

Teacher 1171

Chapter 1171: Emperor of Great Liao Sending a Son to Take Sun Mo on as a Personal Teacher!

“When it comes to spamming money, you won’t be able to win against Sun Mo. Sun Mo rose to 4-stars in one stretch, no...5-stars. He is a new rising superstar that created a brand new record and is also a great ancestor spirit runist. His eldest disciple is the most beloved princess of the Great Tang Emperor. His second disciple, forget it. I would scare you to death if I revealed her identity!”

Wan Kangcheng shook his head. “Tell me, what do you have to make Sun Mo draw a spirit rune for you? Just because your face is big?!”

Wu Pan was scolded so badly until he became depressed.

“Oh right, Sun Mo is deeply respected by Headmaster Song and has been named as the honorary headmaster by him. This matter has passed through the votes by all the members of the upper echelon. Three days later, it will be announced to the entire school!”

Wan Kangcheng divulged another matter of immense proportions and directly stunned Wu Pan.

“Sun Mo...No, Great Teacher Sun is only 20+ years old, right? How can he have such dazzling achievements?”

Only now did Wu Pan understand how much he had underestimated Sun Mo earlier!

Many great teachers over 50 years old might not have as many achievements as him!

...

During these few days, many incidents like the one between Wan Kangcheng and Wu Pan happened. The famous great teachers of the Black-White Academy were hounded by their friends and families who wanted to get Skyward Spirit Runes for themselves. However, all of them were rejected with no exceptions.

It wasn’t that they didn’t want to help. They themselves couldn’t even get the spirit rune despite wanting it.

There was no solution for it. In this entire world, no one knew this spirit rune other than Sun Mo.

...

On the ninth day of the month, in the morning...

The sun was warm and gentle. The school conducted an entire school meeting, and Song Yan announced publicly that Sun Mo had become the honorary headmaster of the Black-White Academy.

Among great teachers, they had been discussing this topic hence they weren’t too shocked. However, for the students who didn’t know anything, they were completely dumbfounded.

Usually speaking, a position like an honorary headmaster was assumed by aged great teachers with very high star rankings. Wasn’t Sun Mo a little too young?

However, after thinking of Sun Mo's achievements, everyone understood.

Geniuses naturally were cherished and loved more than others!

After that, thunderous applause rang out. No students were against this decision. After all, during this period, Sun Mo had used God Hands and his spirit rune techniques to completely convince everyone.

One couldn't help but say that since he could help an 8-stars great teacher to break through his bottleneck and ascend to the secondary saint realm, he was worthy of the title 'honorary headmaster'.

Not only students, but even some great teachers were also rejoicing. Now that Sun Mo had become their honorary headmaster, they would definitely find it easier to consult him for guidance if they ran into any problems in the future.

The meeting ended and everyone was happy.

"Headmaster Song, I'm preparing to return to Jinling and will leave the day after tomorrow."

After the meeting ended, Sun Mo went to bid farewell to Headmaster Song. If it wasn't for him wanting to wait for those great teachers he recruited, Sun Mo actually wanted to head back this afternoon.

"Why are you in such a hurry? Why don't you stay for a few more days?"

Song Yan tried to make him stay, wanting Sun Mo to continue staying here forever.

"It's fine. I still have a bunch of matters to deal with at school."

Sun Mo missed his students. They had been apart for a year, and he wondered how they were.

"Allow me to send you off during this afternoon then?"

Headmaster Song instructed his assistant to head to the school canteen to prepare a feast.

Xie Enhui who was beside him was prepared to praise Sun Mo, but she suddenly saw a group of soldiers coming over from the pathway.

This caused her to frown.

The Black-White Academy was a sacred ground for learning. Hence, the first generation headmaster had decreed that no horses and carriages could be driven here to avoid harming others.

However, after so many years, there were bound to be some changes to the rules.

For example, great teachers whose ranks were 7-stars or above could be seated on a horse or a carriage to travel around the campus for the sake of saving time.

At the same time, the royalty of Liao Country also had the qualifications to do so.

After all, Liaojin was the capital of the Great Liao Country, and the Black-White Academy was the national school of Great Liao. They received education funding from Great Liao every year and if they didn't give a little preferential treatment to the royal clan, it would be too nice then.

The carriages put up red-colored flags of flying dragons and there was a golden character 'Liao' on them. After that, when one saw the accompanying soldiers who formed into a magnificent team of honor guards, they immediately knew that the person arriving was the Great Liao Emperor.

Song Yan led a group of people over to welcome him.

"Headmaster Song, it has been several days since you exited your seclusion. I didn't manage to come over with gifts then, please forgive me!"

A man wearing dragon-style robes jumped off his carriage and strode over with large steps. The words he spoke sounded very grand and heroic.

His build was extremely sturdy, and he looked like a brown bear.

"Good afternoon, Emperor!"

Song Yan led a group of teachers as they greeted in unison.

Although Song Yan could simply not care about Emperor Xiao Luqi, he understood the ways of the world. If you respected someone, that person would naturally return your respect.

After chatting idly for a while, Xiao Luqi's vision landed on Sun Mo. His eyes involuntarily brightened as he marveled at how good-looking Sun Mo was.

Even though he wasn't acquainted with Sun Mo, he wouldn't recognize him wrongly.

Since there was such a young teacher standing beside Song Yan, there wouldn't be anyone else save for Sun Mo.

"I believe this must be God Hands, Sun Mo, Great Teacher Sun?"

Xiao Luqi smiled.

"I'm precisely him!"

Sun Mo also revealed a societal smile.

The feeling that this emperor gave him wasn't like a sovereign that stood above the masses. He was like a big brother from the pugilistic world instead.

However, this wasn't strange. Before the Great Liao empire was formed, the people here were just a group of nomads and didn't have any historical inheritance.

"I have long since heard that a new unmatched genius has been born in the great teacher world. Now that I've met you today, indeed, the rumors are true. It is my fortune to meet you!"

Xiao Luqi laughed uproariously and took the initiative to head forward and hugged Sun Mo.

"I didn't expect that the Liao Emperor would be so good at exchanging pleasantries!"

Gu Xiuxun, who was in the crowd, couldn't help but comment. After that, she felt somewhat envious. When would she be able to make an emperor regard her so highly?

Everyone wasn't silly. They could tell that Xiao Luqi was here for Sun Mo. Hence, when Xiao Luqi mentioned that he wanted one of his sons to take Sun Mo as a personal teacher, no one was surprised.

Since a future saint was at one's doorstep, if they didn't grab hold of the opportunity, that would be true stupidity.

To the royalty, there were plenty of princes and princesses, so it wasn't a bad investment to bind one of them to a genius great teacher to nurture a good teacher and student relationship.

One could say that all royalties of the Nine Provinces were doing this.

Naturally, if the royal clan regarded a great teacher very highly, the prince they sent would surely be one with higher status. For example, the personal teacher of the current crown prince of Great Liao was none other than Song Yan.

"This is my youngest son. He is birthed by the concubine I dote on the most!"

After Xiao Luqi finished speaking, he roared at an 8-year-old male kid, "Why are you not paying your respects and kneeling to your esteemed teacher yet?"

The boy immediately knelt.

"Disciple Xiao Feng pays respect to Teacher!"

As the little boy spoke, he was about to kowtow.

"Wait a moment!" Sun Mo spoke.

Swish~

The boy's body was as though it had been frozen. It directly stiffened and he couldn't finish the kowtow.

"Sun Mo's Profound Words is so skilled!"

Everyone marveled silently.

This was the effect of a great teacher halo named Profound Words. The words spoken by the great teacher would then become a golden rule that the target had to execute unconditionally.

"Great Teacher Sun, why must you do this?"

Xiao Luqi frowned.

"Your majesty, he basically doesn't hold royal authority in his eyes at all!"

A gorgeously dressed royal consort cast a ruthless glance at Sun Mo.

She was Xiao Feng's mother and naturally hoped that her son could ascend to the throne in the future, reaching the limits of humans.

Although this hope was very faint, how could one not have dreams?

Hence, this royal consort hoped that the personal teacher of her son could be someone extremely famous and powerful. By being so, the great teacher could become a barrier against those who wanted to harm her child.

“Shut up!”

Xiao Luqi berated. After that, he looked at Sun Mo and waited for his explanation.

“I hope my students can take the initiative to acknowledge me as their personal teacher because they really wish to learn some things from me. I don’t want them to be a tool for the sake of an ‘alliance’.”

Sun Mo explained.

Si~

Upon hearing this, many people were dumbfounded.

This Sun Mo was truly young and spirited!

The Liao Emperor brought a prince here to take Sun Mo on as a personal teacher. How great was this glory? How many high star-ranking great teachers wanted this in their dreams? In the end, Sun Mo was still so picky?!

(If it was me, I would have long since agreed!)

Leaving aside other things, being able to become the teacher of a prince meant that one could enjoy a sizable yearly income that exceeded the money garnered by the hard work of many people through several lifetimes.

“Great Teacher Sun, what does a young brat like him know? I admire you and approve of you. This is already enough!”

Xiao Luqi felt a little unhappy. He felt that Sun Mo was intentionally fault-finding.

“I can teach him for a period of time. But whether he wants to take me on as a personal teacher or not, that will be up to him. This is to avoid him not having a choice anymore if he regrets this in the future.”

Sun Mo didn’t care for Xiao Luqi’s attitude.

He had the qualifications to do so.

In the crowd, Lu Zhiruo secretly stretched out her finger and prodded Li Ziqi’s arm.

“Teacher is so tyrannical!”

The papaya girl was filled with worship.

“Headmaster Song, look at my son’s aptitude. He is a piece of unpolished jade!”

That consort interjected again. “Feng`er, execute a punching routine!”

“No need”! Song Yan rejected. “Consort Rong, if Xiao Feng can enter the tutelage of Great Teacher Sun, it would be the greatest fortune of his life. You must not make a mistake that will harm him!”

“...”

Consort Rong's expression immediately turned unsightly.

Her goal was for her son to enter the tutelage of a saint. Even if that couldn't happen, her son had to enter the tutelage of a secondary saint. What the hell did a 4-stars count as?

This Sun Mo might be in the limelight now, but what if he was another Shan Zhongyong?

It would definitely be much stabler to choose a secondary saint instead.

One couldn't blame Consort Rong for being shallow. Since she lived inside the palace, she wasn't able to come in contact with news from the outside. She had no way to know how impressive Sun Mo was.

“Great Teacher Sun, are you worried that he is trash and will tarnish your reputation?”

Xiao Luqi had an unsightly expression.

“Nope, he is a genius!”

Sun Mo had long since activated Divine Sight to check Xiao Feng's data.

(Speaking of which, this name you have given your son is truly imposing! If there's a special BGM belonging solely to him, no one would be able to defeat him.*)

Xiao Feng. Potential value: Extremely high!

“He has an outstanding talent in terms of martial cultivation.”

Xiao Luqi felt that these words were something Sun Mo said to fawn on him, and he didn't treat it as true. But the next sentence uttered by Sun Mo caused him to frown severely.

“There's a problem with the cultivation art you are training in!”

Sun Mo glanced at the data of this Emperor. “If you don't mind it, could you allow me to inspect your body?”

“Please!”

Xiao Luqi had heard of Sun Mo's God Hands. Hence, he didn't reject.

Sun Mo executed the ancient massaging technique and the data he received verified what he saw with his Divine Sight.

“The cultivation art you received a year and a half ago seems to provide the effect of extending longevity. But in truth, it's squeezing out your vital force. If you continue training in it, you will die within three years!”

Sun Mo spoke bluntly.

Si~

Upon hearing this, all the great teachers here were stunned.

(You are speaking to the emperor of a country, can't you be a little more tactful?)

Chapter 1172: Super Rewards!

Ignoring whether it was the Nine Provinces or the modern era, many people wouldn't treat a matter like death casually because they felt that it signified being unlucky. There was no need to mention kings.

Look at the emperors and kings of the ancient era. Which of them hadn't tried to exhaust all efforts to search for a way to prolong their longevity?

Sun Mo's words could be said to be extremely rude and in grave breach of societal norms.

Xiao Luqi was over 50+ years old, and no one had ever spoken to him like this before. Hence, a green vein on his forehead throbbed violently, as though it was on the verge of an explosion.

If Sun Mo were a eunuch, he would be beaten to death right away before the emperor thought about anything else. However, Sun Mo was a glorious great teacher and was also a valued guest of Song Yan. Xiao Luqi truly couldn't do anything to him.

But very soon, Xiao Luqi couldn't care about the offense in Sun Mo's sentence because he noticed some terms.

Sun Mo knew that he had received this cultivation art a year and a half ago and even knew its effects...

The numbers were too accurate.

Xiao Luqi's first reaction was that there was a traitor beside him.

Speaking of which, the way he obtained this cultivation wasn't very glorious. He had sent people to massacre the clan of a recluse. Hence, he naturally had to keep this a secret.

Hence, now that Sun Mo knew about this, it must have been leaked by a traitor!

After that, Xiao Luqi doubted this guess again. Sun Mo was someone from the Tang Empire who had no interactions with the people here. How could he possibly have bribed a spy and obtained such classified information?

Besides, if it wasn't for him being prompted by a sudden impulse and wanting to come and meet Sun Mo, the two of them might have never met at all in this lifetime. It was useless even if Sun Mo received this news. For example, if what Sun Mo said was true, he would die three years later.

After eliminating all impossible answers, only one remained. Sun Mo managed to know his situation from 'touching' him.

Si~

God Hands was actually so terrifying?

"Emperor, Great Teacher Sun is worthy of your trust!"

This sentence of Song Yan was worth its weight in gold and was equal to being a guarantor for Sun Mo.

Xiao Luqi clasped his hands. His tone became respectful. "Great Teacher Sun, how heavily damaged is my body?"

"There are no symptoms from your appearance and your body is still strong. However, your origin qi is damaged. Ordinary doctors won't be able to find anything wrong with you because this cultivation art is very strange!"

Sun Mo explained.

"Many thanks for Great Teacher Sun's guidance!"

Xiao Luqi waved his hand. "These gifts were originally planned for the teacher-acknowledgement ceremony. However, since you want to inspect Feng'er further, please let him become an in-name disciple of yours first?"

After chatting idly for a few more sentences, Xiao Luqi went back to his carriage and returned to his palace in a hurry.

Song Yan sighed as he stared at the troops retreating. "A massacre is about to begin again in the Liao Country's royal court."

"Isn't that something that happens often in the royal clan?"

Sun Mo shrugged nonchalantly.

"Sun Mo, all kings and emperors are suspicious people. In the future, you must speak cautiously around them!"

Song Yan persuaded.

"Mn!"

Sun Mo nodded.

"Eldest martial sister, why did he leave in a hurry?"

Lu Zhiruo didn't understand. "Why didn't he allow Teacher to help nurse his body?"

"Because he doesn't trust our teacher. He is in such a hurry to go back because he wants to verify the truth of this matter!"

Li Ziqi explained.

"What truth?"

The papaya girl was too innocent and didn't know of all the elaborate schemes and designs of people.

"There's an 80% to 90% chance that someone wanted Xiao Luqi to die early by sending that cultivation art using various 'methods' to ensure it reached his hands. If Teacher didn't reveal the problem with it today, Xiao Luqu would die three years later."

Li Ziqi analyzed.

“Ah? At that time, the crown prince would surely be the one ascending to the throne. So, it was done by the crown prince?”

Lu Zhiruo was suddenly enlightened.

“Wrong, the other party might expose this secret after Xiao Luqi’s body begins to have problems and push the blame to the crown prince. After all, the crown prince is the person that will gain the highest benefits if the Emperor dies. Everyone would undoubtedly suspect him.”

As a princess of Great Tang, Li Ziqi was well-versed in the sinister designs and intricacies of the palace infighting. “At that time, the crown prince would become the culprit that wanted to harm the emperor, and the other princes would have a chance to ascend to the throne!

“Naturally, this might also be an elaborate tactic employed by the crown prince, setting a trap within a trap!”

“Ah?”

Lu Zhiruo was stunned. (It’s so troublesome?)

“Do you think that the emperor is a good person? Now, after he returns, he will definitely get many people to cultivate the same cultivation art to do an experiment.”

Li Ziqi felt sad for those people who would be forced to train in it.

Her teacher’s words wouldn’t be wrong. So, those people would surely die.

“In any case, in order to find the culprit, the emperor won’t be able to sleep well anymore. Because everyone will be suspicious to him!”

Gu Xiuxun didn’t mind things being chaotic when she was watching a show.

The surrounding great teachers were speechless. (Is it really okay for you guys to discuss palace matters so casually like this?)

However, since Li Ziqi was Sun Mo’s eldest disciple, everyone pretended that they heard nothing.

After the emperor left, Consort Rong brought Xiao Feng away, but she left the gifts they brought here.

“Ai, fool!”

Song Yan didn’t know what to say. This foolish woman missed a chance to let his son ascend to the skies with a single step.

In the future, she would surely regret her decision today.

“Headmaster. Consider these ‘gifts’ to be presents I’m giving to the Black-White Academy. I hope you can use them to aid the students in poverty.”

Sun Mo waved his hands and spoke seriously.

No matter what, he was currently the honorary headmaster. He had to give them a meeting gift, right?

The court eunuch who was responsible for delivering these gifts was stunned when he heard the words.

(What clan are you from? You are not even going to see the list of gifts and are going to directly donate them away? This is a very large sum of money!)

“I thank you for your aid on behalf of those students living in poverty!”

Song Yan clasped his fists.

“That’s right, there’s no need to be polite with someone wealthy like that!”

“Teacher Sun, please come and headhunt me. There’s no need for you to pay me 100 million. 50 million will do!”

“I only need 30 million!”

The eunuch heard the casual chat of these high star-ranking great teachers and couldn’t help but blink his eyes. (What are you guys talking about? Did this guy offer someone 100 million to headhunt them? Is this fake? Why is he so rich?)

Sun Mo did have an aura that seemed capable of withstanding all shocks. If other great teachers were in his place and there was a prince wanting them to become their personal teachers, they would not give up on this chance. But he didn’t seem to care at all.

Truly tyrannical!

...

A year and two months after Sun Mo had left the Central Province Academy, he finally set off on the journey leading back home.

This time around, his harvest was extremely good.

Clearing the Black-White Game that had been undeciphered for several thousands of years, convincing the teachers and students of this school, becoming the first honorary headmaster of the Black-White Academy.

And also completing his recruitment mission.

These elite great teachers would soon inject new blood into the Central Province Academy.

Right, he had even caught the Yin-Yang Child Granny. After he obtained a grandmaster spirit runist license, he would be able to become a 5-stars great teacher.

After returning to the school, he wanted to get this title first.

“Sun Mo, since you feel that Xiao Feng is a genius, why don’t you accept him?”

Gu Xiuxun didn’t understand.

“I think it’s too much trouble!”

Sun Mo honestly spoke.

Given his current status, it was unknown how many people wanted to take him on as a personal teacher. It was truly not difficult for him if he wanted disciples with outstanding talent. So, Sun Mo paid more attention to the student's temperament and values when it came to accepting one.

For people like Qi Shengjia, even if they were talentless, Sun Mo was willing to accept them as long as they were willing to suffer and work hard.

There was also another point. After Xiao Luqi verified that his words had no problems, he would surely make another trip here with expensive gifts to get his son to take him on as a personal teacher once more. At that time, the value of the gifts presented by Xiao Luqi would be at least ten times more than what was given now.

When Jin Mujie heard Sun Mo's reply, she was filled with incomparable envy. (When can I feel something like this is troublesome and reject accepting a prince as my personal student?)

Ding!

"Congratulations on completing the mission of recruiting over ten graduate students from one of the Nine Greats. Reward: 1x diamond treasure chest!"

Ding!

"Congratulations on completing the achievement: There Are No People I Cannot Recruit. You successfully recruited outstanding teachers and students from the Black-White Academy, and the number of successful recruitments is above ten. Reward: 3x diamond treasure chest!"

Ding!

"Congratulations on becoming the honorary headmaster of the Black-White Academy. Reward: 2x diamond treasure chests!"

Ding!

"Congratulations on capturing the Yin-Yang Child Granny, one of the five Doyens of Dark Dawn. Reward: 1x diamond treasure chest!"

The system's voice rang out unceasingly in Sun Mo's ears, and numerous treasure chests appeared before his eyes, blinding him with their radiance.

However, this time around, Sun Mo was a little unhappy.

"The Yin-Yang Child Granny is only worth a single treasure chest? Isn't this a little too cheap?"

"You can choose to not want it!"

The system's reply was as emotionless as ever.

"Qi!"

After Sun Mo mentally pointed a middle finger, he called Lu Zhiruo to enter a horse carriage with him.

In any case, the journey back was going to be very boring. He might as well use this time to open the treasure chests.

He decided to open four at one go and finish opening all the diamond treasure chests!

Swish~ Swish~ Swish~

Four skill books covered in different colors sprang out.

“Ah, good stuff!”

When Sun Mo cast his glance over, he saw the first book. [Primer Encyclopedia to Elementary-Level Weapon Smithing]. Proficiency level: Expert.

He didn't hesitate and learned it on the spot.

Sun Mo was very happy as he carefully scanned the knowledge in his brain. He had gained another set of skills.

After completely grasping it, Sun Mo would be able to forge something like the spirit rune glove that could shoot out spirit qi waves, which they had designed in the past. There was no need for him to seek help from a weaponsmith anymore.

The second skill book was [Shennong Poison Classic], upper portion!

This was an encyclopedia that consisted of both a study on poison and a study on antidotes. After learning this, one would be able to see through at least 80% of all poisoning assassination methods in the world.

The third book was [A Quick Outline to Archaeology]!

It could allow a person to rapidly understand some knowledge on archaeology, including viewing Feng Shui, checking burial sites, differentiating objects, disarming traps, etc.

After learning this, if Sun Mo wanted to become a tomb robber, he didn't need to worry that he might die due to the various traps hidden inside a tomb.

But honestly speaking, it was useless!

After all, Sun Mo wouldn't go and rob a tomb.

“I'll just treat it as expanding my horizons!”

Sun Mo glanced at the cover of the fourth skill book. After seeing its name, his lips twitched.

[Grandmaster Musician: 100 practical minor techniques from elementary-level to proficient-level]?

(What the hell is this? Forget it. I didn't make a loss!)

At the very least, he would be able to compose the melodies he had heard before and sing them. Speaking of which, the songs of this era had no differences from ancient songs in China. They were opera songs, folk songs, and poems. In any case, they didn't suit his taste at all.

After Sun Mo finished learning this skill book, he used another ten minutes to fully understand it before he started humming a melody.

“Teacher, what melody is this? It's so nice!”

Lu Zhiruo blinked her eyes.

“[Descending The Mountain!]”

Sun Mo rubbed the papaya girl’s head and continued to open the treasure chests.

Ding!

A golden ball sprang out from the treasure chest, and there was a skill book inside. When Sun Mo cast a glance at it, he was so happy that he wanted to whistle!

Could it be that a new great teacher halo had finally appeared?

Chapter 1173: New Great Teacher Halo Obtained!

Ding!

“Congratulations on obtaining Fearful Silence. Proficiency level: Elementary!”

“Note: After using this halo, it would enhance your aura and cause others to be filled with reverence in their hearts toward you. This can stop them from speaking and allow you to achieve a realm called ‘When spring comes, no bugs will dare to cry out if I don’t speak first!’”

“If you use this halo during a quarrel with someone else, it can let you assume an invincible position!”

After seeing the system’s introduction, Sun Mo was extremely joyful.

This halo was very interesting and its practicality was not bad either!

It was like when a tiger’s body trembled, it would instantly cause its prey to sink into a state of fear. This was especially so if one used this great teacher halo in a quarrel where there was a clash of opinion. The other party basically wouldn’t be able to speak and could only listen passively.

That was very scoundrelly!

Usually speaking, great teachers would choose to use virtue to convince others so people would accept their losses wholeheartedly. So, debates would occur frequently.

In any case, other than being able to release some tyrannical aura, this great teacher halo was useless in all other aspects.

Although it wasn’t that useful, those who could comprehend it were all high star-ranking great teachers who had high prestige that rarely lost in debates.

Only great teachers who had been through countless verbal battles would be able to nurture such self-confidence and demeanor.

Sun Mo did a count. He had comprehended 20 great teacher halos. If he could comprehend one more, he would be able to meet the criteria for the 7-stars great teacher examination.

“A life with no enemies is simply as bleak as snow!”

Sun Mo ridiculed himself and continued to open treasure chests.

Ding!

“Congratulations on obtaining [National Player]. Proficiency level: Expert.”

“What is this?”

Sun Mo read through the introduction and discovered that it was a skill book that taught about the principles of Go. ‘National Player’ meant that one was at the very peak in Go skills at the national level.

Bluntly speaking, only the most impressive Go players would be able to obtain such an honor.

In the Nine Provinces, the officials and nobles in the upper society as well as the courtesans and servants in the lower society knew how to play chess to cultivate one’s mind and temperament. Even in the modern era, Go was a sophisticated competition.

Everyone would subconsciously feel that people who could play Go were very impressive and had high intellects.

“This can be considered something good, but I have no interest in Go.”

Sun Mo was speechless. With regard to idle entertainment activities, he didn’t like things that would tax the brain. Wouldn’t playing a game or betting be more relaxing than playing Go?

If it was in the modern era, one would still be able to posture on the web due to one’s chess skills. But in the ancient era?

Even the stupid little papaya girl had pretty good chess skills.

“Continue!”

Sun Mo instructed. (If I have spare time to play chess, I might as well use the time to paint some NTR scenes.)

The last treasure chest opened and it was also a skill book!

Ding!

“Congratulations on obtaining [100 types of Uncommon Spiritual Control Techniques] Proficiency level: expert!”

“Warning. Because these spiritual control techniques are uncommon, even the system has no way to know their complete effects. Hence, there might be risks involved when you use them. If there’s no need to, please do not use them recklessly.”

“Can’t you be more reliable?”

Sun Mo twitched his lips.

He understood that these spiritual control techniques were like some medicines that were invented to target certain illnesses. After some time passed, it would be discovered that these medicines possessed some side effects.

However, being able to learn some more spiritual control incantations was something of extremely great value to Sun Mo.

Spiritual control techniques could summon spiritual beasts. So, one could understand it in this manner – a spiritual control technique was the secret code to communicate with a type of spiritual beast.

If Sun Mo learned enough spiritual control techniques, he would be able to sum up the rules and start researching on a spiritual control incantation that he uniquely possessed.

To spiritual controllers, spiritual control techniques were the foundation they established themselves on. They definitely wouldn't pass them down to other people if they weren't their personal students. So, even for the Nine Greats of the Nine Provinces, the classes on the art of spiritual control were extremely few. At most, the teachers would only teach some common knowledge and simple summoning techniques.

For people like Sun Mo who had grasped three great spiritual control divine languages, they could use the three divine languages to birth a spiritual control aristocratic clan. If Sun Mo was willing to sell them, the entire Nine Provinces would descend into chaos no matter if the people were spiritual controllers or not.

If Sun Mo sold these 100 types of uncommon spiritual controlling techniques, maybe no one might buy them at ten million spirit stones. But if it was sold for a million, there would definitely be people queueing.

“Zhiruo, go and get Ziqi over. I will teach you guys a few spiritual controlling techniques, but do not use them recklessly if there's no need to!”

Because Sun Mo was bored, he decided to teach a lesson.

Over ten days later, Sun Mo's group finally returned to Jinling where they had been away for over a year.

Jinling—the two shores of Qinhuai river, the embroidered flowers, as many beauties as the clouds, the fragrance of alcohol permeating the air that caused people to feel drunk before even drinking!

...

Everything was well at the Central Province Academy.

After returning to his territory, Sun Mo could handle the minor problem of arranging lodgings for the headhunted people to his subordinates. However, he didn't do so. He did it personally and even told Bai Fu and the others to look for him straight with no worries should they have any other requests or concerns.

Sun Mo was worried that they might not be used to eating the food here in Jiangnan. Hence, he had spent a huge amount of money to invite six great chefs from the famous inns of Liaoqing.

This type of meticulousness and concern earned another large wave of favorable impression points for Sun Mo.

After handling these people, Sun Mo and An Xinhui went to look for Shi Sheng to know the incidents that had happened in the past year.

The most important thing was the 'B' grade school tournament. Under the lead of Secondary Saint Shi, although the school didn't manage to climb higher, they didn't drop in rank.

This result was considered pretty good for Sun Mo, An Xinhui, and the others.

Indeed as expected, having a senior at home was equal to having a treasure!

"How good would it be if grandpa could wake up!"

An Xinhui sighed.

"He will be better!"

Sun Mo consoled her.

...

After returning to the villa, Sun Mo slept through an entire day first.

On the second morning, all his disciples gathered and were waiting to greet him.

"Teacher has become the honorary headmaster of the Black-White Academy. In that case, we probably wouldn't be stopped if we wanted to experience the Black-White Games, right?"

Qin Yaoguang's eyes shone with curiosity. After all, the Black-White Game was something the Black-White Academy was famous for. It was known as the game that couldn't be cleared.

"A game that has been cleared by our teacher, how meaningless would it be if we still went to experience it?"

Tantai Yutang wasn't interested.

"It's truly a regret that I can't be beside Teacher and share his glory at that moment!"

Helian Beifang sighed.

"Agreed!"

Xianyu Wei nodded.

A year had passed, and Sun Mo's students had undergone drastic changes due to undergoing puberty.

When Sun Mo came to the living room and saw them, he almost didn't dare to greet some of them for fear of recognizing the wrong people.

Ying Baiwu first noticed Sun Mo's silhouette and was the first to stand up and greet him.

"Good morning, Teacher!"

Ceng! Ceng! Ceng!

The others stood up and bowed respectfully.

“There’s no need to be too polite. Sit down!”

Sun Mo smiled.

Ying Baiwu was already very tall before this. Now, she stood heads and shoulders above the rest like a supermodel. (However, isn’t your chest a little too flat?)

The little sunny egg had finally found a comrade!

Also, her dress-style and demeanor, why did she become more and more androgynous?

Sun Mo instinctively thought of the actress with the surname ‘Lin’ who played the character Dongfang Bubai.

“Baiwu, did you start practicing blade techniques now?”

Sun Mo noticed that there was a short blade attached to the waist of the iron-headed girl.

“Reporting to Teacher, I feel that archery has a flaw, so I want to use this solution to mitigate it!”

Ying Baiwu was very practical.

Using a bow for long-distance and a short blade for short-distance. Moreover, a short blade that was a foot long was very convenient to bring around. Even though she wasn’t fond of using blades, she still chose to learn it.

“You can!”

Sun Mo nodded. “But you are still very young. There’s no need for you to force yourself to be so hard-working. You can simply choose some cultivation arts and weapons that you like!”

Xuanyuan Po was now very tall and became even more muscular. However, his build wasn’t one with beautiful muscles. Rather, he exuded a sense of imposing majestiness. His eyes were cold and his gaze was akin to a spear that was capable of jolting down a horse-rider.

“Xuanyuan, you have to pay attention to retracting your aura!”

Sun Mo frowned.

“Ah? Why? I feel it’s pretty good. No one would dare to offend Senior Brother Xuanyuan like this!”

Xianyu Wei didn’t understand.

“His strong aura is due to his spear intent. His mastery of spear techniques has grown too quickly, and it has started to affect his inner organs, qi, and blood. If he doesn’t nurse his body now, hidden injuries will be left behind and this will affect his future accomplishments.

“Xuanyuan, things will break easier if they are too rigid. Combining softness with hardness is then the correct path!”

1

Sun Mo provided guidance to Xuanyuan Po. The latter didn’t have any change to his expression, but he was very grateful in his heart.

The aptitude of this white-robed youth was truly too good. Maybe he would be able to become a spear saint when he was 20 years old.

“What should I do?”

During this one month plus, Xuanyuan Po had also sensed the change in his body. His qi and blood would surge frequently, and he kept wanting to fight someone to vent it.

Hence, he began to challenge senior students in the school.

He won most of them, and this caused his fame, which was originally not small, to become even greater.

But very soon, no one was willing to fight him anymore because Xuanyuan Po didn't know how to go easy.

If it wasn't for the fact that he was Sun Mo's personal disciple, some people would have long since allied together to find trouble for him.

“Give up on the spear for now and practice your fist techniques. I will impart you a fist art later. Cultivate that first for three months to calm your temperament!”

Sun Mo instructed.

Xuanyuan Po frowned. Since he was three years old, he had been practicing with his spear every day and had never ceased training before. But since this was an order from his teacher, he didn't defy it.

“Your disciple obeys!”

Qin Yaoguang felt very astonished when she saw Sun Mo providing guidance to Ying Baiwu and Xuanyuan Po just like that. (Teacher hasn't even touched them, right?)

(How did he know their situations then? He can't possibly tell from just looking with his eyes, right?)

Sun Mo looked at Jiang Leng and only uttered two words.

“Very good!”

Although this youth still had a slightly gloomy and cold disposition, he was growing more and more steady and mature. His self-discipline and rationality allowed him to methodically arrange his living habits.

There was truly nothing Sun Mo could give pointers for!

(Ai! If every one of them was more like Jiang Leng, I would definitely have much fewer worries!)

Sun Mo sighed ruefully. As he glanced at Tantai Yutang, his expression turned gloomy.

“Didn't I tell you to interact and involve yourself less with poison?”

Divine Sight showed that there were several toxins accumulated in the sickly invalid's body.

“Teacher, I was wrong!”

Tantai Yutang knelt.

His enemy was too powerful. If he didn't study poison, he would be able to kill his enemy depending on normal methods.

"My blood can suppress that unknown poison in your body, but I cannot cure you completely. You better cherish your body more."

In the Dragonspirit Manor, after Sun Mo had devoured that god skeleton, his blood suddenly possessed this type of magical effect.. If it wasn't for Tantai Yutang having drunk his blood, Tantai Yutang would have long since died.

Chapter 1174: Great Teacher Sun Has Returned!

"In the past, you didn't know when you might die, so you lived recklessly. I can understand that. But now, you have at least ten years to live. In that case, you have to cherish it!"

Sun Mo's tone was severe.

The greatest problem with the sickly invalid was him not treating his life as something important. He naturally cared even less about the lives of others.

Death to him was something as insignificant as eating a meal. If he died, so be it.

"Although people often say that death is like the extinguishing of a light, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. There's nothing left behind. However, I feel that memories of that person will still be left behind."

Sun Mo spoke from the bottom of his heart.

"These memories will remain in the minds of your parents, your wife, and your good friends. I always felt that when a person passed away, only their body has died. It's only true death when everyone in the world has forgotten about them. On the other hand, even if he is alive, once he is forgotten by everyone, that's also no different from death!"

This was Sun Mo's understanding of life.

"I feel the stuff Teacher is talking about is very complicated."

Lu Zhiruo scratched her head and couldn't understand.

The other students were seriously listening and pondering. Even the combat addict Xuanyuan Po was very focused right now. He hoped to know the definition of death.

If he was afraid of death, he would never be able to become a spear saint!

"Yaoguang, what do you think?"

Sun Mo turned his gaze toward the lively girl who loved snacking.

"This is a question only those old scholars who were about to die would ponder over. I'm still young. What I should do is to live well day by day and not waste my time!"

Qin Yaoguang peeled a candy and tossed it into her mouth as she chewed loudly.

“This can be considered a type of understanding!”

Sun Mo originally wanted to persuade Qin Yaoguang not to waste her talent. But he gave up after some hesitation.

This girl seemed careless, but she was actually very mature. Just like her current chatting attitude with Sun Mo, there wasn't too much respect. It was more like an idle chat between colleagues.

Li Ziqi's gaze was filled with disdain as she glanced over.

(Where's your respect?)

Qin Yaoguang also noticed that her attitude was a little remiss. She then stuck her tongue out at her eldest martial sister in embarrassment.

“Helian!”

Sun Mo stared at the barbarian youth. His condition was very good, and this meant that he had not been slacking off and was very industrious in training. Also, his eyes were very spirited and he even exuded a somewhat bookish air now.

“Not bad, one has to read more books before they can understand the right and wrong of things, knowing what's good and what's evil!”

Sun Mo was very satisfied.

The vast majority of barbarians were courageous without brains, believing solely in brute force. They loved to use their fists to handle problems. However, Helian Beifang was different from them.

Now that he was clad in long robes and had a face cloth, absolutely no one could recognize that he was a barbarian. This was the aura nurtured by reading.

“Junior martial brother Helian, I feel that you will become a general that's equally accomplished in the field of scholarly knowledge!”

Li Ziqi teased. She was very fond of Helian Beifang's current demeanor.

Among her junior martial siblings, she liked his style the most.

“Eldest martial sister is praising me too much!”

Helian Beifang replied politely.

“Qi, damn scholar!” Qin Yaoguang twitched her lips and mumbled. “Inflexible and boring!”

“Come over here!”

Sun Mo clenched his right fist. When a white glow surrounded it, he punched out and stopped before hitting Helian Beifang's forehead, directly channeling his insights into Helian Beifang!

BOOM!

“This is the Black-White Soldier Chapter that Headmaster Song Yan bestowed on me. I'm imparting this to you. Learn well, I want you to do a study note every week and let me check it.”

Sun Mo gave him some homework.

Speaking of which, among his students, only Li Ziqi and Helian Beifang were more like students of the modern era. The others all had some problems.

“What?”

Qin Yaoguang’s eyes widened in shock as she blurted out, “Did I hear it wrongly? The Black-White Soldier Chapter? Isn’t that the ultimate divine art of the Black-White Academy?”

The other students also stared at Sun Mo with doubt and shock.

“This should be false, right?”

The sickly invalid felt this was impossible.

“Tantai, what do you mean by this?” Li Ziqi frowned. “Is our teacher not worthy to learn their ultimate divine art?”

“...”

Tantai Yutang rolled his eyes as he mentally mused. (Do you know that is the ultimate divine art of their school?)

Just from hearing the name, it was clearly a secret that wouldn’t be casually passed down.

In other words, only about ten people in the Central Province Academy were qualified to learn the [Great Dreams Heart Sutra]. At the very least, Sun Mo’s disciples weren’t qualified.

Honestly speaking, An Xinhui had discussed this matter with Sun Mo before. She felt that Li Ziqi, Lu Zhiruo, and Jiang Leng could learn it. As for the others, it was best to wait and see for now.

Bluntly speaking, she didn’t trust them yet.

After all, the Great Dream Heart Sutra’s might was very powerful. If the users harmed others after learning it, it would be very dangerous for the Nine Provinces.

“There’s no mistake, what I learned was the ultimate divine art of the Black-White Academy. So, Helian, you must never expose it!”

Sun Mo warned repeatedly.

“Teacher!”

Helian Beifang knelt with a thud and started kowtowing.

(This... How great of a kindness is this!? Even if I use a lifetime...no, ten lifetimes, I won’t be able to repay this debt of kindness! Even my own father wouldn’t treat me so well!)

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Helian Beifang +10,000. Reverence (31,000/100,000).

The other students were dumbfounded.

Although they knew their teacher was outstanding, wasn't this a little way too impressive?

He actually imparted an ultimate divine art from one of the Nine Greats to an outsider!

"Headmaster Song definitely doesn't have a daughter!"

Qin Yaoguang spoke with confidence.

"Why?"

Lu Zhiruo didn't understand.

"If he has one, he would have betrothed her to our teacher."

1

After Qin Yaoguang finished speaking, she slid her feet and moved beside Sun Mo. After that, she squatted down and removed a sweet wrapper before popping the sweet into Sun Mo's mouth. She then started to massage his thigh.

"Teacher, I wish to learn it too!"

Qin Yaoguang acted coquettishly.

Jiang Leng and the others didn't speak, but their gazes could convey their intentions. After all, this was a peerless saint-tier cultivation art. Who wouldn't want to learn it?

"It wouldn't be too late to learn it after you guys finished the homework I assigned to you!"

Sun Mo rejected and then looked at Jiang Leng. "It isn't that I don't want to teach you guys. However, this cultivation art emphasized military tactics and strategies. To you all, the benefits aren't great. Besides, I've taught you guys several peerless-grade saint-tier cultivation arts. If you still learn more, it would be like having too much food in your mouth, leading you to be unable to chew."

The students hurriedly nodded. "Your disciples understand!"

"You can get up too!"

Sun Mo helped Helian Beifang up. "Don't kneel to kowtow so easily. You are my disciple. It's my responsibility to do my best and nurture you."

Sun Mo truly wasn't biased.

He hoped to impart each of his disciples an excellent cultivation art based on their traits and advantages. When they mastered the cultivation art he had taught them initially, it wouldn't be too late for them to learn more from him.

"It's truly too good that we can meet Teacher in this lifetime!"

Xianyu Wei once again thanked the heavenly gods. If it wasn't for his favor, how could a barbarian girl like her enter the tutelage of the most impressive rising star in the Central Plains?

(When I return to the dorm at night, I have to burn a few more sticks of incense to thank the gods.)

“Xianyu!”

Sun Mo looked at the girl and couldn't help but frown. “What happened? Why are you so plump now?”

During this year, Xianyu Wei didn't grow any taller, but her weight increased rapidly.

“l...l...!”

Xianyu Wei was so afraid that she wanted to cry. She instinctively wanted to say that she hadn't been lazy, but Sun Mo's status in her heart was simply too lofty. Hence, she basically didn't dare to argue. She directly knelt and admitted her mistake. “P...please punish me!”

“In the future, control your mouth well. Eat less meat and sweet stuff!”

Sun Mo sighed after using Divine Sight to scan Xianyu Wei's stats. Her physique was one that would gain fats rapidly. Although she hadn't been lazing around, she simply ate too much.

As Sun Mo's personal disciple, Xianyu Wei was able to get a sum of money from the financial department of the school. She had spent all of them on extra food. After all, one must know that eating in the school canteen didn't cost anything.

Also, due to her relationship with Sun Mo, the canteen aunties would always leave the best and largest portions for her. They would also give her an additional portion for supper every day.

“If you kept stuffing yourself with food, it would harm your body!”

Sun Mo suddenly felt that only youths like this were normal, loving to play and eat and having ‘flaws’. Students like Xuanyuan Po and Ying Baiwu were working too hard.

Sun Mo used an entire morning to inspect the results of his students for the past year and helped them to resolve the problems that they had accumulated, also individually tailoring new training plans for each of them.

Other than Xianyu Wei who was a little lazier, the others were very industrious. Sun Mo didn't have the chance to scold them even if he wanted to. After lunch, he headed to the dorm for male students to look for Qi Shengjia.

...

“Teacher Sun is back, are you not going to greet him?”

Zhou Xu glanced at Qi Shengjia who was currently studying and felt somewhat speechless. (If I were you, I would have long since stuck to Teacher Sun like glue.)

“Old Qi, it isn't that I want to lecture you. However, you truly don't know how to make good use of opportunities!”

Wang Hao hated iron for not becoming steel. “Who is Teacher Sun? He could just casually say things and that would benefit you boundlessly for the rest of your life. Isn't that countless times better than studying so hard alone?”

“l...”

Qi Shengjia wanted to go, but he was worried he might bring trouble to Sun Mo and cause Sun Mo to loathe him.

“Why don’t I accompany you there?”

Zhou Xu suggested and glanced at Wang Hao. “Do you want to go too?”

Wang Hao hesitated but eventually shook his head.

A missed opportunity was a missed opportunity. If he went now, Sun Mo also wouldn’t accept him as a personal student.

(Ai!)

(I was truly so blind back then. This is such a sturdy thigh, but I missed hugging it.)

Pak!

Wang Hao slapped himself.

He was so angry every time he thought about this.

Boom! Boom!

Someone knocked on their dorm’s door.

“Who is it? The door is not locked!”

Zhou Xu shouted.

Creak!

Sun Mo pushed the door open and entered.

“I’m not playing cards today. I have no mood!”

Zhou Xu thought it was the student next door who wanted to find them to play some cards. However, when he lifted his head and saw Sun Mo, he was so frightened that his soul almost flew away. He immediately sat up violently, causing his bed to emit a creaking sound.

Bang!

Due to him being overly nervous, he even knocked his head against the bunk bed above. However, he didn’t dare to rub it.

“Teacher Sun!”

Zhou Xu jumped down from his bed and greeted him respectfully.

“Teacher Sun!”

The half-naked Wang Hao had gotten down from the bed and was hurriedly putting some clothes on.

Qi Shengjia’s other dormmates also greeted Sun Mo.

Because it was break time, everyone was here.

Sun Mo nodded and replied to everyone. After that, he looked at the honest guy.

“Shengjia, how have you been this past year?”

Zhou Xu moved a stool over and wiped it with his sleeves. After that, he passed it to Sun Mo. “Teacher, please take a seat!”

“I...I’m living very well!”

Qi Shengjia stuttered and his eyes were wet. He was so moved that he almost cried.

Boohoohoo!

(Teacher actually still remembers me! In my next life, I will definitely work like an ox or horse to repay your kindness!)

Chapter 1175: Sun Mo, Decision Maker of the Central Province Academy

In the male student dorm, Sun Mo explained and solved all of Qi Shengjia’s questions that he had encountered during his cultivation recently.

One couldn’t help but say that this honest guy was truly foolish. He didn’t know how to raise one and infer three.

Among Sun Mo’s personal students, Lu Zhiruo’s brains were the worst when it came to cultivation and Xianyu Wei was after her. But even so, these two still stood above Qi Shengjia.

Honestly speaking, if it wasn’t for Sun Mo seeing that the honest guy was willing to suffer a lot and work so hard, he wouldn’t bother guiding him and even giving him massages, alchemy pills, medicinal bath packets, also allowing him to cultivate in the Wind King Divine Hall. Otherwise, this little guy absolutely wouldn’t have his current achievements.

“Why are you unable to understand things better?”

Sun Mo was fretting as well. (I can’t always explain the same topic three times, right?)

“Teacher, it’s all because of my fault for being stupid!”

Qi Shengjia knelt. His eyes were red as he kowtowed forcefully to Sun Mo.

“Stand up. Since your talent is lacking, just use hard work to mitigate it!”

Sun Mo consoled and stared at the other students. “If you guys have any questions, feel free to raise your hands and ask.”

Everyone had been waiting for this. Hence, when they heard it, their spirits stirred and all of them put their hands up in unison.

Right now, Sun Mo's fame was too great. If one wanted to attend his medical cultivation lecture, they had to go the night before to queue for seats. Wanting to wake up early and head there two hours earlier to queue?

That was impossible!

Through the questions of the students, Sun Mo could judge their potential. These people before him were all average at best and their futures would be limited.

"It is still a priority to expand the fame and reputation of the school to recruit better students!"

Because of the commotion here, all the guys in the building started gathering before the dorm. Although there were now over 300 people, the atmosphere was completely silent as everyone listened quietly to Sun Mo's explanations.

They cherished this opportunity very much.

This session lasted for two hours.

"Alright, afternoon classes are about to start. All of you can go and prepare for them!"

Sun Mo rose.

Huala~

This movement of Sun Mo caused all the students to quickly stand up straight and open up a path to let him walk through.

"We will respectfully send Teacher off!"

Sun Mo waved his hands. "In the future, there's no need to be so courteous!"

As they watched Sun Mo leaving the dorm, Zhou Xu stared at Qi Shengjia who stood unmoving on the spot. He hated iron for not being steel and launched a kick at Qi Shengjia.

"Ah? What are you doing?"

The honest guy tumbled. He was completely clueless.

"You are really foolish. Why didn't you send Teacher Sun out?"

Wang Hao was speechless.

Zhou Xu's lips twitched and felt indignant. He didn't know why Teacher Sun favored this brat so much.

"Oh!"

Qi Shengjia finally realized what was going on. However, he stopped after taking two steps. He truly wasn't able to take such an action that contained a hint of ingratiating.

"Ai, as I always say, when someone's luck comes, there's really nothing that can block it!"

Wang Hao shook his head. If it wasn't for Sun Mo, Qi Shengjia would have long since been asked to leave the school and work for the landlord in his home. One could say that Sun Mo had changed his life.

...

As the resting period of three days passed, the great teachers Sun Mo had headhunted began to work officially.

Some students tried listening to a lecture and were immediately stunned and convinced.

The teachers from the Nine Greats were truly worthy of their reputation. Leaving aside a high star-ranking great teacher like Li Feng, even those who had just graduated and were intern teachers were extremely logical and clear with their lectures, causing the students here to benefit greatly.

Given the aptitudes of these students, they weren't qualified to enter the top schools. But now, they could receive an education of the same standard. Hence, they felt so happy, like enjoying a feast while celebrating the new year.

However, some people were unhappy, and they were the current teachers of the Central Province Academy. Not only did the pressure on the intern teachers become as heavy as a mountain, causing them to lose sleep, even the 1-star and 2-stars great teachers felt very uneasy.

There was no solution as the competitiveness was too great!

There were only so many teachers one school could provide for. If Sun Mo headhunted even more teachers, wouldn't they lose their rice bowls?

After Xia Yuan entered the office, she saw that her colleagues were all here. However, they weren't drinking tea and chatting idly like in the past. Instead, they bent over their desks and were working hard.

"Sister Xia!"

Du Xiao greeted sweetly and took the initiative to pour her a cup of tea.

"Thanks!"

Xia Yuan sat down and glanced at Xiao Hong.

The latter was a great teacher that would just while her time away as she waited for retirement. But now, she also started to work hard. Actually, she worked even harder than the younger teachers.

"Teacher Xia, has the headmaster told you about her future plans?" Not long later, Jiang Yongnian moved closer to her seat.

"What's my status?" Xia Yuan rolled her eyes. "Why would the headmaster talk to me about such matters?"

"You are Headmaster An's iron supporter!"

Jiang Yongnian fawned. "Even if we are asked to leave, nothing will happen to you. Quick, tell us if Headmaster An is still preparing to headhunt more great teachers."

Swish~

The ears of the others here secretly pricked up.

This matter concerned their careers so everyone couldn't help but be concerned.

In the past, everyone had the mentality of salted fishes. No matter how bad they did at their jobs, they wouldn't be fired. After all, the Central Province Academy was just a 'D' grade academy back then. If An Xinhui had fired them, she wouldn't be able to find any better teachers elsewhere.

But after Sun Mo appeared, everything became different.

Under his management, the Central Province Academy became better and better and even entered the 'B' grade. The pressure on everyone increased, but it was still in an acceptable range. Their hard work still permitted them to follow the rise of the school.

However, Sun Mo had managed to headhunt great teachers from the Black-White Academy. It was fine if he only headhunted one or two people, but he actually brought an entire group of graduate students plus high star-ranking great teachers!

(This is forcing us to die!)

So how could these great teachers with ordinary standards still dare to be salted fishes?!

"I don't know Headmaster An's intention, but Department Head Sun has been together with us for a few months, working in the same office. Do you guys still not know how hardworking he is and what his goal is?"

Xia Yuan didn't reply directly.

Everyone thought about it and heaved a sigh of relief in unison.

"Can our school really rise into the ranks of the Nine Greats?"

Du Xiao felt a yearning for the future.

"Stop dreaming. Even if our school could enter the ranks of the Nine Greats, you would have turned into a corpse before that!"

Gao Cheng twitched his lips.

Not a single person here had the ability to work in any of the Nine Greats.

"Is Sun Mo trying to force us to death? Can we still live? Is there a need for him to be so ruthless?"

The more Xiao Hong thought about it, the more panic she felt, causing her to subconsciously say this. After that, she started in shock and realized that she had said something wrong. What would happen if someone informed Sun Mo about what she had just said?

Hence, she laughed awkwardly and sought to remedy the situation. "It's still a must to force things as we wouldn't become talents if there's no external pressure!"

"Say, Sun Mo is so strong and has become the honorary headmaster of the Black-White Academy. Why doesn't he simply just stay there?"

Jiang Yongnian shook his head and pondered. Luckily, his relationship with Sun Mo wasn't that bad and he had no need to worry that Sun Mo might take revenge on him. Speaking of which, should he pay Sun Mo a visit to express his loyalty?

Jiang Yongnian thought about it but decided to give up. Given Sun Mo's current status, unless he found an opportunity to make things seem like a 'chance encounter', he probably wouldn't be able to meet Sun Mo.

Because out of everyone's expectations, Sun Mo had headhunted so many people over. This caused a chain reaction and 'stimulated' all the great teachers working in the Central Province Academy.

Regardless of low star-ranking or high star-ranking great teachers, a more conducive environment to learning and working soon manifested. Everyone wanted to have results so they could obtain Sun Mo's recognition.

Now, An Xinhui's prestige in the hearts of the teachers in the school had diminished to a negligible point. Everyone was already treating Sun Mo as the decision-maker of the Central Province Academy.

...

Ten days after Sun Mo returned, Prince Consort Qi Mu'en personally paid him a visit to invite him to a dinner banquet. The topic of that night would be the Five Empires War Discussion.

Brightmoon Inn, one of the top three inns in Jinling, would usually be filled to the brim every night. But today, when many high officials and nobles came here for a meal, they discovered that the place had been fully booked.

What was a peak-level influential official?

Someone like Li Xiu!

When Sun Mo brought Li Ziqi here, he saw that the five levels of the inn didn't have a single guest. And at the peak where the scenery was the most beautiful, Zheng Qingfang and Qi Mu'en were already seated.

The boss of the inn led all his staff to stand at the side and bowed, preparing to serve them any time.

"Uncle Zheng, Prince Consort Qi. Isn't the standard of how you guys treat guests a little too exaggerated?"

Sun Mo frowned, feeling that it was somewhat extravagant.

Prince Consort Qi was also a smart man. When he saw Sun Mo's expression, he immediately laughed as he explained.

"The matters we will be discussing today are somewhat more important, so we have to guard against eavesdroppers."

When Zheng Qingfang heard this, he wanted to laugh. Actually, this was because of the eldest princess's dining habits. The Prince Consort was still okay, but Li Xiu didn't like places with many people.

Speaking of which, after Prince Li died, Li Xiu's clan became the clan with the highest authority in Jinling City. Qu Mu`en could do whatever he wanted with no restraints at all.

But today, he had to take into consideration what Sun Mo was thinking about.

This was clearly a little friend of his, but he had become a character with an extremely important status. Even royals wouldn't dare to slight him.

"However, Sun Mo. Why do you refer to Old Zheng as uncle while me as Prince Consort? Isn't this treating me a little too much like an outsider? You ought to drink three cups of wine for it!"

Qi Mu`en teased.

Sun Mo smiled. He truly wasn't that familiar with Qi Mu`en.

After Li Ziqi greeted Zheng Qingfang and Qi Mu`en, she sat at the side obediently.

"Sun Mo, I've read your [A Dream of Red Mansions]. I wonder what the content is in the next half?"

Zhang Qingfang was extremely impatient.

After knowing that [A Dream of Red Mansions] was written by Sun Mo, he wanted nothing more than to immediately fly to Sun Mo's home to chat with him every night. However, he eventually bore with the impulse.

He also knew of Sun Mo's shocking achievements in Liaojing. Someone that could be admired by Headmaster Song was no longer a minor character whom an old subject like him could meet whenever he wanted to.

"Everyone died, the only ones alive are..."

Just when Sun Mo wanted to say some spoilers, Zheng Qingfang stopped him.

"Stop! Stop! Stop!" Zhang Qingfang was speechless. "Why are you revealing this?"

Sun Mo shrugged, his meaning was clear without words. (Are you not the one who asked me?)

"You..."

Zheng Qingfang's original intention was to make Sun Mo write out the next half of the book. But after thinking about it, he knew that Sun Mo didn't really have much interest in literature...

"I heard that you only wrote [A Dream of Red Mansions] for the sake of recruiting a great teacher?"

Qi Mu`en was curious.

"Mn!"

Sun Mo didn't want to continue on with this topic. "What's going on with the Five Empires War Discussion?"

"That great teacher is truly fortunate!"

Zhang Qingfang felt envious. (How good would it be if Sun Mo could write a book for me?!)

Chapter 1176: Five Empires War Discussion

People of the modern era were used to conflict between countries. One could say that the history of humanity was simply a series of wars. Peace was just a temporary break.

Peace was merely something that occurred when everyone was licking their wounds and recuperating, preparing for the next massacre!

At the very root of war between countries, it was always about vying for resources.

Population, land, markets...

In the Nine Provinces, because exploring the Darkness Continent could bring extremely high returns, in addition to the Saint Gate being the arbitration party, there were no large-scale wars between the various countries.

Naturally, it was also impossible for the various countries to keep coexisting peacefully with each other. After all, even husbands and wives would have the 'seven-year itch' and wanted to divorce.

In the past, the disputes between each country could be resolved by each party sending a troop of soldiers to clash on a battlefield. The winner then took everything.

After that, due to chance, the Xia Country, Chu Country, Wei Country, Tang Country, and Qi Country organized the first Five Empires War Discussion.

Participants were mainly members of royalty. At the same time, a small number of young nobles would also partake in it.

The original purpose was to let the emperors compare which of their heirs were the most outstanding. No one expected that the effect of the War Discussion to be extraordinary good.

If the prince of a certain country won, their prestige in the commoner's world would surge greatly.

After the war discussion, the princes and princesses could earn a wave of favorable impression points and raise their popularity level.

Since it could bring benefits, the Five Empires War Discussion was set to occur once every four years.

And after developing for so many years up until now, it was already a grand occasion known to everyone in the world.

The gamblers, peddlers, tourists...

A Five Empires War Discussion could bring huge income in terms of tax money and prestige for the organizing country.

"Ziqi is truly outstanding and has broken the record of becoming the youngest great teacher in history. In addition to the fact that she was once rejected by Secondary Saint Zhou, she can be considered a model of encouragement. Right now, everyone in the world is waiting to see her performance. If it was not for this, Great Tang's slot in the competition would have been replaced."

Qi Mu`en divulged.

Bluntly speaking, Li Ziqi's fame was too great. If she didn't participate, the degree of attention would be lessened by one-third.

There were tens of countries in the Nine Provinces. The strength of Great Tang definitely could be ranked in the top five. So, the spending power here was also very high. If those people didn't come to watch the competition, the country would earn a lot less tax money!

The organizer for the competition this year was Great Qi, and the location of the discussion was in Western Jing.

As a poor country, it naturally wanted to maximize its profits. Hence, they couldn't lose the wealthy visitors from Great Tang!

"Does his majesty have any requests?"

Sun Mo drank a mouthful of tea. "Become the champion?"

"It would be the best if we can become the champion. If not, we have to suppress the crown prince of Great Xia at the very least because there's a land in dispute of about 150 square miles between Great Tang and Great Xia, including the rights of owning three additional cities. Whoever is ranked higher would get all these!"

Zheng Qingfang answered.

With regard to the vast territories owned by Great Tang and Great Xia, the size of the land in dispute wasn't large. However, since it was a piece of land belonging to them, they definitely couldn't compromise, or both parties would have no face to meet their ancestors when they went to the underworld.

"It's a little difficult!"

Sun Mo's lips twitched.

Great Xia was the strongest country in the Nine Provinces, and the number one of the Nine Greats – the Skyraise Academy was located in its capital, Shengjing. Although Sun Mo didn't know who the personal teacher of the Great Xia Crown Prince was, based on his identity, if his personal teacher wasn't a saint, it would at least be a secondary saint, right?

The prince group from Great Xia would surely benefit from their intimacy with the Skyraise Academy. Since this was the case, it was more like a competition between great teachers of different schools to see who could teach better disciples.

"Who are the champions in the past three events?"

Sun Mo needed information.

"The prince group from Xia!"

Qi Mu`en felt somewhat embarrassed. The truth was that the Xia Country were the champions for the recent seven events.

“Why the hell are you guys playing with Xia then?”

Sun Mo was also drunk now.

“Humans ought to have some goals, right?”

Zheng Qingfeng spoke in a self-mocking tone.

“For every competition, the five empires would take out a rare and precious treasure. The champion would receive three and the second-place would receive two!”

Qi Mu`en chortled. “Which emperor wouldn’t want to keep these battle spoils in their own studies?”

This would be a glorious achievement!

“It’s said that this year, the Qi Country is going to take out a rare piece of jade. Once, Emperor Wei promised to exchange 18 cities for this jade, but he was rejected.”

A slightly hoarse voice rang out. Sun Mo turned his head and saw that Li Xiu had arrived.

She was clad in palace attire and this caused her to exude a strong sense of grace and nobility. A being that couldn’t be observed from afar nor profane.

“Has the Qi Emperor gone mad?”

Zheng Qingfang was astonished.

“Who knows?” Li Xiu sat down. “My Royal Brother is taking the Graceful Sword out!”

“What?”

Zheng Qingfang and Li Ziqi were both badly shocked.

“Is this sword very powerful?”

Sun Mo had never heard of it before.

“Some valuables of the royal clan are things commoners would never be able to see.”

Li Ziqi hurriedly explained to her teacher. “This Graceful Sword is something my royal father obtained by chance when he was adventuring the Darkness Continent. It doesn’t have a sword body. Once it is unsheathed, it is like a beam of lightning that’s as swift as a phantom. It can kill people without them realizing!”

Li Ziqi had only seen it once.

This divine weapon had always been hidden by her royal father in the treasury.

Sun Mo glanced over and discovered that Zheng Qingfang, Li Xiu, and Qi Mu`en weren’t as shocked as Li Ziqi. He then understood.

This was the cognition caused by their difference in horizons.

This was a type of bragging, a way for a country to display its might. A show of confidence that they had the will to win!

(Since I can take it out, I can win and take it back safely!)

To the emperors, what precious treasures had they not seen before?

Things that could be obtained were not valuable at all.

“Great Qi, Great Chu, Great Wei—they all took out treasures that have roughly the same value. Sun Mo, His Majesty has said that if you could lead the group to become the champion, he would allow you to pick one of the three treasures. Other than this, he will also reward you heavily.”

“I’m the leader?”

Sun Mo suddenly frowned. He didn’t really care about the treasures, but he thought of a problem. The grand tutor that was the personal teacher of the crown prince would surely head there too.

If he was the leader and made a decision, would the other party obey his instructions?

“Eh, I have no idea yet. His Majesty hasn’t made the arrangements!”

Li Xiu understood the conflict her royal brother was feeling.

Sun Mo’s fame was as great as the sky. But he was ultimately still too young and had no experience in the Five Empires War Discussion. Moreover, this involved a dispute between territories, three cities, and five rare treasures. The emperor was worried that Sun Mo couldn’t handle this pressure.

On the other hand, Han Cangshui was the personal teacher of the crown prince. He was an 8-stars great teacher and had participated in the last four Five Empires War Discussion. His best result was leading the team to second place, only a step away from becoming the champion.

Naturally, Han Cangshui’s greatest advantage was that he had stayed and taught in the royal palace for 12 years, having a thorough understanding of the royal heirs. This was unlike Sun Mo who didn’t even know the names of these princes and princesses. So, how could he guide them to unleash 100% of their strength?

“Won’t allowing me to pick a treasure create conflict?”

Sun Mo was speechless. The vast majority of great teachers wanted face. Since the Emperor had stated such a promise, what would Han Cangshui think?

Li Xiu bitterly smiled.

The main thing was that her royal brother heard that Sun Mo had solved the thousand-year riddle of the Black-White Academy and was even recommended by Headmaster Song to be the honorary headmaster. Hence, he blurted that out in passing due to being too happy.

At that time, there were other subjects in the study room, so he couldn’t regret his words even if he wanted to. After all, an emperor’s words were worth their weight in gold! Besides, if he regretted his words, he might also offend Sun Mo.

“Sun Mo, in truth, the Five Empires War Discussion involved the topic of who is the number one emperor in the Nine Provinces. The current Xia Emperor precisely became extremely famous because of obtaining the championship three times in a row.”

Li Xiu and her royal brother Li Yingqi had also participated in the Five Empires War Discussion back then, but they had been defeated by the Xia Emperor.

This was also the point Li Yingqi was the most depressed about.

Why did he want to take out his beloved Graceful Sword as a reward?

It was to force the Xia Emperor to take out a precious treasure on the same level. After that, he wanted to depend on Li Ziqi to win it and place the items in his own study,

It was for the sake of striving for vindication!

“What happens if we lose?”

Sun Mo felt a headache. The influence of this year’s war discussion was too great.

“The crown prince might be deposed. Ziqi will surely fall out of favor with the emperor. And as for you, royal brother might not put any blame on you, but you will be expelled from Great Tang!”

Li Xiu didn’t conceal anything.

Everyone was an intelligent person here. They could all think of this result.

“Does the crown prince really have to be deposed?”

Sun Mo mentally mused. (Alright, it seems that I still underestimated how merciless emperors can be.)

The Nine Provinces were like ancient China where seniority and order were emphasized. Usually speaking, the eldest son would succeed the throne, but if the eldest son ‘fell sick and died’, other princes could be chosen as well.

As for what was the sickness?

That would depend on the emperor’s mood!

“The Five Empires War Discussion has always been the obsession in my royal brother’s heart. Great Teacher Sun, please help us!”

Li Xiu lifted her cup with both hands and toasted him.

...

Sun Mo felt that this meal was very dull and insipid.

Leading the prince group to become the champion would surely be a matter of huge glory, and his fame would instantly spread across the five empires. But the problem was, what if they lost?

Also, there was an 80% to 90% chance of losing.

For the teachers of those princes, which of them wasn’t a 7-stars or 8-stars?

Li Xiu said that the Five Empires War Discussion would be organized during September. And now, there were only three months before it. She hoped that Sun Mo could act quicker and head to Chang’an to prepare the princes for the upcoming event.

“Teacher, you can reject it if you don’t want to participate!”

Li Ziqi sat in the carriage and spoke when she saw Sun Mo pondering. “There’s no need for you to be bothered because of me!”

“This challenge is very interesting!”

Sun Mo smiled. “Speaking of which, if your performance is outstanding enough, do you have a chance to become the empress?”

“Ah?” Li Ziqi jumped in fright. “I don’t think so?”

...

At the same time, Qin Yaoguang looked for the sickly invalid who was researching corpses in the mortuary.

“Say, if we make the crown prince die, wouldn’t Ziqi be able to become a female emperor? At that time, our statuses would surely rise greatly!”

Qin Yaoguang yearned for the future.

“Murdering the crown prince...if you are caught, all nine generations of your family will be executed!”

Tantai Yutang rolled his eyes.

“Well, if no one knows about this, it can’t be considered murder!”

Qin Yaoguang urged, “Should we go ahead and do this? In any case, the crown prince and our eldest martial sister have the same father but different mothers. They aren’t close at all.”

“Have you gone crazy?”

The sickly invalid was dumbfounded.

“Haha, I was just joking. See, I’ve frightened you so easily!”

Qin Yaoguang left.

Tantai Yutang’s gaze kept locking at Qin Yaoguang all the way until she vanished. He was still thinking whether something like this could be executed or not.

If Li Ziqi became the empress, their teacher would then be the imperial preceptor!

This was a glory that countless great teachers thirsted for!

...

Sun Mo used two days to finish packing his luggage and just when he was about to set out, Liang Hongda arrived with a piece of good news.

Chapter 1177: Spirit Runes Boss, Black Doggy Sun!

“It’s verified. Liu Yuzhi is none other than the Yin-Yang Child Granny, one of the five Doyens of Dark Dawn. I truly didn’t expect that she would fall by your hands!”

Liang Hongda surveyed Sun Mo while drinking tea, envying his dogshit luck.

Just this achievement was enough for Sun Mo’s fame to spread through the entire great teacher world.

“Excellent!”

An Xinhui who accompanied Sun Mo immediately had a joyful expression on her face when she heard this. “In that case, can Sun Mo be considered to have hunted or captured ten dark great teachers?”

“Haha, that’s for sure!”

Liang Hongda laughed uproariously and complimented him. “Let alone ten, it’s even enough for 100. After all, this is a dark Doyen!”

Great teachers of this level were the main pillars in all the Nine Greats.

Main pillars as in they were the trump cards of the school. Not only did they stand at the peak of a certain field, but they were also extremely capable in combat.

For example, only Secondary Saint Shi could be considered a main pillar in Central Province Academy. Although Sun Mo had many amazing achievements, he wasn’t qualified to be termed a main pillar yet because his cultivation base was still too weak.

If they weren’t in the Black-White Game, the Yin-Yang Child Granny could easily smash Sun Mo’s soul with a single palm strike.

“Teacher Sun, I’ve done a check before I came here. You don’t have the grandmaster spirit runist’s license yet. You should hurry and clear the exam. After doing that, the Saint Gate would then confer upon you the emblem of a 5-stars great teacher!”

As a vice sect lord, Liang Hongda didn’t have to deal with a host of problems every day, but he was still very busy. He personally came to deliver the information because he wanted to form a good relationship with Sun Mo.

One could say that as long as Sun Mo didn’t die unexpectedly, he would become a hegemon in the future.

“In this exam so far, are there any other great teachers who obtained the 5-stars title?”

Sun Mo was curious.

“Yes, a great teacher from the Skyraise Academy!”

Liang Hongda consoled, “But you don’t have to feel disheartened. He is 42 years old this year. Besides, he was only able to capture 10 dark great teachers so quickly because Secondary Saint Zhou helped him secretly.”

In order not to let Sun Mo obtain first place, Secondary Saint Zhou mobilized his network and collected the information of several dark great teachers. After that, he gave the information for free to genius great teachers that showed promise of being able to challenge Sun Mo.

But only one guy succeeded.

Sun Mo shrugged. He didn't mind it.

It was just empty fame!

Speaking of which, should he go and challenge the record of becoming the youngest saint in history?

Forget it, why should he make things so tiring for himself?

Wouldn't it be better to go play around in the training division after the Five Empires War Discussion is over?

He heard that those doing businesses there were the wives and daughters of officials who had committed crimes. The girls were of good quality and highly cultured. They were steeped in propriety, as well as being genial and elegant.

"Teacher Sun, although the first place is gone, your glory of rising to 5-stars in a single stretch still remains!"

Liang Hongda consoled Sun Mo.

For the great teacher examinations, the higher the star rank, the more difficult it would be to advance. Hence, in order not to fail, many great teachers would wait until they had accumulated sufficient experience and strength before they took the test.

But even so, many people still screwed up.

Therefore, someone like Sun Mo, who went to take the upcoming examinations right after passing the previous one, could be considered very unique.

"Preposterous!"

An Xinhui's tolerance was not so bad. But now, she couldn't help but curse out in a low voice. If there was a chance to do so, she would make Secondary Saint Zhou pay for what he had done.

"Headmaster An, please calm down. I believe that given Sun Mo's strength, he would be able to stand equally against Secondary Saint Zhou in less than ten years!"

Liang Hongda praised again.

"Ten years is too long. I only live for constant improvement every moment!"

Sun Mo casually spoke, not expecting his Priceless Advice to actually activate.

Nonetheless, golden light illuminated the area, causing Liang Hongda to be dumbfounded.

(I've often heard that there's a great teacher in the Central Province who would frequently erupt forth with golden sentences of advice, earning him the beautiful reputation of 'Golden Sentence Sun'. I see that this is all true!)

"Sect Lord Liang, how's the arrangement of the grandmaster spirit runist's examination? Can you tell me its content?"

Speaking of which, Sun Mo had no understanding at all when it came to the various departments of the Saint Gate. He only knew the names of a few limited positions.

"..."

Liang Honda was stunned. (Are you joking with me? You are already a major character in the field of spirit runes, but you don't know such common knowledge? Could it be that you are a 'wild' spirit runist?)

Naturally, Liang Hongda wouldn't be that ignorant to say this. Since he had nothing better to do, he didn't mind explaining to Sun Mo.

"For the grandmaster-level exam of any subject, it would be held once a year. Using the study of spirit runes as an example, the Saint Gate would invite five grandmaster spirit runists to come out with questions for the written exam!"

"Those who passed the first round of written exams had to participate in the second round, which is an interview. For this round, the grandmasters would ask them some problems about spirit runes, and these questions would be ones with more depth. This is to determine how high the attainments of the examinee are.

"And for the points in the second round, as long as three out of five grandmasters approved, the examinee would be qualified!"

Liang Hongda laughed and teasingly asked, "You should also know that grandmasters are all very busy. So, some grandmasters that we selected to be examiners would intentionally make the written examinations very difficult so they didn't need to proceed and remain there for the interview. But to Ancestor Sun, I believe this wouldn't stump you!"

"Sect Lord is overpraising me!"

Sun Mo humbly replied, "You say that it's going to be in the middle of the year? Might I know which month it would be this year?"

Sun Mo didn't want his schedule to clash with the Five Empires War Discussion.

"15th of June."

Liang Hongda hesitated. As the vice sect lord, he naturally knew the name of the five grandmaster examiners. However, this was considered a great secret that could be sold for a huge favor. If such information was sold underground, the seller would also be able to earn a lot of money.

If he told such precious information to Sun Mo so easily, would it seem that his prestige was too low?

“The names of the five examiners this year are out. Two of them privately chatted with me and said that they admire you extremely much!”

Liang Hongda casually brought this into the conversation. It could be considered that he was already giving Sun Mo a hint.

As long as Sun Mo asked who the examiners were, Liang Hongda would conveniently reveal their names. However, for someone as upright as Sun Mo, he didn't want to have an unfair advantage like this.

Liang Hongda stayed for two days in the Central Province Academy before rushing back to the Saint Gate's branch in Shengjing.

“Have the examiners for the grandmaster-level alchemist exam replied?”

Liang Hongda sat down behind his office desk and started to handle his work.

“Only Great Teacher Wu has agreed. The others rejected.”

The female assistant replied carefully. If this matter wasn't settled well, the vice sect lord would surely lose his temper.

“Alchemists are simply so brazen. I really want to break their hands!”

Liang Hongda cursed. Alchemist was the most popular profession in the Nine Provinces. Hence, many people were studying alchemy. Since the base number was huge, the number of talented people was also many.

If they found ordinary alchemy grandmasters to be examiners, they might not be able to hold their ground well. But if they wanted to look for impressive ones, those impressive grandmasters wouldn't be bothered to give a damn.

This was because the time they spent being an examiner was enough for them to refine a few cauldrons of alchemy pills. Time meant money!

“Sect Lord, there's another matter!”

The female assistant took out a pile of letters from a drawer. There were at least 50 letters in the pile. “These are the letters that grandmaster spirit runists sent. They hope to become examiners for the grandmaster-level spirit runist examination this year.

“These two letters were written by Ancestor Zheng and Ancestor Li. They want to treat you to a meal and told you to reserve a spot to be an examiner for them.”

The female assistant sorted the letters and passed the most important ones to Liang Hongda first.

“What?”

Liang Hongda stared at the letters before him in astonishment. What the hell were these grandmaster spirit runists doing?

Although they weren't as unbridled as grandmaster alchemists, grandmasters of the pasts who were tasked to be examiners had done so unwillingly. What was going on this year?

(Wait a minute, could it be because of Sun Mo? They want to take this chance to meet Sun Mo and consult him about some questions?)

Why didn't Liang Hongda feel that these people want to intentionally make things difficult for Sun Mo?

Because they weren't capable enough!

When the Skyward Spirit Rune was 'born' and Li Ziqi's self-created spirit rune rod shocked the world, it already announced to everyone that Sun Mo was standing at the absolute peak in the field of spirit runes in the entire Nine Provinces.

Whoever wanted to find trouble with him was simply courting humiliation for themselves.

So, these grandmasters definitely came with a sincere heart of wanting to learn. After all, Sun Mo's fame was too great. These grandmasters also didn't have much clout before him.

If they got rejected when paying him a visit, things would be embarrassing. Hence, they might as well use this chance to meet with Sun Mo while clearing a mission issued by the Saint Gate.

Because the Saint Gate had ruled that after someone became an examiner once, they wouldn't be permitted to become one again for the next five years. To grandmasters, this was good news. They actually wanted people to not disturb them for ten years.

"Sect Lord, how should we reply to them?"

The female assistant asked in a small voice. All replies to these matters were written by her on behalf of him.

For a time, Liang Hongda didn't know how to reply.

(I've never experienced something like this before!)

He knew Sun Mo was very strong in the field of spirit runes, but as to how strong, he had no idea. But now, he had a pretty good idea.

Two ancestors, over fifty grandmasters...these were people who usually didn't even give face to the Saint Gate. Yet, they had now written letters with humble wordings. This was all because they wanted a chance to meet with Sun Mo.

Over fifty letters seemed a lot, but Liang Hongda knew that once news of Sun Mo participating in this year's spirit runist examination was circulated out, even more people would be writing letters to him.

Many great teachers were living in their own world, and they basically didn't know that Sun Mo had captured the Yin-Yang Child Granny and comprehended 15 great teacher halos with the 'Teacher for a Day, Father for Life' included within.

Sun Mo's growth speed had completely exceeded their imagination.

Pak!

Liang Hongda suddenly smacked the table with an annoyed expression.

"I almost screwed up!"

“Ah?” The female assistant jumped in fright. “What do you mean?”

“It’s none of your business. You can go off first!”

Liang Hongda glanced at these letters, mentally musing that this was a great chance to gain some favors. Luckily, it wasn’t too late yet. The list for examiners hadn’t been announced to the public yet, so there was still time for some modifications.

(Who should I choose then?)

Liang Hongda opened the secret letter while searching for the candidates with the most value as he sighed ruefully. (Sun Mo was truly too strong.)

He had originally wanted to use the name list to earn favors, but who would have expected that Sun Mo’s fame benefitted him instead. He would be able to earn favors from many grandmasters now.

...

Sun Mo didn’t know all the external details behind the examination. In any case, no matter their goal or who the examiners were, he would be able to pass the exam.

Right now, all his energy was placed on the Five Empires War Discussion.

During that day when Liang Hongda departed, Sun Mo also sat on Little Silver and flew toward Chang’an to meet with the Tang Emperor, Li Yingqi, as well as the 8-stars great teacher who was the grand tutor.. He was none other than the man named Han Cangshui, a person with the title of Alchemy Martial Sage.

Chapter 1178: The Salted Fish Prince Group of Great Tang!

Sun Mo only met Li Yingqi an afternoon later.

This Great Tang Emperor might be feeling a case of ‘love me, love my dog’ or he might just admire Sun Mo. In any case, he didn’t exude the imposing prestige of an emperor but was like a friendly neighborhood uncle instead as he asked Sun Mo about everything Li Ziqi had experienced.

However, his last sentence exposed his temperament.

“Great Teacher Sun, we HAVE to win the Five Empires War Discussion this time around!”

It was also because Sun Mo’s fame was too great that Li Yingqi didn’t dare to speak randomly. If not, he might have issued an order to make Sun Mo join the prince group by force.

“Who is the leader of the prince group?”

Sun Mo wasn’t polite either and directly went straight to the point. “If I’m the team leader, I will bear all the responsibility. If I’m not, let Han Cangshui be the one responsible!”

“This...”

Li Yingqi felt somewhat difficult to speak. Bluntly speaking, he still trusted Han Cangshui a little more. After all, Sun Mo was too young.

He wasn't even as old as the crown prince.

Yes, the Crown Prince of Great Tang was older than Sun Mo by two years.

As the old saying goes, if you don't have a mustache above your lips, you won't be competent in doing things. Sun Mo was simply too outrageously young, so the emperor truly didn't feel secure.

Sun Mo smiled and didn't continue asking, but he had displayed his attitude. (If the ending of the competition is such that we cannot get the first or second rank, don't find trouble for me.)

The meeting ended and Sun Mo bade farewell. Under the lead of a low-ranking eunuch, he went to look for Li Ziqi.

During this period, he stayed in the imperial palace, but he wasn't permitted to move about freely. This was especially so for the residences of the concubines. Sun Mo was forbidden to enter there.

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After Sun Mo left, Li Yingqi glanced at the chief eunuch beside him. "How do you feel about this person?"

"Too brazen!"

Hou Chun expressed indignation in his tone.

When the other great teachers met the emperor, they would display a subservient attitude and would kneel in greeting. However, the emperor also wouldn't treat scholars with disrespect. Great teachers didn't need to kneel before him.

By doing this, both parties would have face.

However, Sun Mo basically had no intentions to be subservient. He merely clasped his hands in greeting.

Naturally, given Sun Mo's status, he was qualified to do so. After all, Sun Mo didn't need to care about hugging the Great Tang Empire's large thigh.

"A young man that creates so many records, becoming the most dazzling new rising superstar of the great teacher world...It's understandable if he's somewhat arrogant!"

As the saying goes, unruly commanders and soldiers have exceptional combat strength. If Sun Mo didn't exude such sharpness, Li Yingqi would actually not admire him at all.

"Mobilize 1,000 royal guards for him!"

Li Yingqi instructed.

Every time the Five Empires War Discussion commenced, there would be soldier battles. Logically speaking, the training of the soldiers should be done by Han Cangshui. However, Li Yingqi decided to give a portion of the soldiers to Sun Mo.

"Your Majesty, there will be a competition between Sun Mo and Great Teacher Han. If Sun Mo wins and obtains the position of team leader, it would already be enough for him to control the current number of students. There's no need to mobilize more soldiers for him, right?"

Hou Chun was puzzled.

“There will definitely be a competition between the two of them, but if victory is decided too late, it would be time for the event. They won’t have time to train those royal guards.”

Li Yingqi explained.

“Besides, by giving Sun Mo equal conditions, we will provide him with enough capital to challenge Han Cangshui and also give some pressure to the latter. This move can kill three birds with one stone!”

“Your majesty is brilliant!”

Hou Chun revealed an enlightened expression and cheered.

Actually, he had thought of all these, but when it came to waiting upon the emperor, one mustn’t appear too clever. They had to give the emperor opportunities to display his brilliance.

...

Crown Prince Li Xuan was a young man that exuded a very intense scholarly aura. The mustache he purposely kept made him seem slightly older. This was for the sake of letting the emperor see.

He wanted to prove that he was already a man and was worthy of trust.

“Great Teacher Sun!”

Li Xuan was very polite as he clasped his hands and bowed. However, his heart was squirming with discomfort slightly because Sun Mo was outrageously young!

(Is he reliable?)

The crown prince felt worried in his heart.

“Your highness Crown Prince!”

Sun Mo returned the greeting and activated Divine Sight.

Li Xuan, 25 years old. First level of the Divine Force Realm.

Strength: 23. On the weaker side, he hates to endure suffering and prefers admiring art and literature as entertainment.

Intellect: 26. Slightly better than ordinary people, but before Li Ziqi’s intellect, he is nothing but an unenlightened ape.

Agility: 24. Average.

Will: 21. He feels very bored with life.

Endurance: 23. Just two palace maids are enough for you to complain tearfully. You don’t even have the strength left to wear your pants after the tryst.

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Potential value: A hair above average!

Note: An ordinary person, but his luck is very good and he was born in the royal clan. He even managed to become the crown prince. However, it's just this. His luck is good!

Note: Ordinary aptitude for all things. He is extremely obedient, and his only good point is that he is an honest person. He would follow the instructions of Li Yingqi and his teacher unconditionally.

Sun Mo felt somewhat disappointed. If such stats appeared on an ordinary person, he would be able to accept it. But if such stats appeared on a crown prince, he was truly mediocre.

Li Xuan's greatest strong point was that he was obedient and honest.

Teachers loved such students the most, followed by those who were obedient and had good results, and lastly, disobedient students with bad results.

Because managing such students was the most worry-free. Moreover, their results also wouldn't pull down the average marks in the class.

Sun Mo could imagine that after Li Xuan took the throne, he would become one of those mascot emperors that were completely useless. If his subjects were outstanding, he might be able to create a brilliant era. But if his subjects were bad and treacherous, he could only wait to be dethroned!

Wanting to win with such an aptitude?

Sun Mo didn't feel it was possible.

(Look at how Great Xia handled things?)

Although the destruction wrought by war would cause many to die, any crown prince that managed to come out unscathed after a massacre like this would be someone with a first-class mental state.

Sun Mo continued looking and a red-colored warning sentence leaped out, causing him to start in surprise.

Li Xuan felt uncomfortable being stared at by Sun Mo, but he didn't dare to interrupt as well. Hence, he could only show an awkward expression and felt very uncomfortable.

"Your highness, it is already so late. Why are you not studying yet?"

A confident voice rang out beside his ear.

Sun Mo frowned slightly because this voice was like a horse-cutting saber. It was thick, powerful, and brimmed with prestige and killing intent.

"This student obeys!"

Li Xuan hurriedly entered the study room after he clasped his hands toward Sun Mo.

Sun Mo turned and saw an old man with white hair that was combed meticulously walking out with vigorous steps.

His gaze was like a ferocious tiger that had descended from its mountain and was hunting prey. It was very invasive and full of aggression.

“Hmph!”

Han Cangshui didn't bother with Sun Mo and directly left.

(Wanting my position as the team leader? I will make you regret ever coming out from your mother's womb! The crown prince is my harvest, and no one is permitted to disrupt what's mine!)

...

After Sun Mo met with Li Ziqi, he followed her and went to meet with the other five princes.

For the Five Empires War Discussion, each country could send out at least five people and at most seven people. They could also send out a ten-man reserve team.

The members of the reserve team were all children of nobility.

“Teacher, how do you feel?”

Li Ziqi poured a cup of tea for Sun Mo.

“The chance of winning isn't high!”

Sun Mo shook his head. As the Emperor, what women Li Yingqi couldn't have? Couldn't he adjust the quality of his bloodline a little? Why did he have to sleep with beauties every time?

The princes and princesses were all good-looking, but as for their aptitude...it was hard to say...

“Oh...”

Li Ziqi was depressed.

“There will surely be a solution. At most, you can work harder!”

Li Ziqi started to discuss the content of the war discussion with Li Ziqi and proceeded with targeted training and other arrangements.

He wanted other princes to attend his training too, but the other princes used the excuse of listening to Han Cangshui's classes to reject it.

“Is Han Cangshui's clout so heavy?”

Sun Mo was shocked.

“His title is the Alchemy Martial Sage!”

Li Ziqi explained.

Han Cangshui's title as an 8-stars great teacher was far inferior to the title 'Alchemy Martial Sage' because this title represented that he was an ancestor-level alchemist.

The princes and princesses all knew that their aptitudes couldn't make it. So, if they wanted to increase their strength and lengthen their longevity, they had to depend on the top-grade alchemy pills concocted by Han Cangshui.

"I'm the God Hands though!"

Sun Mo's lips curled.

Although he put it this way, he didn't have any intention of comparing them. The main thing was that after he looked at these royal heirs, he didn't feel they could win. So, he changed his strategy.

They could lose the group battle, but the little sunny egg must win for sure.

To put it in simple terms, it was to allow Li Ziqi to display the most outstanding and fascinating performance so she could become the brightest heir out of all the princes and princesses participating in the war discussion.

The training was very tough, and the little sunny egg could only sleep for three hours every day. She spent the rest of her waking time learning.

In order for her to maintain her condition, Sun Mo used his ancient massaging techniques, medicinal packets, counseling, and all other methods he could think of.

Every day, Sun Mo gave his all to help her. Also, he felt using his mouth to teach was too slow. Hence, he directly used Soul Imprint and branded all the content he wanted to teach into her brain.

Not only so, but he even used One Heart Two Uses so he could impart two types of content at once.

The other students of his also got dragged in.

Yes, Lu Zhiruo and the others had come here because they wanted to explore the local marketplace. But now, they were all forcefully dragged into the training too.

Time flowed by quickly.

The 15th of June had arrived.

Early in the morning, Sun Mo summoned Little Silver and rushed to Shengjing after two hours.

Today was the grandmaster-level spirit runist examination.

When Sun Mo entered the door of the Saint Gate's branch and reported his name, the people in the great hall all looked over.

"That's Sun Mo? He's so handsome!"

"What is he doing here? Is he here to take the exam?"

"Should we go over to greet him?"

The surrounding great teachers started discussing. Because Sun Mo's fame was too great, they actually didn't dare to take the initiative to go over and chat with him.

Very soon, Liang Hongda arrived.

Upon seeing this scene, everyone was shocked.

(My heavens, the vice sect lord personally appears to welcome him? This person truly has clout!)

What shocked them was what happened after that. After knowing that Sun Mo had arrived, all the grandmaster spirit runists rushed over excitedly.

“Damn, isn’t that Grandmaster Fang from Fan City?”

“Isn’t that baldy Grandmaster Xue? I heard that he entered seclusion after obtaining an ancient spirit rune and no one had seen him for ten years. Yet, he actually ended his seclusion for the sake of Sun Mo?”

“Quickly look, Ancestor Zheng personally came too. Oh my heavens, he’s actually being so friendly with Sun Mo!”

All the spirit runists who came to participate in this exam saw old seniors who had been famous for a long time appearing before their eyes. For a time, they were stunned and were somewhat nervous.

“The grandmaster-level examination this time around should be very difficult, right? Is there a need for so many top-level spirit runists to supervise and come out with questions?”

“Don’t panic, they might simply be here to see Sun Mo!”

“I heard that Secondary Saint Zhou deliberately tried making things difficult for Sun Mo and arranged the venue to be set at the Ancient Sage Building for the 4-stars examination. Say, do you guys think that this examination...”

“Mummy, I’m scared. I want to go home!”

Many examinees immediately wanted to retreat. Their faces turned pale, and they felt that they would surely fail this time around.

“Everyone, can you guys chat after the exam is finished?”

Liang Hongda interjected. “If you guys act like this, you will surely affect Sun Mo’s condition!”

“Why is there still a need for an exam? For a person who could create a flying spirit rune in our era, you can directly give him the ancestor title.”

Ancestor Zheng didn’t want to waste time.. It wasn’t easy for him to meet Sun Mo and he truly wanted to chat with him for a total of seven days and nights without sleeping.

Chapter 1179: What Is Called an Ancestor of the Nine Provinces?

Nothing could be accomplished without norms or standards.

Even though Sun Mo was a supreme genius and had obtained extraordinary accomplishments, with all the examiners saying that he need not take the exam, the Saint Gate wouldn’t grant him a grandmaster license unless he did so.

Because this would be unfair to the others.

Once precedence of something like that happened, it would mean that great teachers from aristocratic clans of great power and influence could use the same method to pass the grandmaster-level examination despite not having the capabilities to do so.

In reality, there had been truly talented people that were worthy of being vied by famous schools even before they took the grandmaster-level examination and were ascertained as grandmasters.

However, all Sect Lords of the Saint Gate had held fast to their principles and had never allowed anyone to be exempted from the grandmaster-level examination if they wanted the license.

Also, the content of the examination was the same in the entire Nine Provinces.

...

At 10 a.m., the written exam started, and the duration was five hours.

Sun Mo sat in the exam venue and first glanced through the paper.

There were many questions because only by setting the exam like this would they be able to broaden the testing scope and test all aspects of an examinee's knowledge.

Generally, the topics could be split into four parts.

The first part was the basics. It occupied 40% of the paper and as long as one depended on rote memorization, they would be able to obtain full marks here. The difficulty lay in the fact that the knowledge required was something very obscure.

So if one wanted to do well, they had to read a vast number of books and have much experience.

The second part was the advanced questions and this part occupied 30% of the paper. This was to test if the examinee could creatively apply their knowledge. To put it simply, it depended on one's creativity and talent.

Examinees who had memorized a lot of questions were useless since they didn't know how to apply their knowledge creatively.

A grandmaster that was publicly acknowledged by the Nine Provinces had to have creativeness. They had to be able to create new things and bring change to the subject, instead of simply being fixed in the old ways and letting themselves be restricted by old rules!

The third part was the super difficult questions. They occupied 20% of the paper.

They were all difficult questions grandmaster spirit runists had to solve daily. This included analyzing unknown spirit runes and designing new spirit runes, etc.

This part tested the examinees for their knowledge and to verify whether they had the standard of a grandmaster or not.

The fourth part was ancestor-level questions, and it occupied 10% of the paper.

It was mainly there to see if the examinee had any potential to become an ancestor or not.

“This model isn’t bad!”

Sun Mo silently praised.

Although the first part consisted of many basic questions and occupied 40% of the paper, it only took up about 10% of the total marks. The second portion also had plenty of questions, but it only took up 20%. The third part actually occupied the highest percentage of the marks.

This indicated that the examinees couldn’t waste time on basic questions. They had to clear the questions quickly in one stretch. If they wanted to get points based on the basic questions to pass the exam, they would be dreaming.

Also, in order to let the examinees save time and focus on the latter questions, the Saint Gate had decreed that if someone made five mistakes or more for the basic questions, they would be disqualified immediately.

Yes, the examinees couldn’t get more than five questions wrong for the basic questions which numbered several hundred. From this, one could see how difficult the grandmaster-level examination was.

Naturally, grandmasters who passed the exam were also relatively valuable.

As long as they could obtain the grandmaster license, it meant that they needn’t worry about food and clothes for their entire lives, and their societal position would also be extremely high.

A clamor suddenly rang out through the entire venue because when the examinees read through the paper for the first time, they discovered that the major questions at the back were all exceptionally difficult.

They completely had no idea how to answer the questions.

“It’s over. Indeed, the examiners have raised the difficulty level because of Sun Mo!”

“Isn’t this a scam?”

“Mummy, I want to go home!”

Several examinees had turned pale and secretly started to hate Sun Mo. If they wanted to be employed by any of the Nine Greats, they couldn’t have a history of failing any examinations by the Saint Gate. But this time around, they were definitely going to stumble because of Sun Mo’s presence.

However, Sun Mo didn’t care about this. He dipped his writing brush in ink and carefreely answered the questions.

(Thinking? I don’t need that!)

The answers were as though they had been branded in Sun Mo’s brain. When he saw the questions, the answers would automatically appear in his mind. Just like $1+1 = 2$.

Three of the examiners immediately went over to Sun Mo. After glancing at his paper, they walked away.

Not long later, they all gathered together.

“He does live up to his reputation!”

Other than this notion, they didn’t know how to evaluate Sun Mo.

Five hours was a duration that was insufficient for many examinees. However, Sun Mo had handed his exam paper to the examiners in advance.

He nodded to the examiners and left the venue.

“It isn’t even noon yet, but he has handed in the paper?”

A middle-aged examiner was shocked. He had seen these questions before. Even a grandmaster like him wouldn’t be able to complete the paper so fast.

“Didn’t you discover something? He didn’t even do a final check. How confident must he be?”

“Being in the same era as a genius like this can be both a blessing and a tragedy!”

The examiners sighed ruefully.

It was a blessing because they could witness the birth of a legend. It was a tragedy because even if they had some achievements, they were destined to fall into the shadow of Sun Mo’s radiance.

As for people of the next generations, when they spoke about the spirit runes of this era, the first thing they thought about would surely be the Skyward Spirit Rune.

The written exam finished. There was a day of rest for everyone due to the grading of papers.

The graders first looked at the basic questions. Those who got five questions wrong were directly eliminated even if they got full marks in the higher-difficulty questions behind.

The rules were simply so cruel.

On the third day, the results were released.

Sun Mo’s name was high-up in the number one position. He also got full points. The second place wasn’t too bad either, and it was someone who obtained 88 points. If it was in the past, they would be the first place. Sadly, the owner of this 88 marks encountered Sun Mo.

“Teacher Miao, congratulations. You are only 12 points lesser than Sun Mo. If you work a bit harder, you will be able to catch up to him.”

Upon facing the praises of those familiar with him, this Great Teacher Miao could only smile bitterly.

“Just 12 points lesser? You guys are wrong. Sun Mo got full marks because there are only so many marks he could get in this exam. My distance from him is far far far far far more than what the difference in points represents!”

Great Teacher Miao sighed and felt a little disheartened. He was pondering whether he should change his major?

The results were announced that afternoon, and the interview that was the second round also began then.

Sun Mo was naturally arranged to be the first interview.

At the exam venue, Grandmaster Xue saw over 60 people packed in a house and couldn't help but scold these people.

"What are you guys doing?"

Grandmaster Xue was very angry. "Do you know that by doing this, you will affect the mental state of the examinees during their interviews?"

"Xue Pan, don't think we don't know what you are thinking about. You simply want to chase us away so you can ask Sun Mo your own personal questions, right?"

Everyone here was a grandmaster, so no one cared about Xue Pan.

"F*** you!"

Xue Pan's expression turned gloomy and he pointed a middle finger. He then glanced at Ancestor Zheng, wanting him to say something.

Ancestor Zheng felt embarrassed to speak because his current position as an examiner was something he had snatched over. Besides, there were so many grandmasters here that they could constitute half of the great teacher world. He also didn't want to offend everyone.

"Go and invite Vice Sect Lord Liang!"

Ancestor Zheng kicked the ball in his court away.

Very soon, Liang Hongda arrived. When he saw the number of people here, he was shocked.

"What are you guys doing?"

(In the past when I wanted to look for you guys to be examiners, all of you kept giving excuses. Why are you guys so active now?)

"We just want to sit in and observe Sun Mo's interview!"

Someone spoke.

"Stop farting, I think you guys want to ask him to solve all your personal problems, right?"

Xue Pan rebutted.

Everyone knew that the Five Empires War Discussion was about to start and Sun Mo would surely be very busy. He would leave immediately once the examination was over and had no time to be visited.

And honestly speaking, given Sun Mo's current status...even if everyone sent visiting cards to beg him for an audience, they might not be able to meet him. Hence, they wanted to use this chance to consult him on some questions that puzzled them.

The so-called interview was usually the examiners asking questions and the examinees answering. The content wasn't fixed.

If they consulted Sun Mo in private, they naturally would owe him a favor. But now, they could use the interview as an excuse. If Sun Mo refused to answer, he would naturally have the risk of failing.

...

Outside the exam venue, the waiting examinees had waited for over 15 minutes, but the interviews hadn't started yet. For a time, their hearts were filled with trepidation.

Could something have happened?

Luckily, a few minutes later, the door to the exam venue finally opened.

"Great Teacher Sun, please!"

The low-ranking great teacher responsible for calling out the names had a face filled with reverence.

When Sun Mo entered the exam venue, he saw over sixty pairs of eyes staring at him ravenously like how wolves looked at their prey.

"What the hell?"

1

Sun Mo swept his gaze around before finally landing on the three people seated behind a long table.

Swish~ Swish~

Xue Pan and that Examiner Fang subconsciously stood up and revealed very amiable smiles. As for Ancestor Zheng, his body shook and after a moment of hesitation, he still decided to stand up.

The man before him was a major character that had been invited by Bai Wenzhang to the Dragonspirit Manor. Although he was an ancestor, he didn't have any capital to act arrogant before Sun Mo.

Liang Hongda was standing here and his lips convulsed when he saw this.

Was Sun Mo's influence already so great in the spirit rune world?

This meant that Sun Mo's attainment in the field of spirit runes had received their approval.

"Dear examiners, can we get started?"

Sun Mo smiled.

"Cough! Cough!"

Ancestor Zheng coughed twice and after adjusting his emotions, he asked, "Great Teacher Sun, can I ask what is the principle behind the Skyward Spirit Rune?"

Swish~

The astonished gazes of all the grandmasters directly turned to him.

(Do you still want face? You immediately asked such a question the moment you came up?)

Ancestor Zheng smiled bitterly and spread his hands wide. He also knew that this question was too much. But in his current realm of expertise, there were truly too few questions that could stump him.

He wanted to find a trace of inspiration from Sun Mo's invention.

"It's the application of a certain force. Through the spirit rune, the surroundings of the human body will produce a forcefield that can dispel gravity!"

Sun Mo's inspiration came from the metallic robot inside the mysterious box that the papaya girl opened.

"A certain force?"

"Forcefield?"

"Gravity?"

The grandmasters were dumbfounded. What did these terms mean? Although they couldn't understand, they felt that they were something very deep and profound.

"There are various invisible forces in this world!"

Sun Mo wasn't selfish and didn't mind sharing his knowledge. He immediately shared the concept of 'invisible forces' with everyone.

The grandmasters all felt very clueless when they heard this, but they also felt some inspiration. It was like a corner of the dim and dark world was suddenly pierced through by the light of dawn.

"I once said before that spirit runes are a type of language and all languages contain power. The crucial point is how can we display such power?"

Sun Mo deliberated over his words before speaking. He hoped that everyone could understand this easier through his explanation.

Even for computing languages, they could display the 'power' belonging to them through a medium and change the world. Actually, spirit runes could do the same too.

This was impossible as of now because the wisdom of humans still couldn't conceptualize such a thing.

After Sun Mo finished speaking, Ancestor Zheng bowed.

"Ancestor Sun, I've benefited from your teachings!"

As an ancestor, he understood that Sun Mo's words had benefited him the most.

The other grandmasters hurriedly bowed as well.

Liang Hongda inhaled a breath of cold air when he heard this. Earlier, Ancestor Zheng still had pride in his heart. He felt Sun Mo was unworthy of the title Ancestor Sun, but if he addressed him as Grandmaster Sun, it would seem that he was petty. Hence, he used the title 'Great Teacher Sun' instead.

This was the change in the attitude of an ancestor!

What did this mean?

It meant that Sun Mo's standard was a tier higher compared to normal ancestors!

No wonder Bai Wenzhang admired Sun Mo so much and had even written a letter to the Black-White Academy saying that if Sun Mo died, he would pay any price necessary to raze the entire academy to flat ground.

This matter wasn't a secret among the upper echelons of Saint Gate because back then Wan Kangcheng was badly frightened and had sought help from the Saint Gate.

If Bai Wenzhang had gone ahead and organized a terrorist attack on the school, the reputation of the Black-White Academy would be finished.

Grandmaster Xue bowed and asked, "Ancestor Sun, what do you think about combination spirit runes? Will they be the future direction of development for the study of spirit runes?"

The so-called combination spirit runes were spirit runes that could generate more than one effect.

"Indeed, it is a development direction!"

Sun Mo acknowledged. "I feel that the evolution of spirit runes will appear in different forms depending on the 'carrier'. For example, on a human body, because the skin surface is only so wide, it would be best if there's a spirit rune that could produce as many effects as possible!

"But, if the carrier is different, things might not be the case. We have to do analysis based on actual situations in reality!"

Grandmaster Xue hurriedly clasped his fists. "Ancestor Sun, please guide me!"

"For example, my disciple Li Ziqi has thought about a type of spiritwave cannon. It is to use spirit runes to gather spirit qi before blasting it out."

Sun Mo took the chance to help boost Li Ziqi's fame. "For something like this, it doesn't need a lot of combination spirit runes. Rather, it needed thinking to allow the might produced from a single-entity spirit rune to be maximized fully!"

"Spiritwave cannon? It sounds very powerful!"

"I heard that Li Ziqi used it to crush everyone in the 1-star examination!"

"Si, is it so powerful?"

The grandmasters were all shocked.

"Ancestor Sun, I have an ancient spirit rune here. Could you provide me with some guidance?"

Grandmaster Fang carefully took out a spirit rune and passed it to Sun Mo.

"This..."

Sun Mo didn't take it. If this spirit rune was those types with rare effects, Sun Mo would have benefitted and a dispute might happen.

“It’s fine, please feel free to look at it!”

Grandmaster Fang smiled bitterly. “I’ve researched this for ten years but am still clueless about it. I don’t want to live in ignorance anymore!”

“Please pardon me then!”

Sun Mo took it and started to analyze it.

The grandmasters immediately slowed their breaths as they were deeply afraid that they might disturb Sun Mo.

“Damn, is this still an interview? It’s clearly a Q&A session!”

Liang Hongda became speechless when he saw all these grandmasters becoming as obedient as students. (Did you guys forget your actual responsibilities here?)

Ancestor Sun?

(These people are truly calling him that sincerely!)

Liang Hongda did want to give Sun Mo an ancestor-level license, but it was a pity that this title was too precious. It was not something the Saint Gate could test for.

For every subject, grandmasters who wished to become ancestors not only had to take out peak-level achievements, but they also had to tour the Nine Provinces and give lectures everywhere.

This meant that they had to lecture at ‘A’-grade schools and above in the Nine Provinces. After they convinced everyone, their reputation would spread by word of mouth and they would naturally gain the ancestor title.

Bluntly speaking, if one wanted to become an ancestor, they had to truly depend on their own capabilities because during the Q&A session, there would definitely be people asking questions.

If Sun Mo could convince all these grandmasters here, it meant that in reality, he would also be able to convince all those great teachers in the other schools of the Nine Provinces.

The current Sun Mo might not have the ancestor title but already had the capabilities of an ancestor!

Chapter 1180: 5-Stars Great Teacher, #1 in the Nine Provinces!

Outside the exam venue, in the corridor!

The longer the examinees waited for, the more anxious they felt. Panic and trepidation were written on their faces.

“What’s wrong with Great Teacher Sun? Why hasn’t he come out after such a long time? Could he have died inside?”

“Is the second round’s interview really so difficult?”

“If he ‘died’, he would have long since exited. He can’t possibly be giving a lecture to those examiners, right?”

The students gathered together and started gossiping.

If it wasn’t for the fact that they were worried their qualifications to take the exam might be revoked, they would open the door to peek.

An hour had passed.

It was a long time no matter what type of interview it was.

...

In the exam venue, it was so silent that one could hear a pin drop. No one dared to disturb Sun Mo’s thinking.

Liang Hongda was somewhat speechless when he saw this scene.

(Grandmaster Fang has assiduously researched this spirit rune for over ten years but had no gains. Could it be that you want to finish analyzing this within a few hours? No. Even if you could do so within a month, this incident would already be an extremely shocking one.)

However, it just so happened that these grandmasters felt Sun Mo would be able to do it. They were actually sitting cross-legged and quietly waiting for him.

“Everyone, there are still people outsi...”

Liang Hongda wanted to remind the examiners that there were still examinees waiting to be interviewed. But before he could finish speaking, Ancestor Zheng had cast a glance at him that was filled with resentment.

The meaning was clear. (Can you please not disturb Sun Mo?)

(F***!)

Liang Hongda felt very helpless. Just when he was pondering whether he should forcibly stop such absurd behavior, Sun Mo suddenly spoke.

“This spirit rune is very rare. Grandmaster Fang, you’ve struck it rich.”

Sun Mo passed the rune back.

Everyone felt their spirits stirring when they heard this.

“You understood it?”

Ancestor Zheng asked. He had been observing the spirit rune from the side. Honestly speaking, he still had no clue what it was yet.

The others immediately pricked their ears.

“This is a spirit rune that comes in contact with the mental domain. If you place it beside you when you are sleeping, you won’t be disturbed by nonsensical dreams and you can sleep peacefully until daybreak, maintaining a very good mental state.”

Sun Mo explained.

“Indeed. I discovered this by chance. When my mental state wasn’t very good, I would feel very comfortable if I held this and slept.”

Grandmaster Fang hurriedly nodded.

“It’s actually so magical? What’s the theory behind it?”

Xue Pan was curious.

Sun Mo smiled and didn’t continue to share. After all, this was Grandmaster Fang’s private item. He needed the other party to agree before he could continue.

“Old Fang, don’t be selfish and hoard the knowledge. Please allow Ancestor Sun to continue speaking and let us all broaden our horizons!”

Xue Pan sincerely pleaded.

“Hehe!”

Grandmaster Fang was naturally not a fool. (Why should I benefit others? Speaking of which, Sun Mo is truly impressive! He actually managed to resolve this question that has been puzzling me for tens of years.)

Upon thinking of this, Grandmaster Fang’s face, which was initially filled with excitement due to the question being resolved, now changed and reflected deep disappointment and lament.

His skill truly couldn’t be compared to Sun Mo!

Why didn’t Grandmaster Fang mind the fact that there were other people at the side looking at his spirit rune?

This was because he was very confident that since he couldn’t decipher it even after ten years of work, the others wouldn’t be able to do so either. So, he wasn’t afraid that they might learn it secretly.

The truth had proven that he wasn’t wrong. Even when Ancestor Zheng saw it, he wasn’t able to decipher it either. Only Sun Mo could do so and his strength surpassed all of them by an entire era!

“Ancestor Sun, I have an ancient spirit rune here. Could you please help me decipher it?”

“I have one as well.”

“Please allow me to be first. My spirit rune is more mysterious!”

Everyone vied with each other. For those in this field who could reach the grandmaster level, who among them wouldn’t have a few ancient spirit runes?

Right now, their thoughts had cleared. Even if they spent a few years or a few decades, they most probably wouldn't be able to decipher their runes. So, they might as well ask Sun Mo for help.

As for being worried that Sun Mo might learn their runes secretly?

Sorry, what they should be worrying now was what they should do if Sun Mo refused to decipher the runes for them.

Besides, if he really wanted to earn money, he could solely depend on his Skyward Spirit Rune and easily become the top wealthy person in the entire Nine Provinces.

After all, who in the world wouldn't want to fly in the sky?

"Grandmasters, we have delayed the progress of the interviews for quite some time. There are still examinees waiting in line. If you guys have any questions, feel free to write to me. If you are free, you can also come to the Central Province Academy. I will definitely welcome you all with open arms!"

Sun Mo clasped his fists.

"Ancestor Sun, it is settled then. After your participation in the Five Empires War Discussion is over, I will pay you a visit!"

Ancestor Zheng took the initiative to speak.

The others weren't willing to appear weak either.

Liang Hongda was dumbfounded when he saw this scene. He finally cast his gaze onto Ancestor Zheng. (You don't want your prestige and clout anymore?! Ancestors in the Nine Provinces are people with the highest and most illustrious status. Usually, people were the ones paying visits to them, but you actually want to go and pay a visit to Sun Mo instead?)

"Ancestor Sun, please!"

Grandmaster Fang respectfully sent Sun Mo away.

As for the interview result?

(Stop joking. How would we have the qualifications to interview Sun Mo?)

...

Creak!

The door opened.

Swish~ Swish~ Swish~

The examinees who had grown impatient from waiting immediately turned their gazes over.

Sun Mo walked out in a calm and composed manner.

"Next interviewee, Song Yuan!"

As the name was called out, a middle-aged man pushed the door open and entered. After that, he was stunned and cold sweat immediately drenched his back.

(What's going on? I thought there were only five interviewers? Why are there so many people?)

"Since Ancestor Sun has left, we will bid our farewell too. Please forgive us if we caused a disturbance earlier!"

The grandmasters all said words like this and left the scene.

"So these people came to meet Sun Mo!"

Song Yuan secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

(Wait a minute, who's the Ancestor Sun they were referring to? Could he be... Sun Mo?)

Si~

(Being able to make so many grandmasters willingly refer to him as an ancestor...what has Sun Mo done exactly?)

The examinees in the corridor were stunned when they stared at the major characters of the spirit rune world leaving in groups of two and three.

So many people came for the sake of seeing Sun Mo?

During dinner time, the news of Sun Mo answering doubts of over 60 grandmaster-level spirit runists soon circulated around.

After all, there were quite a few working staff on the scene then.

This news caused many examinees to feel incomparably envious despite their shock.

(We are all here to take the exam and are so worried, not knowing whether we would pass or fail. But Sun Mo is actually so relaxed to the point where he provides guidance to the grandmaster examiners.)

Comparing humans to humans was truly infuriating.

Three days later, the interviews ended and the results were announced.

For the grandmaster-level spirit runist examination this time around, a total of three people passed!

According to the standard procedure, after Sun Mo had obtained his grandmaster license, he still had to wait a few more days before the final inspection for his 5-stars qualification could proceed.

But who told him to have people supporting him from the inside?!

Liang Hongda completely resolved that for him.

Including the 'Teacher for a Day, Father for Life' halo that was a compulsory halo, Sun Mo activated 15 great teacher halos successfully in one go.

After that, he received the 5-stars great teacher emblem.

"Teacher Sun, congratulations!"

Liang Hongda congratulated Sun Mo.

“Thanks!”

Sun Mo held this emblem and felt somewhat excited in his heart. This was because his social status had risen again.

5-stars great teachers already possessed the authority to select schools. They could join any ‘B’ graded schools they wanted to and even if they wanted to join ‘A’-graded schools, there shouldn’t be a problem.

The only problem would be the difference in the treatment and benefits they would receive from each respective academy.

After all, 5-stars weren’t great teachers that the headmaster of an ‘A’-graded school would want to recruit at all costs.

Naturally, Sun Mo was an exception.

Even if he wasn’t an ancestor-level spirit runist, just based on his outstanding external appearance, he could still become a celebrity teacher and the ‘billboard guy’ for the school.

After reaching 6-stars, it would mean that one could casually pick any ‘A’-graded schools they wanted to join. No matter what conditions they requested, those headmasters would do their best to satisfy them.

However, 6-stars great teachers usually had huge ambitions. They basically wouldn’t choose these schools as they wanted to join the Nine Greats instead.

It was like in the modern era, everyone wanted to be a public servant. In the Nine Provinces, there were no great teachers who didn’t want to join the Nine Greats. After all, that represented status, glory, and wealth...

“Rising to the 5-stars rank in a single stretch. You are the first in the Nine Provinces to achieve this!”

Liang Hongda felt envious. “You’ve just created a record again.”

“It was all luck!”

Sun Mo was humbled.

“How about it? Are you planning to tackle the 6-stars rank as well?”

Liang Hongda teased.

“What’s the content of the 6-stars examination this time around?”

Sun Mo was curious.

He didn’t know the specific content and only knew the rough format.

For the 6-stars great teacher examination, because the star rank was too high and the number of examinees was too few, there might not even be one examinee every year.

Since this was the case, its test period was set at three years. The examinees had to achieve a certain objective, and they would be promoted upon completing it.

“You know the common rules. That’s to comprehend 18 great teacher halos and have grandmaster-level expertise in two secondary occupations.”

These were hard conditions that needed to be met or the great teacher wouldn’t even have the qualifications to participate in the 6-stars examination.

“The current session of the 6-stars exam began at the end of last year. The duration is three years and the content of the exam is to temper oneself in the Prison of Desperation!”

Liang Hongda bitterly smiled. “Because it is too difficult, not a single examinee is willing to participate even up until now!”

“The Prison of Desperation?” Sun Mo frowned. “What place is that?”

“It is a place that only the upper echelons of the Saint Gate would know about. It is located on a tiny island in the Darkness Sea. The prison is a place where all extremely ferocious and evil dark great teachers are detained. For example, the Yin-Yang Child Granny you captured is currently imprisoned there.”

Liang Hongda revealed everything freely, wanting to do Sun Mo a favor.

Naturally, given Sun Mo’s identity as a 5-stars great teacher, he was already qualified to know this type of secret.

“What is the content of the tempering exercise?”

Sun Mo couldn’t understand. What could being inside a prison test for?

“To us great teachers, we have to impart the dao, our knowledge, our experiences. We have to teach people to be kind, guiding students on the right path...”

Liang Hongda’s expression turned solemn as he continued. “If we see people like dark great teachers who have diverged from the correct path, we can naturally just kill them off. But to high star-ranking great teachers, an even higher goal is to make these people turn over a new leaf, converting them from evil to kindness, allowing them to contribute their body and knowledge to others in this world.”

“...”

Sun Mo wanted to ridicule. (Isn’t this something monks ought to do?)

“To put it simply, it is to test the great teacher’s ability to brainwash people!”

Liang Hongda lowered his voice.

“Understood!”

Sun Mo revealed an expression of gratitude in a timely manner.

“However, Teacher Sun, I will persuade you to stabilize your position first. You should wait two years more to participate in the next session. The 6-stars examination this time around is truly too difficult.”

Liang Hongda sincerely persuaded Sun Mo.

In the Prison of Desperation, the vilest great teachers were imprisoned there. Their star rankings weren't any lower than Sun Mo. Hence, there was a chance that Sun Mo might be the one being brainwashed instead.

In history, many such situations had happened before.

"Mn, I will treat this cautiously!"

Sun Mo nodded. "What should I do if I want to participate?"

"Go to the Saint Gate first to check your qualifications. After it's confirmed that you have comprehended enough great teacher halos and two grandmaster-level licenses, the Saint Gate will arrange for a boat to send you to the Prison of Desperation."

Liang Hongda felt that Sun Mo might actually choose to challenge it despite his warning. "Without a secret token from the Saint Gate, you won't be able to enter that place."

...

After eating a meal with Liang Hongda, Sun Mo sat on Little Silver and returned to Chang'an.

During the meal, Sun Mo had asked why the exam this year was so difficult.

Liang Hongda's reply was that the Sect Lord felt that the great teacher exams for the recent tens of years had been too simple and this had caused many people to pass despite them muddling through, allowing them to have a star-rank they didn't deserve.

Hence, he had given the order to increase the difficulty of the great teacher examinations at every star-level.

It wasn't only for this batch, as long as the Sect Lord was still in power, no one should even dream about ascending to a higher rank easily.

Although Liang Hongda's expression didn't change when he said this, Sun Mo could feel that this fellow was rejoicing secretly.

Why?

Because if the Sect Lord did this, he would offend the entire great teacher world.

Even those major characters who didn't need to take the exams would be unhappy with him. Because in a great teacher clan, there would surely be great teachers among the junior generations. If the difficulty of the exam was too high and the juniors couldn't be promoted, it would then be strange if they didn't hate the Sect Lord.

Liang Hongda wanted nothing more than for the Sect Lord to offend all these people so he would be forced to resign. After that, Liang Hongda would be able to ascend and become the next Sect Lord.

Actually, Sun Mo admired the current Sect Lord's attitude very much. Honestly speaking, the current great teacher world was a very murky one. There were simply too many people having the position without real capabilities.

Although the tempering exercise in the Prison of Desperation was very difficult, Liang Hongda had also divulged a small secret. If this mission was done well, there would be many benefits.

All those captured dark great teachers had secret treasures that they had stashed away. Even if they didn't have them, they still possessed their capabilities. If Sun Mo had the chance to learn a few things from them secretly, it would naturally be very beneficial for his growth.

For example, some dark alchemists possessed unique pill prescriptions. If Sun Mo could obtain them, he could definitely make huge money.

Liang Hongda felt that Sun Mo had an innate advantage because those dark great teachers would surely be interrogated with torture. Meanwhile, Sun Mo's ancient dragon capturing hands could cure all injuries. If he used that as a bargaining chip, he would be able to gain a wave of benefits.

Sun Mo felt that it was possible. Hence, he began to seriously plan.

The Prison of Desperation was a forbidden ground. Without a special reason, no one would be able to enter it. If it wasn't for the sake of the examination, Sun Mo wouldn't have had the opportunity to visit. So, now that there was an opportunity, he felt like he had to grab it.

...

Chang'an, Imperial Palace.

"Teacher, have you passed?"

After Lu Zhiruo knew that Sun Mo had returned, she immediately rushed over and hugged his arm. Her eyes also shone like the bright stars in the sky.

"Yes!"

Sun Mo rubbed the lucky mascot's head.

"Congratulations, Teacher!"

All the other students who rushed here congratulated him in unison upon hearing this.

...

Very soon, Han Cangshui also learned of this matter because after the lower-ranking eunuch reported this matter to the Emperor, Li Yingqi gave Sun Mo another set of rewards.

"Isn't he just a 5-stars? I'm an 8-stars, alright?"

The princes and princesses that were currently listening to his class didn't express any change in expression. However, they all privately felt that Teacher Han's words were laced with extreme jealousy.

(Yes, you are an 8-stars, but what rank did you have when you were 25 years old?)

(Moreover, Sun Mo is someone who rose to 5-stars in a single stretch, he is a person that created history!)

However, although Sun Mo might be strong, they had never considered him being their team leader. After all, he was too young and if they really wanted to win the Five Empires War Discussion, they still had to rely on an 8-stars great teacher with high prestige like Han Cangshui.

Another half a month passed. The prince group of Great Tang formally set off and headed to the Qi Country's Capital, Western Jing, to participate in the Five Empires War Discussion!