

Teacher 1231

Chapter 1231: Isolated Island

On 7th December, the sky was slightly gloomy.

West City Gate.

Sun Mo bought six vegetarian buns on his way, and he surveyed the people who stopped here as he ate.

There were six middle-aged men clad in great teacher robes. They should be the examinees who wanted to participate in this exam. The others looked like they were great teachers but weren't clad in great teacher robes.

The profession of great teachers had a relatively high status in the Nine Provinces. 3-stars and above could basically get a free meal when they stayed in a hotel.

However, being a great teacher was all about style. No one would care for such a tiny benefit. Besides, to avoid trouble, the majority of great teachers wouldn't choose to wear their great teacher robes when traveling.

After all, who wouldn't lose their tempers and have bad habits?

If they got into a quarrel or a fight when wearing their great teacher robes, things would be unsightly.

Sun Mo was precisely wary of this, hence he decided to wear an indigo-colored warrior attire. He looked like a wandering hero who cared little for money from those martial arts novels!

"Sadly, there are no girls with 'cooling' clothes on!"

Sun Mo sighed. He started to miss the modern era.

The more he glanced around, the more a middle-aged man grew unhappy.

"What are you looking at? This daddy will dig your eyeballs out!"

The middle-aged man had a fierce expression as he bared his teeth at Sun Mo.

Sun Mo frowned.

"Yo, this brat is very gutsy!"

The companion of the middle-aged man saw that Sun Mo didn't have a look of nervousness on his face, hence he decided to speak teasingly. "You should calm yourself. I know you have a bad temper, but everybody here is a great teacher. Things would be unsightly if someone saw you acting like this."

"So what even if others saw it? I, Wu You, wouldn't be scared!"

The middle-aged man coldly snorted.

"You..."

His companion almost coughed up blood from anger. This was because his name was Wu You. The middle-aged man with a bad temper was actually Pang Tong.

“Ai, if I knew that the venue of the examination this time is the Great Prison of Desolation, I wouldn’t have registered!”

Pang Tong felt depressed because they would have to waste several years. The gains wouldn’t be able to outweigh the loss.

“There is danger but also opportunity!”

Wu You consoled him. “Many high star-ranking great teachers are locked up there. If we can learn an ultimate technique or two from them, this trip won’t be a wasted one.”

“True!”

Pang Tong nodded. After that, he glanced at Sun Mo. ‘Che, this young brat is quite handsome, I really feel like cutting his face up!’

“My condolences!”

Wu You sighed. He knew that his good friend had a female disciple who had been cheated of her body and money by a handsome young man. In the end, his female disciple jumped into a lake and committed suicide.

“Oi brat, come over and chat!”

A wealthy-looking seemingly married woman that still retained her charm waved her hands at Sun Mo.

“Madam, what can I do for you?”

Sun Mo clasped his fists.

This woman wore a bright-red long dress with a peony design embroidered over it. She also had a golden hairpin and even drew her eyebrows. Other than exuding a wealthy aura, she also exuded charm.

“That baldy is scolding you, why are you not rebutting?”

The rich woman seemed to be asking a question, but she was silently provoking Pang Tong.

After all, no men liked to be despised.

“Who did you say is a baldy?”

Pang Tong berated. “My hair is just shorter!”

The rich-looking woman ignored him and continued surveying Sun Mo. “Are you afraid you can’t win against him in a fight? There’s no problem, I’ll back you up. If you are unhappy, just spit at him!”

“...”

Sun Mo was speechless. (Did I run into an aunty that wants to eat me up?)

“What did you say?”

Pang Tong raged but he was held back by Wu You.

“Wait a minute, this woman seems to be Lian Hongying.”

Wu You stared at the golden hairpin. There was a golden butterfly on it. It looked like an ornament if one glanced casually, but if one took a closer look, they would discover that it was a loving butterfly that would scatter gold powder when it flapped its wings.

“Si, L...Lian Hongying?”

Pang Tong had a look of wariness on his face as he stared at the rich woman. “She also came to participate in the examination?”

No matter which industry, there would always be some geniuses whose name had spread far and wide, becoming after-meal topics of people. People would either sigh in admiration or feel fear. Lian Hongying belonged to the latter category.

Her teaching ability might not be high, but she was from the Hundred Flowers Sect and her personal teacher was none other than the Hundred Poison Granny. Her technique in using poison was basically unrivaled in the world.

Why didn’t Sun Mo dare to learn the classic of poison when he had obtained it in the past? It was because everyone had a negative perception of this subject.

“How is it? This aunty is very impressive, right?”

When Lian Hongying saw Pang Tong’s terrified expression, she giggled and continued to seduce Sun Mo. “Actually, I’m a great teacher. As long as you learn from me, you will be able to crush a few baldies like him within three years!”

This sentence was just too provocative. Pang Tong wanted to lose his temper, but he was held back by Wu You.

“Forget it, I can’t afford to offend her!”

Wu You didn’t want to perish by implication.

“Don’t you judge a disciple by his or her aptitude before you accept them?”

Sun Mo counter-asked.

“Hehe, I trust my eyes. You are a genius!”

Lian Hongying was lying. She couldn’t see Sun Mo’s aptitude. However, she didn’t care about this. When she accepted disciples, it depended on whether they were good-looking or not.

Sun Mo activated Divine Sight.

“Lian Hongying. Warning: Dangerous character. She’s a poison expert.”

“Her personality is extremely arrogant and she kills people without a care in the world.”

Someone like this could become a great teacher too?

Sun Mo frowned as he read the data.

“Kneel and take me on as your teacher. This is a heavenly opportunity for you!”

Lian Hongying's red lips parted slightly. She puffed out her chest and sucked in her belly, appearing like an expert.

Sun Mo's lips twitched. "Sorry, I've no interest in old women!"

"What did you say?"

Lian Hongying's brows were furrowed.

Swish~

All the people in the surrounding area glanced over in unison. Many of them were great teachers and knew of Lian Hongying's great name. This was why they also knew that this young man was going to be out of luck soon.

"Brat, if you don't want to die, quickly apologize!"

A middle-aged man berated. Although his tone was unkind, he actually wanted to help Sun Mo.

This place was the Darkness Continent. Strength was everything here.

"Great Teacher Lian, you are a 5-stars great teacher. Please don't bother yourself with a kid!"

An old man with white hair persuaded her.

"Who the hell are you?"

Lian Hongying mocked. "This mummy hasn't turned 18 yet. I'm still a youth!"

Lu Guodong froze and wanted to scold back. However, because he was more senior, doing so would lower his own status.

"This great teacher, we as humans have to speak with logic. Your mother might not have taught you how to behave correctly, but someone would definitely do so!"

The expression of the middle-aged man who wanted to help turned gloomy and he spoke out to lecture her.

"You want to teach me?"

Lian Hongying sneered.

"Damn, is it impressive just because you understand the study of poison?"

Pang Tong felt very unhappy. "How good would it be if this young man was Sun Mo? He would definitely beat this Lian Hongying up so badly until her shit flows out."

"Many thanks to the two great teachers who spoke out. However, it's best that you guys don't involve yourselves in my business."

Sun Mo persuaded out of good will.

The data showed that Lian Hongying was truly an expert at using poison, and it would be simple for her to kill these people. As for why he wanted to provoke her?

It was naturally because she had used poison.

Pak!

Sun Mo stretched out his hand and grabbed Lian Hongying's chest before forcefully giving a squeeze.

"What?"

Everyone's eyes almost popped out. Could it be that this brat didn't want to live anymore?

Lian Hongying was stunned. It had always been her teasing others, and no one dared to take the initiative to touch her. But a moment later, rage and embarrassment showed on her face. Just when she wanted to act and punish him, Sun Mo suddenly spoke.

"Using poison on strangers? Your personality is truly terrible!"

Sun Mo moved beside Lian Hongying and whispered in her ear.

What?

Lian Hongying started.

(He could tell? Impossible! My poisoning methods are wondrous and exquisite, even my teacher sighed in admiration due to my skill.)

"Your lip balm is a type of poison that is colorless and odorless. When you breathe out hot air, poisonous particles will form. When they leave your lips and the temperature drops, they will become a poison mist. As long as those people around you breathe in a little of the mist, they will be poisoned."

Sun Mo smiled. "Naturally, you can still decide whether the poison will take effect or not. I believe that if I have agreed, I would be unknowingly poisoned. But once I disagree, even if I don't die, I'll be tormented badly by the poison."

"Who are you?"

Lian Hongying's eyes narrowed because Sun Mo was correct.

"Why don't you take a guess?"

Sun Mo chortled.

"..."

Lian Hongying wanted to act, but she discovered to her horror that her body couldn't move. She even felt difficulty in breathing and a sense of suffocation.

"Unfortunately, I understand the study of poison, and herbology even more. If you want to depend on these to bully me, you have chosen the wrong target!"

Sun Mo mocked and released his grab on Lian Hongying.

Lian Hongying didn't say anything. She only stared at Sun Mo ruthlessly before walking alone to a corner in the city.

“It can’t be, right? Lian Hongying actually didn’t kill him?”

“What origins does that brat have?”

“Since he is waiting here, there’s an 80% to 90% chance that he’s a great teacher that will participate in the exam. But he’s so young, he has to be Sun Mo, right?”

Everyone whispered.

Although one could delay aging upon reaching the Longevity Realm, on average, a cultivator would only be able to reach it after 50 years old. As for great teachers, not only did they have to teach others, but they had to increase their own knowledge as well. So, basically the higher one’s star rank was, the greater their age would be.

Some were as young as Sun Mo. But then there was only one explanation remaining – he was a genius.

Just when everyone was preparing to offer a greeting and ask for Sun Mo’s name, the horse carriages prepared by the Saint Gate had arrived.

“Everyone, time’s up. Get on!”

A middle-aged man clad in armor with a full beard roared loudly. “Three minutes. There will be no delays.”

Everyone turned and looked at Sun Mo. Whether he was a great teacher or not, they would know by seeing whether or not he got onto a horse carriage.

“Can we get on any of them?”

Sun Mo asked.

“Yes!”

Full-beard cast a few glances at Sun Mo. “You guys should move quickly.”

Everyone started to board the horse carriages.

“Should we go to the one Sun Mo is in?”

Wu You suggested.

“You want to be a simp?”

Pang Tong rolled his eyes. He actually wanted to go too, but Sun Mo’s current fame was too great. If he went there like that, it would be like he coveted Sun Mo’s God Hands and Skyward Spirit Rune.

Maybe, everyone had the same thoughts, so it caused Sun Mo to enjoy a carriage alone in the end.

The horse carriages moved rapidly and they arrived at a pier half a day later. A sailing ship was already there.

“Get on the ship!” Full-beard urged.

“The journey to the Great Prison of Desolation takes seven days. Everyone, don’t move around randomly, just meditate in your cabin for seven days!”

Full-beard listed some things that they had to take note of. After that, he continued, “Each cabin room is to be shared by two people. Allocate the rooms yourself!”

Swish~

Everyone turned to look at Sun Mo.

“Teacher Sun, why don’t we share a room?”

Lian Hongying suggested.

“Are you recommending yourself as a bedwarmer? If you are unhappy, why don’t we fight it out?”

Pang Tong sneered in a low voice.

“Sleeping with a poisonous widow, I’m afraid you have to be wary even in your sleep!”

Wu You shook his head. Lian Hongying’s appearance was 7 out of 10. Her figure was still there and she could be considered one of the most strikingly beautiful ones among rich middle-aged women. However, she was a poison user. This point was truly unbearable.

“I’ve said before, I’m not fond of old women!”

Sun Mo rejected.

“You...”

Lian Hongying gritted her teeth.

“I’m going to select a room!”

Sun Mo walked to the ship’s cabin area.

The others watched. That Lu Guodong and Wang Bibao both stepped over but soon halted their steps because Lian Hongying shot a gaze over.

The gaze was clear without words. (Whoever leaves with Sun Mo will be dealt with by me!)

Hence, everyone felt trepidation.

There was no solution. In a fair competition, no one felt afraid, but when it came to poison, no one here could handle it.

“Hmph!”

Lian Hongying snorted complacently. (Sun Mo, I will let you know how impressive I am. Based on our standards in the study of poison, I’m your great-grandaunt!)

Great teachers were all very busy individuals. On the first day, some people were still curious about the scenery of the Boundless Sea and went to the deck to see the sunset. But on the second day, everyone stayed in their rooms either to cultivate or for revision.

Sun Mo felt very rueful as he stared at these great teachers.

Speaking of accomplishments, these people were 5-stars great teachers and could be considered as successful. But even so, they still cast Complete Focus on themselves and continued learning and revising their studies assiduously.

As expected, those who were successful had to put in so much effort that it would cause people to feel unbearable.

Sun Mo also started revising.

Besides, he had to pay more attention to his study of poison and herbology. After all, he had offended Lian Hongying and naturally had to take some precautions.

A journey on the sea was very dull and the scenery didn't change. Moreover, because everyone was a cultivator and ate rarely, they didn't mind having only one meal per day.

Sun Mo chose not to eat anything and only drank water daily.

During the dawn of the fifth day!

"Oh no, everyone, one of the crew members has disappeared!"

Someone suddenly called out.

Sun Mo, who was in the midst of meditation, opened his eyes. His ears could pick up the sounds of hurried footsteps running toward the deck.

Sun Mo also came out.

"Teacher Sun, the sailor has disappeared!"

Wu You looked at Sun Mo as he spoke.

"Damn, have we fallen into one of the Dark Dawn's crafty plots?"

Pang Tong felt regret. "Why did I forget to check the identities of these people?"

"If the other party really wants to ambush us, they will definitely perform it flawlessly. You won't be able to see through their identities!"

Lian Hongying mocked.

"Although we are 5-stars, honestly speaking, we are not valuable enough to be ambushed by the Dark Dawn, right?"

Lu Guodong covered his chest with his hands and started analyzing.

Why did the Dark Dawn want to kill so many great teachers at one go? What were they after?

"We might not be valuable enough, but Teacher Sun is!" Lian Hongying chortled. "I feel that the other party must be here for him."

This sentence enlightened everyone.

That was right!

Sun Mo had too many things that the Dark Dawn coveted.

“Teacher Sun, you have to pay us for our ‘losses’!”

Someone teased in a joking manner, taking the opportunity to make their relationship with Sun Mo closer.

Sun Mo smiled but didn’t reply. However, a person that dressed up like an old farmer spoke.

“Could this be a part of the exam?”

The old farmer sniffed. His trousers were pulled up and it was like he was just returning home after he had planted seedlings.

Everyone fell silent as this was indeed possible.

“Isn’t the examination to make three prisoners repent? That is already very difficult. Does the Saint Gate still have to increase the difficulty?”

Pang Tong shook his head. “I think it’s the Dark Dawn trying to stir up trouble!”

Chapter 1232: Sun Mo’s Solo Show

“Teacher Sun, what do you think?”

The old farmer clasped his fists and lowered his attitude.

The others also glanced over, hoping that Sun Mo could give a useful suggestion.

Great teachers paid very much attention to their reputation. The higher ranked a great teacher was, the more learned they would be and they wouldn’t ask a question like that easily. This was also why many people couldn’t comprehend the halo ‘Learning from Everyone’.

Since the other party was asking him politely, Sun Mo naturally wouldn’t act arrogant. He clasped his hands and returned the greeting first before shaking his head slightly. “The information is too little and everything is temporarily unknown. I feel that the most important thing we should do now is to inspect and check every corner of the ship.”

“That’s right!”

Pang Tong clapped. “I’ve long since had this intention. Everyone, let’s get moving!”

Pang Tong was worried that others might wipe away clues if they discovered them. So, he dragged Wu You along and prepared to be the first to do the checking.

“Wait a minute, I feel that everyone shouldn’t move around recklessly. This matter ought to be handed over to Teacher Sun to do!”

The old farmer suggested.

Quarrels immediately broke out on the deck.

Because 50% of the people agreed, but the other half didn't trust Sun Mo. They felt that it would be quicker if they looked for clues on their own.

"Anything!"

Sun Mo was fine with it.

Seeing that everyone had dispersed and headed to different locations, the old farmer angrily stomped his foot.

"Damn, these people are too arrogant!"

The old farmer walked to Sun Mo's side. "Teacher Sun, pardon me for being so blunt. Do you have an idea?"

Sun Mo's heart leaped but his expressions didn't change. "Why do you say this?"

"Your mind is so steady that you don't seem to be a young man of 20+ years old. You actually seem to be an experienced old monster."

The old farmer surveyed Sun Mo and lowered his voice. "There are two ways to break the situation. Firstly, we look for clues. Secondly, you have foreseen this possibility and you have a method set up in advance.

"If you only had the first method to depend on, you would have stopped them because if you are not the first to check the ship, you won't be able to receive first-hand information. However, you are not concerned about that at all. This means that my second guess is the truth."

"Are you not overestimating me a little too much?"

Sun Mo chortled.

"If Great Teacher Sun isn't willing to say anything, I won't force you!"

The old farmer left. As a 5-stars, he had his own pride and wouldn't be a simp just to seek help from Sun Mo. Besides, what if this was the first test of the exam?

So, it still had to depend on oneself.

"As expected, among high star-ranking great teachers, the vast majority are truly capable. This old farmer could guess that I have another plan. The others probably could guess it too."

Sun Mo decided to do nothing first and merely observed the situation.

Half a day passed and everyone had no harvest. Although three of the great teachers knew sailing, no one knew the direction of the prison, so they had no way to proceed. They could only allow the ship to drift randomly on the waves.

It was a quiet night. On the next morning, just when Sun Mo was about to enter meditation, someone knocked on his door thunderously.

“Teacher Sun, something happened. Two great teachers have vanished!”

Sun Mo opened the door and saw that it was none other than Wang Bibao whom he had a good impression of.

When Sun Mo and he went onto the dock, all the other great teachers were already gathered.

“It’s confirmed. This must be a test. The two of them should have found some clues and left in advance.”

The old farmer was envious.

Everyone agreed with this answer because it was simply too difficult if one wanted to kill a 5-stars great teacher silently in a sealed space such as a ship.

“Did anyone here know the subjects that those two great teachers majored in?”

The old farmer asked.

No one answered.

No one was a fool. If this round had a ranking, everyone here would be a competitor. They naturally had to protect the information well.

The second day passed.

At dawn, yet another great teacher ‘vanished’.

This time around, even more people lost their calm. Their expressions were heavy. This meant that the rest of them were already two days behind.

When everyone was about to leave and ignore this, Lian Hongying suddenly spoke.

“Everyone, I have a way to lead you guys to the Great Prison of Desolation, but I have a condition. You guys have to take out a secret treasure of equivalent value as compensation.”

Swish~

Everyone turned and stared at her.

“What solution do you have?”

Pang Tong asked.

“Isn’t Teacher Sun a genius? Why don’t you take a guess?”

Lian Hongying didn’t forget the disadvantage she had suffered in Yehuo City. She wanted to use this chance to mock Sun Mo.

“Poisoning a stranger. You still have the face to talk about this? Do you still want face?”

Sun Mo’s lips twitched.

Lian Hongying’s countenance turned unsightly because Sun Mo was correct.

She had been unhappy with the guide so she had intentionally poisoned him. After leaving the area, the poison would take effect three days later.

From the looks of things now, Lian Hongying could be considered to have succeeded by a lucky stroke. When that fellow discovered that he was poisoned, he would surely come back to beg for the antidote.

“Teacher Sun, you can’t say such things. That person was too mouthy and was asking for a beating. This time around, everyone will have to owe a favor to Teacher Lian.”

Someone spoke up for Lian Hongying but made no mention of compensation. Since the guide would come back, they would simply have to follow the guide at that time.

“If you are capable, think of a solution yourself!”

Lian Hongying provoked.

“You are a poison master so it’s understandable that you couldn’t tell. Let me tell you a secret now. That guide from before is a puppet!”

Sun Mo shrugged.

“What?”

Everyone was badly shocked.

Hope just birthed in their hearts and was instantly destroyed. This time around, even Lian Hongying was panicking.

“The expressions of that fellow were so vivid and life-like, how is it possible that he’s a puppet?”

Pang Tong doubted. “Besides, since he can be a guide, his position in the great prison probably isn’t low. This is why I paid special attention to him. There were truly no flaws!”

“That’s right, I’ve also observed him closely!”

Everyone started speaking.

“Teacher Sun, are you also a grandmaster puppeteer?”

The old farmer was curious because if one didn’t have the vision of the grandmaster level, they wouldn’t be able to discover such a problem.

“I don’t have the certification, but my level of expertise is around there!”

Sun Mo smiled. If he didn’t show some capabilities, he wouldn’t be able to suppress these guys.

As expected, after hearing that Sun Mo was actually a grandmaster puppeteer, many people inhaled a breath of cold air and contributed another wave of favorable contribution points.

“If the guide was the masterpiece of an ancestor-level puppeteer, it would be very normal that none of us could see through it!”

The old farmer believed in Sun Mo’s judgment.

“What should we do now?”

Everyone frowned in worry. They couldn't possibly die before even reaching the prison, right?

“The person who talks about the problem is naturally the one who can solve it!”

Pang Tong glanced at Sun Mo. “Teacher Sun, why don't you help everyone?”

Swish~

Everyone looked over.

Since Sun Mo had long since seen through that the guide was a puppet, he should have already taken some precautions.

“Alright!”

Just when Sun Mo was preparing to act, a vibration spread from below the deck.

“What's going on?”

Pang Tong asked in shock.

“Oh no, there's something in the water!”

The farmer shouted. Everyone instinctively rushed back and wanted to ascertain the situation. But at the next second, an explosion occurred and the entire ship seemed to be struck by a torpedo. After that, a thick water pillar blasted into the air, rending the ship into two.

Below the sea, a gigantic black shadow could be seen moving rapidly, breaking the structure of the ship.

Rumble! Rumble!

The ship was torn into pieces and everyone also fell into the water.

The only exception was Sun Mo.

He had activated the Skyward Spirit Rune and floated in mid-air.

“Damn, does he have to flaunt it like that?”

After seeing this, Pang Tong cursed out loud.

The others also felt incomparably envious.

This was truly a method used by saints.

Sun Mo stared at the sea. From the silhouette and the tentacles that occasionally breached the sea's surface, he could tell that it was a gigantic cuttlefish that was six to seven times larger than a mansion.

Sun Mo had planned to capture a sea beast and get it to fetch him to the prison. Now, things were much more convenient since this creature showed up. Sun Mo chanted some words and tossed a light-blue beam of light over.

Divine language of spiritual control, Sea Proof!

BOOM!

A beam of light shot into the cuttlefish's body, but it was ineffective. After that, the cuttlefish started to go berserk.

"How troublesome!"

Sun Mo stretched out his hand and clutched his throat. He began to emit some strange soundwaves.

This monster should be a battle pet belonging to someone.

"What's Sun Mo doing?"

In the sea, Pang Tong held onto a plank and felt very helpless.

"He seems to be communicating with that sea beast?"

Wu You guessed.

"How can that be possible? Isn't that the domain of beast tamers? Besides, I heard that it's much more difficult to tame sea beasts compared to land ones."

Pang Tong didn't believe it.

"If Sun Mo is also a grandmaster-level beast tamer, we should all just go and commit suicide."

Wang Bibao sighed. Sun Mo's current achievements were already enough to crush all of them. One must know that he was only in his twenties.

The truth proved that Pang Tong had guessed correctly because that cuttlefish no longer attacked anyone.

The head of the cuttlefish emerged from the sea and Sun Mo stood on it.

The sea was too vast and Sun Mo also didn't have unlimited spirit energy. It was impossible for him to keep flying.

"Great Teacher Sun, don't leave us here!"

Pang Tong begged and even changed his way of address for Sun Mo.

"This is a test by Saint Gate, so no one will die. At most, people will come to save you all three days later if you guys are still stuck here."

Sun Mo analyzed.

"Great Teacher Sun, I have a carving knife here that used to belong to a saint. I can give it to you as compensation."

Pang Tong gave a price.

"Are you lying to a fool?"

Lian Hongying spoke in contempt. If that carving knife was an object belonging to a saint, there would absolutely not be anyone willing to give it away.

“This is the great teacher examination... if I help you guys...”

Sun Mo frowned.

“Everyone here is a great teacher and should help each other out. Speaking of ranking, you will naturally be the first!”

Wu You guaranteed.

Everyone hurriedly agreed

“Alright then!”

Sun Mo agreed. “However, I don’t want any monetary rewards. Everyone just has to make a promise that after the exam ends, you guys have to go to the Central Province Academy every year for three years to give a hundred lessons per year. If you are willing, I’ll help you guys.”

Everyone agreed straightforwardly. In any case, it was the same no matter where they gave their lessons.

Also, they wanted nothing more than to draw their relationship closer to Sun Mo.

A few of them got on the cuttlefish, but some chose not to use it.

At this moment, everyone finally revealed their trump cards.

That farmer was also a beast tamer. He controlled a group of fishes to be his mount, and there was also another person who used a puppet as his mount.

Wu You was a grandmaster botanist. He had an extremely rare plant in his hand that could survive on both land and water. It could swim in the sea and was very mysterious.

Over ten nautical miles away from this place, a middle-aged man stood on a boat. He had a look of astonishment on his face.

Through the eyes of a seagull, he could see his treasured cuttlefish obeying Sun Mo and leading them to the lone island.

“Is there still any logic? Is this not my battle pet any longer?”

The middle-aged man Ji Han scratched his head.

He was a grandmaster in both puppetry and the art of spiritual control, as well as a staff ranked fifth in the entire Great Prison of Desolation. He was in charge of external affairs so he had the responsibility of guiding the examinees to the prison.

For this stage, it wasn’t a test set by Saint Gate but the internal departments of the great prison.

This prison had been isolated for thousands of years and had formed a sealed social circle. The people here wouldn’t care about your star-rank or identity. They would only look at your strength.

If you were not strong enough, you wouldn’t be permitted to get on the island.

Naturally, this was for the sake of the examinees too. The prisoners here were all felons and if one wasn't careful, it was very easy for the examinees to be killed instead.

Ji Han got his subordinate to control the ship and chase after Sun Mo. At the same time, he gave an order to the cuttlefish, ordering it to toss Sun Mo and the others into the sea and leave them. However, the cuttlefish rejected it.

"What the hell?"

Ji Han folded hand seals and cast a spiritual controlling technique to punish the cuttlefish.

Rumble~

The cuttlefish, who was in intense pain, flipped its body and sank into the sea, causing everyone to fall once again.

"Don't be afraid, let me help you!"

Sun Mo had made an agreement with the cuttlefish. As long as it brought him to the prison on the lone island, he would help it to gain freedom. But there was no time now.

Swish~

Sun Mo tossed Freedom Proof out.

This was a divine language of spiritual control that could return freedom. The cuttlefish knew this was something good. In addition to the agreement they had, it didn't resist and this allowed Freedom Proof to succeed in one try.

Wu!

An ear-piercing soundwave blasted outward. This was the cuttlefish's cry of joy.

On the boat, Ji Han felt a splitting headache. His body trembled as he coughed out a mouthful of fresh blood.

"Teacher Ji!"

The subordinates below saw that their teacher was injured and they were all frightened by this scene.

(Who are these people? They could actually hurt Teacher?)

"Increase the speed, go and fetch those examinees!"

Ji Han's expression was gloomy. He knew that he had lost this round.

Very soon, the boat appeared before Sun Mo's group.

A moment later, everyone got on board and was staring unhappily at Ji Han. The appearance of this person was exactly the same as the guide.

"Teacher Sun, is this person a human or puppet?"

Pang Tong asked in a low voice.

“A human!”

Sun Mo confirmed.

“I’m Ji Han, a 7-stars great teacher. I’m in charge of all external affairs for the Prison of Desperation!”

As Ji Han made his introduction, he stared at Sun Mo. Through the eyes of his seagull, he had seen Sun Mo breaking his spiritual contract with the cuttlefish.

“You know the art of spiritual control?”

Ji Han asked.

Everyone’s expressions of unhappiness were immediately retracted. There was no solution to it, as they couldn’t afford to offend a 7-stars great teacher.

“Mn!”

Sun Mo nodded. After that, he admonished Ji Han. “Since you are a 7-stars, you should have understood that the relationship between spiritual controllers and their battle pets are one of companionship and not slavery.”

Swish~

Everyone looked over with astonishment in their eyes. (Are you iron-headed or is your body missing a few ribs? This is the first time you guys met and you are already admonishing a 7-stars? Are you sure that water hasn’t entered your brains?)

“So, you are Sun Mo?”

Ji Han had seen the name list of the examinees. Every time he saw Sun Mo’s age, he thought that the staff had written it wrongly. But from the looks of things, he was indeed an arrogant young man overflowing with talent and having a heart as lofty as the sky.

“You should address me as Teacher Sun!”

Sun Mo corrected.

“Teacher Sun, just speak less!”

The old farmer persuaded. (You just freed his sea beast. It’s only reasonable that he’s angry.)

“Among the myriad creatures of heaven and earth, humans are the only ones that are spiritual!”

Ji Han stared at Sun Mo. “Humans are the lord of the world, the leader of the myriad of creatures. Controlling a mere creature and you want me to speak of fairness? In that case, before you eat pork and lamb, have you considered fairness before?”

Sun Mo frowned. Why did he have to run into a human supremacist?

“Teacher Ji, can we be considered to have passed this round?”

The old farmer changed the topic. There was no ending when quarreling with people like him. Even if you were correct, he would make specious arguments.

“The exam this time around is far more difficult than what you guys imagined. I’m only going to say one thing. There’s still time if you guys want to quit now. After you get on the island, either you pass or you die!”

Ji Han coldly snorted.

Chapter 1233: The Great Prison of Desperation, Three Great Riddles

Everyone was stunned. This was different from what was previously discussed!

“Teacher Ji, this isn’t what the Saint Gate told us!”

The old farmer argued but before he could finish his words, he got interrupted.

“This place is the Great Prison of Desolation, the place where felons who committed heavy crimes are locked up. Naturally, this is a place that cannot be judged by common sense. It’s basically already a wrong decision by the Saint Gate to put the prison as an exam venue.”

Ji Han was filled with discontent.

“Could this be the second round of the examination?”

Pang Tong moved next to Wu You and mumbled in a low voice.

“It’s possible!”

Wu You also couldn’t confirm this.

“Stop dreaming. I’m not joking. After you get on the island, either you pass or you won’t be able to leave the island until you die of old age.”

Ji Han reiterated.

Everyone sank into hesitation.

“I think you guys must have gone crazy due to studying too much. This is clearly a case of the Great Prison of Desolation being alone on a secluded island for too long and has long since become their own entity. The Saint Gate has lost control of it.”

Lian Hongying sneered in disdain. These great teachers might be talented, but they were too inexperienced regarding the ways of the world.

“You want to quit?”

Ji Han asked.

“No!” Lian Hongying looked straight at Ji Han. “This lady wants to go to the Prison of Desolation!”

Ji Han’s pupils narrowed. “I don’t care what purpose you have, but I can tell you that if you enter the great prison, you will have to coil yourself even if you are a dragon and crawl on the ground even if you are a tiger.”

Ji Han's cold and emotionless gaze swept past everyone.

"Let me ask you guys one final time. What is your decision?"

Swish~

The group of examinees turned to look at Sun Mo.

"I'll continue!"

Sun Mo basically had no hesitations.

The other examinees were seemingly encouraged by Sun Mo's calmness and self-confidence. They also expressed their desire to continue participating.

"Teacher Sun, you will definitely regret the choice you made today."

After Ji Han finished speaking, he ignored everyone else and returned to his cabin.

Five days later, the boat entered a stretch of mist. A few of the examinees understood hydrography, so they were trying to memorize their location. But now, it was all useless.

When the boat sailed out of the mist, an island shimmered in and out of their view.

Steep cliffs, knife-like peaks of several hundred meters tall could be seen. Ocean waves slammed into them and created countless 'petals'. The thick clouds covered the sky fully, blocking all light. All of these made it so that this rust-colored great prison looked extremely terrifying.

"Everyone, the second round is to smoothly reach the island. Please feel free to continue."

Ji Han urged.

"Ah? These cliffs are so smooth that there are no pathways up. How can we get up?"

Pang Tong was unhappy.

"Naturally, climb yourself!"

Ji Han coldly mocked. "You guys only have five minutes. If you exceed the time, that will be counted as a failure."

This sentence caused everyone's expression to turn unsightly.

Those on the scene were all 5-stars great teachers. Even if their strength had not reached the Longevity Realm, they were at least at the peak of the Divine Force Realm. There was definitely no problem for them to climb a steep cliff of a few hundred meters. However, it would be very embarrassing.

Ji Han naturally knew that this test wouldn't be able to stump anyone. He purely arranged this to disgust them.

"Oh right, the next return boat will only set off three months later. So, if you guys fail, you all have to stay on the island for three months. We won't provide food or clean water. You guys have to handle your survival needs on your own."

Ji Han reminded them.

“Let’s go, there’s no choice!”

Lu Guodong heaved a sigh and took the initiative to climb

“I shouldn’t have registered!”

Pang Tong felt depressed.

Sun Mo cast a glance at Ji Han. He activated the Skyward Spirit Rune and his entire person floated upward.

“...”

Ji Han had been very joyful as he watched the miserable looks of everyone climbing up. In the end, he saw Sun Mo flying and he was taken aback.

(Damn, this can work too?)

Honestly speaking, although he had heard that someone had invented the Skyward Spirit Rune, the shock that came from watching it personally was something indescribable.

This was especially so since Sun Mo was extremely young. He was like a vigorous wave from behind catching up and pushing all his seniors who were the waves in front of him, slamming them into the shore and crushing them all.

“Outrageous. No matter the price, I have to get that flying spirit rune!”

Lian Hongying was so jealous that she coughed up blood.

“You will be disappointed then. From what I know, this spirit rune is something created by Sun Mo. In this entire world, other than him, only his eldest disciple Li Ziqi knows how to draw it.”

Lu Guodong chortled.

Li Ziqi was the female emperor of the Great Tang. Speaking of wealth and status, she could crush Lian Hongying in both aspects. (What can you use to move her?)

Just three minutes later, everyone managed to reach the top. After that, they saw a gigantic castle northwest of the island. It resembled a wedge in between the land.

...

Ji Han came from the pier. He took his sweet time and made everyone wait half an hour for him.

“Let’s go, I will give you guys an introduction about the Great Prison of Desolation. I believe you all already know its history. This is a place once used by a saint for his experiments. In the end, after that saint died, Saint Gate took over this place and used it as a prison for great teachers who committed serious crimes.”

Ji Han walked toward the castle.

“Teacher Ji has returned.”

When the guards saw Ji Han, they didn't open the gate immediately. They first matched secret signals and only engaged the lever to open the gate upon verification.

Kacha! Kacha!

The iron chains swayed as the heavy city gate was pulled open.

"There's a total of eight levels here!"

Ji Han took the lead. "The level above ground is called the living area. There are dorms, restaurants, exercise plazas, and even small markets here.

"The gates leading to aboveground and underground will only open once a week during the shift change of the guards. Even great teachers are not permitted entry outside of that time frame."

All the examinees started frowning severely. One tiny clue could reveal the general situation here. There were simply too many rules, and they made them very uncomfortable.

"Today is precisely the day when the gates will open, so we can go underground. If you guys lack something, you can purchase them now. The next time you want to come up, it will be a week later."

Ji Han laughed. "Naturally, you can choose to stay up here for a week and head down when the gates open next week."

"Let us all stick together?"

The old farmer suggested.

"Sure!"

This was the first time everyone came here. Although it was impossible for the relationship between them to always be harmonious, everyone instinctively chose to group up when facing Ji Han who clearly exuded the air of an antagonist.

Half an hour later, everyone gathered at a small public square.

There was an iron gate on the ground. After Ji Han opened it, he led everyone down the stairway.

"This is only the single way out?"

Lian Hongying asked.

"That's right!"

Ji Han laughed in a very confident manner. "So, once someone enters here, they don't have to dream of escaping."

Indeed, the public square was completely devoid of cover and there were people everywhere. No matter when this iron gate was open, it would surely be discovered.

"The underground prison consists of a total of seven levels. The deeper you head down, the higher the star-rank of the prisoners will be. It also goes on that the deeper the levels, the more dangerous it will be, and the degree of severity of the crimes they committed will also increase.

“You guys can casually move around in the first level. But if you want to head down to a deeper level, you guys have to solve a puzzle before you can continue.

“Don’t ask me what the puzzle is. This is a test!”

Everyone exchanged a glance. They felt that this was something intentionally set by the people here because the prison staff didn’t want them to know too many secrets.

After entering the prison, the light immediately dimmed. Even candlelight and the glow from spirit crystals weren’t able to brighten up the gloomy atmosphere.

They felt like they were in a devil’s nest.

“Has a saint died here before?”

Sun Mo suddenly asked, scaring everyone to death. After that, everyone turned their gazes onto Ji Han.

“Haha, take a guess?”

Ji Han didn’t give them a straight answer. “Also, there are many secrets here. If you know them, you might have to die. So, it’s best for you guys to hold the reins of your curiosity back. Don’t ask random questions and just complete your mission.”

The gates of each cell were made from metal. Also, there were spirit runes engraved on them so it was very difficult if one wanted to break them with violence.

Also, the guards would patrol once every half an hour.

Sun Mo listened attentively. The sounds of clamor weren’t great.

“The prisoners on this level don’t seem to be too numerous!”

Pang Tong didn’t hear many breathing sounds, and this indicated that the number of prisoners here was not that many. This also meant that the target he could choose also became fewer.

“It’s already quite high. There are roughly over 300 people imprisoned on this level. It’s enough for you guys to choose from.”

Ji Han introduced.

“Over 300 people?”

Pang Tong was shocked. After that, his countenance sank. There were so many people, but the noise level was so low. This meant that the punishment method here was extremely brutal to the extent that the prisoners didn’t dare to make any random noises.

“There are three great unsolved riddles in this great prison. The prison warden has said before, whoever can solve one will be promoted to become a prison guard. Whoever can solve all three will make the prison warden retire on his own volition, and he will allow that person to become his successor.”

Ji Han stared at everyone. “Are any of you interested in giving it a try?”

Finally, Ji Han turned his gaze to Sun Mo. His meaning was clear without words. His gaze was extremely provocative.

“What riddles are they?”

Everyone’s interests were stirred. They were all great teachers, intelligent people that loved solving riddles because doing so would give them a sense of intellectual superiority.

“The first riddle: On the wall of a certain prison cell, there’s a segment of mysterious language written there. Those who look at it have a certain percentage of becoming crazy.”

Ji Han surveyed the expressions of everyone. “Please note that I’m not exaggerating.”

“Is it because their wills got weakened?”

Lu Guodong was curious.

“No idea.”

Ji Han continued to lead the way. “The second riddle: In a certain prison cell, no matter who it is, as long as they stay a night in there, they will turn into a skeleton on the next day.”

“Oh right, the highest-ranked great teacher who died inside was an 8-stars.”

Everyone’s curiosity was completely ignited.

“The third riddle: spirit apparitions would occasionally appear in the great prison. They might ask you for your help at one moment but turn around to kill you at the next moment. So, if you see one, you guys better run.”

Ji Han continued walking. “Alright, this will be your room.”

Lian Hongying cast a glance at it and was instantly unhappy.

“Isn’t this a prison room?”

Lian Hongying looked at Ji Han. “Why don’t staff like you stay here?”

“You guys can choose not to stay!”

Ji Han couldn’t be bothered to explain. “Alright, I’ve explained all the things you guys need to take note of. If you still have things you don’t understand, ask me quickly!”

“Can we go anywhere we want to in this place?”

Sun Mo asked.

“As long as you can solve these riddles, you can go anywhere you want!”

Ji Han shrugged. “Also, if you guys can solve one riddle, we will treat you like a VIP.”

“Teacher Sun, this fellow is too arrogant, let us go and solve a riddle to show him what we are made of?”

A great teacher walked toward Sun Mo and whispered in a low voice.

“That’s right, we should establish dominance and let them know that it isn’t good to antagonize us, new stars.”

Pang Tong urged.

Sun Mo hadn’t made his decision, but Wang Bibao already decided to act.

“I wish to solve the riddle in the prison room where one has a certain chance to go crazy.”

Spirit apparitions were random and the prison cell that would cause one to become a skeleton was very dangerous. So, Wang Bibao had chosen this particular riddle. His thoughts were simple. He felt that going crazy should be something that belonged to the field of medical studies. He was very familiar with it.

“Is there anyone who still wants to go and try?”

Ji Han asked.

“Teacher Wang, you better hold your horses first.”

Sun Mo suggested. This Ji Han had intentionally brought up the three riddles and even said that there would be great rewards if someone solved any of them. Why did it seem like he was planning to use these riddles to finish everyone off?

“Teacher Sun, I know that he has no good intentions. But no matter what, we have to take a look at the riddles.”

Wang Bibao was very rational. He told himself that he could only take a single glance and would leave immediately if he couldn’t solve it.

Finally, everyone decided to stay together.

Hence, Ji Han brought everyone to the fifth level. The atmosphere here was even dimmer and gloomier. The humidity here was very high, and it formed water droplets on the walls.

“There, it’s this cell!”

Ji Han opened the cell’s gate and stood at the entrance.

Wang Bibao entered first. Later on, six other great teachers followed him in, while the others decided to wait.

“Teacher Sun, are you not a genius? Why are you not entering?”

Lian Hongying provoked.

“Are you coveting my body? Why do you keep talking to me?”

Sun Mo rebutted.

“You..”

Lian Hongying was so angry that she wanted to kill someone.

“Are you guys not a little too cautious?”

Ji Han chortled mockingly. Two examinees couldn't stand it anymore and also chose to enter the jail room.

Sun Mo remained unmoving and surveyed the surrounding environment.

Five minutes later, those who remained outside felt that there were no problems and were preparing to enter. In the end, they heard a sudden roaring noise within and people started fighting.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

“Teacher Wang has gone crazy!”

Wu Yao shouted. There were people retreating in a panic.

Sun Mo stared at Ji Han, “Are you not going to save him?”

“Life and death are fated, while wealth and poverty are destined as well. This is the rule of the great prison.”

Ji Han remained unmoved. “In addition, I can't save him.”

When Wang Bibao saw that he was the only one remaining in the cell room, he started laughing uproariously. “It's mine, it belongs to me!”

Wang Bibao roared loudly and swiftly rushed toward the wall. After that, he kept slamming his body into the wall as though he wanted to embrace the mysterious language written on the wall.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Very soon, he began bleeding from his head due to the heavy impact.

Everyone fell silent and felt a coldness in their hearts, giving rise to chills.

Sun Mo hesitated for a while before rushing into the prison room.

“Teacher Sun, don't be impulsive!”

The old farmer persuaded.

The others changed their perception of Sun Mo and involuntarily contributed a portion of favorable impression points.

This was a good person.

In any case, they wouldn't dare to enter to save anyone.

Upon noticing someone entering, Wang Bibao immediately rushed over.

His eyes glared with rage. Blood was flowing from them.

“Scram, it belongs to me!”

Wang Bibao went all out, completely disregarding his life.

Sun Mo could only activate his Invulnerable Golden Body to resist. He could kill the other party, but wanting to defeat Wang Bibao and ensure that he stayed alive? That was too difficult.

Just when Sun Mo was vexed, everyone was actually stunned.

“It can’t be right, he’s so strong?”

“Did he start cultivating when he was still in his mother’s womb?”

“Damn, so outstanding that it makes people feel jealous!”

Everyone praised out loud in unison. Even Ji Han had his eyebrows raised.

This Sun Mo might become an uncontrollable factor.. Things would be troublesome then.

Chapter 1234: A Saint’s Inheritance

In order to protect his ‘treasure’, Wang Bibao unleashed his full potential and fought with his life on the line. At the same time, Sun Mo had to save him, so he couldn’t go all out. In order to protect Wang Bibao, he finally had a moment of carelessness and suffered a kick to his chest, causing him to be blasted backward.

Bang!

Sun Mo smashed into a wall and the impact caused cracks to appear in the solid stone wall. One could see how ferocious the attack was.

“Are you dead?”

Lian Hongying felt joy in her heart. But after that, she saw Sun Mo standing up, completely fine. He didn’t even cough up a mouthful of blood.

“My heavens, isn’t his resistance a little too strong?”

Everyone was shocked.

“Teacher Sun, don’t waste your energy anymore. It’s useless!”

Ji Han persuaded him. “Once those who entered this cell went mad, they would never be able to recover.”

“What’s inside?”

“There are three lines of words on the wall. They should be from one of the ancient languages!”

“Wrong, I’ve learned ancient languages and have never seen this type. It feels more like a spell!”

“No matter what, it is very bizarre!”

Those great teachers who had just entered felt extremely fearful!

Sun Mo stood at the door’s entrance. He discovered that as long as he didn’t enter the cell, Wang Bibao wouldn’t attack. He was like a male lion that was extremely protective of its territory.

If they continued waiting, Wang Bibao would die for sure. So, Sun Mo wasn't polite anymore and directly cast the spiritwave art with a lift of his hand.

Woosh~ Woosh~ Woosh~

Beams of light blasted out, shooting into Wang Bibao's legs and breaking his bones so Sun Mo could limit his movements.

"Damn!"

Everyone jumped in fright, including Ji Han. All of them stared dumbfoundedly at Sun Mo's hands.

Wasn't this attack a little too swift?

Moreover, the range was long as well. Didn't this mean that as long as Sun Mo was willing, he could attack opponents standing tens of meters away easily?

Bang!

Wang Bibao fell onto the ground. His hands supported him and he still wanted to stand up. Hence, Sun Mo could only break the bones of his arms with the spiritwave art as well.

"Teacher Wang, calm down. Let me help you!"

Sun Mo rushed into the cell, and his hands rapidly pressed at different parts of Wang Bibao's body, helping him to cease the flow of blood.

"Scram from here, this is my treasure!"

Wang Bibao howled. He was like a crazy dog, wanting to bite Sun Mo.

Pak! Pak! Pak!

Sun Mo lifted his hands and pointed, sealing Wang Bibao's meridians and making it so he couldn't move. After that, Wang Bibao started spitting saliva at him.

"Teacher Wang!"

Sun Mo still wanted to persuade him. But in the end, Wang Bibao's head suddenly went 'bang' and exploded. Warm blood and brain matter splashed all around, drenching Sun Mo.

"I've said that it is useless!"

Ji Han chortled.

"You are a 7-stars great teacher, but in my perspective, you are even inferior to a dog or a pig!"

Sun Mo narrowed his eyes and looked at Ji Han. A person like this wasn't worthy of his respect.

"Sun Mo, you better not provoke me!"

Ji Han's countenance sank and the spirit qi in his body stirred, like the omen that showed a volcano prior to eruption. "Being a prison guard here...so what if I'm a 7-stars? Even if I were a saint, my life here would be no different from a jailer!"

Wu You and Pang Tong exchanged a mutual glance. As expected, this Ji Han was filled with unhappiness. But this was understandable. He had to spend the best time of his life here to guard the prisoners and had no way to teach others in the Nine Provinces. Such a life was truly arduous.

“You can quit!”

Sun Mo rebutted.

“Quit? Are you a child that has never been bitten by the old dog that’s society? If I could quit, this daddy would have long since done it.”

Ji Han smiled coldly. “You feel I’m very ruthless? But I’ve told you guys in advance about the consequences of those participating to solve the three riddles. You guys are the ones who were too self-confident and wanted to try.”

The examinees all had self-mocking smiles. Usually speaking, things like the consequences of failing to solve the great riddles were exaggerated to frighten people, and it also served as a way to promote fame. Who would have known that the consequences in this prison were real?

If one was to argue logically, it was truly not Ji Han’s fault.

“We great teachers always speak with strength. If you are unhappy, just go and solve the riddles. If not, just shut up for me.”

Ji Han raged. “After having some achievements and being praised by others, do you guys really feel that you are invincible in the world?”

“I don’t know if I’m invincible or not. I only know that I’m more like a human than you!”

Sun Mo wiped away the blood on his face, wanting to get to the bottom of this.

“Wait a minute!” The old farmer stopped Sun Mo. “Don’t be impetuous!”

“Teacher Tang is right, don’t be impulsive!”

Wu You also persuaded Sun Mo. However, the others decided to wait and watch a good show. In any case, it had nothing to do with them even if Sun Mo died.

“Sun Mo, continue to act brazenly. Don’t let these people look down on you!”

Lian Hongying tried a reverse psychology play. “Solve all the three riddles here and smack their faces harshly.”

“Shut your bitch mouth up!”

Sun Mo glared at Lian Hongying and stood in the center of the cell.

The cell was very ordinary and because no one came in to sweep it, there were thick layers of dust here. Mottled scars could be seen on the walls. These scratches were left behind by past prisoners.

At the corners and some gaps, due to the moisture in the air, some green mold could be seen growing.

Sun Mo lifted his head and stared directly at the three rows of words on the wall.

Sun Mo was proficient in archeology and ancient languages. However, he had never seen such words before. After thinking about how Wang Bibao perished, he knew that these words were a spiritual spell.

Wang Bibao died due to his mind being corrupted, and the source of corruption seemed to be some type of spiritual beast?

Usually speaking, regardless of which contract the spiritual controller signed with the spiritual beast, after the spiritual controller died, the contract would automatically be resolved. As for the spiritual beast, they either died or regained their freedom.

But right now, the prisoner actually had control over the spiritual beast through these words that someone had left behind.

This was simply magical. This was because summoning spiritual beasts was like trying to light up a lighter. The spell would act as the spark, and spirit qi would act as the kinetic energy. Once the spiritual controller was dead, where would the spell and spirit qi originate from?

Sun Mo glanced at the words and memorized them rapidly. Due to cautiousness, he swiftly shifted his gaze away. After that, he attempted to communicate with this spiritual beast.

“I know the divine languages of spiritual control. I can give you freedom!”

It was still this old solution. Sun Mo felt that the spiritual beast would surely be unwilling to continue being bound like this, restricted in this cell.

But there was no reply.

Sun Mo wasn't anxious. He sat down cross-legged and waited.

“What is he doing?”

Lian Hongying was puzzled.

“Heh, probably merely acting mysteriously. Do you think you won't die if you don't look at the words? Let me tell you, it is useless.”

Ji Han placed his hands behind his back, feeling that victory was within his grasp.

They were all great teachers and were filled with curiosity about unknown things. So, how could they not do experiments? For this situation Sun Mo was in, they had long since made prisoners test it out.

Even if one didn't look at the words, as long as they were inside the cell, they would go crazy as well. Also, the longer one stayed here, the greater the chance of them going crazy.

15 minutes had passed and Sun Mo had no harvest.

He felt a little vexed, but he didn't know that this scene actually caused Ji Han to be so shocked that he was dumbstruck.

“Why hasn't he gone mad?”

Ji Han suddenly felt somewhat nervous. Could this brat be protected by the goddess of luck? Could he really solve this riddle?

(No, I'm thinking too much. Clearly, this brat has a will that's stronger than others. As long as he continues staying here, his rationale will fade and he will eventually become crazy.)

"Could it be that my guess was wrong? It isn't a spiritual beast?"

Sun Mo eventually chose to glance at the three rows of words again.

(I even know ancient tribal languages that are only known to a few hundred people, yet I can't understand these words. This is abnormal. I believe that my knowledge is pretty profound.)

(Wait a minute, I should change my line of thought! Why did the prisoner leave these words behind? To vent his emotions?)

(Because he hated and envied the rest of the world? To swindle people on purpose? Hmm, there was also another possibility.)

"Jihan, the prisoner that left these three rows of words, what star rank was he or she at?" Sun Mo asked.

"You guess!" Ji Han didn't want to answer.

"You are not even going to tell me basic information like this, is there still any meaning to this exam? Also, I can simply look for anyone in this prison and they will tell me the answer."

Sun Mo coldly laughed.

Ji Han frowned before unwillingly revealing the answer.

"A saint!"

Indeed, these three rows of words could become a riddle of the Great Prison of Desolation because of this. In fact, some high star-ranking great teachers had copied the words before and had done experiments to see whether people who looked at the copies would go mad.

The truth had proven that only the three original rows of words in the cell would make people go mad.

Sun Mo sank into contemplation.

Since it was a saint, he wouldn't be a narrow-minded individual. On the darkest night of his life, when he was about to die, what would he do?

Sun Mo asked himself. If he was that saint, he would scold others, vent his rage, or even self-mutilate himself. But in the end, he would still want to leave his knowledge behind.

Let alone great teachers, even an ordinary craftsman would want to leave his skill behind, or it might be lost in history.

Besides, even if the saint didn't want to find a successor, he would definitely want revenge, right?

Sun Mo continued to follow this line of thinking.

However, the saint couldn't allow guards like Ji Han to decipher his inheritance. Hence, these words might be something that was extremely out of the norm. Even high star-ranking great teachers couldn't decipher this language, let alone others.

But if these three rows of words weren't a language...

Yeah, why did he have to make things so complicated?

To these guards, they would definitely see the words first. They would feel that these three rows of words were extremely deep and profound. But in reality, it might just be a trick.

If that was the case, the solution to solve this riddle wouldn't be difficult.

"Esteemed Saint, if you were here because you were framed and wanted a disciple to take revenge for you, I'm willing to be the one to resolve your grief!"

Sun Mo stared at the three rows of words and respectfully spoke in his heart. He was someone with a bottom line. If this saint was a bad person, he would rather not have this 'inheritance'.

After he repeated the words thrice, a stream of powerful mental energy gushed forth suddenly from the words. It was like a tsunami wave as it slammed into Sun Mo.

Boom!

Sun Mo's head shook. His vision turned dark and he was pulled into a spacious lecture theater.

(What the hell?)

Sun Mo lowered his head to take a look. His clothes had been transformed into a simple student long robe and at the rostrum area, there was an old man.

His countenance was haggard and his hair had turned white. He looked so sick as though he was on the verge of death.

"I'm Saint Bai Dong!"

The old man looked at Sun Mo with a kindly gaze. "I finally met you. My student, quickly kowtow to me and accept my inheritance!"

Sun Mo didn't move, not feeling any joy either. After all, who could guarantee that this wasn't a test? If a saint's inheritance was so easily obtained, it would be too cheap.

"Is this your attitude toward a saint?" The old man was very disappointed. "You aren't even willing to address me as the East Saint?!"

Chapter 1235: A Gorgeous Start

"Something feels wrong. Why isn't he mad yet?"

Ji Han really wanted to enter the cell and observe things closer. But once he thought of the miserable plight of those great teachers who had turned crazy, he didn't dare to do so anymore.

(Let's wait for a little while longer. I don't believe this fellow is truly a genius!)

Ji Han widened his eyes. He was deeply afraid of missing out on any detail. In fact, he even took out an image-recording stone, wanting to record the scenes of Sun Mo turning mad.

...

In the gigantic lecture theater.

Sun Mo was worried he might say something wrong, hence, he remained silent to drag for time.

He activated Divine Sight to observe this old man. In the end, the info was blocked by the system again. He had no way to use it.

Bang!

The saint named Bai Dong smashed his fist onto the table and glared at Sun Mo. "Brat, you are too impudent. I'm a saint. Where's your respect?"

"Are you a saint because you said you are one?"

Sun Mo rebutted.

"Hmph. When I was alive, I was one of the three saints of darkness called the East Saint. I'm skilled in weaponsmithing, art of spiritual control, and medical arts. My mastery level has reached the great ancestor level in all three subjects."

The old man coldly snorted with an arrogant expression.

"I've been disrespectful!"

Sun Mo clasped his hands.

"You are not shocked?" The old man was taken aback. "Great ancestor-level mastery in three subjects, how awe-inspiring is that? Leaving this aside, just my identity as a dark saint is already equal to headmasters of the Nine Greats."

"Currently, I'm not fully 25 yet, but I'm a great ancestor spirit runist and a grandmaster in the art of spiritual control, puppetry, herbology, botany, and archeology. In a bit, I can also become grand ancestors in three subjects."

Sun Mo laughed. "As for the identity of a dark saint, I've killed one before. So, I don't feel anything strange."

Bang!

Bai Dong smashed the lecture desk into pieces with a punch as he stared at Sun Mo with anger.

"It can't be, right? I'm so outstanding, yet you actually don't want to accept me as a disciple?"

Sun Mo was a little nervous. It seemed that his act didn't work.

At this moment, facing Bai Dong's mental might, Sun Mo really felt a sense of pressure like he would suffer sudden death. He subconsciously activated Battlegod Protection.

A few minutes later, Bai Dong's expression cleared like the skies after a heavy storm, and he began to laugh uproariously.

"Haha, that's right. I like iron-headed brats like you the most. For those fellows who worship saints and act like simps, I will kill everyone I see!"

Bai Dong laughed loudly. He then teleported right before Sun Mo.

"You've passed the first stage!"

The old man patted Sun Mo on his shoulders and felt very gratified. "Although I'm a dark great teacher, I've never committed any bloody atrocities before. I just dislike those old and rusty rules binding the great teacher circle in the Nine Provinces, and that's why I chose to join the Dark Dawn."

"I actually don't like them either."

Sun Mo smiled and silently heaved a sigh of relief.

"When I was a bit younger, I once went to explore the Darkness Continent and discovered a fragmented cultivation art. I didn't try to complete it. Instead, I took the essence of it and created the Empowerment Divine Art."

The old man introduced himself.

"Impressive!"

Sun Mo praised.

This wasn't him trying to fawn. He was truly impressed.

Sun Mo had trained in many cultivation arts before. This was why he knew how difficult it was to create a cultivation art.

"I don't know the level of the cultivation art, but I feel that it should be a peerless-grade saint-tier one. Because, after I cultivate it, I can forcibly 'plunder' the strength of my opponents and use them to empower myself."

The old man felt proud. "Back then, ever since I stepped in the Longevity Realm, I've never cultivated anymore. I solely depended on this art to plunder the strength of my opponents and raise my cultivation base. It was because of this that I gained the glory of becoming a dark saint."

"Damn, isn't this the Beiming Divine Art from the show, demi-gods and demi-devils?"

Sun Mo was shocked. This was good stuff.

"Naturally, because it's a plundering-type art, I became like a street-crossing rat. Everyone wants to kill me."

The old man's lips twitched.

Sun Mo mentally mused that he would do the same too because this cultivation art could boost your strength freely. Even those top-level experts would also panic.

Everyone would be afraid of the day when their several hundred years of cultivation was plundered by someone.

“Qi, actually, I know that all of them want my cultivation art.”

The old man mocked as he sank into another stretch of recollection. “At the start, I was completely lawless and arrogant, frenziedly plundering the strength of others. But in the end, I gradually accepted the teachings of my teacher. My heart state was enhanced and I understood that I shouldn’t just keep taking endlessly, I should give as well.”

“Who is your esteemed teacher?”

Sun Mo was curious.

“The Dawn Sovereign!”

When the old man spoke of this name, his expression turned to one of extreme respect. After that, he looked at Sun Mo. “So, do you want to learn it? Given your aptitude, you should be able to inherit the Empowerment Divine Art perfectly.”

“I want to learn!”

Sun Mo felt that honesty was his best virtue and he should be honest.

“Fine, but you have to make a vow that you cannot pass this cultivation art to anyone else, not even to your students.”

The old man requested. “Naturally, if they wish to learn it, they can come to this prison.”

Sun Mo frowned.

“Why? You are not willing now?”

The old man questioned.

“Although the cultivation art is good, there are too many restrictions!”

Sun Mo stared straight at the old man. “I’m not afraid of restrictions, but I dislike illogical restrictions.”

“Alright, I’ll make a compromise. You can teach your personal students!”

The old man seemed to be reluctant to miss out on a good seedling like Sun Mo.

Sun Mo shook his head.

“Why?”

The old man was astonished.

“I’ll be the one to decide what to do with my knowledge. I can teach whoever I want to!”

Sun Mo bluntly spoke.

“Is there any meaning to such persistence? You can’t possibly teach them to the students of other teachers, right?”

The old man sneered.

“Who said that?”

Sun Mo rolled his eyes. “I’ve always felt that the greatest flaw of you great teachers from the Nine Provinces is that all of you cherish your knowledge too much and view them as something incomparably precious, causing you guys to not want to impart them easily.

“From my understanding, knowledge is power, and power means that one can obtain and subdue everything. But we are great teachers, so we shouldn’t discriminate. I always felt that as long as we meet suitable students, even if they are not ours, as long as their character is not problematic, we should just impart the relevant knowledge.”

Sun Mo stared at the ceiling. His gaze seemingly shot past it, and he was staring at the deep space above. “For people of our generation, I think we won’t have a chance to see this in reality. But I wish that there will come a day where a student I taught can explore a further and larger piece of starry sea.”

“There are boundaries in territory, but knowledge is boundless!”

Bzz!

Although this was an illusion, a resplendent light suddenly gushed forth from Sun Mo. Priceless Advice had been activated.

The old man was stunned.

Sun Mo’s words brought too great of a rush of impact to him.

“I already know what’s going on with this riddle. Teacher Bai, could you please send me back?”

Sun Mo clasped his hands. However, Bai Dong didn’t speak. He kept looking at Sun Mo and he stared so long that Sun Mo felt a little chilled.

All of a sudden, Bai Dong laughed uproariously.

“Haha, it has been hundreds of years. I’ve finally met a successor that I’m satisfied with!”

Bai Dong laughed happily and grabbed Sun Mo forcefully. “Congratulations on passing the second test!”

“Damn, was this fellow probing me earlier?”

Sun Mo felt a lingering fear.

“Humans have to have a goal so they wouldn’t waste their lives. Hence, I wish to teach some students that could achieve something but sadly, my individual learning is too shallow and I’m unable to do a good job. Hence, I wished to exchange cultivation arts, knowledge, secret manuals with those top-level great teachers, but all of them rejected me.”

Bai Dong sighed. “I feel that those people were too selfish. Hence, I modified the Empowerment Divine Art and allowed it to be capable of absorbing the memories of others so I could plunder their knowledge.”

“...”

Sun Mo was shocked. (You are truly a freaking genius. No wonder you could become one of the three dark saints of the Dark Dawn.)

“And later on, I discovered that the efficiency of teaching a disciple is too slow. Hence, through the two halos, Enlightenment Provision and Blue Born From Green, I managed to comprehend a brand new halo that allowed me to pass the knowledge I have directly into the minds of my students!”

The old man laughed in pride. “I named it the Empowerment Halo.”

“Awesome!” Sun Mo flashed a thumbs-up. “Those who went mad probably didn’t pass the test, right?”

“That’s correct!”

Bai Dong explained. “The first test is that they shouldn’t kneel to any saint they meet. I don’t want them to be blindly led by authority and worship saints blindly. Aren’t saints merely people who have read a few more books than them?”

“...”

Sun Mo felt his tooth aching. (Is there something wrong with this fellow’s mind?)

“The second test is to test your magnanimity. Those great teachers who cherish their knowledge too much, treating them like hereditary treasures, will never be able to pass.”

Bai Dong stared at Sun Mo and heaved a sigh of relief. “Alright, my mission has concluded. During these last moments, could you tell me your name?”

“Sun Mo, some call me Black Doggy Sun!”

Sun Mo bowed to Bai Dong. This fellow’s impartial thinking was worthy of a bow of respect from him.

“Sun Mo? Black Doggy Sun?”

Bai Dong laughed. “This name isn’t bad. Sadly, you told me about the sea of stars, but I’m not fated to be able to see it. How regretful, how regretful!”

As the old man spoke, he transformed into a beam of light and shot into Sun Mo’s glabella.

RUMBLE!

A vast amount of information directly erupted in Sun Mo’s mind.

This old man was actually a ‘spiritual beast’. Bai Dong had used a part of his soul and the soul of others to create it. Because he had died long ago, there was no ‘excess strength’ to be passed down, only his knowledge remained.

However, this knowledge was enough to benefit Sun Mo for a lifetime.

This was especially so for the subjects of weaponsmithing, the art of spiritual control, and medical studies. The old man possessed great ancestor-level mastery and experience over these three subjects. As long as Sun Mo understood his insights, he could save 300 years of effort. Moreover, he also possessed the Empowerment Divine Art and halo now. These two were priceless treasures.

“Teacher Bai, thank you for your gift of kindness!”

Sun Mo prayed. “I wish you are able to find happiness in the other world!”

...

Outside the cell, everyone had waited for half an hour.

“Why hasn’t that fellow died yet?”

Ji Han was truly shocked. Sun Mo had broken the previous time record. Even the prison warden himself could only stay for 15 minutes in the cell, and he had to come out then as he could feel danger.

“Teacher Ji, what’s the situation? Has Sun Mo comprehended it?”

Lian Hongying asked.

“I’m not sure.”

Ji Han shook his head. When he looked at the meditating Sun Mo and was pondering whether to wake him up forcibly or not, the three rows of words suddenly released resplendent beams of light that shot into Sun Mo’s glabella.

“Damn!”

Ji Han cursed out loud and rushed into the cell, stretching his hands out to catch those beams of light.

Pu! Pu! Pu!

The beams of light penetrated Ji Han’s palms.

“F***!”

Ji Han’s expression drastically changed and he glared ruthlessly at Sun Mo.

(What should I do? This fellow has obtained the inheritance of Saint Bai!)

The others were also incomparably shocked.

“One of the three great riddles of the Great Prison of Desolation?”

Pang Tong’s lips curled as he cast a side glance at Ji Han. “It just amounts to this?”

(It was resolved by Sun Mo in half an hour. Are you guys people who have never seen the wide world before, causing you guys to treat a worm like a dragon? Or is Sun Mo’s strength just too domineering?)

Chapter 1236: Secondary Saint, the Prison Warden!

Swish~

A bright light shone the moment he opened his eyes, and an overwhelming aura gushed forth from him.

The excess fluctuations of power from the saint's inheritance were too mighty, causing Ji Han and the others to not dare to speak out for fear of offending Sun Mo.

Boom!

As the three rows of words transformed into motes of light and dissipated, the originally thick and sturdy wall also shattered into powder before dispersing in the wind.

"It's gone, the saint's inheritance has disappeared!"

Ji Han stared blankly at the walls. He then lifted his right hand and gave himself a harsh slap on his right cheek.

Pak!

Ji Han truly felt so much regret that he wanted to die.

(Why did I have to try and establish my might over Sun Mo? This is like giving away the daughter I've raised with care through the years and allowing others to trample over her.)

"Haha, Teacher Ji, my condolences!"

Pang Tong mocked.

The other examinees also revealed smiles. Wasn't this a classic case of losing the corn used to lure the chicken? Ji Han had wanted to use this riddle to swindle the examinees into their demise. In the end, he was counter-checkmated by Sun Mo.

"Sun-laoshi is really impressive!"

The old farmer sighed in admiration. Leaving aside his respectful tone, he even changed his way of address for Sun Mo.

Sun Mo cast a glance at the corpse on the ground and sighed. After that, he exited the cell. "Everyone, I'm going into seclusion. I'll take my leave first."

"Wait a minute!"

Ji Han subconsciously shouted.

Sun Mo halted and smiled as he looked at Ji Han.

Ji Han's mind was filled with questions, but he felt too embarrassed to ask. After all, he was the one who had provoked Sun Mo first, wanting to swindle him into taking the test.

Luckily, the others couldn't control their curiosity anymore.

"Teacher Sun, what was going on with this riddle?"

Pang Tong was too embarrassed to ask Sun Mo what inheritance he had obtained, hence, he beat around the bush a little. But Lian Hongying was extremely direct. "Teacher Sun, what did you obtain?"

Everyone was staring fixedly at Sun Mo like hungry puppies waiting for food.

“Nothing much!”

Sun Mo shrugged.

Upon hearing this, everyone felt somewhat better psychologically. After all, it was like everyone seeing a wallet on the ground at the same time, but it was snatched up by someone with quicker hands. If there were tens of thousands of dollars in that wallet, they would surely be so angry that they wanted to die. But if there were only a few cents inside, it was fine.

At the next instant, they heard Sun Mo’s second part of the sentence.

“Just some knowledge and experience regarding weaponsmithing, the art of spiritual control, and medical studies!”

Sun Mo smiled as he looked at Ji Han. “Oh right, great ancestor-level expertise for all three subjects!”

Sun Mo didn’t dare to say that he had inherited the Empowerment Divine Art. After all, this skill was too bizarre and it was easy to cause others to hate him. They might even band up to kill him. As for the Empowerment Halo, he was already familiar with it. But if he wanted to cast it, he still had to continue training in the Empowerment Divine Art and comprehend it deeper.

“...”

Everyone stared at Sun Mo’s departing back and they felt like they had just swallowed lemons. Their mood was extremely sour.

“What should I do? I really feel like beating him to death!”

Lian Hongying gritted her teeth.

“Go, I’ll add a stab!”

Another great teacher spoke.

Naturally, everyone was just jesting. Leaving aside the fact that they wouldn’t be able to defeat Sun Mo, just with Sun Mo’s current popularity, if someone killed him, it would just be a matter of time before the Great Tang and the Saint Gate hunted them down!

Becoming a dark great teacher?

That was useless too!

Dean Bai from the Dragonspirit Manor was Sun Mo’s bosom friend. He was a hegemon in the dark great teacher world.

...

Sun Mo returned to the residence Ji Han had allocated him. He did a casual check and after ascertaining that there were no problems, he began his meditation.

Although he had obtained a saint’s inheritance, it was like force-feeding. If he wanted to transform it into ‘nutrients’, he still had to seriously ‘digest’ them.

He had to practice the Empowerment Divine Art industriously, but this place was evidently not suitable. Besides, Sun Mo already possessed several types of peerless saint-tier cultivation arts. There was really no hurry for him to train in another one.

With regard to medical studies, Sun Mo didn't understand much of it. Hence, he decided to place it at the back for now. After that, he skimmed through the knowledge about the art of spiritual control and weaponsmithing.

Currently, Sun Mo was a grandmaster-level spiritual controller. If he chose to digest the knowledge on spiritual control first, he would be able to obtain twice the results with half the effort. But honestly speaking, this subject's influence on the world's development was simply too weak.

Ultimately, Sun Mo chose weaponsmithing.

In the modern era, this subject was akin to industrial technology. It was enough to cause the science and technology of this world to improve.

Sun Mo didn't have time to draw spirit runes one by one, hence, he had long since thought about creating a spirit rune factory. If he could produce all sorts of spirit runes in batches, this world would surely change due to this.

...

Ji Han's footsteps were hurried as he rushed to the office.

Bang!

He didn't knock on the door and directly knocked it open. "Teacher, something bad has happened!"

"You are over a hundred years old. Why are you still so flustered?"

In the room, the old man didn't lift his head. Instead, he continued to bend over his desk and work. No one touched the tea flask beside him, but it automatically floated and steeped the tea, pouring into a cup. After that, the cup floated toward Ji Han.

Pak!

Ji Han caught the cup, but he was in no mood to enjoy it. "Teacher, the three rows of words left behind in Bai Dong's cell have been solved."

"Mn?"

The old man's right hand paused as he raised his head in astonishment. "Which examinee did it?"

This old man had been working here for over 300 years as the prison warden. Hence, he was extremely familiar with everything within the prison. Since that was the case, this surprise must have occurred due to an outsider.

"It's Sun Mo!"

Ji Han's tone was filled with deep unhappiness.

"Little Han, your heart is in chaos!"

The old man lectured, "So what even if he inherited Saint Bai's inheritance? Don't feel prejudice just because he isn't one of us. As long as he is a good great teacher, we should congratulate him."

"This student is enlightened!"

Ji Han lowered his head and conceded verbally, but he couldn't be at ease in his heart.

When he was posted to this god-damn place, he already disliked the Saint Gate and started to loathe those great teachers.

(If I'm in the Nine Provinces, my fame will be greater than all of them.)

"How is the experiment going?"

The old man changed the topic.

"Still at a bottleneck."

Ji Han sighed as he spoke of the experiment, "This experiment is too difficult. Teacher, why don't we give up?"

"It isn't difficult to eat or walk, but is there any meaning in these things?"

The old man placed his brush down and stared at Ji Han directly. "Ji Han, go into seclusion for three months. Recently, your mental state has become increasingly fickle and impatient!"

Ji Han wasn't convinced, but he didn't dare to defy the old man, so he could only bear with it.

"This student understands."

After Ji Han finished speaking, he shifted the topic back onto Sun Mo. "What should we do about Saint Bai's inheritance, and what should we do about Sun Mo?"

"What do you want to do?"

The old man counter-asked.

"..."

Ji Han wanted to say that they should force Sun Mo to give up the inheritance. Although the great ancestor-level knowledge was precious, he didn't care for them. What he wanted was the Empowerment Divine Art.

However, he had no face to utter such shameless words.

"Ji Han, although Saint Bai placed his inheritance in the prison, it doesn't belong to us. So, you shouldn't feel that Great Teacher Sun has stolen something from us."

The old man consoled him. "He obtained that with his own capabilities."

The old man had researched this riddle before. This was why he knew how difficult it was to solve it.

"But there should be the Empowerment Divine Art in that inheritance..."

Before Ji Han could finish speaking, he was interrupted by the old man.

“So what about it?”

The old man’s countenance turned grave and stern. “Get out, your seclusion time will be extended. Come out only after you can think clearly.”

“I...”

Ji Han was unhappy.

“Get out!”

The old man berated.

Ji Han bowed and backed out from the office.

“Sun Mo?”

The old man muttered. “I hope that Bai-laoshi’s knowledge isn’t wasted!”

When the old man came to the Great Prison of Desolation, he was still young and had met Saint Bai who had been imprisoned there. Saint Bai had taught him many things.

Among them was the Empowerment Divine Art, but the old man had never mentioned this matter to anyone else.

Wherever there were humans, there were bound to be conflicts.

This old man was Hu Xingjiang, an absolute genius of the old generation. In his youth, he had established immense fame and reputation, but the background of his personal teacher was somewhat ordinary.

A secondary saint had once wanted to recruit him as a personal student and had been willing to betroth his daughter to him, but Hu Xingjiang rejected. He even refused to marry a beautiful great teacher ranked top three in the Devastating Beauty Rankings.

His rejection offended the secondary saint. Hence, Hu Xingjiang and his personal teacher were suppressed.

His teacher was framed and his reputation was destroyed. In the end, he died from depression. After enduring for a few years, Hu Xingjiang couldn’t take it anymore. A major character in the great teacher world then decided to help him out and arranged for him to go to the Great Prison of Desolation to hide.

When that secondary saint died, the prime of Hu Xingjiang’s life had already passed. However, his temperament had been tempered down and because he felt disillusioned and discouraged, he wasn’t willing to return to the Nine Provinces and chose to continue staying here, doing his best to make these prisoners turn over a new leaf.

A life like this—akin to a virtuous monk—actually allowed Hu Xingjiang to have more energy to focus on his cultivation and research. Hence, as time passed, he broke through to the secondary saint realm.

One could say that the great teachers being employed in the prison were unlucky fools soured by the loss of their hopes. They were also people that were protected and occasionally taught by Hu Xingjiang.

The old man was a secondary saint and ordinary geniuses wouldn't be able to grab his attention. At this moment, he opened his drawer and took a file containing the information of the examiners before searching for Sun Mo.

(Ze, isn't his resume a little too good? He's so young but already has such achievements?)

When he saw how Sun Mo nurtured Li Ziqi, a student which Secondary Saint Zhou had rejected into the youngest great teacher in the world's history, in addition to her displaying her brilliance in the Five Empires War Discussion, ruthlessly smacking Secondary Saint Zhou's face, Secondary Saint Hu who had long since cultivated his heart to the point where there would be no emotional ripples couldn't help but exclaim in praise.

"He's more impressive than me!"

Hu Xingjiang sighed ruefully. After that, a hint of worry appeared on his face.

(What a pity. You shouldn't have come to the Great Prison!)

...

Time was like the footsteps of an ex-wife, flowing soundlessly as it left.

In the blink of an eye, a year had passed.

"I feel like I'm gonna die!"

Pang Tong lay limply on the bed and stared blankly at the ceiling with a look of despair.

It had been half a year and he had no harvests at all. Those prisoners didn't even want to talk to him.

"This test isn't something that can be solved by humans. Say, do you guys think that Secondary Saint Zhou pulled his connections to intentionally make things difficult for Sun Mo? And in the end, we were unfortunately implicated?"

Wu You was also in a deep gorge called despair. "I heard that the previous exam was set at the ancient sage building because Secondary Saint Zhou had used his connections."

"It's too late to regret!" Pang Tong turned. "Where's Sun Mo? Is he still in meditation?"

"Mn!" Wu You felt envious. "He obtained a saint's inheritance, and it's definitely priceless!"

"Let's ignore Sun Mo. Which level are you at currently?"

Pang Tong was curious.

There were a total of seven underground levels in the great prison. One had to solve the puzzle at each level before they could gain qualifications to go deeper.

"I'm stuck on the third level."

Wu You sighed.

Everyone actually had another objective in their mind to participate in this exam.. They wanted to learn some knowledge that was in the hands of these prisoners, but up until now, they didn't have any harvest.

Chapter 1237: Fifth Level of the Longevity Realm

When Li Ziqi finished handling all official matters, she saw that the sky hadn't darkened yet. Hence, she used the portal constructed by the eight-gate cloud to return to the Central Province Academy.

The teleportation gate was constructed in the little sunny egg's bed chambers. She could use it to freely access the Wind King Divine Hall and Sun Mo's villa in the school.

The campus was brightly lit. Some students just got off their classes, and they were discussing the content they had just learned while heading to the canteen for a meal. Some of them even headed to other classrooms for their night classes.

No one was slacking. The learning atmosphere was very dense here.

Li Ziqi went to the headmaster office to greet An Xinhui.

"Teacher's wife, do you receive any news from Teacher recently?"

The little sunny egg blinked her eyes. This was her main objective in coming over.

"Sun Mo dotes on you so much. Even if he doesn't write to me, he will surely write to you!"

An Xinhui teased.

"Teacher's wife, please drink some tea!"

Li Ziqi giggled. But after that, her lips twitched in frustration. "Teacher is so loathsome, he has left for a year but didn't even send a single letter back, making us worry for him."

"Maybe it isn't convenient?"

An Xinhui explained. "I've done some investigation. The prison warden of the Great Prison of Desolation often has conflicts with the Saint Gate. Also, those great teachers who were sent there can be considered to be banished. So, Sun Mo probably wouldn't have a good time there."

Li Ziqi felt worried when she heard this.

An Xinhui comforted her. "You don't have to be too worried. Sun Mo has little silver. If there's danger there, he will be able to flee."

"Mn!"

Li Ziqi nodded yet wasn't convinced in her heart. Given her teacher's temper, he wouldn't choose to flee easily. He would either conquer the enemies or die in the process.

(Sigh! I hope that everything is smooth-sailing for Teacher.)

After Li Ziqi finished speaking with An Xinhui, she left the office and headed to the darkness illusion dojo.

Xuanyuan Po was a cultivation fanatic and liked to stay here, spending all his time challenging the various illusionary opponents.

Li Ziqi persuaded him to go to some lessons or others might mock him for having shallow knowledge. However, she was rejected.

“My goal is to become the number one spear saint in the Nine Provinces. All other matters are like floating clouds to me!”

Xuanyuan Po didn't care about the evaluations of others. In fact, he didn't even mind whether his three meals per day were delicious or not. It was good as long as they could fill his belly.

Li Ziqi felt helpless, but she still seriously explained the essence of some cultivation arts to Xuanyuan Po.

Since their teacher wasn't around, as the eldest disciple, the little sunny egg had to take up the responsibility of guiding her junior martial siblings. Besides, she did have such capabilities.

Before Sun Mo left, he gathered all the knowledge he had learned before and branded them into Li Ziqi's mind using Soul Imprint.

With regard to those cultivation arts, although Li Ziqi wasn't adept at using them, she understood their theories and principles very well. She was just like the female character Wang Yuyan in the novel demi-gods and semi-devils.

On the fifth level of the darkness illusion dojo.

“Baiwu!”

Li Ziqi wasn't surprised when she saw the iron-headed girl there.

She was another cultivation fanatic, but she wasn't as crazy as the combat addict. Ying Baiwu would still go for some lessons. She was especially interested in weaponsmithing.

This was because she felt that weapons were her best friends.

That was right, the iron-headed girl had no friends. Even between fellow students of Sun Mo, her interactions with the others were very little. If she wasn't cultivating, she would be studying.

“Eldest Martial Sister!”

After Ying Baiwu greeted her, she continued to spar against a darkness illusion.

As for the combat addict, he was too focused and didn't notice Li Ziqi's arrival.

After taking a look, Li Ziqi left for the library.

Helian Beifang and Lu Zhiruo were currently studying here quietly. Helian Beifang's goal was to become a military god, hence, he read more military books. As for Lu Zhiruo, she read everything.

“Zhiruo, your reading choices are too scattered!”

Jiang Leng's voice suddenly rang out from the side. "You won't improve like this."

"Since she doesn't even know what she likes, it isn't bad to give books of every subject a read or two."

Li Ziqi smiled. "Don't worry, she's still young and has more than enough chances to find out her interest."

"Ze, you sound more and more like a great teacher."

Jiang Leng was envious.

"Thanks for the praise!"

Li Ziqi turned her head and surveyed Jiang Leng. "How are things? Have you comprehended the self-taught halo, yet?"

Upon mentioning this, Jiang Leng's expression turned dim as he shook his head.

"Don't be anxious, you will definitely be able to achieve it!"

Li Ziqi consoled him. She knew that this junior brother of hers had the thought of becoming a great teacher. However, the self-taught halo wasn't something one could comprehend just because they wanted to. "Just wait for Teacher to return!"

"Mn!"

Jiang Leng nodded. He knew that a few of his martial siblings only became enlightened due to the pointers of their teacher. "Oh right, if you meet junior martial sister Yaoguang, you have to lecture her properly. Recently, she has been running wild and doesn't seem to be working hard in studying."

"Alright!"

Li Ziqi frowned. Among all of them who entered Sun Mo's tutelage, although Qin Yaoguang always seemed jovial and acted very familiar with everyone, this girl was very scheming. She had never truly integrated as a whole with everyone before.

Once their teacher left, Qin Yaoguang was like a freed sheep, wandering everywhere without coming home.

It was easy to find Tantai Yutang. He was always in the medical lab.

When Li Ziqi saw him, she subconsciously covered her nose. "How many days has it been since you last took a shower?"

(Some of these specimens must have rotted, alright?)

"Do you have something you need me for?"

The sickly invalid's hand movements didn't stop. He was simultaneously dissecting a spirit beast while observing its bodily reaction after being poisoned.

Seeing Tantai Yutang's appearance, Li Ziqi shook her head. "Take care of yourself. If you have anything you need, you can tell me about them."

“I’m living very well now.” The sickly invalid chortled. “Ah, I’d like some corpses of humans.”

“That’s definitely not allowed!”

Li Ziqi warned. “Don’t act recklessly or I’ll be forced to cleanse the filth under Teacher’s tutelage.”

Although some people in the Nine Provinces did work in the line of being test subjects, they did so for money and were willing to sell themselves. However, Li Ziqi didn’t permit the sickly invalid to dissect human corpses.

“People like you are the stumbling block that halts the advancement of human knowledge in medical studies!”

Tantai Yutang shrugged.

Li Ziqi paid more attention to morality.

After exiting the experimental lab, the little sunny egg stood in the campus and breathed heavily a few times.

The night wind brushed past her face, containing a hint of fragrance.

Speaking of which, these martial siblings of hers were all weird in their own way. Only Xianyu Wei resembled a normal student the most. She ate, she learned, she played, and she had no other weird hobbies.

(Sigh, I wonder when will Teacher return! I miss you so much!)

...

Ji Han was in closed-door seclusion for nine months. However, it wasn’t because his heart state was already tranquil and peaceful that he came out. Rather, there were some tasks in the great prison that he needed to personally handle.

Recently, other than working, he had a new hobby, and that was to try and solve the second great riddle. He would spend time heading over to the location to take a look at it. This was because he was worried that if Sun Mo woke up, he would directly solve it. At that time, the people of the great prison would be greatly embarrassed.

Today, Ji Han continued to work hard at the second riddle but had no harvest at all.

“I’m basically clueless!”

Ji Han felt so much melancholy that some of his hair actually dropped. (Should I just give up? He might have succeeded once due to a fluke. It’s probably impossible for him to solve all the riddles, right?)

Ji Han consoled himself. He was preparing to head to the restaurant aboveground to order two dishes and drink some wine to relax. But before he could leave the first level, the spirit qi in the surroundings was like a tsunami and abruptly started surging toward a direction.

“Did someone have a breakthrough?”

Ji Han was extremely experienced and could judge that someone must be making a breakthrough. After that, he followed the direction in which the spirit qi was flowing and rushed over.

In the location, other prison guards had arrived before him.

“Great Teacher Sun is finally going to awaken!”

“Look at the quantity of spirit qi. It’s definitely someone at the Longevity Realm!”

“I can’t help but be impressed!”

Although Sun Mo had entered seclusion the first day he came to the great prison, his name had spread far and wide to the extent that everyone knew about him.

Solving the riddle set by Saint Bai and receiving the inheritance. This was a matter that countless people felt envious of.

“Don’t be noisy!”

Ji Han lectured.

Although he didn’t like Sun Mo, he wouldn’t sneak attack him. All this noise had a possibility of disturbing Sun Mo from his breakthrough.

Rumble! Rumble!

Spirit qi rumbled, and even the metal doors of the prison cells were rattling lightly.

“It has been five minutes, but the phenomenon still shows no signs of stopping!”

Ji Han was envious.

Everyone knew that during a breakthrough, the more spirit qi one gathered, the better the talent of the cultivator was. According to Sun Mo’s situation, he was invincible among his peers.

Finally, after nine minutes, Sun Mo relaxed. The surging spirit qi in his body also calmed down and he opened his eyes.

“Teacher Sun, congratulations!”

Pang Tong and Wu You also rushed over upon hearing the commotion and clasped their hands to congratulate Sun Mo.

“Thanks!”

Sun Mo smiled.

During this year, he hadn’t rested for a single moment and had done his best to digest this knowledge. Occasionally, when he grew tired, he would meditate to alleviate his fatigue and stress. He didn’t expect to actually reach the boundary of a breakthrough just by focusing on digesting the knowledge.

“Teacher Sun, might I be so impudent as to ask you a question? What cultivation level are you at now?”

Wu You was curious.

“Fifth level of the Longevity Realm!”

Sun Mo had been at the third level of Longevity Realm previously. When he had gone to participate in the Five Empires War Discussion, he had eaten a Dry Origin Pill and leveled up once.

He didn't expect that he would level up again just after a year had passed.

This could be credited to the saint's inheritance. Although the vast majority of its power had dissipated, just the flow and transfer of knowledge by itself was a very pure type of energy. After Sun Mo had absorbed them, he naturally achieved a breakthrough.

“Si...the fifth level?”

Everyone was stunned.

According to Sun Mo's current age, he would at least have six centuries more to live.

Such a long time... how many achievements would he be able to obtain then?!

How envious!

“Great Teacher Ji, can we go aboveground now? I wish to take a shower and have a meal!”

Sun Mo asked with a smile.

After a year of meditation, his heart state had been enhanced by quite a bit, and he no longer wished to be petty with Ji Han.

“Sure!”

The rules actually prohibited that, but Ji Han wished to make an exception today.

This was a type of respect accorded to genius great teachers.

“Many thanks!”

Sun Mo clasped his hands.

“Wait!”

Pang Tong called out. “Teacher Sun, since you've awakened, why don't you go and solve the second great riddle as well?”

When Ji Han heard this, his brows pricked and he immediately glared at Pang Tong.

(What do you take the three great riddles here as? Can they be solved just because you want to solve them?)

It was unknown why, but Ji Han suddenly felt somewhat nervous. Hence, he snuck a glance at Sun Mo while hoping in his heart that Sun Mo wouldn't agree.

“Let's talk about that later!”

Sun Mo rejected. “No matter what, I ought to pay a visit to the prison warden first!”

After hearing this, Ji Han nodded in satisfaction.

(This brat still knows his manners.)

Actually, Su Taiqing had informed Sun Mo about this beforehand. He had told Sun Mo to do his best and give Hu Xingjiang a good impression when he arrived here. In the end, Sun Mo had gone into mediation for a long time the first day he came here and the visit was delayed until now.

After arriving aboveground, Sun Mo ordered a few dishes and enjoyed them while accompanied by the evening sky.

“Hey, it’s a gift for you!”

Ji Han placed a vat of wine down and took the chance to sit.. “Teacher Sun, listen to my advice and just return to the Nine Provinces. This isn’t a place you ought to stay in!”

Chapter 1238: Sun Mo Clearing Another Puzzle

The ocean wind had a stench to it as it blew toward the restaurant.

“Why? Is this place a den for dragons and tigers?”

Sun Mo ate a mouthful of the little dish. The taste was ordinary and extremely salty. It was so salty that it felt like he was eating dried fish.

“Go and make two more dishes!”

Ji Han instructed the boss and no longer tried to hint Sun Mo. He admired Sun Mo’s talent and this was why he tried to persuade him. If Sun Mo didn’t want to listen and wanted to court death, it didn’t matter to him either.

“Throughout history, from ancient times until now, warlords held power over different places and these places were always full of chaos. Say, other than enjoying the sea breeze and eating salted fish, what other benefits are there in staying at this place?”

Sun Mo didn’t understand.

Ji Han drank his wine and didn’t reply.

“You guys feel that you were bullied, hence you all came here to hide. Moreover, because you guys were stationed here for a long time and had no contact with the Nine Provinces, do you all feel that this is a type of betrayal?”

Sun Mo glanced at Ji Han. “What does this count for? You won’t cooperate unless there’s violence? Or is it self-exile?”

Pak!

Ji Han smashed the wine bowl onto the table. “The great teacher circle of the Nine Provinces makes me feel disgusted. I’d rather be a farmer here.”

“Che, from my point of view, you are a coward!”

Sun Mo stared at Ji Han. “I’ll screw whoever dares offend me, beating that person up mercilessly. I will vent my emotions first before we speak of other things.”

“...”

Ji Han frowned. Sun Mo’s words didn’t conform to his values.

“Do you feel that I’m too ruthless?”

Sun Mo’s lips twitched. “But if one wasn’t ruthless, they wouldn’t be able to survive. When facing powerful enemies, do you think everything will be fine as long as you kneel and plead for mercy? No. The other party will feel that wow, your bones are so soft. After that, they will slap you even harder and steal your money and women.”

Ji Han’s fists were clenched tightly.

“Teacher Ji, your weapon lies in educating people. The more students you educate, the more seedlings you will have planted. Decades later, you would have an additional portion of harvest. Even if you fought against others, you wouldn’t have to fight alone anymore.”

Sun Mo put his chopsticks down. “Although fleeing will make you safe temporarily, is it really useful? That’s only an act in the dramas. In reality, if you don’t wish to be bullied, you have to fight back.”

Sun Mo stood up. “Do you think the descendants of powerful great teacher clans would be thrown into this great prison to participate in monstrous exams like this? Don’t you feel ashamed bullying the examinees who were forced here? If you are capable, go and fire your cannon at the Saint Gate instead!”

Ji Leng started.

Sun Mo’s words brought a very huge rush of impact to him.

(Yeah, what’s the point of me bullying these examinees? How could it be that easy to make the prisoners here turn over a new leaf? Basically, it’s almost confirmed that they have to waste five to six years here before scrambling back to the Nine Provinces with their tails between their legs.)

(Wait a minute, I’m actually convinced by Sun Mo? This brat’s grasp on the human heart is extremely accurate!)

Ji Han had to admit that Sun Mo’s words were correct. When he was hiding here, the happy ones would be his enemies.

“But Sun Mo, you are wrong on one point. We are not wasting our lives here. We are currently carrying out a grand research!”

Ji Han picked up the wine vat and gulped the alcohol down fiercely. “We are going to stun the world!”

...

Sun Mo paid a visit to the prison warden. Firstly, this was something the Saint Gate's Sect Lord Su Taiqing had asked him to do. Sun Mo wanted to understand the character of the prison warden as well. Secondly, he wanted to know what the prison warden thought about him receiving Saint Bai's inheritance. If things didn't smell right, he would hurry up and summon Little Silver and leave.

In any case, he was young. Even if he became a 6-stars twenty years later, he would still be considered a tender shoot.

Hu Xingjiang's office was located in a small room. The furnishing was simple and other than a table with peeled-off paint, there were three large bookshelves that were filled with books.

"What do you want to drink? Tea or plain water?"

Hu Xingjiang didn't adopt the attitude of a major character. His smile was very amiable.

"Water will do!"

Sun Mo sat down.

"Are you used to the life here?"

Hu Xingjiang surveyed Sun Mo as he silently mused at Sun Mo's good looks. (You could clearly depend on being a gigolo and do well, yet you are actually so outstanding that many high star-ranking great teachers would feel ashamed of their inferiority.)

"With no disturbance from the external world, this is indeed a good place to gain knowledge!"

Sun Mo received the bowl that the major character passed him. "It's still okay to stay three or four years in this place. But if you leave the Nine Provinces for too long, you will lose touch with the mainstream learning world there."

"Hmm, that's true. This is especially so for some popular subjects. If we don't follow updates closely, we will lag behind after a few years."

Hu Xingjiang agreed as well.

"Teacher Hu, my Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands has an excellent recovery effect when it comes to treating some of the hidden injuries afflicting the body..."

Sun Mo wasn't a simp. He wanted to have a legitimate reason to inspect and probe Hu Xingjiang's body to see if there were any weaknesses he could grasp.

"Many thanks for Teacher Sun's kind intention, but there's no need!"

Hu Xingjiang rejected.

"Teacher Hu, I have an unreasonable request. I wish to see the information of all the prisoners imprisoned here."

Sun Mo made a request.

"Sure!"

Hu Xingjiang didn't intentionally make things difficult for Sun Mo.

The two of them chatted idly for some time. In the end, when Sun Mo departed, Hu Xingjiang still didn't mention anything about the saint's inheritance.

"What exactly is that fellow thinking?"

Sun Mo didn't understand.

Ding!

"Congratulations. Your eldest disciple Li Ziqi is now the Great Tang's female emperor and is standing at the peak of her life. Your credit in this is undeniable, hence you are hereby awarded 3x great teacher emblems and 3x mysterious treasure chests."

Ding!

"Congratulations on completing the achievement 'my disciple becomes more outstanding than her teacher'. Reward: 1x great teacher emblem, 2x mysterious treasure chests."

The system announced. It had been too long since it last gave out a reward.

"Aren't the rewards a little too late?"

Sun Mo was speechless.

"You were clearly in closed-door cultivation!"

The system felt very wronged.

Sun Mo looked at the five treasure chests and bore the impulse to open them straight. The papaya girl wasn't beside him. Given his unlucky aura, he probably wouldn't be able to open any good stuff.

Ding!

"Mission issued: Please complete the exam within three years and become a 6-stars great teacher. If you fail, there will be a punishment!"

"Huh?"

Sun Mo was unhappy. (How can this daddy escape now?)

"Great teachers should charge forward in the face of difficulty and do things no others can do."

The system encouraged him.

"Scram!"

Sun Mo wasn't a three-year-old kid. This type of chicken soup was honeyed words used to cheat ghosts!

Although the system had given a mission, Sun Mo decided to do things according to his original plan. This time around, rising a rank was a small matter. What was important was whether he could learn some skills or capabilities here.

But before that, he had to be famous first so he could garner prestige. Like this, he would be more persuasive.

There were a total of seven underground levels in the Great Prison of Desolation, and every level had a puzzle. Outsiders had to solve the puzzle on each level before they were permitted to head down.

Sun Mo wasn't in a rush to solve them. Instead, he took his time going around the first level and understanding the situations of the prisoners in detail first.

Those imprisoned here were all 3-stars great teachers and below. More than half of them were dark great teachers who had joined the Dark Dawn. Half of them did so for money, beauty, cultivation arts, or secret treasures.

All in all, the prisoners on this level were very young. They had to do heavy-duty labor every day to pay for their crimes.

The newbies nurtured by the Saint Gate would come here for a tour once every few years. This was to warn the newbies not to make any mistakes, or the consequences would be very heavy.

The second level consisted of 4-stars great teachers and so on and so forth. The lower the level, the higher the star-rank of the prisoners and the number of guards.

"Teacher Sun, it has been a year since we last met. Are you still doing well?"

Lu Guodong and a few others grouped up and greeted him respectively.

"Many thanks to everyone for missing me!"

Sun Mo also knew how to exchange pleasantries. They were not close with each other at all, since these people came to look for him so fast, it was clear that they coveted the saint's inheritance.

As expected, Pang Tong went straight to the point. "Teacher Sun, what inheritance did you obtain exactly? Can you reveal a little?"

"It's very valuable."

Sun Mo chortled. "If you guys want to learn it, you can come and work for the Central Province Academy."

"What about the cultivation art? The cultivation art that a saint practiced is surely a saint-tier one. He must have imparted it to you as well, right?"

Pang Tong continued to ask.

"Nope!"

Sun Mo had to lie even if he didn't want to. The Empowerment Art was too powerful, and it would surely be a case of treasuring a jade ring becomes a crime. "Alright, let's talk later if you guys have other matters. I'm going to clear the puzzle first."

"Let's go together!"

Lu Guodong wanted to become friends with someone like Sun Mo.

“Given Teacher Sun’s talent, you will probably be able to clear five puzzles in a single day, right?”

Pang Tong fawned.

Very soon, everyone appeared at the entrance of the tunnel leading to the second level.

There was a sturdy and thick metal door here with chaotic scribble patterns. There were also some metal rods that were either sticking out or being pushed in.

“This lock is named ‘Ghost Lock’. You can only open it after inserting the metal rods in the correct sequence.”

Ji Han also came over and he explained to Sun Mo.

“The more metal rods there are, the higher the difficulty will be. No matter what, I’m a grandmaster weaponsmith. In the end, I had to spend a month to solve this puzzle.”

Lu Guodong sighed.

“What if one doesn’t know weaponsmithing?”

Sun Mo frowned.

“If they don’t know, they can apply to the prison guards to unlock it. However, they can only enter or exit once a week as they have to follow the guard. If they miss the time to exit the level, they have to wait for next week.”

Wu You was depressed. He belonged to the category that didn’t know weaponsmithing.

“If you are the one that unlocks it personally, you will be able to enter and exit freely.”

Pang Tong provoked. “Didn’t you obtain a saint’s inheritance, why don’t you allow us to broaden our horizons?”

Sun Mo walked to the door and observed the distribution of the metal rods. After that, he directly grabbed one and pushed it in.

Creak!

The sounds of gears grinding rang out.

Sun Mo listened closely.

One rod!

Two rods!

Three rods!

...

After Sun Mo moved seven rods, he stopped and took two steps back. After that, he touched his chin and started to contemplate. Roughly five minutes later, he officially started to try and unlock the door.

“How is it?”

Pang Tong moved toward Lu Guodong's side and asked in a low voice. In the end, no one replied. Pang Tong turned his head and looked at him only to discover that Lu Guodong's face showed dumbfounded amazement.

"What's wrong?"

Wu You continued asking.

"H...he actually solved it."

Lu Guodong was completely shocked because the sequence in which Sun Mo inserted the metal rods was completely correct. After Sun Mo pushed the 12th metal rod in, he stopped.

Creaking sounds appeared from the metal door. After that, a rumbling rang out as the two-halves of the door swung open, revealing a gap.

Sun Mo opened the gap wider and entered.

Everyone else froze.

"Damn, even a great ancestor-level weaponsmith wouldn't be able to do that so fast, right?"

Lu Guodong looked at Ji Han. "What's the fastest record of solving this puzzle?"

"..."

Ji Han didn't answer him. Rather, he took a quick step ahead and arrived before the door as he checked attentively.

Was this Ghost Lock damaged?

He majored in weaponsmithing and was considered a genius in this subject, but back then when he had solved this puzzle, he had had to spend an entire day. In the end, Sun Mo finished it in 15 minutes?

What was even more terrifying was that when Sun Mo tested it, he only moved seven metal rods to check things. After that, he understood the crux perfectly.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Ji Han hurriedly jogged over. "Teacher Sun, could you tell me your thought process when you solved this puzzle?"

Chapter 1239: I'm Not Going To Pretend Anymore. I'm a Grandmaster Beast Tamer. I'm Showing My Cards!

"Hearing Composition!"

Sun Mo spoke.

"Huh?"

Lu Guodong also arrived and there was a look of dumbfoundedness on his face. (I understand every word you spoke, but when I group them together, I don't understand the term at all.)

"Usually speaking, if you want to open locks like the Ghost Lock, there's only one method and that's to keep trying to find the correct combination."

Sun Mo explained. That was the most time and energy-consuming method, proof by exhaustion.

Although it was proof by exhaustion, if one didn't have a certain level of weaponsmithing knowledge, they wouldn't even be able to calculate anything.

"Naturally, one can also pluck the metal rods out with violence and observe their gears to solve this!"

Ghost Lock's principle was similar to locks in the modern era, but it was more complicated.

"I actually wanted to do that when I attempted it!"

Lu Guodong had a self-mocking smile. Doing so by violence was the lowest of all lows when it came to solving the lock.

"If we cannot see the inner gears, we can only judge things by their sound. So, I moved a few metal rods first to judge its entire composition before I unlocked it."

Sun Mo explained.

"..."

Most of them didn't know the amount of experience and skill that was required in 'Hearing Composition' so they had calm looks on their faces. But grandmaster weaponsmiths like Ji Han and Lu Guodong had looks of shock on their faces.

(Damn, this could work too?)

"Is there a need to be so shocked? Those skilled locksmiths can do this as well. Also, for some veteran blacksmiths, they simply need to rap the metal material and they will even know the carbonic content and heat control that's required to forge such a lock. Bluntly speaking, you don't have to really be skilled. You just need to have large amounts of experience."

Sun Mo shrugged.

Ji Han looked at Sun Mo. He then opened and closed his mouth but didn't know what to say. He naturally knew that experience was the most important thing, but the problem was...how old was Sun Mo merely?!

"The saint's inheritance is actually so terrifying?"

Lu Guodong was incomparably shocked.

"You are wrong. The saint's inheritance might be impressive, but Sun Mo who can grasp it completely is someone that might not even appear in ten thousand geniuses."

Ji Han sighed.

If one handed the saint's inheritance to an ordinary genius, they would definitely not be able to reach Sun Mo's standard.

Sun Mo also felt somewhat rueful. Saint Bai's knowledge and experience had been completely imparted to him. This meant that it was equivalent to accepting his knowledge system. After integrating it, when he learned weaponsmithing, it would be equal to standing on the shoulders of giants and having a far broader horizon compared to others.

After Lu Guodong's detailed explanation, Pang Tong and the others understood that Sun Mo's act of unlocking the door earlier might have looked simple, but it displayed extremely shocking talent.

Ding!

Congratulations on obtaining +1,230 favorable impression points.

The entrance leading to the third level was a huge cave. Inside it, there were seven gigantic golden-furred baboons. Their thick arms were like pillars, and their aura streaked with the wildness of ferocious beasts.

"The test of this level is more unadulterated. It solely depends on combat strength."

Ji Han explained. "These baboons are around the first level of the Longevity Realm. Given Teacher Sun's strength, it shouldn't be a problem for you to defeat them."

Sun Mo swept his eyes over and felt somewhat astonished. "They are actually without an owner?"

These golden-furred baboons were being controlled by beast tamer techniques, but they had no spiritual contracts. This meant that Sun Mo could capture them if he wanted to.

"They are reared by the prison warden!"

Ji Han snapped his fingers and those baboons immediately squatted down obediently, waiting to be fed. "They are like hunting dogs."

"Their intelligence is very high and close to a human's. However, their thoughts aren't as complex as ours. They are very loyal, thus it's very practical to use them to guard this tunnel!"

Ji Han laughed and waited to watch a good show. "Please feel free to start."

Everyone focused. Many of them even took out image-recording stones, wanting to film the scene of Sun Mo's combat so they could research it in the future.

"Oh right, these baboons belong to the prison warden. So, you are not allowed to use the art of spiritual control and capture them!"

Ji Han warned.

(So what if you are a genius? Don't you still have to fight against our 'hunting dogs'? If you are capable, try passing this test without taking action!)

"Hehe!"

Sun Mo returned a smile to Ji Han. After that, he walked toward those golden-furred baboons.

Ao! Ao! Ao!

The baboons looked at this stranger and immediately started howling. Their fierce glares shot over as they surrounded Sun Mo, preparing to blast his head into pieces with their punches.

Their master had said before that strangers weren't permitted to enter here.

Sun Mo didn't use his wooden blade. Instead, he placed his right index finger and thumb in his mouth and then blew a whistle.

Hu~

The sharp piercing sound reverberated throughout the cave and caused the seven baboons to immediately stop as they stared at Sun Mo in bewilderment.

"What's going on?"

Everyone didn't understand.

The baboons waited for over ten seconds before continuing forward. After that, Sun Mo suddenly sped toward them and started howling with a ferocious look on his face.

Ao!

Upon hearing this sound, all the baboons retreated with explosive speed. After that, they slowly surrounded Sun Mo and stared at him warily. However, they no longer dared to approach.

"He's also a beast tamer?"

The prison guards who had come here to watch a good show were directly stunned.

This show was so cool. It was definitely only something a beast tamer could pull off.

"Sun Mo is imitating the cries made by the natural predators of these baboons!"

Ji Han's countenance grew gloomy. He didn't expect Sun Mo to know this!

In the myriad of things in the world, there were black and white, the sun and the moon. In the world of nature, all creatures had natural predators, and there would be an ecology circle.

Even for the most powerful spiritual beast, if it encountered its natural predator, its first instinct would be to protect its own life. And Sun Mo was currently exploiting the survival instinct of the baboons.

No matter how high the intellect of these golden-furred baboons was, they were still inferior to humans. So, they were currently bewildered. Why did the appearance of their natural predator change? Otherwise, they would have cowered at the corners the moment they heard the howls.

When the baboons were hesitating, Sun Mo walked through the cave.

"..."

Ji Han was speechless. This could work too?

He had been working here for a few decades and had seen over thousands of great teachers. However, this was the first time he saw such a way to pass the level.

“Isn’t he a little too outstanding?”

Pang Tong was dumbstruck.

After all, these baboons weren’t bred in the wild. They still remembered their teachings. When they saw a stranger passing through the cave, they would immediately run over to try and stop him.

Sun Mo remained unmoving. He only spoke two words.

“Squat down!”

Swish~

All the baboons immediately halted and obediently squatted down.

“Damn!”

Ji Han involuntarily cursed and due to his shock, his eyes almost popped out from their sockets.

This fellow was actually imitating the prison warden’s tone of voice, and he even made it sound so real.

Honestly speaking, if it wasn’t for him seeing Sun Mo doing so personally, Ji Han would have thought that the prison warden came here.

“I’m not going to pretend anymore. I’m a grandmaster beast tamer as well. I’m showing my cards!

Sun Mo teased. Sadly, the others didn’t understand his joke of ‘showing my cards’.

“...”

No one spoke, but a feeling of adoration rose in their hearts.

Pak! Pak! Pak!

Everyone started applauding and really felt impressed.

All of them depended on their battle prowess to pass this level. Honestly speaking, it was really shameful to be fighting against a group of baboons. However, Sun Mo had shown a perfect execution of how to pass.

“Teacher Sun, you are good!”

Pang Tong flashed a thumbs-up.

“Haha, Teacher Pang is praising me too much. I only know a smattering of the subject ‘beast taming’ and employed a minor trick!”

Sun Mo was modest. After that, he explained, “The golden-furred baboons were placed here to be reared. They also have no scars or injuries on their bodies. Clearly, they don’t have much combat experience. So, when they suddenly heard the cry of their natural predator, they would surely be afraid.”

Regardless of wild beasts or brave warriors, they had to undergo slaughter to become kings.

Ji Han sighed, this was indeed true. These baboons were the prison warden's pets, so everyone treated them nicely. Besides, there hadn't been anyone new here in several years. The baboons naturally would lack fighting experience as they didn't have the chance to attack.

"Also, no matter how strong they are, they are still wild beasts, not spiritual beasts. Their intellect isn't fully developed. This is why they still use sounds and sight to gauge their target."

Sun Mo exposed. Actually, the eyes of these baboons couldn't differentiate an individual's appearance that clearly. Humans looked the same to them.

"We've benefitted!"

Everyone bowed.

Sun Mo headed to the next puzzle.

"Teacher Sun, how did you imitate the howl of a wild beast just now?"

Ji Han was curious. "The larynx of humans is different from a beast's? Also, humans aren't able to utter such sounds!"

"Through a voice-emission secret technique from beast taming!"

Sun Mo smiled confidently. (Do you really think this daddy is joking when I said I'm a grandmaster beast tamer?)

"Old Ghost Ji, what's going on with this brat? Is he a young master from some great teacher clan?"

When they passed through the corridor, one of the prisoners in the cell asked. After all, there were a bunch of great teachers following behind Sun Mo. Clearly, they treated him as their leader. This was sufficient to prove that Sun Mo was a major character.

Sun Mo turned his head to look over.

The prisoner was a middle-aged man with disheveled hair. He first smiled at Sun Mo. After that, he spat out a mouthful of sword qi abruptly.

Hu~

Sun Mo wasn't anxious or in a hurry. He used his fingers like a blade and casually swiped out.

Swish~

Paying someone back in their own coin!

Woosh~

The stream of sword qi reversed and shot back at the middle-aged man, following its original trajectory.

"Damn!"

The middle-aged man was shocked and hurriedly dodged.

Bang!

The sword qi passed through the metal railings of the cell and shot past the middle-aged man's ear. It then slammed into a stone wall, causing a dent the size of a fingernail.

Si~

Pang Tong's group was badly shocked. At the same time, they became increasingly vigilant.

That mouthful of sword qi was so insidious. If it was aimed at them, even if they weren't struck by it, they would surely be extremely flustered.

On the other hand, Sun Mo was too calm.

This meant that his strength and experience had reached a crushingly high level.

"That's Grand Universe Formless Divine Art, right? Are you a student from the Skyraise Academy?"

The middle-aged man surveyed Sun Mo.

"What?"

Everyone turned and glanced at Sun Mo.

Those imprisoned here were not ordinary people. Their horizons were definitely broad, so they probably wouldn't be mistaken. But Sun Mo shouldn't have any chance to learn the ultimate art of the Skyraise Academy, right?

Unless he was the illegitimate son of the headmaster!

Ji Han also frowned as he glanced at Sun Mo.

Although this middle-aged man was just a 5-stars, his experience was broad and his learning was very diverse. Back then in the great teacher world, he had sold information for a living.

"I'm the vice headmaster of the Central Province Academy, Sun Mo!"

Sun Mo had a smile on his face, but he was cursing silently in his heart. The prisoners in this place were truly capable. He better not use cultivation arts that he shouldn't use, or it would be far too easy to attract trouble.

"The Central Province Academy?"

The middle-aged man was taken aback. "Why would old Headmaster An permit a young man like you to be a vice headmaster?"

"You are acquainted with Grandpa An?"

Sun Mo was astonished. From the words of this person, he seemed to be quite familiar with the old headmaster.

"Hehe!"

The middle-aged man laughed awkwardly.

“Back then, this fellow joined your school as a teacher to steal the Great Dream Heart Sutra. In the end, he was captured by old Headmaster An. Old Headmaster An didn’t punish him but persuaded him to turn over a new leaf instead. This fellow agreed readily, but he immediately turned and fled when there was a chance to do so and headed to the Dragon Subduing Academy, planning to steal the Great Desolation Dragon Subduing Scripture instead.”

Ji Han then laughed.. “In the end, his plan was foiled and both his legs were broken as a punishment.”

Chapter 1240: Showing Off

Only now did everyone notice that this middle-aged man had legs resembling noodle strands. They were dangling on the floor limply.

“The people from the Dragon Subduing Academy were ruthless enough, they directly broke the bones of this daddy and shattered them completely. Not only that, but they also crushed my tendons and muscles.”

The middle-aged man spat out a mouthful of saliva.

“Since you dared to try and steal their school’s ultimate art, you naturally had to be prepared to be beaten to death if caught.”

Pang Tong coldly snorted. “I actually feel that they were already very benevolent for not beating you half to death and hanging you up to warn the rest.”

“Ha, my skill was inferior so I could only concede.”

The middle-aged man’s eyeballs spun and swept across these people. “As for you guys, do you all want to know a secret regarding the Great Desolation Dragon Subduing Scripture?”

Everyone’s ears pricked as their interests were stirred.

“What secret?” Wu You asked.

“I can’t reveal it for nothing, right?”

The middle-aged man looked at Ji Han. “I’ve been imprisoned for so long, and my mouth is so dry that even birds wouldn’t mind nesting in it. How about preparing a banquet for this daddy first?”

Sun Mo directly turned and left.

“Eh?”

Ji Han originally wanted to berate the middle-aged man for wanting a mile. In the end, after seeing Sun Mo departing, he was completely stunned. “Teacher Sun, are you not interested?”

The others also looked over.

“I’m not interested!”

Sun Mo mentally mused that he had long since learned it. There was no one more familiar with the Great Desolation Dragon Subduing Scripture than him.

“Teacher Ji, how about setting up a banquet for him?”

“Do you believe his nonsense? If he knew the secret of this divine art, would he still be here?”

“That’s right. He would have long since been killed by people!”

The great teachers were only shocked by the grand reputation of the Great Desolation Dragon Subduing Scripture. But after thinking about it carefully, it was impossible for the middle-aged man to know anything.

Otherwise, given the fact that Ji Han and the prison guards had been here since the beginning, they would have forced this prisoner to spit out everything.

“Ai, you guys, don’t leave. Listen to me, I really know something. For that divine art, there are no written records, you can only learn it after gaining the approval of the divine dragon!”

The middle-aged man shouted loudly.

“Are there even dragons in this year and age? Have you been imprisoned for too long that your brains rotted?”

Pang Tong sneered.

Everyone quickly caught up to Sun Mo.

“Teacher Ji, if you guys have any manuals you don’t need, I’m willing to fork out a high price to buy them!”

Lu Guodong spoke in a low voice.

The middle-aged man’s legs were indeed broken, but his complexion was much better compared to some prisoners on the first level. This indicated that he was using the knowledge he had pilfered as a trade to gain some benefits.

“Come and look for me tonight!”

Ji Han replied openly. This external source of revenue was something publicly known in the Great Prison. Even if the Saint Gate’s Sect Lord was here, he wouldn’t be able to interfere.

If there weren’t such benefits, who would be willing to come to this god-forsaken place to guard it?

“Teacher Sun, I’ve plenty of good stuff here, we should interact more!”

Ji Han expressed his good will. He knew that geniuses like Sun Mo had many ultimate trump cards.

Upon hearing this, everyone was incomparably envious. As expected, geniuses would be regarded highly no matter where.

“I thank Teacher Ji for your kind intentions!”

Sun Mo smiled.

“Teacher Sun, listen to my advice. Humans shouldn’t be too aloof. You won’t suffer from learning an additional skill or two.”

Lu Guodong advised sincerely.

“I really don’t have the need to!”

Sun Mo mentally mused that he had the Immemorial Vairocana. He could simply ‘beat’ any skill he wanted out of his opponents.

(Oh, right. I also have the Empowerment Divine Art now. I can absorb the power of my opponents until they become idiots.)

Sun Mo had obtained a set of information about the prisoners from the prison warden. Hence, as long as he did a reference, he would know the name and origin of this prisoner.

This prisoner with broken legs was Yu Lin, and he had a hobby of stealing. In the Nine Provinces, he was a famous godly thief, and he had depended on his great teacher title to conceal his identity. He had stolen many things before, even secret treasures from the royalty. It could be said that his guts were so great that they could cover the sky.

Very soon, everyone reached the entrance to the fourth level.

This was a long and narrow tunnel that contained faint-white poison mist. There were also a large number of stiff bug corpses lying on the ground. With just a glance, everyone knew that this was a place the living shouldn’t enter.

“Poison mist?”

Sun Mo frowned.

“Yes!” Ji Han teased. “Don’t tell me you are also knowledgeable about the study of poison?”

“As the saying goes, you will get your shoes wet sooner or later if you walk at the side of a river. Even if you guys have a skill bordering on the magical level when it comes to using poison, you all shouldn’t have set a puzzle like that.”

Sun Mo reminded him.

“Teacher Sun, don’t be brash. It’s fine even if we can’t resolve this puzzle. We are examinees and we can request for a poison-evading pill.”

Someone reminded Sun Mo.

“That’s right, Teacher Sun, you shouldn’t be reckless. Although this poison mist...”

Pang Tong continued but he was soon berated by Ji Han.

“Shut up!”

Ji Han coldly glared at Pang Tong. “Does he need you to be so mouthy?”

“Great Teacher Ji, there’s no need to be angry. Isn’t it just the effects caused by the poison mist? Even if Teacher Pang didn’t say anything, I know them too!”

Sun Mo’s lips curled. “The poison mist will take effect not only via breathing. If one comes in contact with the air particles, the poison mist will be able to seep into one’s body through their pores. The poison won’t kill you, but the one being poisoned might feel their four limbs becoming soft. Moreover, they will also keep farting, dispelling all the spirit qi within their body.”

“Ah?”

Ji Han’s expression was like seeing a female ghost who wanted to scare people. But in the end, that female ghost was being pressed onto the ground by a muscular male and...until all her juices flowed out.

(Damn, you even know this? Are you still a human?)

“There are so many corpses of bugs on the ground. Their death states already showed me the answer.”

Sun Mo kicked away a bug with his leg. “The reason why you guys set this puzzle wasn’t to kill people. Rather, it was to capture people trying to escape. Hence, I can roughly determine what poison is being used here.”

“Hmph, you’ve won!”

Ji Han moved his hands and searched his robes, preparing to take out a poison-evading pill for Sun Mo.

He didn’t ask Sun Mo how to dispel the poison because that would be a hooligan-like act. Even the strongest poison master wouldn’t dare to say that they could dispel a poison concocted by others completely.

“Thanks, but it’s fine!”

Sun Mo modestly spoke and entered the poison mist.

“What?”

Everyone was stunned. What was he doing? Had he gone mad?

Although they all had obtained the poison-evading pill, Ji Han had kept making things difficult for them, as he wanted to establish his might. He wanted to force them to pass this tunnel in a single attempt no matter what. In the end, everyone had been poisoned despite having the poison-evading pill.

They had either vomited or had diarrhea, causing their pants to be filled with the stench of urine and shit. They had also continuously farted, causing the spirit qi in their bodies to leak. That was simply a nightmare.

A few examinees that were seven feet tall would shed tears every night silently, wanting to return home.

“He should have a poison-evading treasure on his body, right?”

The old farmer guessed.

He was a grandmaster in herbology. Even someone like him had had to use five days to analyze this puzzle. He had poisoned over tens of little animals before he managed to find out the composition of this poison mist.

“Have you guys forgotten how Lian Hongying suffered? She is a grandmaster poison master, but she still couldn’t do anything to Sun Mo!”

Lu Guodong sighed ruefully.

“Let’s go. Teacher Sun might be able to clear five levels consecutively today.”

Wu You wanted to see how many levels Sun Mo could clear in one go.

Sun Mo passed through the tunnel and patted away the dust and dirt on his shirt.

A few years ago, after he had killed the Green-robed Old Ancestor in the Greenhaze Forest, he obtained the Green-robed Old Ancestor’s treasure, the white jade cicada.

This was a mysterious species ranked ninth on the magical darkness species list. As long as one consumed it, they would be immune to all poison. It could be said to be the species all poison masters and gu masters hated the most, but also something they wished to obtain at all cost.

Other than this, Sun Mo had also devoured a god skeleton in the Dragonspirit Manor. That thing had strengthened and reinforced Sun Mo’s body and constitution, granting him powerful poison immunity.

Anyway, Sun Mo’s body was as strong as an ancient giant’s.

There were several prisoners on this level. When they heard the footsteps of Sun Mo’s groups, they started shouting.

“How’s the situation outside?”

“Bring some women for me, days here are too boring!”

“Hasn’t the Saint Gate disbanded yet?”

The prisoners made a clamor, which caused Ji Han’s countenance to sink. He waved his hands and the prison guards responsible for this level immediately moved out. They took out whips and started lashing the prisoners fiercely.

“You guys have to be careful. The prisoners here are extremely unbridled, arrogant and obstinate. They still have not given up on escaping. So, I suggest you guys not select the prisoners here to be your targets.”

Ji Han reminded them.

The entrance to the fifth level was a stone passageway. In there, there was a battle puppet stationed every five meters apart.

Sun Mo did a count and saw a total of 12 battle puppets.

“They are loyal, fearless, unafraid of poison, gu, or spiritual control techniques, etc. If someone wants to pass here, they can only depend on their combat strength!”

Ji Han introduced.

“They should all be created by an ancestor, right?”

Sun Mo praised.

These battle puppets were five meters tall. They were a masterpiece created from the combination of top-level puppetry and metal-refining techniques.

Their metallic bodies weighed 500 tons. Even if they didn’t know any cultivation arts, they could depend on brute strength to crush their enemies.

The most terrifying thing was that they didn’t know fatigue. Before the energy in their cores ran out, they could continue fighting. Moreover, their structure made it so that even if they lost some of their limbs, they were still capable of fighting.

“The use of these battle puppets is clear without words. They are here to exhaust an enemy’s strength. It’s enough as long as they delay any escaping prisoner until the prison guards arrive.”

Ji Han snapped his fingers and the eyes of these battle puppets immediately brightened. They finished activating in three seconds. After that, one of them stepped forward.

If it wasn’t because this thing was too expensive and extremely difficult to manufacture, Ji Han really wanted to place 100 of such battle puppets on every level.

“Teacher Sun, please!”

Ji Han didn’t plan to make things difficult for Sun Mo. He only wanted to see what cultivation arts he knew and how high his combat strength was.

“There’s no skill needed to clear this level, right? Only brute strength is sufficient.”

It had been a very long time since Sun Mo had last fought.

Ji Han smiled and indicated to Sun Mo that he could begin.

Sun Mo shrugged. He suddenly lunged forward like a hunting leopard.

Swish~

Sun Mo’s speed was so quick that after-images were formed.

BOOM!

The battle puppet’s fist punched over rapidly, but it was still too slow.

“Since its body is so large, it will definitely have flaws when it comes to agility!”

Sun Mo evaluated.

The battle puppet missed. It immediately lifted its hand and aimed at Sun Mo. After that, an explosion rang out as its right arm actually shot forward.

This was simply too quick that it actually tore the air apart.

Sun Mo's figure was also penetrated.

Rumble~

Its iron fist smashed against the wall, causing a loud explosion. At the next second, a thunderous sound echoed out. It was emitted due to the punch breaking through the sound barrier.

"Did Sun Mo die?"

Everyone was nervous.

"It's an after-image!"

Lu Guodong heaved a sigh of relief after seeing Sun Mo appear at the other end of the passageway.

"I thought it was just a spar? Isn't it a little too ruthless?"

Sun Mo clicked his tongue. If he was slightly slower, he would have become a meat patty.

"Teacher Sun, I thought you said you want to challenge the battle puppets? What do you mean by passing them all so quickly?"

Ji Han was depressed. "You are pulling a fast one."

"That's right, fight again!"

Someone argued in protest.

All of them wanted to observe Sun Mo's battle and had even prepared image-recording stones.