

Teacher 391

Chapter 391: Darkness Illusion

“What else can we do? Do you want to suffer the same symptoms as Nangong Dao?”

Wei Xueli rolled his eyes and wanted to curse. (Are you a pig? Nangong Dao has almost gone crazy, do you want to send yourself to your death?)

Jia Wendong’s neck shrank back as he retreated to the side. It was evident that Teacher Wei was scared.

Sigh!

In the past, Jia Wendong admired Teacher Wei very much. But now, he suddenly felt very disappointed. After that, he looked at the stairs and saw Sun Mo’s back heading up to the second floor.

“Cough, cough. Teacher Ming said before that this place is very dangerous. We better wait downstairs to receive him!”

In order to save face, Wei Xueli spun a lie.

“Oh!”

Jia Wendong casually mumbled, not believing it at all. He was conflicted right now. In the end, he couldn’t control it and suddenly sprinted toward the stairs after sneaking a glance at Wei Xueli.

“Ah?”

Wei Xueli was shocked. “What are you doing?”

Jia Wendong acted like he didn’t hear it.

For such a risky experience, one would at most experience it a few times in their lifetime. This was why he didn’t want to miss out on it. Besides, if he ran into danger, he believed that Teacher Sun Mo would save him.

Although it was a little shameless for him to do this, he believed in Sun Mo’s strength and character.

“Why did you follow us?”

Li Ziqi grumbled. Her teacher had a very strong sense of responsibility. Since there was an additional student, it meant that her teacher might need to waste an additional portion of energy to protect him if something went wrong.

“W...what is this?”

Now, Jia Wendong was dumbstruck because there were seven people in front of him. Other than Gu Xiuxun, the others all had doubles. It was as though their twin had appeared.

Sun Mo, unknown lifeform!

Li Ziqi, unknown lifeform!

Tantai Yutang, unknown lifeform!

Warning: This building contains a strange darkness energy that will affect one's mental state and generate huge negative effects. Please leave as soon as possible.

Sun Mo looked at his darkness illusion. Other than the words 'unknown lifeform', there was no other data. However, the little sunny egg and the sickly invalid's darkness illusions looked exactly the same as them.

"Tantai, do you want to have a go at it?"

Sun Mo asked.

"I have no interest in killing myself!"

The sickly invalid shrugged.

"Teacher, let me do it first."

Li Ziqi was eager to give this a try.

"Be careful!"

Sun Mo reminded.

It was unknown why but only the illusion of Li Ziqi from the darkness illusion camp walked over. Clearly, they were also keen on a one versus one.

"If you leave now, you will be spared. If not, after I kill you, I will replace you and become the real Li Ziqi."

The voice of the darkness illusion was identical to Li Ziqi's. Even its tone was the same.

Li Ziqi didn't waste time talking nonsense. She took out a stack of spirit runes and placed them in her mouth. After that, she rapidly tore them

Si~

She tore the lightning protection rune first and created seven lightning spheres that revolved around her. After that, she manifested a large fireball that blasted toward the illusion and then the windwave bullet.

On the other side, it was as though the illusion was a mirror. It replicated Li Ziqi's attacks perfectly.

Bang!

The large fireball blasted over from the other side, slamming into one of Li Ziqi's lightning spheres. This caused sparks to explode forth. After that, the windwave bullet shot past her head.

"F***!"

Jia Wendong was badly frightened and felt his scalp turning numb. How should one fight against them?

"It's pretty interesting!"

Li Ziqi had a calm look on her face and no longer continued to attack.

The two of them started to be in a deadlock.

For a complete five minutes, there were no movements from either side.

“What is she doing?”

Jia Wendong was puzzled.

“Observing!”

Tantai Yutang was making various subtle and small movements while observing his own darkness illusion that stood twenty meters away.

“Ah, can things be observed from just standing there like that?”

Jia Wendong didn't understand. After that, he discovered that Li Ziqi and Tantai Yutang were both considering how to deal with the enemies before them. They showed no signs of nervousness or unease.

Their performances were simply much much better compared to him.

Hence, Jia Wendong started to feel a sense of inferiority. He had thought that he was only inferior to Nangong Dao. But from the looks of things, there would always be people superior to you.

All of a sudden, a bright light glowed on the back of Li Ziqi's left hand. That was a magical and profound rune.

“Wind King Protection!”

BOOM!

Spirit qi gushed out and formed a three-meter-tall giant. Its body was completely formed from wind elemental crystals and linked by a series of mini tornados.

“...”

Jia Wendong felt lingering fear. So, Li Ziqi hadn't unleashed her full strength before. If he had found trouble for her back then, he would have died already.

He didn't see any way he would be able to win against this giant.

The darkness illusion also summoned the Wind King Protection. Its appearance was completely identical.

Swish~

A white light flashed as the White Tiger Guard appeared. Li Ziqi climbed onto the tiger's back and charged at her illusion.

Swish~

White Bird was unleashed.

The illusion also mirrored her movements.

“Eh? Li Ziqi wanted to brawl? Does she not know of her own flaws?”

The sickly invalid was surprised. But after that, a look of contemplation appeared on his face.

Sun Mo and Gu Xiuxun's eyes brightened because the little sunny egg's battle strategy was the same as what they would do.

Just when the two of them were about to collide, Li Ziqi suddenly waved her hand as a golden halo erupted forth.

"What? A great teacher halo?"

Gu Xiuxun was completely stunned. She almost couldn't help but rub her eyes.

As for Jia Wendong, he was stupefied.

The darkness illusion also cast the Retentive Memory halo. After that, it was knocked off its white tiger mount by Li Ziqi who charged over.

Pu!

A dagger stabbed into the illusion's heart.

No fresh blood flowed.

Li Ziqi's illusion popped like a fragmented glass and collapsed onto the ground.

Hu! Hu! Hu!

Li Ziqi panted. After that, she glanced at Sun Mo and smiled sweetly.

(Teacher, I did it. I didn't lose face for you.)

"Excellent!"

Sun Mo praised.

"The enemy died just like that?"

Jia Wendong felt his brains turning into mush. Was that a killing halo?

Because Li Ziqi had just comprehended Retentive Memory, its range was extremely small.

"Teacher Sun, that's a great teacher halo, right?"

Gu Xiuxun looked at Sun Mo with curiosity on her face.

"Yes!"

Sun Mo didn't conceal anything before Gu Xiuxun.

"You knew it long ago?"

Gu Xiuxun moved over.

"Mn!"

When Sun Mo answered, the masochist's little fist slammed into his chest. After that, she felt that she hadn't vented enough and directly curled her arm around his throat.

"Why? Why are your personal students all so outstanding? I also want one!"

Gu Xiuxun was so envious that she was almost wet...eh...almost drooling.

A 12-year-old child comprehending Retentive Memory? Wa...wasn't she too much of a genius?"

"Ziqi, you have to work hard. You will definitely have great accomplishments should you choose to be a great teacher."

Gu Xiuxun was praising her sincerely. From history, teachers who started comprehending halos at the age of 12 were so rare that they could be counted with fingers.

"Hehe, it's all thanks to Teacher's great tutelage!"

Li Ziqi smiled happily. If it wasn't for her teacher, she wouldn't have comprehended the self-taught halo either.

"Can you please let me go?"

Sun Mo patted Gu Xiuxun's arm. Speaking of which, the tactile sensation wasn't bad. (Masochist, your chest is actually quite sizable.)

"It's actually a great teacher halo? This small-chested little girl can already become a teacher? Isn't this too fake?"

Jia Wendong mumbled. He lifted his left hand and exerted a bit of strength as he slapped his left face.

Pak!

So painful!

"As expected, this isn't an illusion!"

Jia Wendong suddenly felt an impulse to kneel toward Sun Mo and take him as his teacher. Because in his entire life, his ambition was to become a teacher.

However, he knew that this occupation wasn't like other occupations where one could simply study and work hard.

If he couldn't comprehend the self-taught halo, he wouldn't have any chance even if he was to work hard his entire life.

Just when Jia Wendong was about to kneel, Sun Mo suddenly executed the Wind King Divine Step. With a woosh, he appeared beside Li Ziqi.

"You are injured, right? In the future, don't take so much risk."

Sun Mo lifted Li Ziqi's right leg slightly. When she had charged over earlier and made the darkness illusion fall off, she also fell on her leg.

"It's not very painful."

Li Ziqi couldn't help but lean against Sun Mo's arms. As long as she could win, what was a little injury? Also, with her teacher's God Hands, even if she broke a few more bones, she would recover very quickly.

Sun Mo used the bone-setting technique and muscleforge technique to treat the little sunny egg, improving her blood circulation to dissolve any blood clots.

"Teacher, what was going on earlier?"

Jia Wendong asked.

There was no solution to it. The other four people here had an 'as it should be by rights' expression on their faces. Clearly, they knew what was going on. If he didn't ask, Teacher Sun would surely not explain.

"That darkness illusion could copy Ziqi entirely."

Sun Mo started to explain. "She was most proficient in long-ranged attack. After testing once, she discovered the other party could do it too and their level of might was similar. In that case, if she wanted to win, it wouldn't be easy. Hence, Li Ziqi chose close combat because her reserve of physical strength and spirit qi were still in abundance."

"However, Ziqi's close combat ability is extremely weak!"

"Ah?"

Jia Wendong didn't understand. "Since her close combat ability is weak, why did she still choose it?"

"If the darkness illusion is an exact copy of me, its close combat ability would definitely be weak as well!"

Li Ziqi replied, "I trained that move of mine a lot. It is a feigned attack coupled with an assassination strike. As long as I act first, I will be able to win."

In truth, the situation earlier was very dangerous. If Li Ziqi had failed to kill the darkness illusion immediately, she would have been the one with her heart pierced.

Li Ziqi's battle strategy was to compete against her darkness illusion in her own flaws and see who was better in overcoming them.

As an innately intelligent girl, she was very clear about her own weaknesses. All her probing earlier was to collect information about the darkness illusion.

The data showed that the darkness illusion had simulated Li Ziqi's complete behavior but not at the same time. There was a slight lag in its actions.

"In that case, isn't it very simple if we want to kill these darkness illusions?"

Jia Wendong finally understood. He was instantly filled with confidence.

"No, it's only easier if 'we' kill them."

Tantai Yutang explained.

"Ah?"

Jia Wendong was bewildered again.

“In this building, the weaker one is, the easier one would be able to win against their darkness illusion. However, if the darkness illusions are copies of teachers, things would be extremely disastrous.”

Tantai Yutang stared at Sun Mo.

His teacher knew too many cultivation arts. This also meant that the darkness illusion of his teacher would also know them.

“Why do I feel that you are actually rejoicing in our teacher’s misery when you say these words?”

Li Ziqi frowned.

“You are slandering me.”

Gu Xiuxun was startled as she looked at Tantai Yutang. She didn’t expect that this youth would also be very clever. Sadly, he was very sick and wouldn’t be able to live long.

“Hehe!”

Jia Wendong suddenly felt like turning around and heading down the stairs. Being together with these people gave him a strong psychological impact. He felt like he was a dummy.

“Alright, next is my turn!”

Sun Mo walked out and faced his darkness illusion.

Chapter 392: Don’t Ask! If You Do, It’s A Great Teacher Halo!

The darkness illusion was very interesting. When it saw Sun Mo coming out, it also walked out. It didn’t show any intention of joining hands with its comrades to attack Sun Mo.

Sun Mo drew his wooden blade and swung it flashily.

The illusion immediately performed the same actions.

At the next second, Sun Mo performed the Wind King Divine Steps, appearing in front of the illusion like a gust of strong wind. He attacked heavily with his wooden blade and slashed toward its skull.

The illusion didn’t dodge. It struck out toward Sun Mo’s head with the same move, making it seem as if both sides were going to sustain great injuries.

The illusion wasn’t imitating Sun Mo. It understood that if it were to dodge, it’d lose the advantage of the first move and be defeated by Sun Mo completely. Therefore, it could only use such a battle tactic to force Sun Mo to change his move.

As a result, Sun Mo really changed from attack to defense.

Clank!

The wooden blades clashed then separated. The darkness illusion then seized the opportunity to retaliate.

Eighteen Words Order!

Pa pa pa!

The wooden blade tapped consecutively, encompassing Sun Mo's entire body.

Sun Mo's brows furrowed slightly. The spots where the illusion attacked were very hard to defend. It felt extremely uncomfortable, like using his uncommonly used left hand to eat and write.

Yujing Ballad, Midnight Songs Poetry, Golden Jade Hibiscus!

Sun Mo fell amidst the blade attacks, and a song that could shake one's heart rang next to his ears. Many hibiscus flowers bloomed in front of him, emitting an aura of death amidst the extravagance.

"So this is the type of attacks my enemies had to face?"

Sun Mo mumbled, going all out with the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art. The world in front of him instantly slowed down.

West River Moon, Broad Cold Autumn, Late Fragrance!

Sun Mo was careless and received a blow in his left rib.

"Hey, hey, aren't you going to help? Things don't seem to be good for Teacher Sun."

Jia Wendong shouted out. Sun Mo had been suppressed.

Sun Mo and the illusion seemed as if they were made out of the same mold. The reason Jia Wendong could recognize the real one was because Sun Mo was suppressed and beaten up after he passively defended.

No matter how one saw it, Sun Mo was going to lose!

"Making a big fuss out of nothing!"

Li Ziqi's lips twitched.

"Be quiet and watch!"

Gu Xiuxun pointed out.

"Many cultivation arts that Teacher Sun learned are all at the saint tier. Moreover, he has an extremely rich battle experience. To students, this is a rare chance to watch and learn. You should try hard to remember it!"

"Huh?"

Jia Wendong was stunned. (Several cultivation arts? And they are all at saint tier?)

(Who are you kidding?)

(Do you think saint-tier cultivation arts are Chinese cabbages? Even Chinese cabbages are only available in winter!)

"Is this the level of an outstanding student in Mingshao's student group?"

Tantai Yutang was amused. "Then it shouldn't be a problem for us to clinch the first place this time around."

Hearing this, Jia Wendong was furious. He couldn't help but question Gu Xiuxun, "Since the cultivation arts that Teacher Sun Mo practiced are all at the saint tier, then why don't the two of them grasp the opportunity to watch and learn?"

"Watch and learn?"

Li Ziqi laughed. "Are you a fool? We're Teacher's personal disciples. Teacher would spar and teach us all the time. Do we still need to watch and learn?"

Jia Wendong suddenly had a strong urge to slap himself. (Why did I go shooting my mouth off?)

However, he then felt a little envious. He had no idea if Sun Mo's cultivation arts were at the saint tier, but this move wasn't just extravagant, its prowess was also very powerful.

It was just for Teacher Zhen Yuanxiong to suffer an overwhelming defeat.

"Oh right, Teacher has imparted his cultivation arts to us."

Li Ziqi thought of her teacher's generosity and couldn't help but divulge a small secret. She wanted to let other people know what a great person her teacher was.

"Huh? That must be a lie, right?"

Jia Wendong didn't believe that. Saint-tier cultivation art? These were all ultimate arts that were only passed down to guys and not girls. Even if a great teacher knew one, they wouldn't impart it to their personal disciples easily. Their disciples must go through over ten years of testing to ascertain their character and loyalty before the teacher would impart it to them.

"In your eyes, saint-tier cultivation arts are treasures. But in Teacher's eyes, they are a type of knowledge that can be taught to his students at any time."

Li Ziqi explained.

Jia Wendong wanted to retort, but after seeing Li Ziqi's gaze brimming with admiration and yearning when she looked at Sun Mo, he suddenly felt a strong heartache. He was unable to say a word to retort.

"I probably won't be able to win this girl's heart in my lifetime."

Jia Wendong sighed. Judging from Li Ziqi's gaze, Sun Mo definitely meant more to her than just a teacher.

"The retaliation is starting!"

Tantai Yutang suddenly interjected.

As the sickly guy's sentence ended, Sun Mo swung his wooden blade and brought up a great killing aura. They were like thunderstorms attacking the illusion.

"What?"

Jia Wendong was greatly surprised. (What the hell? Why did the situation turn around so easily?)

“Do you still not understand?”

Li Ziqi was surprised.

“Understand what?”

Jia Wendong felt so embarrassed that he felt like dying. However, he really didn't understand.

“The reason Teacher was suppressed earlier wasn't because the illusion was too strong, but that he was doing it on purpose!”

Tantai Yutang explained, “Such illusions clearly possess the same attacking prowess as the real person, including their battle wisdom and experience. Therefore, Teacher wanted to test his weakness through it. After all, the person one understands the least is themselves.”

“Huh?”

Jia Wendong looked very stunned, then he seemed to enter into deep thought.

It was true. What opportunities were the least in this world?

Of course it was the opportunity to fight against oneself. Many people would have treated the darkness illusions as enemies. However, Sun Mo treated one of them as a sparring opponent to find out his weaknesses.

“Could this be one's outlook and perspective on the bigger situation?”

Jia Wendong gasped in surprise.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Jia Wendong +500. Friendly (750/1,000).

Sun Mo had felt very awkward when he defended against the illusion's attacks. He had also received several hits. However, with his Divine Sight and Copy, he had witnessed the way the illusion attacked without missing out on anything.

After the illusion finished one round of attack and was about to repeat the same pattern, it meant that the attacks had no more value. Therefore, Sun Mo retaliated.

The places he chose to attack were the weaknesses the 'illusion' had located. Since he was stronger than the illusion to begin with, the tables turned in the blink of an eye.

“This is really exciting!”

Gu Xiuxun praised, feeling a little disappointed at the same time because her illusion had been killed by Sun Mo.

Sun Mo was really improving at every minute and second. This was such a great pressure!

What was the most painful thing in the world?

It was that your competitor wasn't just a genius, but he also worked harder than you. How could one win like that?

Jia Wendong told himself that he should focus on Sun Mo's battle. However, he couldn't help but sneak glances at Li Ziqi and Tantai Yutang.

"Do you guys know about it long ago?"

Jia Wendong asked.

The two students didn't reply, but the answer was obvious.

A feeling of inferiority and disappointment started to well up in Jia Wendong's chest.

Before the third round of the league tournament, Jia Wendong was proud. However, he was dealt a blow now.

How amazing was Sun Mo to be able to get such amazing students to be in admiration toward him?

Jia Wendong smiled in self-mockery. He had been hesitating if he should acknowledge Sun Mo as his teacher. But now, even if he did, Sun Mo might not accept him.

There was no other reason other than his aptitude was too weak!

Bang!

Sun Mo crushed the illusion's head with a blade attack.

The illusion fell, shattering into light spots and disappearing.

"Alright, let's go!"

Sun Mo headed for the stairs. "Tantai Yutang, I'm giving you three minutes. Get the battle over with!"

"Teacher, I'm so weak! I'll be killed!"

The sickly guy cried.

Sun Mo paid him no heed.

The four of them went upstairs.

Jia Wendong kept on looking back, assessing Sun Mo non-stop. In the end, he wasn't able to hold back and asked Li Ziqi softly.

"That student keeps on coughing, looking like he is seriously ill. Can he win against his darkness illusion?"

Jia Wendong had just said this when he heard complaints ringing out from behind him.

"That's right! I almost died!"

"What?"

Jia Wendong was surprised and turned back, stunned. He saw that the sickly guy had walked up the stairs. This... Wasn't it too fast?

It was even faster than one round of masturbation!

"How on earth did you do it?"

Jia Wendong felt curious.

"Hehe!"

There was no way the sickly guy was going to say it.

"To think that someone like this is Teacher Sun Mo's student?"

Jia Wendong gulped. This sickly guy gave him a very strange feeling, making him feel very uncomfortable.

He felt that even Nangong Dao might end up losing when placed against him.

Ding!

"Congratulations, as Nangong Dao has developed some respect for you, your prestige connection has risen. Moreover, he is the top student of another school. Rewarded with one silver treasure chest."

Sun Mo suddenly heard the system's notification and he touched Li Ziqi's head before saying.

"Open the chest!"

Light scattered out and a skill book quietly floated in the air.

Ding!

"Congratulations, you've obtained knowledge of 100 types of plants from the Darkness Continent. The proficiency index is at the elementary-grade level. Would you like to learn it?"

"Learn!"

Sun Mo's tone was decisive. Although the proficiency index was a little low, he could bring it up. Moreover, if he were to slack a little, it'd just be a matter of two time emblems!

Sun Mo then felt that he had become stronger again.

"Ziqi is really not as amazing as Zhiruo the chest-opening mascot!"

Sun Mo exclaimed.

Third floor!

Fourth floor!

Fifth floor!

...

All the way up to the 12th floor.

They'd encounter darkness illusions on every floor. The illusions' battle prowess would get increasingly higher and they'd be increasingly hard to handle.

"Did you guys notice? These illusions seem as if they can learn. Their overall attributes are getting stronger!"

Tantai Yutang couldn't help but laugh. "This guy even learned the rhythm of my coughing!"

"Hmmm? There's a rhythm to your coughing?"

Jia Wendong was surprised.

"Obsessive-compulsive disorder is really scary!"

Li Ziqi's lips twitched. This was something she had noticed long ago. Moreover, she had learned this term from Sun Mo.

"Coughing in itself feels bad to begin with, so I had to find some amusement to disperse some of the pain!"

Tantai Yutang's tone sounded like it was a matter-of-fact.

Sun Mo, Gu Xiuxun, and Tantai Yutang defeated the illusions without any pressure. Li Ziqi had some difficulty, but she kept on getting hurt. However, the one who got the worst of it was Jia Wendong.

He had not won from the seventh floor onward.

He finally couldn't hold it in anymore and quickly walked up to Sun Mo, bowing deeply.

"Teacher Sun, Student Jia Wendong pleads to get your guidance!"

Sun Mo didn't make things difficult for Jia Wendong but just gave a pointer outright. "Your battle pattern is too rigid. Add more variations to it."

"Huh? I did!"

Jia Wendong frowned. He had noticed this problem.

"Didn't you notice it? You get anxious and irritated very easily. Once you do, your moves will go back to your old pattern!"

To say it clearly, he wasn't intelligent and his ability to withstand pressure wasn't good enough.

"Then what should I do?"

Jia Wendong humbly asked for advice.

"You won't be able to deal with it within a short time. Have more battles and slowly accumulate experience!"

Gu Xiuxun interjected.

Jia Wendong looked dejected. He understood that such flaws were the hardest to improve on.

“Get your spirits up! From now onward, try hard to sense this mental state!”

As Sun Mo said this, he smashed out his fist toward Jia Wendong’s forehead.

Boom!

Soul Imprint.

A ball of milky-white light shot into Jia Wendong’s forehead and he became spirited. A lot of knowledge, comprehension, and experience instantly appeared in his mind, giving him a calm and composed mental state.

(No intelligence? It doesn’t matter. I’ll tell you what intelligence is.)

“Go on, kill it!”

Sun Mo patted Jia Wendong’s shoulder fiercely.

Jia Wendong dashed toward the illusion. When he saw the illusion earlier, he was unable to find a way to tackle it. But after receiving Sun Mo’s battle wisdom and experience, the illusion was now filled with many flaws.

“Die!”

Jia Wendong slashed quickly, going all out.

In just one minute, the illusion was crushed!

Exhilarating!

This was too exhilarating!

Jia Wendong panted fiercely then turned his head abruptly, looking toward Sun Mo. “Teacher Sun, I won!”

“Of course!”

Li Ziqi thought, (Your inner self is now Teacher. It’s like you’ve battled using Teacher’s train of thoughts. If you can’t win, then you’d be trash.)

“What technique is this?”

Jia Wendong looked at Sun Mo, sensing the things in his mind and taking them in greedily.

“Don’t ask. If you do, it’s a great teacher halo.”

Sun Mo chuckled.

“Thank you Teacher Sun for your guidance!”

Jia Wendong bowed once again. He now felt that he was very powerful and could even win against Nangong Dao.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Jia Wendong +500. Reverence (1,250/10,000).

“Great, it’s another experience baby!”

Sun Mo thought of the honest guy Qi Shengjia. He wondered how he had been faring recently. Sun Mo felt that after they left the ancient castle, the favorable impression points contributed by Jia Wendong might surpass 3,000.

Gu Xiuxun assessed Sun Mo, her gaze filled with suspicion.

“The effect of this great teacher halo is a little similar to Enlightenment Provision, but not exactly so. It seems to be able to hit everything that Sun Mo has into a student’s brain!”

Gu Xiuxun analyzed. Had Sun Mo really comprehended a brand-new great teacher halo?

If that was true, then he was really amazing!

“Alright, let’s continue advancing!”

Sun Mo climbed up the stairs.

...

“That student downstairs is from the Central Province Academy, right? It’s really a pity that he was defeated here!”

Ming Xian sighed. He wondered if they could recover the students’ consciousness after getting that secret treasure of darkness. Otherwise, it’d be an extremely great loss for a genius like that to have gone crazy.

Ming Xian went up the stairs. At first glance, the setup was different from downstairs. There was a corridor that led straight to the front.

“This should be the highest level, right?”

Ming Xian didn’t feel any excitement or nervousness. He stepped on the top floor calmly, walking toward the end of the corridor. His expression then turned into astonishment.

Ming Xian had done all sorts of mental preparation. All sorts of illusions could appear in front of him, even the family members who had died. However, he had never thought that it’d be a student from the Central Province Academy.

“Are my eyes playing tricks on me?”

Ming Xian instantly sank into self-doubt.

Chapter 393: Are Teacher Sun’s Students All Monsters?

“Charge! Charge!”

With Soul Imprint in effect, Jia Wendong received Sun Mo’s pre-battle mental state, battle wisdom, as well as his rich experience. He became invincible.

All the illusions of darkness before him were crushed.

As a genius student from Mingshao, Jia Wendong's physical attributes were excellent. However, he couldn't unleash it at all.

It was like how some soccer players were teasingly referred to as being world-class from neck down. If they had to score with their heads, they instantly became third-rate soccer players.

Although Jia Wendong wasn't as bad, his head and his body were incompatible. Now that it had been changed to 'Sun Mo's inner core', his battle prowess immediately spiked up.

This feeling was exhilarating!

"I feel that I can take on ten by myself!"

After defeating his opponent, Jia Wendong put both hands on his waist, looking around proudly. Then, without waiting for Sun Mo, he darted upstairs.

Right now, he couldn't wait to get rid of his next opponent.

Gu Xiuxun felt very curious as to why Jia Wendong would go through such a great change. However, considering that this was Sun Mo's secret, she didn't ask.

Sun Mo noticed this and couldn't help but smile. "We're already in such a relationship. If there's anything you want to say, just say it!"

Sun Mo felt that he was good friends with Gu Xiuxun.

"What... what relationship?"

Gu Xiuxun was surprised and subconsciously thought of how the two of them had taken a bath together. Sun Mo had even touched all parts of her body before. This was considered to be very intimate, right?

It must be beyond friends but not yet lovers!

"Huh? Aren't we friends?"

Sun Mo was stunned. (Did I think too much? Does Gu Xiuxun not care about me at all?)

"..."

For some reason, after hearing the word 'friends', Gu Xiuxun frowned. She suddenly felt very uncomfortable. (Would your friends be seen naked and touched all over by you? Hold on! Gu Xiuxun, quickly forget about this matter. You're letting your future husband down, do you know that?)

This was like how an old monk had carried a beautiful lady across the river on his back. The younger monk then kept on looking back, asking the old monk, "Wasn't it improper for men and women to come into contact with each other?"

However, the old monk said, "I only carried her across the river and have let go of the thoughts on this. But you, although you didn't carry her, you're unable to let go of her in your heart. This is an obsession!"

At the thought of this, the masochist took in a deep breath and smiled, revealing her teeth. "Of course, we're friends!"

As she said this, Gu Xiuxun gave a strong blow into Sun Mo's chest. She then kept quiet, not asking about the great teacher halo from earlier.

"Hehe, that's a brand new great teacher halo!"

Seeing that the masochist looked like she wanted to know but was embarrassed to ask, Sun Mo told her himself. Anyway, all his personal disciples knew about this, and there was nothing to hide.

"That's really it?"

After getting an affirmative answer, Gu Xiuxun felt a little disappointed.

The difference between them was too great.

The rigid requirement for one to become an 8-star great teacher was to comprehend a brand new great teacher halo.

How difficult was this?

For example, the 7-star great teacher Li Wanjun had lived for 900 years and was known as a five-fold great ancestor.

It was because he was at the great ancestor-grade in alchemy, weaponsmithing, spiritual beast control, puppetry, as well as spirit runes. He had countless students under his wing across the entire nine provinces.

However, despite having such brilliant achievements, as Li Wanjun hadn't comprehended new great teacher halos, he remained a 7-star great teacher.

How old was Sun Mo?

He was only 20 years old!

"What shitty luck is this?"

Gu Xiuxun exclaimed and then strangled Sun Mo's neck. "This can't do. I'm too jealous. You have to give me ten massages, no, twenty massages. Only then will I forgive you. Otherwise, we can't be friends."

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Gu Xiuxun +1,000. Respect (6,500/10,000).

Sun Mo smiled as he saw the masochist contributed so many favorable impression points. He wondered if he should use the ancient massage technique to make her boobs bigger and then 'strangle' himself in the future. The touch would feel better as well.

"What should I do? Teacher is going to have an extramarital affair. Waiting urgently for a reply!"

Li Ziqi glanced at Sun Mo then at Gu Xiuxun. The atmosphere between the two of them was very good. It totally looked like the scene of a big-scale extramarital affair.

This couldn't do. It seemed like she could only sacrifice herself.

"Teacher!"

Li Ziqi called out then sat on the floor. "My legs hurt!"

"You must have gotten hurt from the kick earlier."

Tantai Yutang squatted next to her. "It's a small matter. I'll help you apply some medicine!"

"Can you scam further away?"

Li Ziqi felt like she was going to be driven to death. Thankfully, her teacher was very concerned about her and quickly came over to check her injuries.

The little sunny egg felt very moved by this scene, thinking that she shouldn't have disturbed her teacher.

So what if a guy were to have multiple wives, concubines, and bosom friends?

The more their numbers, the more it showed that her teacher was really amazing!

(I should be feeling happy for Teacher instead!)

The little sunny egg sunny felt at a loss.

...

"Teacher, come up quickly!"

Jia Wendong's shout suddenly rang out from upstairs.

Sun Mo and the other three immediately dashed up.

"Teacher, it's a student from the Central Province Academy!"

Jia Wendong pointed to the wall in the east. A guy was laying there with his limbs stretched out, his gaze looking at the ceiling spiritlessly.

"Xuanyuan Po?"

Sun Mo dashed over quickly. At the same time, he activated his Divine Sight and observed Xuanyuan Po.

Warning!

Left lower thigh, left waist, right rib, left shoulder blade, and both wrists show signs of bones fracturing. Moreover, several tens of muscles are torn, along with some slight internal bleeding in his internal organs.

Sun Mo didn't show any delays and placed both hands on the combat addict.

Boom!

Spirit qi gushed out, forming a genie. After seeing Xuanyuan Po's horrible plight, he continued to flaunt his muscles before starting to provide treatment.

He first used the bone-setting technique to mend the cracks on the bones, followed by the muscleforge technique to heal the muscles. He then worked on promoting blood circulation and dispelling stasis.

The whole process took ten minutes.

Sun Mo broke out in heavy sweat as his hands were moving.

“Xuanyuan Po must have fought his way up!”

Tantai Yutang’s lips twitched, then took out some medicinal herbs to apply on the combat addict’s body.

“Do you think he planned before engaging in battles?”

Li Ziqi asked him.

“Nope!”

After the sickly guy said that, he couldn’t help but smile. In fact, he quite liked to be friends with such innocent people.

When Jia Wendong saw the horrible injuries on Xuanyuan Po, it was like he could feel the pain as well.

“Why didn’t he stop after sustaining so many injuries?”

Jia Wendong was baffled.

He had also ‘fought’ his way up and thus knew how strong those darkness illusions were. Without Sun Mo’s help, he’d have fallen long ago.

Tantai Yutang?

He relied on all sorts of medicinal items to kill with poison. After all, even though the illusions had duplicated all of the sickly guy’s medical knowledge, they had no poison to use.

Li Ziqi no longer battled.

(I’m an intellectual girl. Battle is rough work and I don’t want to do it.)

To be honest, making the wise decision of giving up was also a type of growth.

The little sunny egg’s wish was to build the biggest library in the nine provinces. There’d always be books to read, and she could figure out questions that no one knew the answers to, such as how tall the sky and how big the world was.

As to becoming the god of battle?

She wasn’t interested!

“If he understood the word ‘stop’, he wouldn’t be Xuanyuan Po.”

Li Ziqi felt emotional.

Jia Wendong looked at Xuanyuan Po in surprise, feeling some admiration for him. To speak the truth, if he were to sustain one-third of these injuries, he’d definitely back off.

“Xuanyuan?”

Sun Mo called a few times, but there wasn’t any effect.

“This guy must have been dealt a blow like Nangong was.”

After saying this, Jia Wendong was stunned. Didn't that mean that this Xuanyuan Po was stronger than Nangong Dao? It was because he only broke down mentally after reaching this place.

Sun Mo focused his mind and adjusted his emotions, smashing Soul Imprint right into the combat addict's head.

Boom!

Xuanyuan Po's body shook and he looked around with a dazed gaze. His eyes then landed on Sun Mo's face.

“Teacher?”

Xuanyuan Po gradually came back to his senses.

“Have some rest!”

Sun Mo consoled him.

“Hehe!”

Xuanyuan Po smiled in self-mockery and then struggled to stand up. After he picked up his silver spear that was dropped in the distance, he stroked it.

“Silver-chan, to think that I had become despondent. How could I do that?”

Xuanyuan Po mumbled, suddenly clenching his right fist and smashing it toward his own face.

Bang!

Xuanyuan Po's body shook and he bellowed out.

“Scram out here! Fight me again!”

Swoosh!

The darkness illusion took form.

“This guy is really crazy!”

Jia Wendong felt puzzled. “Why aren't you guys stopping him?”

Even after Nangong Dao regained his consciousness, he didn't head upstairs immediately to challenge the darkness illusions! At the very least, Xuanyuan Po should take a breather and rest for a few minutes.

“Teacher Sun, this student of yours is too impressive. If he doesn't die, he'll definitely achieve great things!”

Gu Xiuxun felt envious.

“Huh? He is also Teacher Sun's personal disciple?”

Jia Wendong's eyes and mouth were agape.

“Xuanyuan seems to be by himself. How do you guys think he found this place?”

Tantai Yutang was curious.

“Through his scent of smell for combats?”

Li Ziqi guessed.

Jia Wendong didn't forget the anxiety when he was downstairs. If it wasn't because he met Sun Mo, he wouldn't have been able to come here.

There was no suspense with the battle at all. After Xuanyuan Po received Sun Mo's inner core, he crushed the illusion instantly. Then, his longspine swung out and he pointed toward Sun Mo's illusion.

“Come to me!”

“...”

Jia Wendong was speechless. Did Teacher Sun take in madmen as well? He admitted that this guy was very strong, but there was a problem with his intellect!

“Teacher Sun, I take back what I said earlier. I feel that this guy can't live past 20 years old!”

Gu Xiuxun changed her words.

“I feel that it should be 15!”

Tantai Yutang felt even less positive.

Of course, Sun Mo wouldn't let Xuanyuan Po battle his illusion. After letting him take a rest, Sun Mo and Gu Xiuxun jointly defeated these illusions. They then headed up.

“This is the top floor, right?”

Looking at a passageway that they had no idea where it led to, Li Ziqi felt excited. On the other hand, Xuanyuan Po had dashed out.

...

At the end of the passageway, there was a round hall. The floor, ceiling, and walls were all made of some kind of white crystals. All sorts of images flashed past them.

In the center of the hall, there was a small gemstone the size of a walnut floating in midair.

Ming Xian looked and then his gaze landed on the girl next to the gemstone.

She was wearing the Central Province Academy's uniform and sitting on the floor, resting her cheeks on her hands and dozing off while wearing a bored expression. She didn't even notice when he had walked over.

“She shouldn't be an illusion, right? But isn't she too lax?”

Ming Xian was speechless, then an even bigger doubt barged into his brain.

He was already very strong, right?

However, he still sustained some light injuries on his way here. So why did it look as if this female student hadn't been through any battles at all?

Chapter 394: Seizing Secret Treasure

"Cough! Cough!"

Ming Xian felt that as a teacher, one should have prestige. Taking the initiative to speak would lower his status. Hence, he coughed twice, wanting to gain the attention of that girl.

"Mn?"

Li Zhiruo opened her eyes and lifted her head.

"..."

Ming Xian was speechless. (I'm over here, alright? This girl was actually looking in the opposite direction. How weak can you be exactly?)

"Ah, it's an enemy!"

Lu Zhiruo finally saw Ming Xian. She stood up in a fluster and pulled out her sword.

"There's no need to be nervous, I won't attack you."

Ming Xian consoled. Even if there were no rules restricting the teachers, he wouldn't harm a student.

"However, I will attack you because I have to guard this treasure. This belongs to my teacher!"

Lu Zhiruo's tone was solemn. She even shifted her feet and stood between Ming Xian and the darkness illusion gemstone, not allowing him to take it easily.

"Do you think you can block me?"

Ming Xian made fun of her while feeling envy for this girl's teacher. She must worship her teacher a lot to have taken such an action, not retreating despite facing an enemy that far surpassed her ability.

"Even if I can't block you, I can delay you."

Lu Zhiruo turned her head, wanting to glance at the sky. However, there were no windows here in the crystal great hall. "I believe that my teacher will soon arrive!"

"Is it your personal teacher?"

Ming Xian was curious.

"Yes."

Lu Zhiruo nodded heavily. "Since the start until now, I've always been the one troubling teacher. So, this time, I have to guard this darkness illusion gemstone!"

"You know what this thing is called?"

Ming Xian was surprised

“Yup, it told me.”

The papaya girl had no sense of wariness at all and directly told Ming Xian.

“So this item has its own consciousness!”

Ming Xian looked at the darkness illusion gemstone that had the size of a walnut. His eyes gleamed with a hint of desire to possess it. A sentient secret treasure was priceless.

However, after that, Ming Xian frowned and started to survey Lu Zhiruo.

What origin did this girl have?

What did it mean when she said ‘it told me’?

Ming Xian was a publicly acknowledged genius and was overflowing with talent. However, the darkness illusion gemstone had never communicated with him.

This girl was endearingly silly and looked like a harmless house kitten. There didn’t seem to be anything special about her.

“May I ask you an impudent question?” Ming Xian couldn’t control it. “How did you get up here?”

“I walked up!”

Lu Zhiruo felt very surprised. (It can’t be that I fly, right?)

“...”

If it was someone else saying this, Ming Xian would absolutely feel that the other party was insulting him. After that, he would ruthlessly crush that person. But when he looked at the large eyes of this girl, he knew that she wasn’t lying.

But this answer...

(I can’t accept it!)

“Why are you not injured?”

Ming Xian changed his style of questioning.

Lu Zhiruo frowned. “I’m different from my eldest martial sister. I won’t stumble and fall flat on the ground.”

“What the hell is fall flat?”

Ming Xian kneaded his forehead. “Were there any darkness illusions trying to attack you?”

“Illusion?” The papaya girl blinked. “What is that?”

(There’s definitely something special about this girl!)

Ming Xian contemplated. If not, she wouldn’t have enjoyed the preferential treatment from this secret treasure of darkness.

“Do you have other questions?”

Lu Zhiruo asked in a low voice.

Ming Xian’s heart suddenly grew soft when he stared at the papaya girl’s hopeful gaze. It resembled a wild kitten begging for food.

(How can I bear to act against her?)

“Yes!”

Ming Xian involuntarily replied.

“Oh yeah!”

Lu Zhiruo couldn’t help but wave her small fist. After that, she put on her listening face. As long as she continued answering questions, she would be able to delay until Sun Mo arrived.

“You are very confident in your teacher!”

Ming Xian understood the thinking process of this girl. “You feel that once he is here, he would be able to defeat me and obtain this darkness illusion gemstone?”

“Yes!”

The papaya girl nodded with certainty. “My teacher is the most impressive teacher there is!”

“...!”

When Lu Zhiruo said this, somehow, the look of worship on her face caused Ming Xian to feel like crushing her teacher’s head very much.

“Are there more questions?”

Lu Zhiruo asked.

“No more!”

Ming Xian smiled. “But since you have answered my questions, I will wait here for one hour to repay you!”

“Really?”

Lu Zhiruo’s eyes brightened. She then praised him, “You are really a good person!”

“...”

Ming Xian was speechless. (I know you are praising me but why do I feel a faint sense of disappointment?)

Lu Zhiruo sat down again and continued to rest her chin in her hands, falling into a daze.

“...”

(Can you be a little warier of others in your heart? Why do you trust me so much?) Hence, he also sat cross-legged beside Lu Zhiruo.

He was observing the secret treasure. However, his gaze would often involuntarily turn to Lu Zhiruo.

...

When Sun Mo and the other four came up, they saw a young man staring at a female student.

“Why would your Mingshao Academy select a pervert as a participating teacher?”

Tantai Yutang asked.

“Teacher Ming isn’t a pervert!”

Jia Wendong’s face flushed. However, after that he felt a burst of pride. (Did you see it? Our Teacher Ming Xian arrived here so quickly. He’s really awesome.)

“Not a pervert? Why does he keep staring at the female student then?”

Tantai Yutang also knew that Ming Xian didn’t have any nefarious thoughts. He was only bored and was intentionally teasing Jia Wendong.

“Stare...right, he’s staring at her aptitude and preparing to accept her as his personal disciple!”

Jia Wendong found an excuse.

“Teacher?”

Upon hearing the sounds of people talking, Lu Zhiruo turned her head and saw Sun Mo. After that, she happily jumped up and broke into a jog as she rushed over.

“Zhiruo?”

Gu Xiuxun was astonished. “How did you come up here?”

“I walked up!”

Lu Zhiruo stared at Gu Xiuxun in bewilderment. (Why do you guys keep asking me the same question? I can’t just fly up, right?)

“Eldest martial sister, two junior martial brothers. You guys came as well!”

The papaya girl smiled sweetly. She then focused on Xuanyuan Po and felt some worry. “Are you injured? Are you feeling alright now?”

Jia Wendong was sneaking glances at Lu Zhiruo, trying to guess how strong she was. After all, it wasn’t easy for them to climb up as they had to fight, but it seemed to be extremely easy for this girl. However, when he heard what the girl was saying, he was immediately dumbfounded.

“What? She is also a personal student of Teacher Sun?”

“Do you have any judgment ability at all?” Li Ziqi frowned.

“N...no...this...”

Jia Wendong stuttered. He could naturally judge the relationship between Lu Zhiruo and Sun Mo from Lu Zhiruo's terms of address. However, he wasn't able to accept this in terms of rationality.

Li Ziqi, Tantai Yutang, Xuanyuan Po, in addition to Lu Zhiruo, had all appeared in this spire. Moreover, they are all Sun Mo's personal students.

Wasn't this too exaggerated?

Jia Wendong's aptitude wasn't bad. Besides, he had keen judgment and had personally witnessed how outstanding Li Ziqi and Tantai Yutang were.

Xuanyuan Po could almost reach the top level, beating Nangong Dao. He was extremely impressive. However, this girl who had extremely large breasts surpassed both of them...

How strong was she exactly?!

Naturally, the most terrifying thing was that these four were Teacher Sun's personal students.

(Luckily, I didn't attempt to take him as my teacher, or I would have been rejected.)

Jia Wendong had lived for 12 years, but today was the most impactful day of his life.

"Wendong!"

Ming Xian called out.

Jia Wendong hurriedly jogged over and bowed as he greeted, "Teacher!"

After that, he summarized everything after he had met Sun Mo's group.

"Zhen Yuanxiao died?"

Ming Xian frowned as he surveyed Sun Mo.

Sun Mo activated Divine Sight.

Ming Xian, 21 years old. Seventh level of the blood-ignition realm.

Strength: 29. Strength is not your forte, but it is high enough to crush many people.

Intellect: 27. Far surpassing the average.

Agility: 30. Extremely quick!

Endurance: 30. Experienced devil-like training before.

Will: 29. As tranquil as waves of a deep natural pond.

...

Potential value: Extremely high

Note: No flaws and his aptitude is extremely high. He's an exceptionally formidable opponent. You have to treat him seriously.

These words were written in red. From this, one could see the system's recognition of Ming Xian.

Sun Mo's lips twitched. This was his first time seeing a new teacher with no flaws, but he had predicted it. Other than the extremely lucky papaya girl, everyone else would have to depend on their strength to reach the top of this place.

"I don't know why, but I don't like your eyes!" Ming Xian suggested, "Can you stop staring at me?"

"What will happen next? Should we fight?"

Sun Mo turned and looked at the gemstone.

The darkness illusion gemstone had given birth to its own consciousness. It could release a forcefield, and every lifeform that entered its forcefield would be replicated in the form of an illusion, which possessed all the memories, knowledge, and personality of that particular lifeform!

One could say that it was a 100% clone of everything.

Note: This secret treasure is an extremely rare and precious existence on the Darkness Continent. Obtaining it will bring countless benefits.

"For example?"

Sun Mo asked.

"For example, you can create a darkness illusion dojo in the Central Province Academy to allow some students to fight against their darkness illusions!"

The system introduced.

Sun Mo's eyes brightened. Such training would strengthen the students rapidly.

"I didn't expect my final opponent would be a teacher from the Central Province Academy. I thought it would be Beitang Ziwei from Weima."

Ming Xian self-mockingly laughed.

From his words, Gu Xiuxun could hear a strong sense of self-confidence. It was clear that Ming Xian didn't treat anyone as his opponent other than Beitang Ziwei.

Sun Mo shrugged.

"You can choose. Should we fight or should we attack the gemstone first?"

Ming Xian wasn't bothered.

Before Sun Mo could reply, a mysterious voice rang out.

"Aren't you guys treating me, the master of this place, with too little respect?"

Swish~

All light from the great hall vanished instantly.

"Ah?"

Jia Wendong subconsciously cried out. After that, he felt ashamed because other than him, no one else made a sound. This said that the others were calmer than him.

“I’ve truly lost face for Mingshao.”

Jia Wendong blamed himself and felt disappointed. As expected, he was inferior to Sun Mo’s four personal students.

“Wendong, life is a long journey. Don’t feel down just because of one setback. Learning a lesson from this is more important than regret.”

Ming Xuan spoke as a golden halo appeared, driving away the darkness.

It was Priceless Advice.

Jia Wendong’s spirits instantly stirred.

“Good one!”

Gu Xiuxun’s lips curled.

“Everyone, as the prize for managing to come up to the top level. I will permit you all to join my private game!”

The gemstone’s attitude was like a god that could control the lives and deaths of others.

Chapter 395: Exploding It with a Single Punch

“C...can I participate?”

Jia Wendong was so agitated that his speech was incoherent.

Leaving aside Sun Mo and Ming Xian, even with regard to these students, Jia Wendong didn’t dare to guarantee that he would be able to defeat them. However, a salted fish also had the right to dream, right?

What would happen if his luck was off the charts and he was selected by the darkness illusion gemstone, becoming its master?

“No.”

The gemstone’s consciousness didn’t give Jia Wendong any face. “You are too weak. If you participate in my game, it’s a type of humiliation to me.”

“F***!”

Jia Wendong was so angry that he wanted to cough up blood. However, his lips merely moved. He didn’t dare to curse out loud.

“Let’s start quickly!”

Xuanyuan Po urged.

“Sorry, you cannot participate either!”

The gemstone's consciousness used a tone that was filled with disdain. "You already failed once. From my point of view, you are rubbish. Please stay far away from me."

"You are courting death!"

Anger suffused Xuanyuan Po's face. He lifted his silver spear and pierced it toward the floating crystal gemstone.

Swish~

Sun Mo's figure flashed, appearing before Xuanyuan Po. He grabbed hold of Silver Paste.

"Calm down!"

Sun Mo berated.

Tantai Yutang shook his head slightly. Their teacher was still too kind-hearted. If he was ruthless enough, he could use Xuanyuan Po, who was always eager for a fight, to probe the gemstone.

"C...can I not participate?"

Lu Zhiruo lifted her small hand. She knew how strong she was. If she participated in such a competition, not only would it be impossible for her to obtain the battle spoil, but she would also bring trouble to her teacher, causing him to worry.

Hence, what she could do was to cheer by the sidelines!

"Sure!"

The gemstone's consciousness mentally mused, 'Even if you want to participate, I can't allow it'.

For some reason, it wasn't able to create a darkness illusion of this large-breasted girl.

One must know that it was a treasure that existed for several hundreds of years and had copied countless lifeforms and spirits. The only thing it couldn't copy seemed to be Lu Zhiruo.

"I will not participate either."

Li Ziqi bowed out.

"Master is wise!"

Ma Qianzu cheered. Since it was Li Ziqi's spiritual departed spirit, once the little sunny egg died, it would die with her as well. Hence, it wanted nothing more than for Li Ziqi just to stay home safely every day.

After cheering, Ma Qianzu hurriedly shut its mouth and did its best to be something that no one paid attention to.

That gemstone emitted a terrifying might and pressure. If the gemstone wanted to kill it, the gemstone would only need a single thought.

"Tantai, are you not bowing out?"

Lu Zhiruo was a little worried. She didn't feel that a student would be capable of obtaining this gemstone. Also, if their teacher obtained it, their teacher would surely share it with them all.

"I won't live for too long, so I might as well make my life more fascinating."

Tantai Yutang chortled. He wondered if he could use the gemstone to extend his life.

"There's no need for you to take the risk."

Li Ziqi wanted to persuade him. Given Sun Mo's generosity, he wouldn't hoard the treasure for himself even if he was to obtain it.

The sickly invalid shrugged, already making up his mind. He didn't want to own Sun Mo too much.

"Very well, let's get things started then!"

The gemstone's voice had a mocking tone to it. Sun Mo, Ming Xian, Gu Xiuxun, and Tantai Yutang transformed into motes of light with a thudding sound and vanished in the great hall.

"Ah? Teacher!"

Lu Zhiruo jumped in fright.

"Your game would surely be extremely fascinating. How about letting us spectate them?"

Li Ziqi flattered it. Actually, she was worried about Sun Mo's safety.

"Small-chested girl. Before me, just keep all your tiny tricks to yourself."

The gemstone's consciousness chortled, "However, it's true that it would be more interesting if more people spectate it. I really want to let you guys see your teachers struggling. I wonder what expressions you would have then."

"You are the one with a small chest. Your whole family has small chests!"

The little sunny egg was very depressed.

Swish~ Swish~

Four light screens were displayed, akin to four projections. These four projections respectively showed Sun Mo and the others. Each of them was currently walking in a different corridor.

Tantai Yutang halted. He was extremely cautious and took out a medical pellet, tossing it out.

Chi~

The medical pellet dissolved into invisible smoke and filled the entire place. Only then did he continue to walk forward.

Sun Mo and Ming Xian were both confident. After they turned their heads and surveyed the surroundings, they continued walking forward with calm looks on their faces as though they were on a tour.

Gu Xiuxun paused for a few seconds before heading forward. Her gaze was filled with wariness.

...

At the end of the corridor, there was a square-shaped arena. Sun Mo walked onto it and saw another 'Sun Mo' appearing at the center of the arena.

Sun Mo frowned and activated Divine Sight.

The other party was Sun Mo in a furious state. It was classified as an unknown lifeform!

...

"Attacking darkness illusions again? Can we have something fresh?"

Jia Wendong felt that this was very boring.

"Watch quietly!" Li Ziqi berated.

At this moment, the darkness illusions of the four of them discovered their respective targets and started howling.

Roar~

As they roared in anger, their spirit qi erupted forth, enveloping them completely. Also, their skin, hair, and eyes all turned red.

It was as though they were angry flames.

After that, the furious illusions rushed out.

Bang!

From the impact of an intense collision, Sun Mo and the other three directly flew through the air. This was especially so for Tantai Yutang. He was in the most miserable state. After all, he was the weakest out of the four.

...

Bang!

Tantai Yutang fell onto the ground and coughed up a mouthful of blood.

"I suddenly feel some regret for entering."

Although it was just a single strike, the sickly invalid could confirm that for the first round, what was tested was their combat strength, the thing he was least proficient in.

However, when he looked at the appearance of the furious illusion, the sickly invalid revealed a trace of envy.

"Is this how I look if I was healthy? Great!"

As Tantai Yutang mumbled, he took out three medicinal pellets and tossed them out.

Using unfathomable medicinal substances for battle was always his trump card.

...

Everyone spectating had their gazes shifting around the four light screens. But very soon, they turned their gazes toward the light screens showing Sun Mo and Ming Xian.

The sight of Tantai Yutang was too tragic. As for Gu Xiuxun, she only chose to defend. Evidently, she was preparing to observe the flaws of the furious illusion.

As for Sun Mo and Ming Xian, they showed two different combat styles.

Ming Xian's movements were light and ethereal, exuding elegance. He used his advantage of speed to suppress his furious illusion. As for Sun Mo, he was like an iron-blooded male, fighting his furious illusion head-on.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Sun Mo's fists were like cannons, hammering the furious Sun Mo.

"Do you think you are a Super Saiyan and have a second-stage transformation? If you are capable, why don't you use a Kamehameha on me right now?"

Sun Mo mumbled. Actually, he felt a little envious in his heart.

His furious illusion that was clad in red spirit qi looked f**king dashing. Also, its expression wasn't bad. There seemed to be thunderous rage between its brows.

Eternalism, Great Mercy!

Sun Mo unleashed the Dharma Skyshock Fist and went all out.

"T..Teacher Sun is too rash, right?"

Jia Wendong was astonished. He felt that Gu Xiuxun's battle strategy was the most correct one.

"Beautiful punch."

Xuanyuan Po was fully focused, both his hands kept moving about in excitement as he watched.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Xuanyuan Po +500. Respect (1,200/10,000).

"He is a mad man!"

Jia Wendong's lips twitched. After that, he turned to glance at Li Ziqi. He knew this girl was very intelligent and had extensive knowledge. Hence, he wanted to ask her for her opinion.

"Is there some profound meaning behind Teacher Sun's actions?"

In the end, Li Ziqi completely ignored him. Just when he was preparing to raise his voice to ask again, Li Ziqi and Lu Zhiruo suddenly hugged each other as they jumped in excitement.

"Teacher is so awesome!"

Seeing the two girls' flushed countenance, Jia Wendong felt a little jealous. (When would I have such cute worshippers?)

"Yes, beat it, hammer its face!"

Ma Qianzu cursed loudly, causing Jia Wendong to jump in fright.

"Very good, there's another crazy person here!"

Jia Wendong's lips twitched. However, when his gaze turned back toward the light screen, he involuntarily sighed ruefully. The punching skill of Teacher Sun was truly tyrannical.

...

In the arena, killing intent brimmed violently.

Since he was young, Sun Mo had been a cautious person. When he played computer games, although there were many 'lives', he would still play very cautiously.

And after arriving in the Middle-Earth Nine Provinces, although he possessed many saint-tier cultivation arts, Sun Mo always felt like he was just a fledgling bird that just got to know this world. He was only living in his safety zone.

If there was no need to, he absolutely wouldn't take risks.

Yet today, Sun Mo was influenced by the forcefield of his furious illusion. His emotions were agitated. Besides, after learning the Dharma Skyshock Fist, he had never truly gone all out and enjoyed a brawl to his heart's content.

It wasn't that he didn't want to but that the enemies hadn't been formidable enough.

For example, someone like Zhen Yuanxiong. Although he was at the sixth level of the blood-ignition realm, he still lost to Sun Mo easily.

Today, Sun Mo finally found a chance to fight all out.

"I want to determine exactly where the limits of my combat strength are!"

Sun Mo's eyes stared at the furious illusion. When he battled, he would usually unceasingly observe his opponent while contemplating. He would counter their moves based on what they used. But now, he fought directly based on his instincts.

Bang! Bang!

Sun Mo exchanged a blow with the furious illusion, and both hit the other in the chest.

Sun Mo was blasted back 20 meters away and directly slammed into a wall. But after that, he pushed against the wall and shot forth like a cannon.

Boundless Sea of Suffering, Impermanence!

Spirit qi gushed forth from Sun Mo. The image of a gigantic buddha statue appeared and started to pound the furious illusion.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Everywhere the fist passed, things were shattered and transformed into fine powder.

All of a sudden, the sounds of a buddhic chant could be heard. This caused one's mind and spirit to involuntarily calm down.

Buddha Song Calms the Heart!

The body of the furious illusion trembled, and it fell into a daze. After that, Sun Mo's heavy fist hammered its head.

Muda Muda Muda Muda!*

Sun Mo roared.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

BOOM!

The head of the illusion exploded like a watermelon. It was crushed completely.

White brain matter and fresh blood flowed out.

Pak!

The skull split into six fragments after slamming into the wall.

Sun Mo halted. After panting heavily for a while, he involuntarily waved his fist. "Truly satisfying!"

"It died just like that?"

Jia Wendong turned and glanced at Teacher Ming Xian's screen after that. Although Ming Xian had the advantage and looked impressive, he was clearly one level inferior when compared to Sun Mo.

Besides, Jia Wendong discovered that he actually liked Sun Mo's iron-blooded brawling style more. (I don't give a damn who you are, if you cross me, I shall explode your head!)

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Jia Wendong +500. Respect (2,050/10,000).

Rumble~

There had only been a single path leading to the arena. But right now, on the eastern side of the wall, a section of it rose, revealing a passageway.

"Fascinating. Extremely fascinating. As the first participant to pass the first round, I can let you choose to leave the darkness spire."

The gemstone's consciousness gave Sun Mo a new option.

Chapter 396: Protection Medicine

"You mean that if I continue, I will die for sure?"

Sun Mo counter-asked.

BOOM!

Spirit qi gushed forth from Sun Mo's hands, forming into the genie. After that, the genie executed the ancient massage technique on him.

The furious illusion was extremely powerful. That intense battle earlier had fractured many of Sun Mo's bones, and some of his muscles were swelling as well.

Right now, Sun Mo felt like he was tossed inside a meat grinder and was 'processed' three times. But as the genie massaged, Sun Mo immediately felt much more comfortable than before.

"That's for sure!"

The gemstone's consciousness introduced, "I can't remember how many years it has been since I gained sentience, and I also can't remember how many invaders there have been. However, I'm sure that not a single one of them left here alive. Just a few months ago, even a 5-star great teacher died here."

"That sounds really terrifying!"

Sun Mo chortled and continued to delay for time. "However, I don't wish to leave empty-handed."

"Then, please continue!"

The gemstone's consciousness wasn't willing to waste time. "I'm anticipating your performance!"

The recovery effect of the genie's massage wasn't bad, but it wasn't enough. Sun Mo took out a bottle of lover protection medicine. He popped the cork and just when he wanted to pour it into his mouth, he suddenly heard a bang as a cloud of white mist was emitted.

In the blink of an eye, the mist transformed into a woman with a wonderful figure. She floated in the air and was clad in a pure-white gown. From the looks of things, she seemed about 20+ in age and had the vibe of a sexy and mature woman.

"..."

Sun Mo's eyes involuntarily turned toward that 'woman'.

As the 'woman' fully materialized, she suddenly stretched out her fair hands and hugged Sun Mo's neck. After that, she pulled him before her and didn't hesitate to lower her head and kiss Sun Mo.

"My heavens, what's the meaning of this?"

Jia Wendong was dumbfounded. He knew he shouldn't look at the woman, but he completely had no way to shift his vision away. The next thought in his mind was that he should find a wife like this.

"I hate that woman!"

Lu Zhiruo's lips twitched. "She's not pure!"

"Is this the effect of the medicine?"

Li Ziqi was much more rational. She read many books before and was a learned young girl. However, she had never read about medicine with such an effect!

Where did her teacher obtain this?

(It couldn't be something he concocted himself, right?)

"Kiss, what kiss? Quickly clear the second round!"

Xuanyuan Po anxiously roared in complaint. How could there be the joy of slaughtering enemies on the blood-soaked battlefield if two lips were to meet like that?

Sun Mo had a dumbfounded look on his face. The usage method of this lover protection medicine wasn't oral consumption? How should he use it then?

Very soon, Sun Mo knew the answer.

The 'woman' passed some of the medicine solutions into Sun Mo's mouth orally.

"F***!"

Sun Mo subconsciously wanted to push this 'lover' away. Sadly, the other party was too strong.

Bzz~

As he swallowed the medicine, not only did Sun Mo feel a sensation of fragrance and sweetness in his mouth, but his body also glowed with a layer of white light. After that, his injuries recovered at a speed visible to the naked eye.

"Awesome!"

Sun Mo exclaimed in admiration. Earlier when he was breathing, he felt some pain in his chest. But now, the sensation of pain had vanished completely. His condition was extremely good.

The effect was not bad.

Sun Mo felt that the pharmacist who invented this medicine was definitely a pervert.

This scene persisted for a minute. When it ended, the 'lover' let go of Sun Mo and floated backward. After that, with a clapping sound, it became a cloud of mist and vanished in the air.

"I can feel your lifeforce becoming more vibrant. So, that is your trump card?"

The gemstone's consciousness didn't interrupt Sun Mo's healing process. It was still very confident. "However, I can tell you that it's useless. There's only a path of death for you if you continue forward!"

However, before the sound of the gemstone's consciousness faded, Sun Mo had entered the passageway.

This time around, even Jia Wendong no longer looked at Ming Xian's battle. Instead, he was filled with curiosity as he looked at Sun Mo's light screen.

After that, he grew disappointed.

“Why is it another darkness illusion? What the hell?”

Jia Wendong was extremely unhappy. (Can there be some fresher challenges?)

The battle started but after Sun Mo clashed a few times with his darkness illusion, he immediately lengthened the distance between them. His gaze was heavy as he stared at it.

“Eh? What’s going on?”

Jia Wendong didn’t understand. This darkness illusion was clearly weaker compared to the furious illusion from the first round. However, why did Sun Mo seemingly become so cautious and solemn?

The illusion didn’t chase him, allowing Sun Mo to rest.

After observing closely, Sun Mo attacked again. But one minute later, he backed off once more.

“What’s going on exactly?”

Jia Wendong scratched his scalp. He couldn’t understand.

“My teacher’s attacks are reflected back on him.”

Xuanyuan Po explained.

“Ah?”

Jia Wendong was a little bewildered.

“It also means that by attacking the illusion, it’s equal to self-mutilation.”

Li Ziqi explained.

Her teacher was using a wooden blade and not a sharp sword. Basically, the flesh wouldn’t be sliced and there wasn’t blood flying around. Hence, it wasn’t that easy for the spectators to realize what was going on.

However, upon closer observation, one could see that whenever Sun Mo’s wooden blade struck the illusion, on the corresponding parts of his body, there would be traces of being hit.

Sun Mo rushed out for the third time. This time, the duration of combat was longer. Clearly, he was trying to probe more information from the illusion. As for Jia Wendong, he finally understood what he was watching.

“What do you guys think about this? Will it work if Teacher Sun doesn’t do so many attacks and chooses to insta-kill the illusion?”

Jia Wendong thought of a solution. But after he said it, two gazes of contempt shot over.

“Leaving aside that it’s basically impossible to insta-kill such a strong enemy, even if one could do so, who knows if their true body would survive the ‘reflected damage’?”

Li Ziqi felt that Jia Wendong was too dumb. There was no way to ‘restart’ this round. If a mistake was made, the price paid might very well be one’s life.

Sun Mo continued hitting the illusion and stopping. Also, the illusion wouldn't take the initiative to attack him.

"Teacher Ming has just entered this round!"

Lu Zhiruo reported in a small voice.

An instant later, Gu Xiuxun also passed the first round. As for Tantai Yutang, he had long since poisoned his furious illusion to death via medical substances. But because he was treating his injuries, he was delayed for a while and finally entered the second round now.

After that, all of them discovered that the second round was very hard to deal with.

"Wrong, this is just the second round. That gemstone's consciousness wouldn't give us a hopeless situation!"

Sun Mo contemplated.

He did think before whether the 'reflected damage' was fake? But after he checked, he realized the damage was real. Hence, he didn't dare to attempt to kill the illusion. What if he killed himself?

...

Tantai Yutang's poisonous mist drifted toward the illusion. After that, the 'reflection' started. The sickly invalid immediately started coughing and his face was flushed red.

Right now, he was absolutely exhibiting the signs of being poisoned.

Hence, he hurriedly consumed the antidote.

Li Ziqi and Lu Zhiruo stared at the light screen. All of a sudden, Jia Wendong's excited shout rang out from beside them.

"Teacher Ming passed the second round!"

Jia Wendong had a complacent look on his face as he stared at Li Ziqi and the other two. "Do you see it? This is the strength of our Teacher Ming. I already knew that the second round tests one's guts. If one doesn't have the guts to use their life as the bet, they will never be able to pass this."

"What do you think?"

Li Ziqi ignored Jia Wendong and glanced at the papaya girl instead.

"I don't know, but I feel what he said is wrong."

The papaya girl shook her head. If it was her, she would choose to become friends with the illusion and ask it to let her pass.

...

"As expected, my guess was right!"

Ming Xian felt a lingering fear. If it wasn't for his clan mistress being a rare illusionist and if he hadn't been guided personally by her, he would have taken a very long time for this round.

“The first round most probably wouldn’t stump Sun Mo. But the second round must be challenging to him.”

Ming Xian felt that when he exited this place later, Sun Mo would have become a corpse.

For this round, the test wasn’t about courage. If one thought this way and killed the illusion, they themselves would definitely die.

Sun Mo used the ancient massaging technique again and summoned the muscular genie to heal his injuries. However, after the genie was summoned, it didn’t move.

“Mn?”

Sun Mo frowned. He was suddenly struck by a burst of sudden inspiration.

The gemstone’s consciousness wasn’t idle enough to keep playing with its ‘toys’. For the second round, the time limit was half an hour. If the participant wasn’t able to find a way to pass the round, the illusion would start to attack.

For Sun Mo, the duration was up. Hence, the illusion lunged over.

Pak!

Sun Mo’s wooden blade smacked the illusion’s arm, and the illusion didn’t even blink. Sun Mo was the one who felt the pain instead.

“Teacher Sun is very impressive, but this is his final stop.”

Jia Wendong sighed.

“Shut your damn crow mouth!”

Li Ziqi roared.

Lu Zhiruo’s actions were more decisive. She directly pulled out a dagger and was prepared to stab this idiot with a crow mouth to death.

“Don’t misunderstand, I have no intention of insulting Teacher Sun, but the truth is as such!”

Jia Wendong jumped in fright.

“You are still talking?”

The papaya girl was prepared to act.

“Don’t quarrel anymore. Even if you want to kill him, let’s wait until Teacher wins against the illusion. That will knock some sense into this idiot’s brain.”

Li Ziqi’s tone was ice-cold.

The illusion started to attack. Its speed was extremely fast and it kept chasing after Sun Mo. There was basically no way for Sun Mo to evade.

Its attacking prowess wasn’t strong, but the ‘damage reflection’ was truly annoying.

Sun Mo finally couldn't bear it anymore. He blasted the illusion's head with a blade.

Bang!

The head of the illusion exploded. As for Sun Mo himself, he also fell straight onto the ground.

"Ah, teacher!"

Lu Zhiruo was badly shocked. She wanted to look for her teacher, but there was no path to take.

"Don't panic!"

Li Ziqi held on to the papaya girl.

"What's going on?"

Jia Wendong didn't understand. Why did Sun Mo fall down with a look of extreme agony on his face when the illusion died?

"Boohoo, t..teacher will surely be fine."

The papaya girl was very worried, but she also felt that her teacher would be able to pass this round. Hence, the conflicting feelings caused her to feel very miserable.

"I understand!"

Li Ziqi was suddenly enlightened.

"What do you understand?"

Lu Zhiruo sobbed and frantically clutched Li Ziqi's arm.

Xuanyuan Po was in deep contemplation.

Chapter 397: Although I Don't Really Understand, I Feel It's Very Impressive!

"This round is a test of one's mental prowess!"

Li Ziqi explained.

"The reflected damage should be an illusion. If you feel that it exists, it will really exist and vice versa."

"Ah?"

The papaya girl had a perplexed look on her face. She didn't really understand.

"I only read a few books before about this. After all, books about mental energy and powers are simply too rare."

Li Ziqi spoke.

"Teacher Sun didn't die!"

Xuanyuan Po suddenly shouted.

The two girls immediately looked over. As expected, they saw Sun Mo sitting up. He had a look of agony on his face and his countenance was pale. There was also a hint of joy from living through the calamity.

“That Ming Xian should have experienced a similar scene before. Hence, this round isn’t difficult for him at all. However, I’m very curious as to how you succeeded.”

The gemstone’s consciousness was curious because from Sun Mo’s expression, he seemed to have depended on his own intellect and judgment to see past the crux of this round.

“You are the darkness illusion gemstone, right? Your main attacking method should be mental attacks.”

During his time in the No. 2 High School, in order to understand students and teach them better, Sun Mo had bought many books about psychology and read about many psychology experiments before.

“When humans are in states of extreme fear or anxiousness, their bodies will generate corresponding stress. For example, if their bodies secrete too much adrenaline, their blood flow would increase, and the burden on their organs would become greater, causing people to die.

“From ancient times until now, many people have been scared to death.”

At the start, Sun Mo also felt that those reflected damages were real. This lasted until he summoned the muscular genie to treat him.

The muscular genie didn’t move at all. Why was this so?

Because Sun Mo wasn’t injured at all. Hence, he soon discovered that these injuries originated from the mental plane. It was a type of illusion.

If you believed that you weren’t injured, it wouldn’t be painful.

However, at that instant where he killed the illusion, Sun Mo experienced extreme pain like his brain had been poked through.

The feeling was like when you were watching horror films. Although you knew that it was something fake, you would still be scared.

Luckily, Sun Mo’s will was strong enough. From the start to the end, he didn’t doubt his judgment. Hence, although it felt very painful, he managed to survive.

Back then, if he had had the slightest bit of suspicion, he would have died immediately.

“What is adrenaline?”

Jia Wendong had a dumbfounded look on his face. After that, he grew impressed.

Teacher Sun was truly widely-learned!

After that, he contributed a lot of favorable impression points.

“Although I don’t really understand, I feel my teacher is very impressive!”

Little stars, denoting a feeling of worship, could be seen in the papaya girl’s eyes when she looked at Sun Mo.

Li Ziqi was very calm because she knew that her teacher would surely impart all this knowledge to her. Speaking of which, those who were able to take Sun Mo as their personal teacher were truly fortunate. They would be able to see a broader heaven and earth and understand more secrets of their world.

“I see. So this is the reason why people were frightened to death before.”

The gemstone’s consciousness revealed a contemplative look.

“Can I continue to the next round?”

From the words of the gemstone’s consciousness, Sun Mo knew that Ming Xian was a step faster than him.

“Sure. But because you passed the second round, in addition to me learning about something new, I will give you a reward. You can have one chance to leave half-way.”

The gemstone’s consciousness smiled. “Please cherish this chance. I’ve never been so generous before!”

“Can I give this chance to another person?”

Sun Mo definitely wanted to continue ahead.

“You mean, you want me to spare that woman?”

The gemstone’s consciousness felt that it had guessed correctly. It was said that men were animals controlled by the lower part of their body. For the sake of women, their brains would heat up and their blood gushing. They would be capable of giving up everything.

“If it’s possible, I want to give it to that boy!”

Sun Mo wanted to give Tantai Yutang an additional level of insurance. Although the sickly invalid always acted brave in the face of death, he was the most fearful of it in his heart.

As for Gu Xiuxun. She was very impressive. Sun Mo felt that there was an 80% chance she would be able to pass.

“Alright!”

The gemstone’s consciousness didn’t mind it. “Please continue then!”

A passageway then appeared above the wall.

Sun Mo frowned as he thought of something new.

After he walked through the passageway, Sun Mo appeared on a circular platform. After that, his expressions changed slightly.

At the northern end of the platform, a young child of 12 years old stood there. This child was clearly Sun Mo when he was younger. The child looked clean, pure, and untainted by the world.

However, at this moment, the child’s face was filled with killing intent.

“Although the round is still about fighting illusions, things are more novel now.”

Sun Mo defended against the attack.

Although the illusion was only 12 years old, its combat strength was similar to the current Sun Mo. Besides, its movements were extremely nimble

Naturally, this wasn't enough to stump Sun Mo.

Two minutes later, the illusion's head exploded. It transformed into light, but these motes of light didn't fade away. They converged together and materialized a new figure again. This new illusion was Sun Mo when he was 18.

"Kill!"

The illusion roared.

...

For the second round, when the time limit passed, the illusion started to attack. Tantai Yutang immediately fell into a disadvantaged state. He wasn't able to flee or fight, causing him to feel so depressed that he coughed up blood.

When death moved closer and closer, it was like he could feel a noose gradually tightening around his neck. His body began to tremble involuntarily.

"I don't want to die, I cannot die!"

This was the only thought in his mind. He knew he should calm down and think of a strategy, but his mind was in chaos now.

"Tantai is suffering from a mental breakdown!"

Lu Zhiruo grabbed Li Ziqi's arm.

"Yup."

Li Ziqi's lips twitched. She actually loathed this type of behavior from Tantai Yutang the most – oh I'm going to die so I don't care about my life.

Because of this type of thinking, he did many things against the rules. For example, he had provoked and challenged Sun Mo's prestige several times and often treated others as toys for his own amusement.

However, when death was truly coming, Tantai Yutang discovered that he had no way to calmly accept such a fate. He wanted to live on.

Tantai Yutang gave up on attacking the illusion. He started to survey the surroundings, wanting to find an exit. In fact, he even attacked the wall that closed up after he had entered earlier. He hoped that by breaking that wall, he would be able to see a passageway leading to the exit.

"I have not obtained my revenge yet. I have not made those disgusting fellows pay the price. I cannot die!"

Tantai Yutang mumbled, finding an excuse for his cowardice.

Bang!

The illusion's fist whistled past the sickly invalid's ears and blasted into the wall, causing spiderweb-like cracks to appear.

The shattered stone fragments of the wall hit Tantai Yutang on his face, leaving behind bloody scratches.

Pak!

Tantai Yutang's illusion turned into motes of light and vanished.

Putong!

Tantai Yutang fell onto the ground and panted heavily.

"Why did you spare me?"

Tantai Yutang didn't understand.

"Because your teacher gave up his chance of leaving the game to you."

The gemstone's consciousness explained.

Tantai Yutang started. After that, his fists clenched and his nails dug into the flesh of his palms.

"In that case, do you want to leave or continue with the challenge?"

The gemstone's consciousness asked.

Tantai Yutang wanted to continue challenging. However, the words got stuck in his throat. He wasn't able to say anything.

"Ant, you should be happy that you have such a good teacher. It's really a pity that he's about to die."

After the gemstone's consciousness spoke, it threw Tantai Yutang out of the darkness spire.

Tantai Yutang was as insignificant as an ant to it. Whether to trample him or not depended on its mood.

In the blink of an eye, Tantai Yutang discovered that he was on the street outside the spire. He glanced at the surroundings and howled in vexation.

"I'm truly trash!"

Tantai Yutang had once sworn a vow beside his mother's sickbed that he wouldn't owe anyone anything. But now, he owed his life to Sun Mo.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Tantai Yutang +10,000. Reverence (11,200/100,000).

...

Gu Xiuxun stood beside the illusion's corpse, feeling a lingering fear in her heart. Her sweat made her hair damp and in clumps, sticking to her face.

“A very fascinating performance!”

The gemstone’s consciousness praised.

“Since my performance is fascinating, can I make a small request?”

Gu Xiuxun’s tone was gentle and sweet.

“Please speak!”

The gemstone’s consciousness was very gentlemanly.

“Can you let that student leave? Naturally, if you don’t mind it, how about letting Sun Mo leave as well?”

Gu Xiuxun suggested.

“Both of you are really good teachers!”

The gemstone’s consciousness sighed emotionally. “However, you are thinking too much. Sun Mo has already passed the second round, and he already passed his reward to that sickly child. Now, you have the option to choose. Do you want to continue to the next round or leave?”

“It can’t be, right?”

Gu Xiuxun revealed a bitter smile. (Can’t you let me win once and make yourself owe me a favor?)

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Gu Xiuxun +1,000. Respect (7,500/10,000).

“I’ll continue!”

Gu Xiuxun didn’t give up. She wanted to catch up to Sun Mo and joined forces with him against Ming Xian.

This experience would surely be extremely wonderful when she recalled it in the future after she grew old.

...

Sun Mo fell in a daze when he suddenly heard the huge number of favorable impression points contributed by the sickly invalid. It was actually 10,000? After that, due to his carelessness, his head almost got struck by the ‘old Sun Mo’ he was currently fighting against.

Swish~ Swish~

Sun Mo consecutively somersaulted backward, reorganizing his plans. He decided to start focusing on defense.

The ‘old Sun Mo’ with its stooped back might be slower in terms of agility, however, it was very experienced and was fighting equally against Sun Mo.

Sun Mo’s brows were so tightly furrowed that they could squeeze two crabs to death.

He went all out. If he could kill the old Sun Mo, what about the next one? Did he have to fight against another illusion?

This 'old Sun Mo' was already the fifth illusion and from the looks of things, it seemed that it was very possible for there to be even more illusions!

If this type of battle continued, even if Sun Mo was a man made from steel, he would surely be exhausted to death.

(The crux of this round shouldn't lie in continuing the fight or killing the illusions of various ages.)

Sun Mo racked his brains.

"If I continue fighting like that, when would the end be?"

Jia Wendong had a worried look on his face. Ming Xian was on his eighth illusion. This type of battle where one wasn't able to see the end of it, making him feel very frustrated.

"I feel that this is a very good chance instead!"

Xuanyuan Po felt very envious. He also wanted to fight against so many versions of himself.

Ming Xian wasn't like Sun Mo. He didn't keep defending. Rather, he was killing the illusions with his fastest speed. From his point of view, the more illusions he saw and the more combat he experienced, the easier it would be to see the flaws of the illusions.

After that, when he fought to the tenth illusion, Ming Xian was suddenly enlightened. He stopped moving the sword in his hand.

Chapter 398: You Are Actually A Philosopher?

The longsword of the illusion was as quick as lightning, stabbing toward Ming Xian's forehead. However, at the instant before it pierced into his flesh, the sword stopped.

A bright-red drop of fresh blood flowed down his nose.

"Haha, as expected, I've guessed it correctly."

Ming Xian couldn't help but laugh.

At this moment, he felt a strong sense of superiority. (As expected, I'm a genius. I passed all three rounds so quickly. That Sun Mo wants to dream about vying against me for that secret treasure of darkness? What a foolish fantasy! I can crush you with a single hand!)

Ming Xian mocked. However, he hurriedly shook his head and discarded this arrogant thought.

Ming Xian was a human as well. He would naturally be happy if he was stronger than others. However, he soon calmed down and maintained a humble heart.

No matter the opponent, there would always be things that he could learn from them.

"Very impressive!"

The gemstone's consciousness praised.

“It’s just that your setup wasn’t perfect enough!”

Ming Xian pointed out the flaw. “For this round, it appears like we had to kill those illusions and would be able to pass the round doing so. Actually, this is not the case. If we do things according to this thinking, we would surely be fatigued to death.

“In that case, what’s the crux of this round? I feel that this must be a test of one’s judgment ability. Hence, after I observed carefully, I realized that those illusions would always avoid my vital spots when they used their ultimate skills. And when they were not using their ultimate skills, their attacks would all be aimed at my vital spots. However, I won’t die from a single strike of the normal attacks!”

“As long as this point is discovered, the answer is evident.”

After hearing Ming Xian’s explanation, Jia Wendong was suddenly enlightened. He then started cheering after that.

Although he knew Ming Xian wouldn’t be able to hear him, Jia Wendong still cheered as loud as he could. This was because he felt proud. Ming Xian was upholding the glory of Mingshao Academy.

“What’s there to be complacent about? My teacher will pass this round as well.”

Lu Zhiruo’s lips twitched.

“Can I continue with the fourth round?”

Ming Xian had a self-confident smile on his face. He liked this game a lot.

“There’s no fourth round!”

The gemstone’s consciousness replied, causing Ming Xian to start. After that, he revealed a look of joy on his face as he asked, “You are finally about to enter the field?”

“Yes. After passing through three rounds, you’ve gained the qualifications to fight against me. Please take out your most perfect performance and do not disappoint me!”

As the voice of the gemstone’s consciousness faded, the scene of the arena changed into a field for beasts to battle, made fully from stones and rocks.

These stones and rocks were filled with blood, scratches, and fragments of flesh. There were also pieces of broken swords and bones on the surface.

“A very good stage!”

Ming Xian slashed out a sword flower.

The gemstone’s consciousness materialized into a humanoid form. It had no features and had no sexual organs. It was like a human-shaped model made from clay.

After that, the battle erupted!

“Teacher, I’m cheering you on!”

Jia Wendong cheered.

...

“Eh, teacher also stopped moving!”

Lu Zhiruo called out in excitement.

Given Sun Mo’s standard, he naturally wouldn’t stand there unmoving in a daze. This meant that he had discovered the crux of this round.

“So what? Isn’t he still a beat slower compared to Teacher Ming?”

Jia Wendong was ultimately a student from Mingshao Academy. He was biased toward Ming Xian.

Naturally, he didn’t dare to say these words out loud. Because in his heart, Sun Mo was extremely impressive being able to reach this step.

“Don’t forget that my teacher started the third round a few minutes later than Teacher Ming. This meant that the time my teacher used to pass this round was quicker.”

Li Ziqi immediately countered.

“...”

Jia Wendong was left speechless. That was true.

In the arena, Sun Mo took away the wooden blade that stopped at his neck.

“Congratulations on passing the third round!”

The gemstone’s consciousness congratulated.

“Hehe!”

Sun Mo smiled. Strictly speaking, this round was even easier than the second round.

Why?

Because Sun Mo knew the Grand Universe Formless Divine Art. When he activated ‘copy’, the whole world would slow down. Hence, he easily discovered the clue.

“Congratulations, you have obtained the qualifications to fight me!”

Another faceless illusion appeared before Sun Mo. “If you win against me, you can acquire me. If you lose, you will die. Alright, as the reward for my admiration of you, you can attack first!”

The gemstone’s consciousness displayed its generosity.

Sun Mo didn’t move.

After waiting for an entire minute and seeing Sun Mo didn’t have the intentions to attack, the gemstone’s consciousness was puzzled. “Why?”

“Why don’t you guess?”

Sun Mo smiled mysteriously.

“That Ming Xian is already fighting against me, he’s one step before you. The amount of time I have for you truly isn’t a lot.”

The gemstone’s consciousness persuaded, “Actually, if I have to lose, I would rather lose to you!”

“Mn?”

Sun Mo was curious.

“Because you are more handsome than him!”

“I really have to praise this sentence!”

Li Ziqi smiled happily.

“Definitely!”

The papaya girl felt that the gemstone’s consciousness’s esthetic point of view wasn’t bad.

“Sorry, I’m only interested in the opposite sex!”

Sun Mo shrugged his shoulder. But then again, did this fellow have a gender? Well, it didn’t matter whether it had one or not.

Just given its illusion ability, after Sun Mo obtained it, wasn’t that equivalent to obtaining an omnipotent item that could transform into any person?

Leaving aside the superstars in his world, even if it was for 3D anime characters, he could create them whenever he wanted!

“Is gender important?”

The gemstone’s consciousness asked.

“Naturally. Different genders mixed together to reproduce, only love between them is true love!”

Sun Mo randomly spoke.

“...”

The gemstone’s consciousness fell silent. Such words had a great impact on it, and it wasn’t able to accept it in such a short time. But after thinking carefully about it, Sun Mo’s words seemed to make some sense.

The students, who were listening, were all in a daze when they saw Sun Mo and the gemstone’s consciousness suddenly started chatting.

“Alright, let’s not speak anymore. Fight me, as long as you win, your words will be correct!”

The gemstone’s consciousness urged.

“Stop playing tricks. For this round, no matter how I fight, I would definitely die!”

Sun Mo had a self-mocking smile on his face. “Given the strength you displayed, how is it possible for me to defeat you?”

“Haha, you are the first person who admitted defeat even before starting the fight. I suddenly feel a sense of reluctance to kill you. However, I apologize. You have to die.”

The gemstone’s consciousness finally revealed its true face.

“Why?”

Jia Wendong was shocked.

“Sigh, as expected!”

Li Ziqi sighed. Actually, she was already worried since earlier.

This secret realm had lasted for tens of thousands of years and was at the first level of the Darkness Continent. Some people must have been here before. In that case, there was no need to say anything about their endings. They had all died.

Among those people, some must be stronger than her teacher. After all, her teacher was too young and was only at the blood-ignition realm.

“You want to devour my consciousness?”

Sun Mo guessed, probing at the same time.

“That’s right.”

The gemstone’s consciousness didn’t conceal its intent because there was no need to. So what if these ants knew the truth of the world?

Sun Mo’s eyes brightened. As expected, this secret treasure had no way to leave this spire. Its understanding of the world depended on it devouring the consciousness of the invaders. If this was really the case, Sun Mo understood that his situation was very dire.

“I wish to ask something. How did you discover my true intention?”

The gemstone’s consciousness was curious.

“Earlier when I asked you to spare my student, you agreed readily. This indicated that you don’t really like killing. Since you didn’t plan to protect this place by keeping this place’s existence a secret, what was the purpose of this private game of yours?”

“It should be for the sake of chasing amusement after suffering boundless boredom, right?”

“Even if you were really ‘subdued’ by someone, it didn’t matter to you, right?”

Sun Mo analyzed.

“I’ll correct the last point. It matters!”

The gemstone’s consciousness emphasized. “I like being with people who love to think. If you guys are not great teachers, you would have been killed by me long ago.”

“I didn’t expect that you are actually a philosopher.”

Sun Mo couldn't help laughing.

"What is a 'philosopher'?"

Its interest was piqued.

"Those who love watching two muscular gays fighting are known as philosophers*."

"Eh?"

If the gemstone's consciousness had a face, it would definitely reveal a dumbstruck expression.

"Cough, cough. Philosophy is a type of academic discipline. Those who have too much idle time after eating would engage in it. Those who had no food to eat would also depend on engaging in philosophy to forget their hunger. Humans always loved to indulge in wild flights of fancy or random thinking. After that, some of them would really manage to think up some extremely deep and profound things."

Sun Mo spoke nonsense.

"What logic is this?"

The gemstone's consciousness continued asking.

"Have you heard of a saying before?"

Sun Mo lifted a finger. "When man plans, god laughs!"

The gemstone's consciousness fell silent. Because it was a mental/spirit-type entity. In addition to devouring too many consciousnesses, it started to love thinking.

Sun Mo's words caused a huge impact on it.

As for the other students, other than Li Ziqi showing a contemplative look on her face, they seemed confused.

"What are they talking about?"

Jia Wendong clearly couldn't understand Sun Mo's words at all.

"In that case, can I ask a few questions?"

The gemstone's consciousness broke the silence.

"Please!"

Through the various clues, Sun Mo determined that it was impossible to subdue this secret treasure with martial force. The only way to subdue it was from the mental layer.

From the looks of things, his thought process was correct.

"Who am I?"

"Where did I come from?"

"Where am I going?"

The gemstone's consciousness immediately launched the three questions of philosophy with a heavy tone. I felt as though it was discussing matters of life and death.

(It's confirmed. This fellow is a nutcase!)

Sun Mo mentally mused. (If you have ever gone hungry for ten days to half a month and worried about where to get the money to buy milk powder for your baby daughter every time you woke up, you would never have asked such damnable questions.)

"Why? You also don't know the answers?"

The gemstone's consciousness's tone was filled with disappointment. As expected, could no one answer these?

"For this type of question, the answers from each person would be different. Just as there are no two exact same leaves in the world, there would not be two exact same people."

Sun Mo's tone turned serious. "So, the world they see through their eyes will surely be different!"

The gemstone's consciousness fell into deep thought again.

Sun Mo learned how to lecture before. One could use their expression and tone to influence the target. At this instant, he was doing his utmost to perform and was completely immersed in his performance.

"As for the secrets of the world, it's not like you would know right away the moment I told you 'my answers'. Rather, you need to look at the world, explore it, feel it with your heart, and comprehend things by yourself!"

Sun Mo spoke sincerely, "By continuing to stay here, you are just like a prisoner. You would never be able to understand this world even if you have an eternity!"

"The world is so vast, you should go around and take a look!"

At the end of his words, Sun Mo actually felt sympathy for this secret treasure of darkness. From his point of view, a person should really head out to take a look at the world.

The more things you saw in the world, the bigger your heart would be!

Bzz!

Sun Mo's body suddenly shone with golden light.

The golden light cascaded to the surroundings.

At this instant, the gemstone's consciousness's heart that was shrouded in darkness seemed to be penetrated by the rays of golden light. A hint of dawn, akin to the tip of a sharp sword, pierced in, opening up its mental world.

Chapter 399: Shockingly Great Harvest

"Great teacher halo?"

When Jia Wendong saw Sun Mo's situation, he subconsciously turned to look at Ming Xian's situation.

It was unknown why but Jia Wendong suddenly felt a sense of unease when he looked at the darkness illusion gemstone that had always been suppressed by Ming Xian since the start of the fight. He felt that Ming Xian might lose.

“Too cool!”

“Too cool!”

Li Ziqi mumbled, her gaze was filled with admiration and worship.

Compared to someone using martial strength to win, Li Ziqi preferred battles of intellect. She felt that such ‘battles’ had an indescribable sense of beauty.

“The world is so vast, you should go and take a look at it?”

The little sunny egg repeated these words with a distant look in her eyes. “How well-spoken!”

“We should really go out there and take a look!”

Lu Zhiruo nodded heavily. If she didn’t head out of her comfort zone, she would never have met such a good teacher like Sun Mo.

...

The gemstone’s consciousness was like a lost traveler that had found its target again.

The killing prowess of Sun Mo’s words was simply too immense. This was especially so for the last sentence. It simply ignited its emotions, causing it to not want to wait another moment. It wanted nothing more than to leave this place right away.

Sun Mo tactfully remained silent. He let the gemstone’s consciousness think for itself.

Actually, there was no need for him to say anything. To a consciousness that stayed several tens of thousand years in a spire, the outside world, no matter how it looked like, would surely be like a dream to it.

“It’s very meaningful to chat with you!”

The gemstone’s consciousness spoke out in satisfaction.

“Being able to chat with an intellect-type species like you is my honor.”

Sun Mo replied.

“Since you have ignited my desire to admire the world, I have to apologize. I’m going to occupy your body.”

1

Its tone contained a hint of remorse.

“However, you don’t have to worry. I will use your body well to truly appreciate this world!”

As the gemstone's consciousness spoke, the surroundings changed again. The arena transformed into a great hall of darkness.

...

"Teacher!"

The light screen vanished. Li Ziqi and the other two felt a sense of unease as they cried out. However, things were already too late.

"Boohoo, what should we do?" Lu Zhiruo sobbed.

"Quickly find a path!" Li Ziqi shouted.

"Dead, dead for sure!"

Jia Wendong was filled with fear. He had thought that Teacher Sun would obtain that secret treasure, but no one could have expected that it wasn't an item a mortal could touch.

This time, they most probably would all die.

...

In the great hall, weak sources of light could be seen floating around. If one took a closer look, they would discover that these were jellyfish, which looked like they were drifting about in the ocean.

After Sun Mo appeared here, they immediately swam over.

"What the hell? I wanted to subdue you, not become your shell!"

Sun Mo was speechless. He thought that he had succeeded. Who would have known that after half-a-day of effort, he still had to die? No, he couldn't simply sit around to wait for death!

Sun Mo waved his wooden blade and slashed at the jellyfish.

However, it was useless because these jellyfish were creatures formed from mental energy. The wooden blade directly passed through their bodies and wasn't able to damage them in the slightest.

Pak! Pak! Pak!

The jellyfish immediately entered Sun Mo's body upon coming in contact with him.

"Ah!"

Sun Mo screamed in pain. It was like being stung by the poisonous tails of scorpions. It felt incomparably painful. There was also an intense sensation of numbness.

The speed of the jellyfish grew quicker. They frantically flooded over, entering Sun Mo's body en-masse.

Sun Mo's consciousness started to be devoured. He fell into a daze and suffered dizziness.

"This body is truly too perfect." The gemstone's consciousness was filled with joy. "My choice this time around is indeed right."

Sun Mo turned his blade and slashed it at his own head, wanting to use the pain to remain conscious. "In the past, why didn't you seize the bodies of others?"

"If I left the gemstone, my consciousness would lose protection."

The gemstone's consciousness felt that Sun Mo was about to die. Hence, it didn't hide this from him.

"The bodies of humans are too weak. Once you die, I will die too. But after hearing your words, I feel that the world outside is truly vast. Even if I die in the future, it will still be better than living forever here in the spire!"

"Leave my body, or I will commit suicide!"

Sun Mo threatened as he made his last attempt for survival.

"Haha, do you think I won't guard against this move? Since I dare to tell you, it also means that you no longer have a chance."

The gemstone's consciousness mocked.

Sun Mo wanted to deal a heavy blow to himself to prove his courage. However, to his horror, he discovered that his body couldn't move.

"I have to say that your reaction is truly very fast!" The gemstone's consciousness sighed. "Killing a genius like you is definitely a loss to humanity!"

(Damn, I don't want to die. I've not even slept with a girl yet. Is the malicious intent of this world so ruthless toward single dogs?)

Sun Mo cursed in his heart. He unleashed all his brain power, trying to think of a solution.

His body could no longer move. Even if he knew 100 types of saint-tier cultivation arts, it would be useless. Luckily, Sun Mo was a spiritual controller.

Spiritual controllers depended on their mental energy for a living!

"Fine. Since this is the case, let us perish together!"

Sun Mo went all out.

BOOM!

All the spirit qi in Sun Mo's body transformed into a soul contract and instantly started to ignite.

Red-colored runes shot out from Sun Mo's body, revolving around him swiftly. The sound of brahmic chanting from his soul rang out.

"Soul contract? You want to enslave me? It's useless. Your mental energy is too weak!"

The gemstone's consciousness shook its head. (This is truly the struggle of an ant. It looks extremely ridiculous.)

"Is that so? What about this?"

Sun Mo didn't make a sound, but his determined eyes indicated his awareness.

BOOM!

From Sun Mo's body, red-colored flames suddenly erupted forth, illuminating this area and driving the darkness in the great hall away.

That was his blood essence!

That was his lifeforce!

"You are actually a grandmaster-grade spiritual controller?"

The gemstone's consciousness was shocked.

It knew that Sun Mo was a spiritual controller, but it didn't expect Sun Mo to be so powerful. After all, Sun Mo was only twenty years old. One must know that a genius spiritual controller needed at least tens of years of training before they could reach the grandmaster-grade.

"But it is still useless. At most, things would be a little more troublesome!"

The gemstone's consciousness coldly snorted.

(Very soon, you will see how strong I am.)

Half of those jellyfish that flew over exploded.

Pak! Pak! Pak!

As bright light flashed, white frost appeared everywhere. In an instant, the surroundings were frozen. The red flame from Sun Mo's body also weakened and was about to be sealed in ice.

"No, not enough yet!"

Sun Mo gritted his teeth. He racked his brains and a thought suddenly appeared in his mind. After that, he frenziedly started to recall his past memories.

"It's useless. Stop struggling and become my shell!"

After the gemstone's consciousness finished speaking, it saw a milky-white halo manifest from Sun Mo's body.

Swish~

The range of the halo was extremely vast. Everything on the scene seemed to be covered by a fleeting milky-white radiance.

Bzz!

The thoughts of the gemstone's consciousness halted.

Because it saw those incredible memories of Sun Mo.

From his elementary school to his four years in university. There were scenes where Sun Mo had been secretly in love with someone, his youth, and also sweat.

War, rifles, slaughter, the fading lives, the tragic sobbings.

A concrete jungle that was a city. Humans of different colors, metal boxes with wheels on the road, white-colored metallic snakes in the subway station...

After that, the scene changed into a rented house inside a screen. There was a naked woman moaning.

The scene then changed to a bunch of tissues tossed into the rubbish bin. The gemstone's consciousness was completely dumbfounded.

"What the hell is this?"

RUMBLE!

The red flames from Sun Mo's body blasted forth in the shape of a ring with him at the center. Everywhere the flames passed by, those jellyfish would be enveloped by it. A red-colored chain appeared on their bodies.

Soul contract, completed!

1

Putong~

Sun Mo sat down on the ground and panted heavily, feeling lingering fear in his heart.

This time around, if it wasn't for the fact that he was a grandmaster-grade spiritual controller as well as him having Soul Imprint, he would have been finished.

When spiritual controllers wanted to tame a beast, they were most afraid of the spiritual beast retaliating. If the other party was gentle and docile, they would succeed much easier.

Sun Mo used Soul Imprint and planted too many of his memories and emotions into the gemstone's consciousness.

To an entity that loved thinking, this was simply the entrance to a new world. Hence, it was completely shocked and was engrossed in the memories.

Using this chance, Sun Mo completed the contract, successfully enslaving and subduing the gemstone's consciousness.

"Sorry, your plan has failed!"

Sun Mo ridiculed. The developments had frightened him badly.

However, the gemstone's consciousness didn't reply.

Those jellyfish floating in the air continued to drift toward Sun Mo, entering his body. However, it was no longer painful.

Also, his spirit qi and blood essence were swiftly recovering.

Sun Mo clenched his fist. He could feel himself becoming even stronger.

BOOM!

A wave of spirit qi suddenly erupted, causing the dust nearby to scatter. After that, he discovered a magical energy generated in his body. It was like a little snake swimming around freely in his body.

“This is...”

Sun Mo was still in a daze.

“Congratulations, you have profited from a disaster and have broken through to the divine force realm!”

The system congratulated Sun Mo.

“Why are you only speaking out now? When I was about to die, where the hell did you disappear to?”

After hearing the system’s voice, Sun Mo had a bellyful of anger.

“That was your battle, and I had no way to interfere. At most, I can only cheer for you on the sidelines. Do you need me to cheer for you? If you need it, I will cheer even harder next time!”

The system explained.

“Scram!”

Sun Mo gestured with his middle finger.

However, he was quite happy in his heart, having broken through to the divine force realm.

This was quite impressive!

The divine force realm was just like its name: divine strength would be generated in one’s body. Divine force referred to immense strength that surpassed the knowledge and limits of humanity.

For example, divine force could allow one to shift mountains and overturn seas, pluck the stars and grab the moon!

“You shouldn’t be complacent because stepping into the divine force realm was only the beginning on the path of cultivation. The higher you go, the more difficult it will be!”

The system felt that Sun Mo was beside himself, so it reminded him.

Sun Mo ignored the system and meticulously sensed the transformation in his body. He felt an indescribable feeling. It was like he was a computer in this era. Regardless of hardware or software, he was one era more advanced.

There were a total of nine levels in the divine force realm. Each level would cause one to generate a surge of divine force, and it would reach the point where the divine force would fully saturate one’s body, nourishing it and evolving it. In the end, the quantity of divine force would lead to a qualitative transformation, causing cultivators to break through the limits of life and enter the Longevity Realm.

“How good would it be if I could live for several hundred years!”

Sun Mo felt some yearning for it.

Chapter 400: Taking on A Master

After stepping into the Longevity Realm, a cultivator's aging would rapidly slow down. However, one couldn't get younger. The earlier one entered the Longevity Realm, the longer they could maintain their youthful appearance.

Everyone loved beauty.

Sun Mo naturally also didn't want to become a wrinkly old man.

Ding!

Congratulations. Because you used Soul Imprint to deal critical damage to the darkness illusion gemstone's consciousness, your proficiency level has been upgraded and is now at the half-step grandmaster-grade."

The system congratulated him.

"Isn't your reward a little too stingy? Can't you just upgrade me directly to the grandmaster-grade?"

Sun Mo grumbled. It was like your girlfriend finally promised you that you could sleep with her. But when night came, she didn't allow you to do anything else but sleep next to her. What was the difference between this and not letting you sleep beside her?

Was that a prank?

"No!"

The system rejected cleanly.

"Very good. Open up the merchant store then. I want to buy a time emblem!"

Sun Mo currently didn't lack favorable impression points. Before this, Tantai Yutang alone had contributed 10,000 points.

"Aren't you being a little too petty, nursing every small grudge that you can?"

The system suddenly felt that Sun Mo had become more narrow-minded.

"Stop talking nonsense. Quickly!"

Sun Mo urged.

After he got the time emblem and used it, Sun Mo heard the familiar system notification sound.

Ding!

"Congratulations, your great teacher halo 'Soul Imprint' has been upgraded to the grandmaster-grade. Please continue to work hard."

Sun Mo revealed a smile

Very good, it was time to handle the gemstone's consciousness. But after Sun Mo called out a few times, no one responded to him.

“Where did that fellow go?”

Sun Mo frowned and meticulously tried to sense it. However, there was no response.

“It can’t be right, has it died?”

Sun Mo didn’t understand. He searched the place and in the end, he found a walnut-size gemstone in the corner of the great hall.

The gemstone’s body was silvery white, flashing weakly at certain intervals as though it was breathing.

Sun Mo surveyed it.

The darkness illusion gemstone was a top-tier secret treasure. Because it was too rare, it wasn’t recorded in the mysterious darkness species list.

The greatest effect of this gemstone was that it could create a darkness illusion dojo. Every lifeform that entered could be replicated by it.

This gemstone contained boundless imagination ability and could copy any lifeform. The copies would also possess the entirety of the actual target’s combat strength.

Through tens of thousands of years, this gemstone had killed too many lifeforms and devoured the consciousness of some extremely powerful ones. Sun Mo could summon them inside the darkness illusion dojo and use them as a sparring partner.

Note!

Because this gemstone had lost its ‘consciousness’, it was in a damaged state. After recovery, the illusions it created might possess their original-self’s memories, knowledge, etc, reaching the state where one could pass off the fake as the genuine.

“Did that consciousness really die?”

Sun Mo sighed. However, the gemstone itself wasn’t bad either.

If he constructed a darkness illusion dojo in the Central Province Academy, the students would be able to enter and spar against their own illusions, swiftly overcoming their flaws.

RUMBLE~ RUMBLE~

The darkness spire started to collapse given that the darkness illusion gemstone’s consciousness was gone. Cracks began to appear everywhere.

Sun Mo immediately rose and went to look for his students.

...

Swish~

Ming Xian’s longsword slashed past the neck of the illusion, beheading it.

“It should die now, right?”

Ming Xian panted heavily. He clutched his chest and stumbled backward.

Although he didn't die, he was heavily injured.

Sadly, his thoughts were too optimistic. A few seconds later, a new illusion materialized inside the arena.

"The battle has just started!"

After the illusion spoke, it began to launch furious attacks.

Ming Xian's brows were increasingly furrowed. He knew that before he could find the flaw of the illusion, he would surely be killed by it.

"I've been too careless!"

Ming Xian felt some regret. He wanted this powerful secret treasure, hence, he became somewhat hot-headed. His self-confidence had led to his current predicament.

Bang!

Ming Xian was sent flying through the air.

"Forget it. Dying in the hands of such a powerful secret treasure cannot be considered as something difficult to accept."

Ming Xian felt some despair, not believing that Sun Mo and Gu Xiuxun could obtain the secret treasure. Hence, if he died in battle, it meant that this trip to the darkness spire was a failure.

"No, I cannot give up. I'm Ming Xian. I still want to become a great teacher and a saint. I cannot die here!"

Ming Xian encouraged himself. Seeing that mere words were useless, he directly used Priceless Advice to stir his spirits. That didn't seem sufficient either, hence, he cast another Complete Focus.

Ming Xian's battle intent surged again.

Swish~ Swish~ Swish~

Ming Xian unleashed his ultimate skills, and his sword slashed the illusion into pieces.

This time, Ming Xian didn't let himself feel joy. Instead, he made good use of the time to rest because he knew that more illusions would appear. But even after waiting for a few minutes, nothing happened.

"Mn? What's going on?"

Given Ming Xian's intellect, he didn't believe that he had killed the gemstone's consciousness.

At this moment, the arena suddenly started to tremble violently. After that, it vanished and reverted to its original form.

Ming Xian discovered that he was standing in a corridor. The entire spire started to shake furiously.

"Who killed the gemstone's consciousness?"

The answer soon revealed itself. Ming Xian discovered that Gu Xiuxun appeared at a place not far from him.

“It’s Sun Mo?”

Gu Xiuxun had a look of wild joy on her face. She didn’t expect that Sun Mo could actually accomplish this.

Honestly speaking, when she started to fight against the gemstone’s consciousness ‘real body’, she felt despair because there was basically no way for her to win. However, no one had expected that things would actually take a new turn.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Gu Xiuxun +500. Respect. (8,000/10,000).

The two of them didn’t say anything. They were running down the stairs instead because the collapse had begun. Huge pieces of wood and stone started smashing down.

At this moment, there were several student groups near the darkness spire. Because of the sudden emergence of the dark fog earlier, all of them split up.

Right now, as the gemstone’s consciousness vanished, the scenes before their eyes changed as the truth was revealed before them.

RUMBLE! RUMBLE!

The spire was collapsing.

When everyone saw this, all of them rushed over without prior consultation with each other.

Beitang Ziwei was carrying a girl with a broken leg. When she saw this scene, her eyes violently narrowed. Who did this?

Ming Xian?

Did he obtain the secret treasure so quickly?

...

“Tantai?”

Xuanyuan Po dragged Lu Zhiruo out and saw the sickly invalid not far away with his head inclined, staring at the spire.

“Let me go, I want to go look for Teacher!”

Lu Zhiruo shouted loudly, crying.

“Zhiruo, calm down!” Li Ziqi roared, “The darkness spire is collapsing. This meant that the secret treasure was obtained by Teacher...”

“But what if he failed?” The papaya interrupted Li Ziqi’s words. “Let me go, I’m going to look for Teacher. Little loachie, bite them!”

“If you enter now, you will die for sure!”

Li Ziqi was crying as well. She was very worried. However, she had to protect the lives of her junior martial siblings.

At this moment, the spire started to topple over.

Bang! Bang!

Large pieces of wood smashed onto the ground, causing dust to fly around.

“Little Silver, are you here? Quickly look for Teacher!”

Lu Zhiruo shouted.

Gu Xiuxun and Ming Xian rushed out and saw Lu Zhiruo who seemed like she was about to go crazy.

“Sun Mo hasn’t come out yet?”

Gu Xiuxun’s expression changed. Could it be that her guess was wrong? She hesitated a little, but after that, she turned and ran back toward the top level of the spire.

“Ziqi, Xuanyuan, take care of Zhiruo!”

Just as the sound of Gu Xiuxun’s voice faded away, a rumbling sound echoed out. The roof of the spire cracked and fell. With a resounding boom, a human silhouette broke through it and rushed out. He leaped over seven meters and jumped onto the parts of the spire that hadn’t collapsed.

After that, he slid down using it.

“It’s teacher!”

Li Ziqi cried tears of joy.

“Teacher Sun!”

Gu Xiuxun ran over.

“Teacher!”

The students also rushed here.

“Let’s leave first!”

Sun Mo urged. If they didn’t leave now, the student groups of the other schools would attack them.

“Teacher Sun, please wait!”

Ming Xian stopped him.

“You don’t have to ask anymore. I have obtained that secret treasure!”

Sun Mo couldn’t be bothered to lie. Right now, he was already in the divine force realm and his confidence level was off the charts. If Ming Xian didn’t know what was good for him, Sun Mo could only send Ming Xian to the yellow river.

Although everyone already guessed this, they were still in shock, contributing a lot of favorable impression points instantly.

“Teacher Sun, you are worrying too much. I only wanted to ascertain the result!”

Ming Xian bitterly smiled. He then clasped his fists. “Congratulations to Teacher Sun.”

“If Teacher Ming wants to ask how I achieved it, sorry but you can discard that notion!”

Sun Mo would definitely not say it.

“Teacher Sun, please feel free to do what you want to!”

After Ming Xian spoke, he turned and left. Even if he was in perfect shape, he wouldn't take advantage of someone's precarious position, let alone when he was heavily injured.

From his point of view, as Sun Mo had just finished fighting the illusion, Sun Mo's injuries would definitely be heavier than him. Sun Mo's current casual attitude must be a pretense.

Jia Wendong stood at his original location and watched Ming Xian leaving. He then glanced at Sun Mo again, feeling conflicted.

(Should I take him on as my personal teacher?)

(But I'm a student of Mingshao Academy!)

“Teacher, what does the secret treasure look like?”

Lu Zhiruo hugged Sun Mo's arm. There was a look of curiosity on her face.

Sun Mo casually took out the gemstone and threw it to the papaya girl.

After seeing this scene, Jia Wendong could no longer hold back. He directly knelt and started to kowtow.

“Teacher Sun, student Jia Wendong sincerely seeks to enter your tutelage and become your personal disciple!”

After Jia Wendong spoke, he kowtowed three times.

Upon hearing the sound, Ming Xian halted his steps and revealed a dispirited expression.

Whether a teacher was impressive or not, one would be able to tell by seeing if there were students wanting to join their tutelage or not.

For that battle, Ming Xian was completely defeated. However, he still had a chance. Next year, during the 1-star great teacher exam in spring, Sun Mo would surely be there.

At that time, he must surpass Sun Mo and obtain the number one ranking.

“Wow!”

Lu Zhiruo cried out in surprise, not because of the secret treasure. Rather, it was because of Jia Wendong's actions. One must know that he was a student of Mingshao Academy.

What great glory this was!

“This should be the way!”

Li Ziqi wasn't surprised. Jia Wendong had been following her teacher and had seen for himself how strong Sun Mo was. If he didn't hurriedly ask to become a personal disciple now, how blind must he be?

“Why are you in a daze? Quickly accept him. If this news circulated, your fame would surely resound through the 108 'D' grade schools!”

Gu Xiuxun persuaded.

Jia Wendong's aptitude wasn't bad and he was indeed qualified enough to become Sun Mo's personal student.

“Wendong, you are a student from Mingshao!”

Sun Mo spoke.

Jia Wendong's heart immediately clenched. (Could it be that Teacher Sun doesn't want me?) Hence, he hurriedly kowtowed even more to guarantee. “I can change schools!”