that Lu Zhiruo's constitution was so bad to the extent where he had no way to speak it directly.

"Don't worry, I will impart an extremely powerful cultivation art to you. Once you learn it, you will be unrivaled under the heavens."

Sun Mo was truly fond of such a hardworking, pure, and adorable student like Lu Zhiruo. Hence, he didn't wish to see her get hurt.

"Ah?"

Lu Zhiruo sat up in shock. She hugged Sun Mo's arm and asked in a hurry, "How powerful is it exactly?"

Luckily, Sun Mo's eyes were covered or things would really be awkward.

The sudden sit up by the papaya girl caused her majestic breasts to ripple outrageously. If her breasts hit someone's face, that person would definitely faint.

Li Ziqi's lips twitched as envy arose in her heart.

Sun Mo could feel two mounds of soft flesh pressing against his arm. As a single dog, he didn't understand what they were at the start. But soon after that, he realized it. Hence, he stretched his hand out and gently pushed the papaya girl away.

"How powerful is it exactly?"

Lu Zhiruo didn't understand Sun Mo's intention and hugged his arm even tighter. Besides, her tone was filled with a tiny hint of coquettishness as well.

She was like a hungry house cat that was meowing at its owner for food.

"A peerless-grade saint-tier cultivation art."

Sun Mo gave up and simply allowed Lu Zhiruo to hug his arm.

"Ah?"

Lu Zhiruo was stunned. In the various countries of the nine provinces, cultivation arts of this level were the best. Each of them could be considered an inheritance treasure.

Li Ziqi was also stunned as she stared dumbfoundedly at Sun Mo, suspecting whether she had heard wrongly. For cultivation arts of this level, they could even be considered ultimate treasures in the Great Tang Empire.

"How about it? Is it powerful or not?" Sun Mo teased.

"It's powerful indeed, but I'm afraid I won't be able to understand it..."

Lu Zhiruo pouted and had an aggrieved look on her face. "I'm too stupid." "It's alright, effort can make up for everything!"

Sun Mo instinctively stretched out his other hand, wanting to touch Lu Zhiruo's head. However, because he was blindfolded, his hand touched only the air.

The papaya girl was very understanding. She leaned over and allowed Sun Mo to caress her head. In addition, she even closed her eyes in comfort.

Upon hearing the conversation between the two of them, Li Ziqi felt something was wrong. She only came back to her senses after hearing the words 'peerless-grade saint-tier cultivation art'.

(Oh heavens, that's the highest level cultivation art in the Middle-Earth Nine Provinces. Teacher Sun is actually going to teach it to Lu Zhiruo? Also, Lu Zhiruo's first reaction was...?)

(She actually wasn't shocked but she was worried she wouldn't be able to understand it!)

(What joke is this exactly? You guys are talking about one of the highest-level cultivation arts and not a garbage cultivation art that you can purchase on any street store for tens of copper coins!)

(How can the two of you be so calm?)

“Ziqi, you have to learn it too!”

Sun Mo was worried that Li Ziqi would feel that he was biased. Hence, he hurriedly added.

Li Ziqi didn’t know what to reply. Given her knowledge and perception of Sun Mo, they told her that he wasn’t lying.

However, her rationale told her that this matter was truly too exaggerated.

She felt that she had to drink a cup of water to calm her nerves.

“In any case, what’s the name of the cultivation art?”

Lu Zhiruo was curious.

“The Grand Universe Formless Divine Art!”

Sun Mo casually spoke, but Li Ziqi at the side coughed and immediately spat out a mouthful of water she had drunk.

She even choked!

“Cough, cough. What did you say, teacher? Cough...did I hear it wrongly?”

Li Ziqi coughed badly.

“Have you heard of the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art before?”

Sun Mo was curious. When he saw how agitated Li Ziqi was, it was evident she knew the origins of this cultivation art.

“I’ve heard of it before. If the name is right, it should be none other than the ultimate divine art of the Skyraise Academy. Only the most talented and loyal students have the qualifications to learn it.” Li Ziqi explained.

The Skyraise Academy was in Jing Province. It was one of the Nine Greats, an existence that was ranked at the very top. Moreover, this ranking was publicly acknowledged. “This cultivation art could only be taught to the most loyal students. If not, what if they betrayed the school after they learned this art?”

Lu Zhiruo felt that Li Ziqi’s descriptions were wrong. But when Li Ziqi spoke until here, Lu Zhiruo also glanced at their teacher subconsciously.

(Oh yeah, how did Teacher Sun know this? Could he be a traitor of that school?)

(No, teacher isn’t such a person!)

(There must be a huge secret hidden within!)

“You didn’t understand my meaning. There’s a hard condition for one to become the headmaster of the Skyraise Academy and that is to master this cultivation art. This is why for those students who are qualified to learn this, all of them are future headmaster candidates for the Skyraise Academy.”

Li Ziqi’s voice was trembling.

For those who were listed as future headmaster candidates of the Skyraise Academy, there was no need to doubt how talented they were. Yet now, Sun Mo said that he knew this ultimate divine art!

Li Ziqi’s lips moved. She almost asked if Sun Mo was lying to them. Even if Sun Mo were the son of the current Skyraise Academy’s headmaster, if his talent was not enough, he also wouldn’t be qualified to cultivate this art.

Wait a minute, could it be that Sun Mo was the illegitimate son of that headmaster? Because he didn’t want to be recognized, he came all the way here to the Central Province Academy?

In an instant, a drama filled with emotions appeared in Li Ziqi’s mind. “Teacher, how did you learn this cultivation art? Were you swindled by someone?”

After many theories spun through her mind, Li Ziqi still felt that this was the most logical answer.

In the black market of the various countries of the Nine Provinces, there were all sorts of fake cultivation arts, either used to harm people or to swindle them.

Every year, there would be young people who got swindled because they wanted to try their luck.

“Am I that stupid?”

Sun Mo rolled his eyes.

“That’s true, you are not...”

Li Ziqi grabbed her hair in frustration. She couldn’t understand it.

“Don’t think about it anymore. This cultivation art is real, and I’ve been practicing it since a long time ago!”

Sun Mo was now even more curious at the identity of the major character behind the wooden blade.

“Aiya, I will stop thinking about it. Teacher’s words are most certainly correct!” Lu Zhiruo hated thinking the most. Now, she was very happy. As long as she learned the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art, she would become more powerful.

Next time when she met her father again, he would definitely approve of her.

Upon thinking of this, Lu Zhiruo’s embrace of Sun Mo’s arms grew even tighter.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Lu Zhiruo +50. Friendly (538/1,000).

“Teacher, are you really teaching it to us?” Li Ziqi started, she still felt some disbelief. “The Grand Universe Formless Divine Art?”

“Isn’t it just a peerless-grade saint-tier cultivation art? There’s no need for you to keep asking about it, right?” Sun Mo gently pushed Lu Zhiruo away. “Lie down properly, the massage hasn’t ended!” Seeing that Sun Mo wasn’t willing to continue this topic, Li Ziqi found it awkward to continue speaking. However, her heart felt an unbearable itch. It was like there was a cat in her heart howling.

What did he mean by ‘isn’t it just a peerless-grade saint-tier cultivation art’? That was the ultimate divine art of the Skyraise Academy, alright?! If the news of someone knowing this cultivation art spread out, how great the commotion would be?

Li Ziqi was shocked because she knew that peerless-grade saint-tier cultivation arts were extremely rare treasures. But to Sun Mo, they were just a powerful cultivation art.

It was okay to teach it to his students!

As long as he possessed the divine skill Immemorial Vairocana, Sun Mo would be able to obtain whatever cultivation arts he wanted. This was why he could remain so calm.

After the ancient massage technique concluded, the two girls hadn’t achieved a breakthrough and this made Sun Mo a little depressed “I feel so comfortable now!”

Lu Zhiruo stretched her arms to the back, causing her chest area to ‘enlarge’. There was a look of joy on her face. “Pack things up and let’s get lunch!”

Sun Mo was hungry.

Through the entire lunchtime, Li Ziqi was absent-minded. As for Lu Zhiruo, she kept passing Sun Mo foods from the dishes to his bowl.

“Alright, Ziqi and Zhiruo. There’s no need to use the respected form of the word ‘you’ (12) to address me in the future. That’s too formal.”

Sun Mo stated. By hearing that, he felt like he had aged over ten years.

“Oh!”

Li Ziqi nodded but she was still distracted.

Ding!

“New mission issued: Please help your students attain victory in the arranged duel against Gao Ben’s students a month later. There would be rewards given according to the results.”

The system suddenly issued a mission. Sun Mo was so startled that he almost swallowed the chopsticks he was using. “System, can you stop being so abrupt?”

Sun Mo grumbled. Luckily, there was no punishment if the mission failed. After all, this mission was very difficult. This was especially so after he checked the papaya girl’s body condition. He felt that his students would lose the duel for sure.

Ding!

“Note: If the mission fails, there will be a punishment!”

“F***!”

Sun Mo was so angry that he almost smashed the bowl. “System, you are doing this on purpose, right? You are definitely doing this intentionally, right? There will be a day where I pull you out and give you a harsh beating!”

Sun Mo was no longer in any mood to eat. After that, he didn’t return to school and went to Li Ziqi’s house instead. “I’m going to try for a breakthrough, don’t disturb me!”

After Sun Mo instructed this, he passed them a segment of the oracular formula for the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art. “Go and practice this!”

“This...this is...”

Li Ziqi was agitated. The endearingly silly papaya girl didn’t react. Or more accurately, she didn’t manage to memorize it.

“Yes, what you all are thinking is right. This is the first level of that school’s ultimate divine art. If you cannot even master the first level, there’s no need to think about learning the second level.”

Sun Mo didn’t give them the oracular formula for the second level because he wanted to use it as a bait to encourage them to cultivate with more effort.

“I will definitely work hard!”

Li Ziqi patted her chest and guaranteed in a loud voice.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Li Ziqi +50. Friendly (281/1,000). “Mn!”

Sun Mo nodded while silently musing, “I’ve wronged you. You are not a steelplate girl (completely flat), you are a little egg instead. Although you have something, you are ultimately still a little too skinny.”

Sun Mo didn’t go to the east wing. He directly sat in the courtyard and took out his Starmoon Fruit. However, he wasn’t in a hurry to consume it. He placed it at the side and meditated to calm his heart first.

This was the first time he was attempting a breakthrough after arriving in this world. Sun Mo, who was always cautious, began to recall all his knowledge about the blood-ignition realm.

After running the knowledge through his mind three times and ascertaining there was nothing he overlooked, he took up the Starmoon Fruit and placed it in his mouth.

Chapter 110 Starmoon Tempering The Body, Second Level of Blood – Ignition Realm

When the Starmoon Fruit entered his mouth, Sun Mo subconsciously bit it down. It felt a little tough, like a fruit core with a layer of green skin.

However, as his saliva moistened it, the Starmoon Fruit softened and became liquid. Sun Mo then swallowed it into his stomach.

After 10 seconds, a surge of astral lunar force began to manifest in his stomach. After that, it flowed through his meridians and circulated from his body to his four limbs and skeletal structure, filling each corner.

As the amount of astral lunar force increased, they fully filled his energy channels and formed a stable cycle.

Sun Mo sat cross-legged on the ground and adjusted his spirit qi, controlling them to flow in the same direction as the astral lunar force, revolving around his energy channels in a cycle.

Very soon, Sun Mo's entire body heated up. Sweat mingled with impurities was expelled out from his body. After that, the sweat droplets immediately evaporated. Chi! Chi! Chi!

Wisps of white steam rose into the air.

The Starmoon Fruit was gradually unleashing its effects.

Sun Mo had always been cautious when it came to doing things. After obtaining the Starmoon Fruit back then, he immediately went to the library and checked about this fruit.

However, after searching through a thousand botany books, alchemy books, and even books about mystical plants, he couldn't find the Starmoon Fruit.

In fact, there wasn't a simple introduction or even a mention of it.

Given Sun Mo's cautious nature, where he liked to plan things out first before acting, if it wasn't for the fact that he knew the system wouldn't lie to him, he absolutely wouldn't have dared to consume a fruit of unknown origins like the Starmoon Fruit so easily.

Although Li Ziqi and Lu Zhiruo had obtained the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art, they didn't start cultivating it immediately. Instead, they stayed outside the courtyard's gate and stretched their heads as they peered into the courtyard.

"Teacher's breakthrough feels a little different from others, right?"

Lu Zhiruo spoke in a low voice.

"Shh!"

Li Ziqi placed her dainty index finger between her lips and made a shushing gesture

One must know that the vast majority of people wouldn't even have a chance to see a peerless-grade saint-tier cultivation art like the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art in their entire lifetimes. If they obtained it, they would definitely study it immediately to broaden their horizons.

However, these two girls didn't do that. They were worried about Sun Mo's safety. Hence, they were paying attention to him.

The expressions of the two girls turned to shock swiftly after.

Because right now, Sun Mo started to perspire red sweat. After the red sweat evaporated, they became red clouds of mist. However, these clouds didn't dissipate but gathered around Sun Mo's body instead.

Lu Zhiruo grabbed Li Ziqi's arm in worry. "Why is teacher's breakthrough like that?"

Li Ziqi was puzzled. Although her exercising ability was 0, she was an avid reader and had researched many ancient classics before. She had also memorized a lot of theoretical knowledge on breaking through in cultivation.

"Could it be because he ate some alchemy pill? But this doesn't seem to be right. Even if it's a peak-grade medicine, there would still be some medicinal dregs remaining in his body. It would be easy to break through now. But in the future, when one is pushing for a higher cultivation realm, their progress would inevitably be affected.

Li Ziqi mumbled. To cultivators, everyone would usually depend on their own efforts for a breakthrough unless they encountered a bottleneck and was stuck there for several years. Only then would they consume alchemy pills designed to aid them in a breakthrough.

Yet, all medicine contained 30% poison. If one consumed an alchemy pill, the pill toxins would gradually accumulate and negatively affect the cultivator.

With Sun Mo's current cultivation realm, there wasn't an urgent need for him to pursue a breakthrough. In addition, he should also have known about the side-effects of consuming alchemy pills.

Naturally, the most important reason was that Li Ziqi believed that given Sun Mo's talent, it would be as effortless as drinking a cup of water for Sun Mo to ignite his blood to reach the next level!

After eliminating all these possibilities, there was only one idea remaining. And that was that Sun Mo had consumed a natural spirit medicine.

Natural spirit medicine referred to things growing in nature instead of something artificially concocted. Such spirit medicine not only possessed powerful medicinal properties, but there were almost no side effects as well.

In Li Ziqi's mind, 18 types of spirit medicine suitable for the blood-ignition realm instantly flashed through. But when she thought of the course of events that would occur after consuming them, none of them seemed to fit Sun Mo's current situation.

Hence, Li Ziqi was puzzled.

Those blood-colored mist began swirling. Some transformed into constellations, some into crescent moons. They surrounded Sun Mo and slowly revolved around. Half of the clouds of red mist were resplendent stars, while the other half constituted a picture of shining crescent moons.

The Starmoon Fruit was silvery-white. It would soak up the essence of the stars and moon and would only form after a hundred years. Due to long years of absorbing the essence from the stars and moon, the astral lunar force was contained within it.

After a cultivator consumed the fruit, the astral lunar force in it could be used to temper the cultivator's body, purify his blood, and get rid of filthy impurities. Sun Mo's red-colored sweat was actually formed from a portion of the mixture of blood and impurities.

Suddenly!

The spirit qi in Sun Mo's body abruptly erupted!

BOOM!

The stars and moons formed from the red-colored mist suddenly collapsed, dispersing in all directions like the morning mist and dyeing the ground in the surroundings red.

The breakthrough was successful. Sun Mo began to adjust his breathing.

The entire process didn't even take 15 minutes. It was much simpler than what he had expected.

Honestly speaking, Sun Mo felt a little disappointed. He had thought that there might be some heavenly phenomena appearing "Congratulations, teacher!" Li Ziqi jogged over and passed over a towel while congratulating Sun Mo.

Lu Zhiruo brought along a basin of water for Sun Mo to clean himself.

"Teacher, why don't you take a bath!"

Li Ziqi suggested. There were large patches of red on Sun Mo's clothing, like they were dyed in fresh blood. It was better to clean them.

"I'll go and heat up the water!"

Lu Zhiruo immediately started to run out.

"Don't need to do that!"

Sun Mo had gotten used to taking cold baths in the past. Now that his body was so strong, there was naturally no problem for him to do so as well. He walked to the well and dredged up a pail of water. He then raised it over his head and began to pour the water over his body.

The cold water flowed down his skin, bringing the summer heat away.

"Awesome!"

Sun Mo stretched his neck.

ine

"Teacher, do you need your back to be wiped?"

Li Ziqi held a set of clothes and stood at the side. She stared at Sun Mo's sturdy back and blushed slightly.

Teacher's muscles were so wonderful!

Li Ziqi wanted to touch them a little.

Lu Zhiruo's left hand was now carrying a towel. She extended her right index finger and prod his back.

Sun Mo jumped in fright and took a step forward.

"Eh!"

Lu Zhiruo hurriedly lowered her head.

Li Ziqi started, but after that, she began to laugh uncontrollably. She really liked warm atmospheres like this.

After Sun Mo cleaned up, he got into the clothes Li Ziqi had prepared for him.

This was a white long robe; only the sleeves and collars were embroidered by golden threads, and there were no other pictures or decorations. It was spotlessly clean and after Sun Mo wore it, he exuded an aura of nobility.

“Teacher is so handsome!”

Lu Zhiruo evaluated.

Li Ziqi stood behind Sun Mo. She helped to comb his long black hair and tie it up into a bun.

Staring at Sun Mo’s reflection in the mirror, Li Ziqi agreed with what the papaya girl had said. But the word ‘handsome’ wasn’t enough to describe their teacher’s graceful bearing.

“In the future, there’s no need to prepare such clothes. I’m not qualified to wear it yet!”

Sun Mo frowned.

The moon-white long robes with golden embroidery were something only qualified great teachers who obtained a ‘star’ could wear. If ordinary teachers wore it, they would get into trouble easily.

“I believe that teacher will soon be qualified enough.”

Lu Zhiruo spoke with conviction.

“That’s right. Teacher, you only have to comprehend one more great teacher halo before the ‘1-star great teacher examination’. After that, I believe that teacher would pass it for sure.”

Li Ziqi encouraged him.

“Hehe!”

Sun Mo smiled and decided to reveal something. “Actually, I already have three great teacher halos!”

“Ah?”

Li Ziqi and Lu Zhiruo were both stunned. After that, their gazes flashed with curiosity.

“What are they?” Li Ziqi inquired. “Why don’t you take a guess?” Sun Mo kept them in suspense.

“Teacher, tell us quickly!”

Lu Zhiruo hugged Sun Mo’s arm. She was like a little kitten throwing a tantrum, wanting food from its owner.

“I’ll tell you all when the time comes.”

Sun Mo seamlessly wriggled his arm out of Lu Zhiruo’s embrace.

“Teacher is so annoying!”

Li Ziqi pursed her lips.

Sun Mo patted Lu Zhiruo on her head. He stared at the mirror, at the reflection of himself who was wearing the moon-white robes

Each spring, the Saint Gate would organize a '1-star great teacher examination'. Counting the days, there was still about seven to eight months before it. It was enough for Sun Mo to make his preparations.

Moreover, Sun Mo had to achieve it no matter what. The system had given him a mission for him to become a 1-star great teacher within a year, and this examination was his only chance.

"If teacher becomes a 1-star great teacher, we would be able to walk around without fear* on campus, right?"

Lu Zhiruo's eyes were filled with yearning.

Pak!

Li Ziqi raised her hand and rapped Lu Zhiruo's forehead.

"What are you thinking about? Do you want to be a crab*?"

Li Ziqi teased.

"I...I...I only don't want to be bullied!"

As she said until the end, her voice gradually grew softer.

"There are people bullying you?"

Sun Mo frowned.

"No!"

Lu Zhiruo hurriedly shook her head. "If there are, you definitely have to tell me!"

Sun Mo solemnly spoke. As a teacher, the thing he hated the most was bullying in school. "Speaking of which... Teacher, did you break through earlier after eating some natural spirit medicine?"

Li Ziqi asked a question to resolve the puzzlement in her heart.

"Yes, I ate a Starmoon Fruit!"

Sun Mo didn't hide anything.

"Starmoon Fruit?"

Li Ziqi furrowed her brows. "Are you sure?"

"You know about this fruit?"

Sun Mo was taken aback.

“My clan’s library is pretty large, so I’ve read about it. Starmoon Fruit is a type of fruit that only appears on the Darkness Continent. It’s said that it’s the most suitable natural spirit medicine for those in the blood-ignition realm.”

Li Ziqi memorized the information about the Starmoon Fruit before. But sadly, because it only appeared on the Darkness Continent, there was only a short introduction about it in an obscure book she had read.

“Darkness Continent?”

Sun Mo frowned.

“This fruit is very expensive. More accurately, everything that’s produced from the Darkness Continent is very expensive. Silver and gold wouldn’t be able to purchase them. They could only be traded for using other valuable objects!” Li Ziqi explained.

Thanks to her family, Li Ziqi had read through many secret books that were not available on the market. One could only read those books if one had a certain identity or status.

“Where can I buy one?”

Sun Mo grew curious.

“The various auction houses or the black markets!”

Li Ziqi’s words were concise and comprehensive. “However, all goods from the Darkness Continent are considered hot properties. Not only are they expensive, but they are also very difficult to purchase.”

Li Ziqi was a sensible girl. Although she really wanted to know where Sun Mo had obtained his Starmoon Fruit, she knew that if she asked such a question, her teacher might be conflicted about whether to answer it or not. Hence, she tactfully decided not to ask.

“Hmph, I’ve long since told you that the things you can purchase from the merchant store are all great items!”

The system was very complacent. Its tone had a hint of contempt for Sun Mo because of his inability to know what was good.

Sun Mo couldn’t be bothered with it. He stood up and walked out. “Let’s go into the courtyard for a spar. Let me see both of your combat strengths!” Just when Sun Mo’s feet stepped out of the gate, the system’s notification rang out.

Ding!

“Mission completed!”