

Teacher 441

Chapter 441: Full Ten Points, Perfect!

“Uh, I’ll take, I’ll take, I’ll take!”

Zhou Qing mumbled and quickly ran up.

The number one candidate had been extremely nervous but felt a lot more relaxed now. However, the rest of the people started to feel nervous.

As the number was called randomly, this meant that one wouldn’t know when their turn would be. They’d lose their preparation time.

“This examination is a little interesting!”

Sun Mo was amused.

Such examination wasn’t just testing one’s strength. It also included one’s mental strength and the ability to withstand pressure.

The main examiner had been building up a high-pressure atmosphere all this while in order to add more pressure to the examinees. He wanted to see what extent they could go to.

This was how it was like for some students. They might be good at the studies, but during the examinations, they’d often be off their game and thus weren’t able to get high scores.

“Can... can I start now?”

Zhou Qing asked softly.

“You can start from the moment you go up. You’re now wasting the examination time!”

The main examiner’s word scared Zhou Qing so much that he almost spurted out blood. His countenance turned pale and he quickly released great teacher halos.

Encyclopedic Knowledge.

Complete Focus.

“I also know Ignorant and Incompetent!”

Zhou Qing looked toward the main examiner, his meaning clear. (How can I release it without any target? I can’t possibly target other examinees, can I?)

“Release it at me!”

A female examiner stood up.

Many guys immediately looked over. There were two females amongst the examiners, one of whom was slightly younger, approximately in her twenties. However, she looked too ordinary. She belonged to one of those people who couldn’t be found if placed in a big crowd.

The person who spoke was in her thirties and had an outstanding disposition. She stood there like a peony flower. Even though she was wearing ordinary teacher attire, her dignified aura and her graceful movements were very strong.

This was definitely an upper-class lady from a great clan.

The examinees looked at her and all of them felt respect and adoration as if they were looking at their mother. Of course, a few male examinees were secretly assessing her with a gaze they'd look at a member of the opposite sex.

"Huh?"

Zhou Qing was surprised.

After the target was struck by Ignorant and Incompetent, their eyes would become slanted and they would drool. Their mind would turn blank as they became like idiots.

"Since Teacher Mei asks you to do it, just do it. If you drag on any longer, you'll be deemed as having failed!"

One of the examiners reproached.

"Oh!"

Zhou Qing put his palms together and then bowed toward this dignified lady. "I'm sorry!"

After saying that, Zhou Qing released the Ignorant and Incompetent!

Pa!

Golden light spots condensed together and shot toward Mei Yazhi's chest. However, at the instant it struck, she received it with a swing of her right hand.

"Uhh!"

Zhou Qing instantly turned pale. This meant that the halo had failed.

"The effect of the halo is alright. Give him six points. Considered a pass!"

Mei Yazhi commented.

The Saint Gate's examination was ten points in total, with six points as the passing score.

Hearing this, Zhou Qing let out a long breath. He quickly bowed. "Thank you, Teacher Mei!"

"Pass! You can leave now!"

After the main examiner said that, he pointed to the next person. "Wang Meng!"

Zhou Qing didn't dare to stay for too long. When he left the lecture theater, he took in a few deep breaths. He was really frightened to death.

Wang Meng wasn't as lucky. The Priceless Advice that he could usually use without any problem couldn't succeed even after three attempts. It seemed that he was too nervous or not very confident.

“Time’s up! Eliminated!”

The main examiner held onto a brush and crossed off Wang Meng’s name on the list.

Wang Meng was dejected. He wanted to beg the main examiner to give him another chance. After all, he felt that it was too unfair to use 20 seconds to conclude the hard work he had put in for the past year.

“If you don’t leave the examination hall immediately, I’ll forbid you from taking the great teacher examinations for the next three years!”

Once the main examiner said that, Wang Meng quickly ran off without even daring to let out a fart.

The examination went on very quickly. The atmosphere in the lecture theater was especially serious and suppressed. It was as if dark clouds were covering the sky and a thunderstorm was coming soon.

Each candidate had 20 seconds. They would either pass or be eliminated. This scene that quickly brought out the results was really filled with a sense of apprehension.

Sun Mo saw that couple—who seemed to be called Mo Fei and Little Pomelo—passed successfully.

“Sun Shao!”

The main examiner called out.

“Is it finally my turn?”

A young man with a birthmark on his forehead stood up excitedly. After performing three great teacher halos in one go, he asked the main examiner.

“Will there be additional marks given if I perform a few more?”

Sun Shao wore an expression that showed his strong yearning to perform.

“There won’t be additional marks, but we’ll add a note behind your name!”

The main examiner explained.

His tone had just ended when Sun Shao raised his brows and performed another three halos. Out of three, two were Ignorant and Incompetent and Misleading Students, and they headed straight at Mei Yazhi.

Hua!

A commotion broke out. This examinee was so strong.

“Impudence!”

The main examiner didn’t show any exclamation but reproached outright.

“Hmmm? Didn’t you say that I can do that?”

Sun Shao scratched his head, sounding a little displeased.

“I did say you can do it, but where is your courtesy?”

The main examiner frowned.

“Teacher Tang, forget it!” Mei Yazhi spoke up, “It’s just a small matter!”

“Go out!”

The main examiner, who was called Tang Nian, reproached. He didn’t like this Sun Shao. (I understand that he anxiously wants to display his talent, but the show of disrespect toward Mei Yazhi shows that his character isn’t good.)

It was one thing if he were the first to go up and didn’t know what should be done. However, there were already over 50 examinees who showed him what should be done.

All the examinees who wanted to release a targeted halo would first bow toward Mei Yazhi.

“He must be jealous of my talent!”

Sun Shao mumbled. His voice wasn’t loud, but given the examiners’ standard, they heard what he said. Tang Nian’s eyelids twitched, but he bore with it. He wasn’t going to reproach an examinee over this little bit of defamation.

“It’s definitely over for this guy!”

“Your emotional intelligence can’t make it!”

“But he seems very strong. To think that he has grasped six great teacher halos!”

The examinees were all astonished by Sun Shao’s great talent. After all, he looked like he was only 22 or 23 years old. He was terrifyingly young.

Even Gu Qingyan, who had been keeping his eyes closed, couldn’t help but take a look at Sun Shao.

“Next! Zhang Lan!”

Tang Nian continued to call out.

Zhang Lan went up. Within 20 seconds, she released four great teacher halos. This girl had a straightforward character and wouldn’t try to fawn on others or say flattering words. However, she would show respect when facing great teachers.

Tang Nian was very satisfied and gave a nine. The examiners were too strong and had good judgment, along with plenty of experience. They could assess the examinees’ standard just by seeing how strong or weak the effect their great teacher halos was.

Sun Shao marked a start. After all, some examinees had failed a few times before. Their accumulation over the years also allowed them to comprehend over three great teacher halos.

Right now, hearing that good performances would be noted, all of them started to show off their capabilities.

Tang Nian didn’t stop them and just allowed them to perform the great halos freely.

This was also the first time the examinees had seen so many great teacher halos being erupted. With comparisons, they could realize the difference between themselves and others.

Some of the examinees who were more meticulous even started to observe the other examinees' expressions and gestures, pondering how they could make the effect of the great teacher halos stronger.

"Gu Qingyan!"

Usually, when Tang Nian called out names, he couldn't be bothered to check which examinee it was. However, after he called out this name, he looked up and glanced around, his gaze then landing on Gu Qingyan.

The other examiners were no exceptions.

As the Skyraise Academy's top graduate, Gu Qingyan was worthy of this treatment.

Although there were so many gazes on him, Gu Qingyan remained calm and walked up, looking as if he was taking a leisurely stroll in the park!

After bowing at the five examiners, he erupted four golden halos from his body. Then, two targeted halos shot out toward Mei Yazhi.

This was done very skillfully.

"Excellent!"

Tang Nian couldn't help but praise. Other people would try their best to extend their reach to the greatest when releasing great teacher halos, fearing that if the range was too small, they might get disqualified. However, it wasn't the same for Gu Qingyan.

The edges of his halo just nicely covered the lecture theater, not a bit more or less.

This control was really astonishing.

"Pass!"

After Tang Nian said that, he labeled a ten behind Gu Qingyan's name then added the word 'perfect'.

(As expected of this year's top graduate from the Skyraise Academy! Amazing!)

Then there were another six teachers. Although their performance wasn't bad, their ability was sub-par if compared with Gu Qingyan.

Tang Nian couldn't help but pout. Looking at Gu Qingyan displaying his great teacher halos was an enjoyment, like eating a big meal. As a result, when Tang Nian looked at these people, he felt as if he was chewing on wax!

"There probably won't be any other geniuses!"

Tang Nian looked at the name list and couldn't help but frown. "Sun Mo!"

Swoosh!

There were still over 300 examinees in the lecture theater. They had been adjusting their mental state, preparing to go up for their turn. However, when they heard this name, they immediately looked over.

Sun Mo got up and walked to the stage.

“Is it that ‘Like A Dog In Front of the Door’ Sun Mo [1]?”

“Tsk, he’s just a schemer who wants to gain a reputation!”

“Don’t say that. He might really be quite capable!”

The examinees assessed Sun Mo, wanting to see if this guy really had three heads and six arms.

The Jiang Clan was one of the few reputable clans in Guangling, and Jiang Wei was a reputable 6-star great teacher. Sun Mo had made such a big ruckus in front of his door, so it was no wonder that everyone would find out about it.

Moreover, Sun Mo had said ‘If you have the capabilities, you can run amok under the heavens. If you don’t have the capabilities, you are just a dog waiting for others in front of their door!’. This line’s damaging prowess was far too great. Although he had no intention of belittling the Jiang Clan, all great teachers valued face and reputation a lot.

Therefore, after Sun Mo had left the other day, almost no one had gone to pay Jiang Wei a visit. No one wished to be given the label of being a fawning dog.

Sun Mo went up and a layer of golden light immediately flashed on his body.

Model Teacher!

At the sight of this, Tang Nian’s brows raised uncontrollably. (How many days have you been a teacher? How could you have the mentality and sense of responsibility to comprehend a halo of this level?)

This halo wasn’t as commonly seen as Encyclopedic Knowledge. In the great teacher world, it would generally take at least five years or more after becoming a great teacher before they could comprehend this.

Chapter 442: Loud Finger Snap, Teach You How to Act!

The higher a great teacher’s star level, the more halos they comprehended and the stronger their will. They would also possess a stronger resistance toward other teachers’ halo.

To put things simply, it meant that they wouldn’t be suppressed on the mental level.

Therefore, it was still fine for the examiners. They were just surprised that Sun Mo had actually comprehended Model Teacher, which wasn’t commonly seen. However, the examinees couldn’t take it.

In that instant, they felt that Sun Mo had exceptional bearing and demeanor, having a disposition that would make one gasp in admiration and hold great reverence. The entire theater was silent, waiting for Sun Mo’s teaching.

“Not bad!”

Mei Yazhi, who had always acted as a target, praised.

Sun Mo threw a glance at the lecture theater. He hadn't had the chance to use this halo during lessons yet, so he didn't expect the effect to be so good.

Once released, the students' concentration would increase. It would make them think that the chance of listening to a teaching was very precious. Hence, they wouldn't be absent minded anymore.

"You can continue!"

Tang Nian gestured.

The last note of his words had just ended when two beams of golden halos suddenly erupted from Sun Mo's body.

Encyclopedic Knowledge!

Complete Focus!

Although they were very common, Tang Nian saw the profoundness behind them because Sun Mo had done the same thing as Gu Qingyan—the range of his great teacher halo encompassed the lecture theater nicely.

It wasn't a bit more or less!

Since the start of the examination, only Gu Qingyan and Sun Mo had managed to do this,

"This Sun Mo is a little amazing!"

Tang Nian secretly praised.

The examinees had a lot of thoughts on their minds. However, as they were affected by Model Teacher, none of them said anything, and the lecture theater remained quiet.

"As expected of the Jinling's 'Like A Dog In Front of the Door' Sun Mo. Do you know any other great teacher halos?"

A young examiner suddenly spoke up.

Sun Mo frowned slightly and looked over. This examiner had placed an additional emphasis on the word 'dog', and his words seemed to have a hint of a sneer in them.

Tang Nian threw a glance at Su Tai. This examiner had graduated from Guangling Academy in which Jiang Wei was the vice-headmaster. Therefore, although Su Tai wasn't Jiang Wei's personal disciple, he had received guidance from Jiang Wei before and was considered to be one of his students.

Su Tai said this because he wanted to test out Sun Mo's capabilities, wanting to know what right he had to speak such impudent words in front of the Jiang Manor.

"Please go ahead!"

Su Tai put up an inviting gesture.

Tang Nian's brows furrowed then relaxed. Before waiting for Sun Mo's reply, Su Tai had said 'please go ahead'. This was a little pushing it. It'd be embarrassing if Sun Mo only knew three great teacher halos.

Of course, Tang Nian wouldn't stop this either.

If Sun Mo could retaliate against Su Tai and pass this easily, it'd prove his talent. However, if he embarrassed himself, it'd be considered a lesson as well. It would let him know that some words couldn't be said recklessly.

"I'm sorry to be offending you!"

After Sun Mo said that, another beam of golden halo burst out from his body, extending past Su Tai.

Before Su Tai could react, a golden chain appeared on his body, binding him up. He immediately felt weak and extremely empty as if he had been drowned by tidal waves.

"..."

Su Tai's eyes instantly opened to their widest extent as he looked at Sun Mo. His expression was that of confusion and perplexity. (What halo is this? It feels so bad! That's not right. I'm a 2-star great teacher. I should be immune against Sun Mo's halo!)

Su Tai's expression then turned into astonishment.

He instinctively wanted to say something, but when he opened his mouth, he was unable to make a single sound. What horrified him the most was that he had lost control over the spirit qi in his body, unable to mobilize them at all.

A tremendous feeling of death assaulted Su Tai, causing his body to tremble ever so slightly.

The cultivators in Middle-Earth's Nine Provinces had long since gotten used to the existence of spirit qi, and it was also the foundation of strength. For the past 20 years, this was the first time Su Tai couldn't feel the existence of spirit qi, like how a boxer suddenly lost physical strength when he was competing in a ring. It was like a majestic lion on the plains suddenly losing its sharp claws. It'd be weird for them not to feel horrified.

The examinees were also in a state of astonishment. To think that Black Doggy Sun's great teacher halo was effective against an examiner. (My god, could it be that he is comparable to the examiners?)

Of course, due to the influence of Model Teacher, they were forced to remain respectful and didn't burst out chattering amongst themselves.

"Misleading Students?"

This was the first time Mei Yazhi started to assess Sun Mo seriously.

This halo was one that specially targeted great teachers and thus was considered a punishing-type halo. It was also called the Expropriate Halo.

Great teachers who were struck by Misleading Students couldn't use their spirit qi for a while. That also meant no cultivation arts and great teacher halos.

Moreover, they would be unable to speak and would temporarily forget all the knowledge in their mind, unable to teach any student.

This halo could be said to be more difficult than Model Teacher.

Why was that the case?

Comprehending Model Teacher only required one to teach, being able to remain jovial, free, and calm, understanding the meaning and ideologies as a teacher.

Model Teacher primarily required one's disposition.

Misleading Students was different. It required a great teacher to have absolute strength and confidence in their profession.

There'd only be some chances of comprehending it after teaching students incessantly without making any mistakes at all and having the experience of pointing out mistakes made by other great teachers.

How difficult was this?

Pointing out that other great teachers were misleading students? Doing so in public was an extremely gutsy act.

What if you were the wrong one?

Even if you weren't wrong, many great teachers wouldn't do so. One shouldn't go to the extremities to not make the future encounters awkward. Unless the other party was an enemy, many people would choose to remain silent even if they were to see other great teachers making a mistake.

Of course, there weren't many chances to do so. After all, one wouldn't dare to speak recklessly if they didn't have the confidence.

Therefore, Misleading Students was something that could normally only be comprehended by great teachers who were 4-star or higher. At this level, they could give guidance to great teachers who had made mistakes.

Even if the other party wasn't pleased, they still had to bear with it.

However, who would have expected that Sun Mo knew it as well?

"Are you really 20?"

Tang Nian almost asked this. To speak the truth, even he hadn't comprehended this halo yet.

Although it felt very good to be criticizing other teachers, who'd do something like this unless their emotional intelligence was ridiculously low!?

"That'll do!"

After Mei Yazhi nodded at Sun Mo, a silver halo radiated out from her body. After it came into contact with Su Tai, it immediately dispelled the Misleading Students effect on him.

At the same time, the examinees also returned to normal, not being affected by Model Teacher anymore. Otherwise, if things were to continue like this, it'd affect their performance.

Sun Mo returned a smile, having some favorable impression toward this dignified lady. Given her strength and status, she didn't need to ask him for his opinion before using the dispelling light. However, her act of asking was a show of respect.

"But this Spring Wind into Rain is used really well!"

Sun Mo wasn't the inexperienced guy he was when he first came to this world. He now had quite a bit of understanding of the common knowledge in this great teacher world. This great teacher halo was called Spring Wind into Rain. It could almost eliminate all great teacher halos' effects, regardless if they were benefiting ones or punishing ones.

Of course, it was equally difficult to comprehend them. If one wished to eliminate these halos' effects, one must first understand them. This meant that one who could comprehend the Spring Wind into Rain must have comprehended at least 20 halos!

In the great teacher world, this was definitely a terrifying number.

Su Tai, who had returned to his senses, wore a grim countenance. Being dealt with by an examinee's punishing halo was embarrassing.

Even if news of this didn't leak out, Teacher Mei and Teacher Tang had both seen it. This was such a great blow to his image!

"Misleading Students, not bad, it's really not bad!"

Su Tai was enraged, but due to his status, he wasn't able to make a reckless move. Therefore, he could only say something out of spite, "Are there any more? Show me another!"

This was like saying 'I'm fine. If you have the guts, stab me again!' during a fight.

Mei Yazhi's brows furrowed and she spoke to persuade him to stop, "Teacher Su, give your rating!"

This was a reminder to Su Tai to not go too far. Moreover, she also felt that Sun Mo would definitely know of other great teacher halos. If this continued to carry on, Su Tai might be put in a disadvantageous situation.

It was a pity that she was one step too late.

Sun Mo was the kind of person who would return one's favor in folds. If someone were to forcibly create trouble, then sorry, he could only hammer and crush the person's head!

So what if he was an examiner?

Was it a big deal?

Upon hearing Su Tai's challenge, Sun Mo's lips twitched.

"As you wish!"

Sun Mo's tone was extremely calm. He then made a loud finger snap.

Pa!

Amidst the crisp sound, tiny golden light motes radiated out from Sun Mo's fingers. The glow was like sparks produced from flintstones hitting each other and was also like fireflies that fluttered about in the evening.

They didn't dissipate but condensed into an arrow that shot at Su Tai's forehead.

Su Tai instinctively felt that things weren't good and attempted to dodge it. However, the arrow's speed was too fast.

Swoosh!

The arrow broke through the air and struck Su Tai's forehead.

Pa!

Su Tai's head fell back. When it returned to its position, Su Tai's mouth and eyes were already slanted, and he was in an idiotic state.

Ignorant and Incompetent, perfect hit!

Hua!

Everyone broke into a commotion. Three hundred faces looked at Sun Mo, feeling stunned. (Aren't you being too stubborn? How could you not even leave some face to the examiner?)

"Is this guy alright in the head?"

"He's just being self-conceited, looking down on the rest of the world because he has some capabilities!"

"But it's true that his halo is amazing!"

The examinees started mumbling.

Not all great teacher halos could be effective, and the effects were also differentiated, depending on the releaser and the target's abilities.

Take Mei Yazhi for example. Even though Sun Mo's Ignorant and Incompetent was at the grandmaster-grade, it wouldn't be able to turn her into an idiot. It couldn't even cause her to lose her sense for a short instance.

"F*ck!"

Tang Nian cursed in his heart, grumbling about Su Tai's overbearingness but also Sun Mo's insensibility. They should just let things be by giving way to each other. Was there a need to force things to this extent?

"That's enough, you pass. You can leave and prepare for the examination in the afternoon."

After Mei Yazhi said that, her left leg tapped gently on the ground as she released Spring Wind into Rain. Otherwise, if Su Tai were to continue acting as an idiot, he'd lose all his face.

"Goodbye!"

Sun Mo walked out.

“You...”

The countenance of Su Tai, who had just returned to his senses, instantly turned savage. He wanted to chase after Sun Mo.

“Teacher Su!”

Mei Yazhi spoke up. Her voice wasn't loud, but it was like a resounding bell blasting in Su Tai's ears, causing him to instantly wake up from his great fury.

“Teacher Mei, I realized my mistake!”

Su Tai held his fury in and apologized. After all, this great character's will wasn't something he dared to defy. Otherwise, there'd be no end to this matter. (Sun Mo, was it? Just you wait!)

Chapter 443: Flowers Blooming in Winter, Mei Ziyu

“What do you think?”

Tang Nian asked Mei Yazhi in a soft voice.

“Not bad. He should be able to get it!”

Given her rich experience, she could tell how outstanding Sun Mo was.

As they were in public, she spoke in a roundabout manner, but she actually felt that Sun Mo had the right to fight for the top ten in this great teacher examination.

Tang Nian nodded then called out the next examinee, “Next, Tong Tong!”

Tang Nian also knew there was a high chance that Sun Mo would be able to pass the examination. The reason he asked this was to remind Su Tai not to give Sun Mo a low score because of his personal feelings.

Su Tai held in his fury and gave Sun Mo full marks. However, he made a note behind Sun Mo's name that he was self-conceited and treated other people with contempt.

Sun Mo left the lecture theater and saw that many examinees who had passed left very quickly. They were either going to take this time to rest or revise.

Examinees who didn't have any issues with their brains would be able to tell from these two rounds that the examination this time around was a lot harder than before. The written examination would probably be very difficult as well.

Sun Mo and Gu Xiuxun had agreed to meet up at the teaching building after the examination ended and then go for a meal together.

“She's not done yet?”

Sun Mo arrived first. After waiting for a few minutes and not seeing the masochist, Sun Mo decided to go take a walk around the school ground since he didn't wish to stay here and wait. He'd just treat it as a

trip, taking the opportunity to look at Guangling Academy's basic infrastructure and find out if there was anything he could learn from them.

Guangling was a commercial city, and this led to there being a stronger commercial aura in the Guangling Academy. Sun Mo had seen over ten banners that were hung up in very obvious positions, with the names of old shops that had a history of 100 years written on them.

Sun Mo felt that it was a great pity that Guangling Academy's headmaster didn't become a businessman. The advertisements from these banners alone would probably cover Guangling Academy's yearly expenditure.

As they had money, the school's infrastructure was very good.

It was winter now, but flowers were still blooming beautifully in the flowerbeds. As they were all decorative florals that had been brought back from the Darkness Continent, they could bloom even in the cold winter.

Sun Mo took a stroll amongst the flowerbeds. Suddenly, he stopped in his footsteps.

Not far away, there was a girl about 17 to 18 years old squatting by a flowerbed. She was holding a small spade and loosening up the soil.

Even though it was winter, the girl's forehead was starting to sweat.

Sun Mo sat by the pavilion at the side.

He could only see the girl's back view, but it looked very beautiful. Although she didn't have a hot figure, actually very skinny like a hairtail fish, she gave off a very coordinated feeling.

In addition to the waist-length black hair, she emitted a quiet and graceful aura, making her look like a lily.

"I wonder how she looks like?"

Sun Mo suddenly felt very curious.

About ten or more minutes later, the girl was done with her work. She stood up, wiped off her sweat, and then looked at the flowerbeds that had the soil loosened up, wearing a sweet smile.

Sun Mo managed to get a look at her face. It didn't matter whether she was pretty or not, but her smile was like a rainbow that came after the rain.

Sun Mo's mood instantly became better. It was like reading a good book in a bookstore or having eaten a slice of delicious cake at the dessert shop.

The girl saw a black peony that looked a little wilted and wanted to water it. However, in the midst of squatting down, her body suddenly trembled and she looked over in Sun Mo's direction.

She looked just like a little yellow oriole that was frightened.

Sun Mo felt a little awkward and greeted her, "Hello!"

The girl nodded, picking up the small wooden bucket and planning to leave. However, after she walked for a few steps, she looked toward the wilting black peony again. After some hesitation, she came back.

This time around, the girl's speed was a lot faster!

"Why do I feel like a pervert?"

Sun Mo smiled in self-mockery and got up to leave, planning to head to somewhere else. However, the girl suddenly swayed and fell toward the ground.

"What's going on?"

Sun Mo instantly frowned and darted over.

Divine Sight activated.

Mei Ziyu, 18 years old, divine force realm.

After seeing the girl's realm, Sun Mo's eyelids twitched fiercely. For a moment, he thought that he had seen wrongly. An 18-year-old girl being at the divine force realm? Wasn't this a genius amongst geniuses?

Strength 15. You are weak and delicate, plagued with illnesses. You only have the strength to take care of plants.

Intellect 38. You have a pure heart and elegant character. You are pretty and intelligent, understanding many things!

Agility 13. You move gracefully, looking like you'll fall if the wind blows.

Endurance 12. You've always been very tired!

Will 40. You are at the divine force realm. Your spirit is exceptionally strong!

...

Extremely high potential value!

Note: As you are sick, you aren't able to unleash all of your potentials. However, you can still have an overwhelming victory against many people.

Note: Life and death are just a part of life. After coming to accept everything, death might just be a relief.

"What sickness do you have? Do you have medicine? Do you know the treatment method?"

Sun Mo helped the girl up and quickly shot out three consecutive questions.

This girl's body was in a worse state than Tantai Yutang. Therefore, Sun Mo didn't give her treatment recklessly.

"I... I've medicine!"

The girl leaned in Sun Mo's embrace and was supported by his big hand. She felt so embarrassed that her face had turned flush red. The red hue then extended down her pale neck.

"Is it in the embroidered pouch?"

Sun Mo saw that there was a small green embroidered pouch at the girl's waist. There was the word 'fish' [1] embroidered on it.

"En!"

The girl's expression looked like she was in great agony, but she held it in and didn't cry out. It was because that was unbecoming of a lady.

Sun Mo quickly opened the embroidered pouch and took out a small porcelain bottle.

Before Sun Mo asked, the girl said, "Two!"

Pop!

Sun Mo opened the lid and a strong fragrance immediately gushed to his nose, making him invigorated. He almost wanted to swallow these pills.

However, there was something more amazing to come. The medicinal fragrance that gushed out didn't dissipate. Instead, they condensed into the shape of a white lotus, with leaves fluttering as if blown by a light breeze.

Even though Sun Mo wasn't an alchemist, he knew that these pills were definitely extremely valuable. He didn't dare to have any delays and quickly fed the girl with them.

"Cough cough! Cough cough!"

Mei Ziyu coughed but didn't show any signs of turning better. She even spurted out a mouthful of blood, sending them splattering onto Sun Mo's clothes.

"I'm... I'm sorry!"

Mei Ziyu felt a little bad about it.

"You're already in this condition, why apologize?"

Sun Mo was speechless. "Do you know what your sickness is?"

There wasn't any information on Mei Ziyu's ailment from the data he obtained through Divine Sight. This surprised Sun Mo. His Divine Sight was already at the ancestor-grade. Data that he couldn't obtain meant that her ailment was extremely rare and tricky.

"Cough cough!"

Mei Ziyu shook her head. It wasn't that she wasn't allowed to say it, but more of her not knowing how she should put it into words. Her ailment was too strange.

Sun Mo knew that he wouldn't be able to find out anything through her. He could only take action and check things out for himself.

“I’ll be offending you then!”

After saying that, Sun Mo supported Mei Ziyu with his left hand and then pressed his right onto her back followed by her four limbs, giving her a checkup.

Sun Mo didn’t dare to use the ancient massaging technique recklessly. It was because Mei Ziyu’s data was too strange. She was at the divine force realm, but her data was still at the spirit-refinement realm in some areas, not even comparable to Xuanyuan Po.

She had a bad depletion of her qi and blood. Her muscles had shrunk, she had little strength, and her heart was weak...

The more Sun Mo checked her, the more surprised he felt. How on earth did this girl manage to survive? She couldn’t be fully reliant on those pills to hang onto her life, could she?

Mei Ziyu had never been touched by a guy since young and was feeling both shy and awkward. Her face was so red that it looked like blood was going to flow out.

“Don’t, don’t touch me!”

The girl wanted to push Sun Mo away.

Sun Mo didn’t say any crap. After a short analysis, he decided to use the living blood technique.

Qi and blood was the foundation of human life. The stronger they were, the stronger one’s vitality.

Sun Mo exerted some force with his right hand, pressing onto Mei Ziyu’s neck.

“Uhh!”

Mei Ziyu was surprised and shrank her neck back subconsciously. However, she quickly relaxed. The parts where Sun Mo’s fingers touched felt very good.

The piercing pain and soreness she usually felt when her sickness acted up had been reduced by quite a lot.

“Genie, it’s up to you now!”

Sun Mo’s massage technique was very good, but it wasn’t convenient for him to perform it given the current position he was in. Therefore, spirit qi gushed out from his hands.

The genie was formed.

“Hmmm?”

Mei Ziyu’s big and beautiful eyes opened wide instantly. (What is this?)

Sun Mo was very amazed. As expected of someone with a max will. She was able to maintain her rationality even under the ancient massaging technique. Even Jin Mujie would feel so good that she’d temporarily lose her senses.

The genie, who usually didn’t like women, didn’t show any despise this time around. Instead, he started to give Mei Ziyu a serious massage.

This time around, the treatment went on for 15 minutes. After it ended, Sun Mo helped Mei Ziyu to the pavilion.

Hu!

Sun Mo panted, feeling a little tired. It was because he had depleted too much spirit qi.

“I’m sorry!”

Mei Ziyu apologized, looking troubled. This kind-hearted young man must be an examinee. If he had depleted too much energy from helping her, causing him to fail the written examination in the afternoon, then she’d have sinned!

Sun Mo was stunned for a moment before realizing what Mei Ziyu meant. He instantly had a good impression of her. This was a girl who knew how to think for others.

“Don’t worry, I can get full marks without much effort!”

Sun Mo was joking and hoping that Mei Ziyu wouldn’t dwell in self-reproach. However, her expression didn’t change and she just looked straight into his eyes.

“Hehe!”

Sun Mo suddenly felt embarrassed. After all, this boast was too great. Just as he was about to explain himself, Mei Ziyu suddenly spoke up.

“I believe in you!”

The girl nodded solemnly. She really felt that Sun Mo would be able to do it.

(You’re so innocent that any big gray wolf will be able to deceive you!)

Sun Mo was speechless.

“Hold on!”

Sun Mo ran off, returning after a few minutes. He handed Mei Ziyu a teacup with hot water. “Have some and moisten your lips.”

Mei Ziyu would never use someone else’s stuff recklessly, let alone something that belonged to an unfamiliar guy. However, this time around, she replied with a soft ‘en’, took the cup with both hands, and had a small sip.

“Your condition is very serious. It’s best that you don’t get exposed to the cold wind!”

Sun Mo suggested.

“I know!”

Mei Ziyu smiled and looked toward the sky. “But wouldn’t I be letting my remaining days down if I don’t look at this scenery?”

Sun Mo didn’t know how to continue the conversation. You couldn’t say that this girl was ‘sick’, having an unrealistic rosy view of the world, since she was really sick.

Or rather, it was a type of open-mindedness.

“It’s no wonder that your will is at full value.”

Sun Mo exclaimed.

“What is your name?”

Mei Ziyu suddenly turned to look at Sun Mo, wearing a crescent moon-like smile, so pure that it felt like springwater had flowed past his heart.

Chapter 444: If Life Was as Beautiful as First Sight

“Sun Mo!”

Seeing the girl’s condition, Sun Mo sat across her and tried his best to maintain a distance. If not, he might really be mistaken as someone trying to do something indecent to her.

After all, when executing the ancient massaging technique, he would come in contact with some body parts that were considered private.

Mei Ziyu repeated this name in a low voice. She then stood up and solemnly bowed to Sun Mo. “Sun Mo, thanks!”

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Mei Ziyu +100. Prestige connection unlocked. Friendly (100/1,000).

“You are too polite. It’s just a very slight effort on my part!”

Sun Mo hesitated because Divine Sight wasn’t able to identify this girl’s illness. Hence, he wanted to ask more in detail. However, as this was considered a private information, she most probably wouldn’t tell him.

Mei Ziyu noticed Sun Mo’s silence and instantly guessed his thoughts. “Sorry, I also have no idea what illness I’m suffering from. In any case, it’s very troublesome.”

The girl had a pure heart and spirit, hence, if she knew, she would definitely tell Sun Mo because she owed him a favor.

“Let me say something you wouldn’t like to hear. You should stay in bed more to rest!”

Sun Mo suggested. With Mei Ziyu’s body, it would be a burden even if she walked an additional step.

“If that’s the case, I might as well commit suicide!”

Mei Ziyu had a faint smile on her face. After her breathing was stable, she stood up and took up her little shovel, starting to plow the soil as she watered the wilted black peony.

Sun Mo followed over. He took a glance and wanted to say something but hesitated.

“You want to say that there’s no hope for it anymore?”

Mei Ziyu guessed Sun Mo’s thoughts.

“Yup!”

Sun Mo nodded. His planting technique was at the grandmaster-grade, and even without using Divine Sight for assistance, he could see that the main root of the black peony had been chewed through by worms. It wasn't able to absorb any nutrients from the soil and would die sooner or later.

“But what if a miracle happens?”

Mei Ziyu counter-asked. She used the little shovel and cautiously piled some soil under the peony gently, like she was afraid she might hurt the roots if she used too much force. “If one isn't even willing to put in this bit of effort, there wouldn't be a chance of a miracle.”

Sun Mo fell silent.

Honestly speaking, he felt that this Mei Ziyu was a little obsessed. If the plant died, one could buy another one. If one's computer hard disk was damaged, that part should just be replaced. Why was there a need to think about fixing it?

If it was a plant she had been taking care of for many years, one might still say that there were some emotions. But for an ordinary plant in the landscape like this? It was truly not worthy of Mei Ziyu putting in effort with her sick body just to save it.

However, he respected Mei Ziyu's choice.

“My mother has told me the same thing many times. Indeed, some things aren't worth the effort. However, I feel that if I abandoned it, it would truly be too pitiful!”

Mei Ziyu touched the black peony's leaves with tenderness in her gaze.

“Everyone has the freedom to choose how they want to live!”

Sun Mo smiled.

“Thank you!”

Mei Ziyu also smiled. This Sun Mo was very interesting and gentle. Other guys would definitely persuade her to take care of her body instead, telling her that a plant was really not worth her effort. However, Sun Mo didn't do this.

“You know planting techniques?”

Mei Ziyu was curious. After she asked, she saw golden light erupting from Sun Mo's body.

Priceless Advice activated.

“Are you bragging about your talent?”

Mei Ziyu leaned her head sideways and looked at Sun Mo. Her black hair flowed down like a waterfall, hanging off her shoulders.

Sun Mo also didn't expect Priceless Advice to activate. Just when he wanted to explain, he saw Mei Ziyu smiling sweetly and knew she was intentionally teasing him.

“Yup, men would naturally want to display their brilliance before beautiful girls to gain their favor!”

Sun Mo replied.

Swish~

Mei Ziyu’s face turned red again. She hurriedly shook her head, not daring to look at Sun Mo anymore.

“Eh!”

Sun Mo felt awkward. His words sounded a little frivolous, but this couldn’t be blamed on him.

This girl had a gentle and quiet demeanor, and she was pretty as well. Although she was slightly skinny and her complexion was pale, she was comparable to Gu Xiuxun in terms of beauty. However, when guys looked at her, they wouldn’t feel what they felt when they looked at the masochist. They would basically neglect this girl’s beautiful appearance as a sense of protecting her appeared in their hearts.

At the very least, Sun Mo would feel some impulse when he looked at Gu Xiuxun. However, he felt nothing like that when he looked at this girl.

Sun Mo felt that he should leave, yet he didn’t feel like leaving. Hence, he could only find topics to talk about. “I have some understanding when it comes to planting.”

“Oh, why are you researching this subject?”

Mei Ziyu felt curious.

Honestly speaking, this was a very minor subject. Even if he mastered it to the grandmaster-grade, it would be of insignificant value.

Hence, if there was a better choice, no one would be bored enough to research planting techniques.

“My hobby!”

Sun Mo could only feign calmness. He couldn’t possibly say that he had opened the skill book from a treasure chest, right?

Upon hearing this, Mei Ziyu’s eyes brightened. She actually met someone here with the same hobby as her.

“Let me take a look?”

Sun Mo squatted down. He first inspected the black peony’s root. Although he didn’t see any worms, he could see tiny bites on it. “Pass me the shovel please!”

When Mei Ziyu passed the shovel over, her finger accidentally came in contact with Sun Mo’s index finger. She blushed again, but after that, she discovered that Sun Mo wasn’t concerned about such a small matter. He was seriously plowing the soil, inspecting the roots of the black peony.

That serious face was really well worth a second look.

Hence, Mei Ziyu couldn’t control but to secretly survey Sun Mo.

“The nutrients in the soil are too little. Although you have added fertilizer, it didn’t help and instead drew a lot of worm larvae. The roots are severely damaged by the worms.”

Sun Mo explained.

“Can it be saved?”

Mei Ziyu suddenly grew worried.

“The chance of saving it is very small!”

Sun Mo spoke and placed his hand on the top part of the plant.

Bzz~

A green light shone from Sun Mo’s hand. The motes of light entered the plant and a few minutes later, quite a few of the originally withered leaves unfolded and shone with a luster.

“Eh? What is this?”

Mei Ziyu was astonished. She had thought that the planting techniques Sun Mo knew were the normal plowing, pruning, and breeding. She didn’t expect that it was this type...

However, the effects were miraculously good.

Mei Ziyu could hear some faint rustling sound. That was the struggle of the worms before they died.

“It’s temporarily fine now. I gave it some nutrients and mended the main root. However, there are plenty of worms in this bed of flowers. You have to remember to use pesticide to kill the worms in a timely manner, or it would be like curing the symptoms and not the root cause!”

Sun Mo inhaled deeply. Sweat could be seen on his forehead.

Although this was just saving a plant, he had to reconstruct its life circulatory system, and this caused Sun Mo to expend a large amount of spirit qi. Hence, he felt somewhat fatigued.

However, he was happy because this was his first time using the planting technique. He was surprised at how strong it was.

“It’s been hard on you!”

Mei Ziyu took out a handkerchief and passed it to Sun Mo.

“Forget it, I would only dirty it!”

Sun Mo didn’t take it and stood up instead. “I have to go now. My companions are waiting for me.”

He had spent quite a lot of time here. Given Gu Xiuxun’s strength, she should have come out.

“Mn!”

Mei Ziyu rose to her feet.

Sun Mo waved his hands. After walking out for over ten meters, he suddenly heard the guilty apology of the girl. Because she wanted to save the plant, Sun Mo had wasted much energy. This would surely affect his performance in the exam.

“Sorry, I was too wilful!”

Sun Mo turned his head and saw the girl bowing 90 degrees at him. The gentle wind gusted by, causing her skirt to flutter.

“Don’t mind it, I did so willingly!”

Sun Mo smiled. “If only life was as beautiful as first sight, why should the autumn wind bother to pity deserted painted fans, eh...”

As Sun Mo spoke halfway, he suddenly shut up. His original intention was to console Mei Ziyu and tell her that he was very happy being able to get acquainted with her here. But as he spoke halfway, he suddenly realized that what he was going to recite was actually a love poem!

For modern people when they were reciting poems, the intended meaning of the allegory was presented in the first part, and this was very normal. But the Middle-Earth Nine Provinces were different.

In this era, this poem didn’t exist!

And what was more troubling was Priceless Advice had activated.

(May the heavens take pity on me.) Sun Mo truly had no other intentions. He only felt that this girl was not bad. It was like when you occasionally met a beautiful senior school sister in the library. You would feel an impulse to get acquainted with her, and you would also feel that you were quite lucky today for being able to meet her.

Mei Ziyu didn’t expect that Sun Mo would only utter two lines. Also, given her talent, she instantly understood the beauty of the poem. Just when she was waiting for the later part of it, Sun Mo’s great teacher halo activated.

The large and limpid eyes of the girl blinked as she stared at Sun Mo in astonishment. Her fair hands subconsciously covered her mouth.

In this instant, Mei Ziyu’s heart turned chaotic.

(Why did you confess even though we have just met?)

Mei Ziyu wanted to reject him, but she didn’t dislike this man’s look nor his gentleness and attentiveness.

However, Mei Ziyu was ultimately a pure-hearted girl. When she saw Sun Mo’s awkward expression, she understood that she was thinking too much. He was only reciting a poem to express his emotions.

However, that was a really good poem!

“If only life was as beautiful as first sight, why would the autumn wind pity the deserted painted fan!”

Mei Ziyu muttered, a smile involuntarily appeared on her face. She really wanted to know the second part of the poem. It should be very fascinating, right?

Yet in the end, she only saw Sun Mo saying, "Please don't misunderstand". After that, Sun Mo turned and ran away.

Sun Mo's speed was very fast. He soon vanished at the end of the alley.

It was unknown why, but Mei Ziyu suddenly felt somewhat disappointed.

"Actually, I don't dislike this name 'Sun Mo'!"

Mei Ziyu then squatted down at the flower bed and continued taking care of that black peony flower.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Mei Ziyu +200. Friendly (300/1,000).

...

Under the teaching building, Gu Xiuxun crossed her arms before her chest. One of her feet was tapping the ground unceasingly, as she had been waiting here for almost half an hour.

(Damn Sun Mo, don't you know it's very impolite to let a girl wait for you?)

Besides, because the masochist was too pretty, the examinees would all take a few glances at her. Their eyes would naturally roam at her chest and butt.

If they stared at her butt, it was still okay, Gu Xiuxun could still endure it. But when she noticed them staring at her small chest, this steel-board lady really couldn't bear it.

"You guys are still looking? Do you guys believe that this old lady will dig your eyes out and stomp on them?"

Gu Xiuxun suddenly roared at a few examinees.

"Who made you angry?" Sun Mo put on an expression of righteous indignation. "I'll go and punch him!"

"I wish to beat you up!"

After Gu Xiuxun spoke, she stretched out her hand and grabbed Sun Mo's throat. "Do you know how long I've been standing here and being stared at like a gorilla in the zoo?"

"You people from Middle-Earth also know the existence of gorillas?"

Sun Mo was astonished.

"Damn, if you guys want to display your affection in public, just scam back home!"

"I don't want to see this crap!"

"Should we beat this fellow up?"

When the examinees saw Gu Xiuxun actually bantering flirtatiously with Sun Mo, they were so angry that they wanted to beat someone up.

[1] I take no credit for the translation below. Source: <http://www.gathery.com/nalan/001-mrsrz.html>

Full poem:

If only life was as beautiful as at first sight, why should the autumn wind bother to pity deserted painted fans?

Frivolously your heart changed, yet you claimed capriciousness of human emotions.

A memory of late-night whispers on Li mountain ended only by the break of dawn, sorrowful sentiments evoked by a chariot's jingle on a rainy night, couldn't make him regret. (I still remember those late-night whispers of love when we were together. Now parted, with tears, I have no regret that I once loved you.)

But how can you compare with those fickle princelings, at least once they had vowed to be love birds flying wing-to-wing or to be branches intertwined.

Chapter 445: Written Exam for Spirit Runes, Hell-like Difficulty!

"Where did you go earlier?"

Gu Xiuxun casually asked.

Ordinarily, when one finished an examination round, they would surely first ask their peers how it was. However, the masochist believed Sun Mo would be able to pass for sure.

"I went for a casual stroll!"

Although he saved a girl, Sun Mo wasn't the type of person who loved to brag.

"Why don't I believe you?"

Gu Xiuxun sniffed forcefully. She then went beside Sun Mo and sniffed there. "Did you fool around with some woman?"

Sun Mo was badly frightened. He subconsciously wanted to lift his arm for a smell. Did the smell on the girl and rubbed off on him?

"Aiya, you really went to fool around with a girl?"

Gu Xiuxun was joking originally, but after seeing Sun Mo's reaction, she was badly shocked.

"..."

Sun Mo was speechless. He really wanted to ask if all women were monsters. Were they innately born with the ability to detect cheaters? Sun Mo swiftly tried to explain.

"Alright, enough. I was just playing around with you!"

The masochist laughed. "Look at how frightened you are. Don't worry, I won't tell sister Xinhui. Let's eat something and prepare for the exam in the afternoon. I can tell you that the examination this year would surely be extremely difficult!"

After a simple lunch, Gu Xiuxun and Sun Mo casually found a place to rest before they headed back to the exam location.

For the written exam, it depended on what the subject the examinee registered for.

Sun Mo's spiritual beast control art was at the grandmaster-grade, but since he didn't use it that much, he didn't register for it. He registered for the study of spirit runes instead.

The examination was still held in a lecture theater of 500 pax. Sun Mo found room #401 and entered it. Upon coming in, he could see some familiar faces that took the first round with him in the morning.

The study of spirit runes was a major subject second only to alchemy and weaponsmithing. Hence, there was a very high probability he would meet familiar examinees here.

"Do you see it? That guy is Sun Mo!"

"That Sun Mo who said 'you are just a dog waiting for others in front of their door'?"

"Yup, that's him!"

The examinees mumbled to themselves. But after Gu Qingyan entered, all the focus was shifted to him.

At 2 p.m., the sound of the bell rang out. Tang Nian and two examiners Sun Mo hadn't met before entered the classroom.

Sun Mo felt a little regret that he didn't manage to see that beautiful middle-aged woman. After all, no one would hope the examiner in charge of observing them during the examination to be someone with a solemn expression throughout.

"For the written exam, no one is allowed to look around randomly or cheat. Once you are discovered to have done so, your qualifications to participate in the great teacher examination shall be stripped forever."

Tang Nian announced.

"The duration is three hours!"

After Tang Nian finished speaking, the two other examiners started giving out the exam papers.

Some of the examinees, who were originally filled with trepidation, suddenly cried with anguish when they received the exam papers.

"Oh my heavens, it's so thick?"

An examinee in the front row almost broke down when he saw the exam consisted of ten sets of exam papers stacked together.

"Silence! Whoever makes a scene shall be banished from the classroom!"

Tang Nian roared.

The classroom immediately fell silent. After that, a tense atmosphere enveloped the area. It was so heavy that it was terrifying.

Each examinee behaved as though they were facing a formidable enemy. Everyone had their heads lowered as they bitterly tackled the questions.

After Gu Qingyan acquired the exam papers, he casually flipped and glanced through them. He then revealed a smile. Very good, it wasn't that difficult. But after he reached the seventh paper, he suddenly frowned.

Starting from here, the difficulty of the questions spiked up to another level.

The exam given by the Saint Gate this year was just as he had imagined. Many people would surely be eliminated.

"But even if I can't obtain full marks, I will still be number one!"

Gu Qingyan revealed a confident smile. (I cannot allow anyone to get higher marks than me. No, I can't think like this. I should just do my best and aim for full marks.)

Sun Mo sat in the middle row. After obtaining the exam papers, he couldn't even be bothered to flip through them. He directly started answering the questions.

His study of spirit runes was at the grandmaster-grade. Besides, in order to give better lectures for the students, he would often head to the school library to read relevant books. In fact, he had even gone to the old headmaster's private book collection building to read books about spirit runes.

Other than this, Sun Mo had simplified spirit runes before and even designed three new spirit runes with the spirit rune design template. Right now, his grasp on the study of spirit runes had surpassed basic knowledge. He had his own understanding.

Hence, Sun Mo was very confident and casually tackled the questions in the exam papers.

Sun Mo didn't notice this, but Tang Nian was currently frowning when looking at him.

"This Sun Mo seems to be extremely confident!"

Tang Nian didn't know what to say. Sun Mo's performance in the morning was very excellent. Hence, he decided to pay more attention to him. And now, he saw Sun Mo directly answering the questions even without reading through the papers first.

(He's actually so confident?)

Not even Gu Qingyan dared to act so rashly!

Why would the majority of people flip through the exam papers before they answered the questions?

This was because they wanted to be mentally prepared. They wanted to see the number of questions and have an estimation of the time needed for each question. If they couldn't answer a question, they knew how to prioritize the ones that they could solve first.

For the test topic today, there was indeed a need to do this.

Because the Saint Gate wanted to control the passing rate, the questions they had set were all extremely difficult and complex.

Even a 2-star great teacher who was proficient in spirit runes would only be able to just so nicely finish the papers without any extra time. They wouldn't even be able to check for careless mistakes.

Hence, for these papers, one didn't only depend on one's capability, but they needed a battle strategy as well.

If they tried to answer all the questions, they would surely not have time to finish it all.

After the exam papers were given out, the examination began. Other than the rustling sounds of writing brushes on paper, only the sounds of breathing could be heard.

Tang Nian strolled around and observed the examinees. He was so solemn that he was like a majestic lion patrolling its territory!

As time passed, their speed of answering questions began to slow. Anxiousness could be seen on their faces.

Some were panicking, some were in a daze, some stopped writing and gave up. Some even did a last-ditch struggle. At the very least, they tried to finish all the questions that they knew how to do.

"How difficult!"

Tang Nian sighed, feeling sorry for these examinees.

In order to keep things secret, this was also the first time Tang Nian had seen the exam papers. Honestly speaking, if this set of exam papers was what he needed to do back then when he sat for the 1-star great teacher examination, he estimated that he would only be able to get 70 marks.

Tang Nian paused after he arrived beside Gu Qingyan. He wanted to admire Gu Qingyan's answers a little.

His sitting posture was beautiful, his expression was extremely calm, and his writing was also impressive-looking with the air of a master calligrapher. The most important thing was that his speed didn't slow down at all.

"As expected of a top graduate from the Skyraise Academy!"

Tang Nian then walked to Sun Mo's surroundings. After he lowered his head for a look, he was stunned.

(Hmm, this seems to be the seventh set of exam papers. Is his speed quicker than Gu Qingyan? Wait a minute, what am I thinking about? He must have done the questions selectively. As for Gu Qingyan, he should be doing everything.)

Tang Nian took a closer look and involuntarily frowned. Sun Mo's answering speed wasn't slow at all. He was already at the seventh exam paper where the difficulty spiked up. However, Sun Mo was still able to maintain his answering speed, could he be a genius?

Very soon, Tang Nian discarded this idea because Sun Mo looked like he didn't even need to think it through. He wrote down the answers right after seeing the questions.

Clearly, this was giving up.

“Ai, it seems like my judgment must be off!”

Tang Nian shook his head.

Actually, no one could blame Tang Nian for thinking like this. When you were doing mathematical questions of attraction and subtraction, you still needed a few seconds to mentally calculate the answer before writing it down, right?

However, Sun Mo didn't do so.

The grandmaster-grade knowledge and his outstanding talent made it practically effortless for him to answer the questions.

When Sun Mo saw the questions, his mind already found the correct answer. There was no solution for this. After all, there was simply too much knowledge about spirit runes stored in his mind.

Right now, Sun Mo felt like a professional boxer beating up a primary school student. Moreover, that primary school student was a disabled one!

Very soon, Sun Mo reached the final question. His writing brush paused slightly.

Tang Nian came over again. When he saw that Sun Mo was at the final question, he couldn't help but start. But after that, he involuntarily shook his head.

(You haven't even finished the previous questions, so why are you looking at the last question that has a high weightage? This is simply a waste of time. You can't possibly be thinking that there would be bonus points if you do it, right?)

(This Sun Mo is going to be eliminated for sure. From today onward, he would become the butt of jokes in the great teacher world!)

Tang Nian's lips twitched. It was fine for any examinee to fail, but things were different for Sun Mo. Who asked him to say that sentence 'you are just a dog waiting for others in front of their door!'?

If one wanted to act impressive without capabilities, their ending would be like this.

After Tang Nian walked one round, he couldn't help but return to the spot beside Gu Qingyan. It was a type of enjoyment watching a top examinee like him answering the questions.

“Good!”

Tang Nian almost cheered when he saw the fascinating parts.

“Head examiner Tang!”

Another young examiner called out.

“What's the matter?”

Tang Nian's spirits stirred. His gaze turned strict and he glanced around the classroom. Did someone cheat?

“Sun Mo has just raised his hands, wanting to return the exam papers in advance!”

The young examiner explained in a low voice.

Although his volume was low, the examinees at the side could hear it. Hence, their gazes all turned and landed on Sun Mo.

(This fellow must have given up, right? If not, why would he hand his exam papers in advance?)

(He must have realized that he had no hope left!)

However, the questions this year were truly difficult.

Some examinees who still had hope of passing took a glance at Sun Mo and returned to answering the questions.

Gu Qingyan frowned, but he didn't lift his head.

"Are you sure?"

Tang Nian asked. Honestly speaking, he hoped that Sun Mo could put in a little more effort.

"Yes!"

Sun Mo nodded. He had finished the questions, so why should he stay behind? To check them again?

Please, these questions were so simple. Even if he answered a few of them wrongly, he would still pass for sure.

"You can leave now!"

Tang Nian spoke and then took out his pocket watch to glance at it. There was still an hour left before the end of the exam.

Sun Mo packed his stuff and left the classroom. A few examinees who were destined to fail this time around also lifted their hands and handed in their papers.

They had felt embarrassed to leave in advance. But with Sun Mo taking the lead, things were fine then.

"Move quicker and leave quietly. Don't disturb the other examinees!"

Tang Nian instructed.

Huala~

A total of seven examinees stood up. After they departed, they saw Sun Mo taking his time and walking slowly ahead. Hence, they quickly chased after him.

"Sun Mo, that sentence of yours about a waiting dog was so cool!"

"Don't feel discouraged, we have four more attempts after all. We can work harder before coming back next year!"

"Yeah, after returning this time around, I will definitely work harder and stay in the library every day. Next year, I will obtain full marks!"

Because these examinees were those who were doomed to fail, they found a common topic and were mutually encouraging each other.

“...”

For a time, Sun Mo didn't know how to respond. (I wonder if I will be beaten up if I tell them I will pass?)

Chapter 446: Full Marks Exam Papers

Gu Qingyan wrote at a tremendous speed, completely ignoring the distracting sounds of the outside world.

Regardless of whether the fame was good or bad, Sun Mo was famous now. At least $\frac{3}{5}$ of the examinees knew that he was the one who said 'you are just a dog waiting for others in front of their door!',

But to Gu Qingyan, so what of it?

(No matter how famous you are, can you be more famous than me?)

Gu Qingyan was pursuing those genius seniors in his school, as well as those great teachers. He didn't even regard Sun Mo as his competitor, not even for a single second.

Because Sun Mo wasn't worthy.

“Full marks! I must obtain full marks!”

Gu Qingyan was giving his all, challenging his limits!

Dang! Dang! Dang!

When the bell rang, Gu Qingyan placed his brush down. After that, he glanced at the tidy stack of exam papers and revealed a pleasantly surprised smile.

(I actually finished answering everything?)

(Seems like my potential isn't fully excavated yet!)

“Place down your writing brush and leave the classroom in order. No talking is allowed, no one is permitted to stay behind!”

Tang Nian warned.

Some examinees had unsightly looks on their faces as though they were suffering from constipation. (Ai, can't you guys give us half an hour more?) However, the rest revealed expressions of relief. (This torment is finally over.)

“In the future, I will hand in my exam papers in advance while getting full marks!”

Gu Qingyan flicked his sleeve and smoothed the crease on his shirt before calmly leaving the classroom. Everywhere he passed by, the examinees took the initiative to step aside for him.

When Tang Nian's gaze matched with Gu Qingyan's, he involuntarily revealed a smile on his face. This was a smile that appeared only when he saw a top-graded examinee.

There were admiration and encouragement in his eyes!

When the examinees saw this, all of them felt exceptionally envious because they wouldn't be able to find a chance to fawn on great teachers. However, Gu Qingyan basically didn't need to do this. Although great teachers wouldn't lower their statuses to take the initiative to chat with him, as long as Gu Qingyan spoke, no great teachers would reject having a conversation with him.

...

The office building had now become grading areas for exam papers. 309 people were responsible for grading the spirit rune written exam, and these people were all great teachers who specialized in the study of spirit runes. This was to guarantee that the grading wouldn't have a mistake.

"How many examinees does the Saint Gate plan to eliminate this year?"

An aged great teacher sighed. His concept was there should be education for everyone irrespective of background, and he wished to encourage more people by letting them become 1-star great teachers. Hence, he really wasn't very fond of such a strict exam.

"I feel like this is the correct way. In the past, too many low-quality newbies had managed to obtain the title of a 1-star great teacher."

Su Tai's lips twitched.

The lesser the number of great teachers, the more it would show everyone else how precious great teachers were!

"Everyone, please grade the papers as fast as possible. We have to release the results tomorrow!"

Tang Nian urged.

The Saint Gate's examination was divided into many grounds. If you were eliminated in any one, you could just return home immediately. So, they had to release the results tomorrow morning, or it would affect the examination tomorrow afternoon.

Because grading exam papers were too mechanical, it was very boring. However, after the great teachers cast the Encyclopedic Knowledge halo on themselves, they could maintain their conditions at their peak states. There was no need to worry about them making a mistake.

"I've marked 16 papers as of now and every one of them failed. Ze, they dared to come and participate in the 1-star great teacher examination with such low standards?"

Su Tai tossed a 40 mark exam paper down as a look of disdain appeared on his face. (Are all the newbies today so full of themselves?)

"Only half would be able to pass given the difficulty level of last year's paper!"

Tang Nian spoke a word of fairness.

"Ai!"

That aged great teacher sighed. This was fate. If you took the exam at the wrong timing, you could only blame yourself for your bad luck.

“Have any of you marked Gu Qingyan’s paper yet?”

Su Tai had seen too many rubbish exam papers and wanted to grade a higher quality one to ‘cleanse’ his eyes. Secondly, he wanted to see for himself the capabilities of this top graduate from the Skyraise Academy.

Everyone shook their heads. Another hour passed and Su Tai suddenly called out.

“I have a premonition that this paper is definitely Gu Qingyan’s!”

Su Tai was very excited because after marking six of the papers, there wasn’t a single wrong answer. Also, the writing was beautiful and had the imposing air of a master.

“Let me take a look!”

“Let me admire it too!”

“Don’t rush!”

The examiners placed the exam papers in their hands down and crowded around in excitement, surrounding Su Tai.

That aged great teacher also wanted to come over, but after glancing at the papers in his hand, he gave up. (Who knows, the papers I am grading now might be Gu Qingyan’s.)

“Teacher Su, do you want me to read through and evaluate for you?”

A great teacher spoke in a half-teasing and half-serious tone.

“Hehe!”

Su Tai didn’t reply, he felt contempt in his heart. (How ridiculous, I’m not a fool. How can I give up such a chance to you?)

Being able to grade the exam papers of a genius was like an opportunity.

Honestly speaking, Su Tai was very confident in himself, but he didn’t feel his potential could surpass Gu Qingyan’s. No matter if Gu Qingyan became the future headmaster of the Skyraise Academy or not, he would definitely be more impressive than Su Tai. Hence, Su Tai mustn’t miss out on this chance to have a connection with him.

“Quickly grade the papers!”

Someone urged.

Su Tai had long since memorized the answers so he could read ten lines at a single glance. He was able to tell the results quickly.

“First paper, all correct!”

“Eighth paper, also all correct!”

“Ninth paper, still all correct!”

Su Tai grew joyful. “Sorry, everyone. This year, the first set of full marks exam papers will appear from my hands!”

The tenth exam paper was full of discussion-type questions.

It was the most difficult topic to score full marks on. Hence, as long as one’s main gist was correct and they gave examples to support their theory, they would be able to get it right.

“You guys, with such beautiful answers, how can I not give him full marks?”

Su Tai marveled.

Everyone read through the paper and nodded unceasingly with admiration in their eyes. There was really nothing to pick on. However, when the paper reached the hands of a middle-aged great teacher, he frowned.

“However, for the last major question, this answer seems to be lacking something?”

After the middle-aged teacher spoke, before others could reply, Su Tai already called out.

“It’s lacking something?” Su Tai immediately disputed, “Gu Qingyan has already predicted the development and usage of the spirit rune. Isn’t this enough?”

There was no model answer for the last major question. The question requested the examinee to expound on the future of the study of spirit runes and its influence on the world.

“Teacher Tang, you should come and evaluate this!”

Su Tai took the paper back and passed it to Tang Nian.

“Hehe!”

Although the middle-aged great teacher was unhappy with Su Tai’s attitude, he knew that he shouldn’t have blurted what he said earlier out. For this question, Gu Qingyan had already answered it quite well, yet he still said that Gu Qingyan’s answer was lacking something. If word of this were to spread, it might attract some unneeded trouble.

Gu Qingyan wouldn’t be so petty as to become angry over such a matter. But who knew what the other teachers and students of the Skyraise Academy would think?

“Teacher Bai, what do you think it lacks?”

After Tang Nian finished reading, he also felt that something was lacking. But as to what exactly it was, he wasn’t able to pinpoint it.

“I have no idea, but I only feel that with Gu Qingyan’s fame, he should have given a better answer!”

The middle-aged great teacher honestly spoke.

“Che!”

Su Tai's lips twitched. (I didn't expect that Teacher Bai would actually be a simp with his large eyes and thick eyebrows.)

"Alright, enough. Make good use of the time to grade the other papers!"

Tang Nian urged.

Having seen these full marks papers, everyone felt like they had just drunk three-days worth of iced cola. They felt so satisfied that their hearts turned cool.

"Everyone. I'm sorry, I'll be taking away the first 'prize' this year!"

Su Tai was very happy.

"Congratulations to Teacher Su."

"You will be lucky the entire year!"

"No matter what, Gu Qingyan has to treat you to a meal, right?"

The great teachers laughed. There was a saying in the great teacher world – if one graded a full mark set of exam papers, they would have a year of good luck.

"Thanks!"

Su Tai sat down reservedly and prepared to focus on his work. Yet, all of a sudden, he heard the aged great teacher saying, "It's too excellent!"

Su Tai's eyebrows lifted. He then smiled and teased, "Teacher Zhang, are you praising me?"

Zhang Mai lifted his head with an astonished look on his face. "Praising you?"

"Eh!"

Su Tai frowned. (Are you trying to act dumb to annoy me because you are unhappy?)

"Everyone, quickly come and take a look. I also have a set of exam papers here, and this might actually be the one from Gu Qingyan!"

Zhang Mai excitedly called out.

"Ah? Another full mark set of exam papers?"

"Is this real?"

"Are there two Gu Qingyans?"

The great teachers exchanged mutual glances. It was naturally impossible for there to be two Gu Qingyan. In that case, whose exam papers were those?

"Impossible!"

Su Tai doubted. "Teacher Zhang, are you mistaken? The questions this year are all very difficult."

Su Tai had bragged for half-a-day about his exam papers. If those exam papers didn't belong to Gu Qingyan, how awkward would he feel? Besides, he would lose the opportunity to build a relationship with Gu Qingyan.

"Teacher Su, I will pass you the brush. How about you grade it?"

Zhang Mai also felt unhappy now. (How can you doubt my professionalism?)

Zhang Mai didn't notice what everyone had been talking about earlier because the answers to this last exam paper were simply written too beautifully. This was especially so for the final major question. The answer was thought-provoking and would broaden the horizons of everyone. It made him so intoxicated that he forgot all the clamor around him.

Su Tai didn't take the papers, but Teacher Bai took them and browsed through them quickly. After he finished reading, he involuntarily cried out loudly.

"Beautiful, truly too beautiful! I dare to state that these are then Gu Qingyan's exam papers!"

Teacher Bai greatly praised it.

All the great teachers immediately crowded over and surveyed it carefully.

Tang Nian frowned and shook his head. As the invigilator of the classroom, he had personally seen Gu Qingyan's writing. Hence, he could be sure that Su Tai's papers were Gu Qingyan's ones.

"Could there be two sets of exam papers that scored full marks?"

Tang Nian was shocked. He knew all the talented newbies who had registered for the study of spirit runes examination, but they shouldn't be able to score full marks.

"Could there be a dark horse?"

When Tang Nian stood up, he heard those great teachers marveling out loud.

"Really well-written!"

"Excellent, very excellent!"

"It's just that his writing is not as stylish!"

"Stop nitpicking. We are great teachers and not calligraphers."

The great teachers were all excited as though they had just discovered a new land.

"Teacher Tang, quickly come and look at the answer for the last major question. Didn't I say that the previous answer seemed to lack something? This part of the answer is what was lacking!"

That Teacher Bai chortled, "I dare to use my head as a bet. This must then be Gu Qingyan's exam papers!"

Tang Nian's curiosity was piqued. He hurriedly came over and looked at the papers.

"Allow me to take a look at it!"

Tang Nian was smiling originally, but the moment he saw the writing, his countenance changed. (My heavens, why is the writing style so familiar?)

Chapter 447: The Two Words ‘Sun Mo’ Are Written with Vigorous and Fascinating Strokes

Great teacher Bai’s original intention was to let Tang Nian look at the final major question. However, he didn’t expect Tang Nian to start all the way from the first examination paper.

(What are you trying to do?)

Teacher Bai didn’t understand.

Zhang Mai felt depressed. “Teacher Tang, it’s impossible for me to be mistaken. Also, look at the writing, it’s as smooth as flowing water. This indicates that when Gu Qingyan was answering the questions, he did everything in one go without hesitation. What does this mean? This means that he was extremely confident!”

All the great teachers nodded because all the examinees had used writing brushes. Hence, they could tell whether the answers were written in one go or with pauses in between.

There was absolutely no way to fake the ink traces.

Tang Nian didn’t reply. Instead, he was attentively checking each question, wanting to find a mistake.

It wasn’t because he wanted to prove that Sun Mo couldn’t make it. Rather, he wanted to know if there was really such a shocking genius!

(Under such hell-like difficulty, you finished the exam within two hours. Are you a devil? Even 2-star great teachers might not be able to do this!)

Fill in the blank questions, all correct!

Judgment questions, all correct!

Recitation questions, all correct!

...

The more Tang Nian saw, the deeper the shock on his face was. As a 4-star great teacher, his experience was very abundant. Just from looking at the quality of answers and the writing, he was able to deduce Sun Mo’s realm.

Tang Nian was also a great teacher that specialized in spirit runes.

“The latter waves of the river are catching up with the earlier waves!”

Tang Nian sighed. Just by reading the answers in front, he knew that Sun Mo’s understanding of spirit runes was deeper than Gu Qingyan’s.

“I’m not wrong, correct?”

Zhang Mai felt joyful. “You should quickly look at the final question. That is the essence!”

“How good can it be?”

Su Tai felt contempt. He stretched his neck and leaned over. But after taking two glances, his face turned pale.

Su Tai was famous ever since he was young. He was a bit frivolous and arrogant, but he did have the talent. This was why he grew nervous and revealed a few hints of reluctance when he saw Sun Mo's answer.

It was extremely outstanding. No, it should be said that his answer was unprecedented.

The great teachers in the office all gathered over, no longer grading their own papers. Their excitement was ignited by Sun Mo's answer, and they started a round of fervent discussion.

The final question asked about what they thought of the future of spirit runes.

Almost all the students wrote about the application of spirit runes in combat. Gu Qingyan was no exception.

Naturally, given Gu Qingyan's horizons and talent, his answer far surpassed everyone else and contained far-sightedness.

Then what about Sun Mo?

What he wrote about was the application of spirit runes in everyday life.

This was a way of thought no one had ever considered before.

One must know that ever since spirit runes were created, it existed for the sake of assisting one in combat. The goal that spirit rune masters pursued was to use spirit runes to make themselves stronger, to control the battle and gain victory!

However, no one had ever thought of applying spirit runes into the aspects of daily life.

Look at Sun Mo's answer.

Design and inscribe a type of spirit rune that would make water swirl in a certain direction under the bottom of a metal pail. Water currents would be formed and by doing this, one no longer needed to wash clothes by hand. They could directly toss the dirty clothes into the pail for them to wash by itself.

Also, a tool in the shape of three leaves and a holder could be designed. After inscribing a spirit rune on it, the spirit rune masters could make the three leaves rotate rapidly to produce unceasing gusts of wind. It was definitely a godly item in the hot summer for one to mitigate the heat.

...

There was basically no need to read further. Just the applications of these two types of spirit runes were enough to revolutionize the entire world.

Although everyone here were lofty great teachers and were heavily respected by others, it didn't mean that they really stood aloof from the world!

For things like washing clothes, even if they didn't do it themselves, everyone must have seen it before!

Given the intelligence of great teachers, they just needed to think about it carefully, and they would be able to see that there were many ways to utilize these concepts. Once such a rune was designed and its application was proven effective, how much effort could one save?

Because of his profession, Tang Nian thought even deeper. If one sold the design of such a spirit rune, how rich would they be?

One must know that every single household had to do laundry. Poor families might not be able to afford the rune, but for those who were slightly well off, they would buy it no matter what, right?

Besides, many royal clans in the Nine Provinces had places like washing chambers. In fact, even many wealthy clans had them.

What were these places for?

Naturally, to do laundry!

The staff there had to wash clothes every single moment. With Sun Mo's idea, many people would lose their jobs.

However, how much money could those rich families spare?

He really didn't dare to imagine.

Also for that wind-blowing tool, it was simply ground-breaking. Did you know how wealthy people avoided heat in summer? Other than stacking ice in their homes, the only other way was to get a maid to fan them every second.

All the great teachers on the scene stopped talking. They sank into deep contemplation instead. Even Su Tai was able to understand how strong the practicality of these two tools was.

"Genius! Truly a genius concept!"

Tang Nian wasn't able to control it as he cried out.

Everyone nodded.

Su Tai opened his mouth and wanted to rebut, but he wasn't able to find any excuses.

"Teacher Zhang, congratulations to you!"

Su Tai had a depressed look on his face. All his hope of building a connection with Gu Qingyan was dashed.

"Haha!"

Zhang Mai stroked his beard and praised, "Gu Qingyan's performance is as expected of the top graduate from the Skyraise Academy. His talent would make everyone bow in defeat, acknowledging their inferiority willingly!"

"Yeah. Although the other set of exam papers aren't bad, the standards of the two examinees are clearly seen, and the earlier one is somewhat inferior."

“What a pity, that examinee would definitely be first if he took the exam last year!”

“I wonder whose exam papers are those?”

The great teachers discussed, feeling a pity for the examinee whose papers were marked by Su Tai. After that, they started to praise the papers Zhang Mai had marked. They were filled with compliments at Gu Qingyan’s capabilities.

At this moment, Tang Nian wanted to tell everyone to stop lauding. That set of exam papers weren’t done by Gu Qingyan. However, he didn’t know how he should speak.

He felt that he might be beaten up if he revealed it!

“Everyone, everyone, please listen to me. The content of this last question must absolutely not be leaked out!”

Zhang Mai’s expression turned solemn as he reminded everyone strictly.

Everyone started. After that, they nodded.

“Definitely!”

“Teacher Zhang, you are thinking too much. We are all great teachers, not thieves!”

“Once this concept of Gu Qingyan succeeds, it’s unknown how much money he would be able to earn!”

The great teachers hurriedly guaranteed to keep this a secret. After that, they revealed expressions of envy. If Gu Qingyan really managed to design two runes like that, he would earn so much that even his coffers were filled to the brim.

For something like money, no one would feel that they had too much.

However, the people of this era still had moral integrity. Even though they wanted money, they wouldn’t stoop so low as to steal the creative idea of another!

“Since this is the case, we shouldn’t publish this exam paper, right?”

Teacher Bai frowned.

According to the examples of past years, once an examinee that scored full marks appeared, their exam papers would be displayed. This was to prove that the Saint Gate’s marking system was fair and fraudless, and there wouldn’t be any suspiciousness internally. At the same time, it was a type of glory and encouragement to examinees.

Just think about it, becoming famous in a single day. How great of an influence would it have on one’s future?

“That’s for sure!”

Zhang Mai nodded. He didn’t dare to guarantee that the examinees wouldn’t steal the concept.

“What a pity, this is a very glorious thing!”

Several people sighed.

“What’s there to be sorry about, would Gu Qingyan lack this bit of fame?”

Zhang Mai couldn’t help but laugh.

“That’s right!”

Everyone laughed. The atmosphere suddenly became incomparably relaxed. Only Tang Nian had a bitter look on his face.

“Eh? Teacher Tang, what’s wrong with you? Do you have a stomachache?”

Su Tai was concerned.

“…”

Tang Nian really wanted to say he had a stomachache.

“Oh right, since the results are out, why don’t we tear the name seal to see who’s the other examinee that scored full marks?”

Zhang Mai stroked his beard. “Honestly speaking, that fellow is also a talented individual!”

“Let’s take a look!”

All the great teachers turned to Tang Nian. Because he was the main examiner, he should make the decision.

According to the rules, they could only tear off the name seals after every set of exam papers were graded. However, there would be some exceptions for full marks exam papers.

“Teacher Tang!”

Su Tai sincerely implored. He also wanted to know about the owner of his exam papers.

Tang Nian felt a headache. Seeing the looks of anticipation on their faces, he could only brace himself and wave his hand. “Up to you guys then!”

“Teacher Su, please do the honors. After all, you were the one who graded the papers!”

Zhang Mai suggested, exuding a transcendent attitude.

Su Tai smiled, mentally musing about how good Zhang Mai’s luck was to actually get Gu Qingyan’s papers. However, the examinee Su Tai marked was also able to get full marks. Since this examinee shouldn’t be too bad either in terms of talent, Su Tai didn’t mind making the junior an acquaintance.

For the sake of fairness, the names of the examinees were sealed on all exam papers the moment they were handed up.

Su Tai held the corner of the paper and pulled.

Si~

A part of the name slip was torn, revealing a word ‘Gu’.

“Eh? This student also has the surname ‘Gu’?”

Zhang Mai was curious. "Seems like the Gu Clan has produced many geniuses this generation!"

Tang Nian glanced at Zhang Mai, mentally musing at why he didn't realize Zhang Mai was such a simp in the past.

Su Tai exerted some force and tore the rest of the slip. After that, he was stunned. (Am I seeing things wrong?)

Su Tai subconsciously rubbed his eyes.

"Let me take a look who it is. Ah?"

Zhang Mai lowered his head and called out. The shocked look on his face was as though he saw a giant dragon being pinned down on the ground and had its ass r*ped by a rabbit.

"Gu...Gu..."

Zhang Mai's mouth mumbled, but he wasn't able to finish what he wanted to say.

The other great teachers had dumbfounded looks on their faces as they sank into silence. Why did this set of papers belong to Gu Qingyan? In that case, the other set of exam papers...

All of them turned their gazes onto the set of exam papers in Zhang Mai's hands without prior consultation to each other.

Tang Nian kneaded his forehead. (As expected!)

Su Tai was hoping badly that he would be able to get Gu Qingyan's exam papers. Logically speaking, Su Tai had gotten his wish and should feel happy, but he didn't know what expression he should make.

This set of exam papers scored full marks, but it wasn't the best one!

Many people might feel like it was not bad. But to Gu Qingyan, there was an 80 to 90% chance that he would feel ashamed to mention it.

"T...Teacher Zhang, tear the name seal!"

Teacher Bai urged.

Zhang Mai's hands were shaking. He felt somewhat awkward. After all, he had boasted that his set of papers were done by Gu Qingyan. Now that things came to this, didn't that mean that he was as blind as a bat?

"Let me do it!"

Upon seeing this, Tang Nian took the set of papers and tore the name seal. Two large words written in a vigorous and fascinating style appeared.

Sun Mo!

An aura of talent immediately gushed forth.

Chapter 448: If You Hit Someone, Hit Their Face

The entire office fell into silence. The 46 great teachers responsible for grading papers were all staring at this set of exam papers with complicated emotions.

No one here was acquainted with Sun Mo. However, they were sure to have heard of his name before.

After all, a new teacher that dared to shoot his mouth off before the residence of a 6-star great teacher was very rare. No, more accurately, there was basically none.

And the crucial point was that Sun Mo's words were extremely well-spoken.

The words 'If you don't have the capabilities, you are just a dog waiting for others in front of their door', was Sun Mo's current label. After he said this sentence, the Jiang Manor closed its doors to visitors.

This was an emergency method to save their face because even if the Jiang Clan didn't close their doors, no one would dare to visit them.

There had once been a heavy flow of traffic to the Jiang Clan, but because of a single sentence from Sun Mo, the space outside Jiang Manor became completely deserted.

One could say that although Sun Mo did this unintentionally, he did trample on the Jiang Manor and became famous from that.

As for whether this was good or bad, it depended on Sun Mo's performance in the great teacher examination. If he failed or if his results were weak, he would become condemned by everyone. People would say that he was extremely crafty and scheming, wanting to depend on such a method to become famous.

However, if his results were outstanding, the unlucky one would be the Jiang Clan. Their reputation would surely be greatly damaged.

From the looks of things now, the Jiang Clan's circumstances were dire.

"He actually got full marks?"

Teacher Bai revealed a shocked look on his face. However, he soon felt impressed.

He didn't have any relationship with the Jiang Clan or Sun Mo and purely admired Sun Mo for his answer. Most of the other teachers here felt the same way, with only a few exceptions.

Zhang Mai's hands were trembling. This set of exam papers were graded by him. What if he got implicated by Jiang Wei's anger?

(Also, I bragged so much earlier. Even if I want to make up for things now, I also don't know what I should say.)

In the previous years, if one managed to grade a full marks set of exam papers, that was considered a lucky charm and the grader would have great fortune. But this year, this was clearly a hot potato!

Things were truly too awkward.

Su Tai forcefully blinked and glanced toward the name again.

The two words 'Sun Mo' were written vigorously and felt like they were about to leap out from the paper and punch him fiercely.

"Why is it Sun Mo?"

Upon thinking of this examinee, Su Tai felt a bellyful of anger. There was no solution to it. After all, he had been struck by Sun Mo's 'Misleading Students' and 'Ignorant and Incompetent' in public during the exam. It was simply a huge humiliation for him.

Even in his dreams, Su Tai wanted nothing more than for Sun Mo to fail.

If Sun Mo became famous, his past would surely be dug out. Everyone would surely pay attention to something so important like his transition stage of becoming a 1-star great teacher.

He, Su Tai, would then become a foil to enhance Sun Mo's brilliance.

"I don't want things to be like this!"

Su Tai wailed in his heart. He took the papers again and wanted to find a mistake. However, what made him feel despair was that there were completely no mistakes.

The more he read, the more intense the envy in his heart was. It was now like an inextinguishable wildfire.

If one looked at Gu Qingyan's answer, it was very impressive indeed. It was sweeping down irresistibly from a commanding height. He expounded on the pinnacle usage of spirit runes in combat. However, this was just an extension of knowledge that already existed.

As for Sun Mo, his answer sparked a brand new domain.

One could say that Sun Mo opened a new world for all spirit rune masters. So, spirit runes could be used in all aspects of daily life too.

This was an unprecedented concept!

Even if Su Tai hated Sun Mo to the death and wanted to simp for Gu Qingyan, he wouldn't dare to say that Gu Qingyan's answer was better than Sun Mo's. Because by doing so, his reputation would stink for ten thousand years, and he would become the shame of the great teacher world.

"Continue grading the papers!"

The shock Tang Nian felt in his heart was actually deeper than everyone else. One must know that he had personally witnessed Sun Mo answering the questions with ease, as smoothly as flowing water. After that, Sun Mo had handed in the exam papers an hour before Gu Qingyan.

What did this mean?

This indicated that not only did Sun Mo crush Gu Qingyan, but he also crushed many great teachers at the same time!

"It's a pity that his writing isn't that beautiful!"

Zhang Mai feigned pity, he finally found an area where Sun Mo was weaker in.

“Teacher Zhang, stop nitpicking. If Sun Mo’s writing was more beautiful, how would the others still be able to live?”

Tang Nian shook his head and couldn’t help but laugh. “Alright, everyone. Let’s focus on grading the other papers!”

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Tang Nian +100. Prestige connection unlocked. Friendly (100/1,000).

Although the great teachers dispersed, their discussion couldn’t be stopped. There were too many topics to talk about because of Sun Mo. Moreover, his answer to the last question was like a bolt of lightning, widening their horizons.

At this moment, a teasing voice suddenly rang out.

“Did something happen? Why do I feel like all of you seem to be stunned?”

Jiang Zhitong pushed the door open. “Did you guys grade a full marks set of exam papers?”

There were four great teachers behind him. One of them was Mei Yazhi, the one who exuded the charm and beauty of a middle-aged woman. They were in the patrolling group and had two responsibilities. First, they had to ensure that those grading teachers didn’t cheat. Secondly, they were to resolve some problems that might occur in the process of grading the exam papers.

Swish~

The gazes of everyone turned and locked onto Jiang Zhitong. A look of rejoicing in the misfortune of others appeared in their gazes.

“What’s wrong?”

Jiang Zhitong frowned.

“There’s a full mark set of exam papers!”

A great teacher replied.

“Oh? Is the examinee Gu Qingyan?”

Jiang Zhitong had a joyful look on his face. He walked to Su Tai’s side and was looking at the papers Su Tai was holding. He then smiled. “Is it this set of papers? Let me take a look!”

Jiang Zhitong took the papers and read the answers. There were no red circles made by Su Tai and this caused him to be full of praise for Gu Qingyan.

“Excellent, very excellent!”

In the Middle-Earth Nine Provinces, when it came to grading papers, the teachers would use red ink to circle areas where mistakes were made. If there was no red ink present, it meant that the answers were all correct.

“Teacher Jiang, this set of exam papers wasn’t done by Gu Qingyan!”

When Su Tai heard Jiang Zhitong praising the answers, he immediately started and hurriedly reminded Jiang Zhitong.

The expressions of the newly arrived great teachers turned strange.

“Not Gu Qingyan’s?”

Jiang Zhitong frowned. He had read through all the answers and there were no mistakes. “Isn’t this a full marks set of exam papers?”

Su Tai braced himself and nodded. “Yes!”

Jiang Zhitong’s expression turned puzzled. (Since this is a full mark set of papers, so what if I praised it?)

“To whom does the other full marks set of papers belong?”

Mei Yazhi asked. She saw that the papers in Tang Nian’s hands had the name seal torn off. Usually, only those examinees who scored full marks would have their name seals torn off.

“Gu Qingyan!”

Tang Nian coughed.

“Oh, there are two sets of exam papers with full marks? Seems like there are going to be geniuses born in our spirit rune world...Haha...Ga!”

Jiang Zhitong laughed loudly. He turned his head and was preparing to check out this genius’s name. But when the name entered his vision, his expression immediately froze as a look of astonishment appeared on his face. It felt like a giant metal cudgel was stuck in his throat, stifling his laughter.

After that, his hands began to tremble as a look of dislike appeared on his face. It was like he was force-fed shit.

“Is he angry? He’s definitely angry, right?”

Zhang Mai wailed in his heart. He hoped that the Jiang Clan wouldn’t make things difficult for him.

“Teacher Jiang, what’s wrong?”

A few of the patrolling colleagues showed concern.

Jiang Zhitong’s lips opened and closed, unable to speak. He finally understood why the other great teachers had looked at him with that gaze when he first entered the office.

(What was most maddening was that I still praised this set of papers as excellent!)

At this moment, Jiang Zhitong felt like slapping himself.

Mei Yazhi walked over and looked at the name.

“Sun Mo?”

Shortly after, the image of a young and handsome examinee appeared in Mei Yazhi’s mind. (So, this is the papers of that little fellow!)

Jiang Zhitong forced himself to calm down and directly flipped to the last paper, starting to inspect those major questions.

For all full marks set of exam papers, the grading teacher would surely treasure them. Hence, the fixed questions in the earlier papers would surely have no mistake. This was why Jiang Zhitong didn't waste time checking them. If he wanted to find a mistake, he could only find them through the discussion-type questions.

However, the more he read, the more despair Jiang Zhitong felt.

Weren't his answers all too good?

His logic was clear and easy to follow, and they were even superior to the model answers that the Saint Gate had given.

Jiang Zhitong flipped to the first paper to check the name again. Honestly speaking, given these answers, he would have thought that this paper was done by a spirit rune grandmaster if it wasn't for the fact that he knew it was done by an examinee.

Tang Nian could guess Jiang Zhitong's thoughts. He involuntarily shook his head. (Teacher Jiang, you most probably have to forget about your plans.)

No matter who was the one checking Sun Mo's exam papers, they wouldn't be able to find a mistake.

The atmosphere in the office turned awkward.

Two minutes later, Jiang Zhitong passed the exam papers to Mei Zhiya in despair. "I feel a little tired, I will return first to take a break!"

"Teacher Jiang, please wait!"

Tang Nian spoke.

"What's wrong?"

Jiang Zhitong was in a daze. He was worried about Jiang Manor's reputation.

"According to the rules, all full marks exam papers have to be displayed along with the results. But for this case, Sun Mo's creative concept involved huge profits. Should we still display his papers?"

Tang Nian suggested this for the sake of Sun Mo. He was worried that others might steal his creative concept.

Jiang Zhitong's spirits stirred. He wanted to find trouble for Sun Mo, hence, he spoke righteously, "Rules are rules, we must not make an exception."

Tang Nian nodded and no longer spoke. However, Mei Zhiya replied.

"However, there's no need to follow some outmoded conventions. For this set of exam papers, the last page must not be publicly displayed!"

Mei Yazhi had a solemn expression.

“Teacher Mei, if we didn’t publicly show Sun Mo’s exam papers, how should we convince the public?” Jiang Zhitong persisted. “Besides, Sun Mo definitely wouldn’t want to lose this opportunity to rise to fame!”

The other great teachers tactfully shut up. In fact, some of them hurriedly graded their papers. They didn’t dare to watch an argument between major characters.

“In any case, although Sun Mo’s concept is creative, he most probably wouldn’t be able to truly design the runes needed in his entire life.”

These words of Jiang Zhitong were agreed by several great teachers.

Everyone here was a professional. They just needed to think about it carefully and would understand the difficult points in the concept.

For example, could you guarantee the motive power of the washing rune? When an ordinary household wanted to do laundry, where could they find a cultivator to infuse the rune with spirit qi?

Using spirit stones?

This was impossible because once spirit stones were brought to the nine provinces, the spirit qi in them would rapidly dissipate.

“Teacher Mei, I believe in Sun Mo’s magnanimity. Since he wrote such an answer out, he wouldn’t mind his answer being seen or imitated by others.”

Jiang Zhitong unleashed his secret move, praising Sun Mo in a way that put him at a disadvantage.

Mei Yazhi no longer persisted because it was useless. Given Jiang Zhitong’s influence, it was as easy as flipping a palm over if he wanted to publicly announce the paper.

The tough work of grading the papers finally ended in the wee hours. When the results were all tabulated, they would be released at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

...

Just when dawn broke, Sun Mo was woken up by Gu Xiuxun.

“Let’s go and check our results!”

The masochist’s smile was like a blooming flower.

At the same time, Gu Qingyan also woke up. After his routine meditation and breakfast, he headed to the academy.

“I should be able to get full marks.”

Gu Qingyan felt some anticipation. (As for ranking? Please, I will definitely be the number one, alright?!)

Chapter 449: We Agreed to Retake the Exam Together Next Year, Yet You Secretly Got First Place?!

Although it wasn't 8 a.m. yet, there were already several thousands of students waiting. They stretched their necks out with a look of anticipation in their eyes, looking like wild ducks waiting for people to toss food to them.

"How many examinees do you think will score full marks this year?"

"With such hard questions, I think there's only a handful. Maybe five?"

"As long as I can pass, I'm willing to not eat meat for three years. Note: Only pigs, cows, and lambs are considered meat, seafood isn't considered."

The examinees were either praying or discussing with each other. Their expressions were filled with trepidation and unease, and they were like baby birds who just learned to fly.

On the field, there were many announcement boards made from wood. Later on, the names of those who passed would be pasted on them.

Very soon, several tens of examiners arrived. They were in groups of four and had in their hands glue and pieces of red paper where the names of those who passed were written. They were waiting beside the announcement boards.

At 8 a.m., the melodious sounds of bells echoed out. The examinees immediately fell silent as the examiners started moving.

They pasted the names of the various subjects first.

A commotion immediately occurred among the examinees. They hurriedly headed to the announcement boards of their respective subjects.

The examiners used a brush and smeared the glue on the announcement boards. Then, they pasted the name list.

According to convention, they would paste the names from the bottom rank to the top. Hence, the person whose name they pasted last was the one who scored best in the written exam.

"Stop squeezing, stop squeezing!"

"I passed! Yes! Excellent, I've passed!"

"Damn, it's over for me!"

The expressions of the examinees were extremely fascinating. In fact, one could see all sorts of expressions here right now.

Those who knew that their capabilities were low directly despaired when they failed to see their names. After all, even if they went all out and did their utmost, they wouldn't be able to reach the middle-rankings.

But even so, they didn't leave yet. They maintained the last bit of hope as they continued watching.

Those examinees who had passed continued to observe the names after experiencing a burst of wild joy. After all, the people who passed next would be their opponents.

“Quickly look, it’s the name of the #10 place now!”

Someone called out. The surroundings immediately quietened down.

The names of those in the top ten were written separately on a piece of red paper each. This was an encouragement to them, as well as motivation to the students ranked outside the top ten.

“We haven’t seen Gu Qingyan’s name yet!”

“Are you underestimating Gu Qingyan by saying this? He is definitely the best, alright?”

“Yeah. You should place your focus on whether he can get full marks or not!”

The examinees discussed. After that, they revealed a ‘sure enough’ expression. Because when Gu Qingyan’s name appeared, there were two words – ‘full marks’ in parenthesis behind it.

“The reputation of the top graduate from Skyraise Academy is as expected!”

The examinees sighed, yet they discovered that after the examiners had pasted Gu Qingyan’s name and exam papers, they didn’t stop. Instead, they took out another piece of red paper.

“What the hell? There’s another examinee that scored full marks?”

“From the looks of things, it seems that this examinee could fight against Gu Qingyan for the #1 place?”

“I didn’t hear anything about there being an examinee that’s stronger than Gu Qingyan?”

The examinees had a stunned look on their faces. Their eyes were wide open and they were preparing to see who it was exactly that was comparable to Gu Qingyan. But at this moment, they heard a roar echoing out with excitement not far away.

“YES, I’VE OBTAINED FULL MARKS. YES, I’M THE STRONGEST!!! Haha, I’m the only one who got full marks in the subject I applied for. I’m so happy!”

The examinees turned and saw a young man with a birthmark on his forehead roaring wildly in joy, ignoring the stares from the people around him. Everyone truly felt displeased when they saw his behavior.

“That fellow is Sun Shao. I was in the same classroom as him. During the first exam round, he was even scolded by one of the examiners.”

Someone introduced.

The announcement board was for the weaponsmithing subject. Hence, the examinees for the spirit runes exam took a glance and no longer paid any attention. When they turned their heads back, they saw that the examiners were already leaving, and there was an additional name beside Gu Qingyan’s name.

Sun Mo (full marks)!

“Sun Mo? That Sun Mo who said the phrase about dogs?”

No one replied, their eyes were blinded by the two words- 'full marks' in parenthesis. (My heavens, that Sun Mo was so strong?)

After that, the gazes of everyone fell onto his exam papers and started to read through his answers, with a hint of critique in their eyes.

However, the more they read, the more depressed and convinced they felt.

Because as long as one wasn't a fool, he or she would be able to see the difference between Sun Mo and themselves.

...

"Can you walk a little quicker?"

Gu Xiuxun urged.

"In any case, the results wouldn't change. What difference does it make if I walk quicker or slower?"

Wang Chao spoke. But there was a look of nervousness on his face.

"Che, I wonder who was the one crying in their sleep last night!"

Qian Dun teased.

Very soon, they arrived at the field. They then parted ways and went to look for their respective announcement boards.

"Damn, how can Sun Mo act like this? I thought all of us agreed to retake the examinations again next year, yet he secretly got first place? Is he still a human?"

A student wailed in anguish.

"Are you very close to Sun Mo?"

Someone was curious.

"Eh!"

The examinee started. He braced himself and nodded. "Still passable!"

He was one of the examinees who handed in his exam papers after Sun Mo. After exiting the classroom, he still encouraged Sun Mo not to feel discouraged. He didn't expect Sun Mo to get full marks...

(This...is there still justice?)

"Are you guys colleagues? Or fellow schoolmates?"

That curious teacher continued to ask.

(I only spoke randomly to brag a little, do you have to keep questioning me?)

The examinee felt a headache, just when he was thinking of what to reply, he heard a voice from behind him.

“Sorry, please excuse me!”

“Oh!”

The examinee stepped aside, after seeing the person who walked past him, he was completely stunned.

“Tell me quickly!”

The curious examinee urged.

“I...I...have a stomachache!”

The examinee clutched his stomach and almost peed his pants. What a joke, the person they were talking about was already here. If he continued to brag, wouldn't it be the same as him looking for trouble?

However, no one paid attention to this examinee because someone in the crowd recognized Sun Mo.

Very soon, the gazes from the surroundings all landed on Sun Mo. There were gazes of probing, of curiosity, and also of envy.

Full marks, what an impressive result!

One would be able to boast about this forever, alright? Besides, with such good results, although it was not certain that one would be able to join the Nine Greats as a teacher, there would definitely be no problem if Sun Mo wanted to join an 'A' grade school.

Sun Mo saw his name, but he was unhappy because he was ranked at the top with another person.

The top graduate of the Skyraise Academy did have some capabilities indeed.

“Wow, full marks!”

Gu Xiuxun's voice suddenly rang out. After that, her right arm went up as she hugged Sun Mo's neck.

“No way, I'm too jealous. I have to make you die!”

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Gu Xiuxun +500. Reverence (14,300/100,000).

Gu Xiuxun's heart was already boundlessly impressed by Sun Mo. The written exam this year was the toughest one in the recent twenty years, yet Sun Mo managed to get full marks?

(Do you have to be such a genius?)

(How can us mortals still live?)

“...”

The eyes in the surroundings looked over with unkind expressions. Gu Xiuxun was teasing Sun Mo, but at this moment, everyone really felt like making Sun Mo die.

(You already scored full marks and got #1, yet you are publicly displaying affection? Do you have any morals?)

(The most important thing is that your girlfriend is actually so pretty. My heavens, check out the little perky as* and her fair long legs. I'm simping to the ends of hell for her!)

"Did you get into the top ten?"

Sun Mo asked. As for the case of the masochist failing the exam, he had never considered it before.

"You should ask if I managed to get into the top three instead."

Gu Xiuxun released Sun Mo. She lifted her chin and snorted in a complacent manner.

"Congratulations!"

Sun Mo laughed. "Let's go, I will treat you to lunch. We must have a sumptuous meal to celebrate!"

"That's for sure, I want to kill you after all!"

Gu Xiuxun bared her teeth. Her ruby lips and sparkling white teeth actually made Sun Mo feel a sudden impulse of kissing her.

Qian Dun and Wang Chao also arrived. Qian Dun had a look of disappointment on his face. From the looks of things, he didn't manage to pass.

"Just work harder next year!"

"Mn!"

Qian Dun sighed and asked, "What about Teacher Sun?"

"F...full marks?"

Wang Chao passed. He initially felt a little happy but after he saw Sun Mo's ranking, he was completely stunned. He had guessed that Sun Mo's results would definitely be good. But he was still shocked when he saw Sun Mo getting full marks.

(Do you have to be such a monster?)

(I will feel very self-inferior if you are so excellent, okay?!)

"Full marks? What full marks?"

Qian Dun was puzzled because there wasn't such a concept in his heart. Hence, his gaze turned to the direction Wang Chao was pointing at. When he saw Sun Mo's name, he gulped and almost drowned from the large mouthful of saliva he had just swallowed.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Qian Dun +500. Respect (2,100/10,000).

Other than being deeply impressed, Qian Dun's mind was blank. No, he felt something else and that something was that he definitely had to hug Sun Mo's leg tightly.

His father was a constable and ever since young, his father taught him that one could be mediocre, but one must not lack judgment. As long as you followed the right person, even if you were trash, there was no need for you to worry about food and clothing your entire life.

“Sun Mo should be the person I must follow!”

Qian Dun also had his ambitions and he wanted to bring glory to his ancestors. However, the results of this examination gave him a huge psychological blow and made him understand that when reality bit, one would definitely be severely wounded.

Sun Mo’s group then departed, but there were even more examinees who came to look at the announcement boards.

Gao Ben and Zhang Lan stood within the crowd. They sighed, truly unable to see a hope of winning against Sun Mo.

“Gu Qingyan is here!”

It was unknown who shouted, but the originally noisy scene immediately fell silent.

As the top graduate from Skyraise Academy, a legendary character like Gu Qingyan was known by everyone.

Gu Qingyan who was used to being the focus of everyone had no change to his expression. He walked to the front of the announcement board and immediately glanced at the top.

This was his confidence.

After that, he laughed.

(Excellent, I got full marks!)

Gu Qingyan’s expression remained unchanged, but there was wild joy in his heart. (I’ve succeeded in breaking through my limits and reaching a higher level.)

(I’ll go and have a drink to celebrate then!)

Gu Qingyan turned and prepared to leave. Looking at the results of others? Sorry, there was basically no need for this. But when his glance swept past the exam papers, he started. He discovered that there were actually twenty sets instead of ten?

Gu Qingyan was astonished. His gaze shifted, wanting to find the name of the other examinee. After that, he saw Sun Mo’s name as well as the ‘full marks’ beside it.

Kacha!

Gu Qingyan forcefully broke the index finger of his left hand.

However, he felt no pain. He only felt humiliation and reluctance.

“I’m not comparable to Sun Mo?”

Although he didn't want to admit it, logic told Gu Qingyan that he was inferior to Sun Mo because Sun Mo finished the exam papers in just two hours.

Hu~

Gu Qingyan drew in a deep breath and suppressed the complex emotions in his heart. He took a few steps forward and started to read the answers on Sun Mo's exam papers.

"What is he doing? Is he trying to find a mistake?"

"Shh!"

"It's a waste of time, the people grading the papers are all great teachers. How can they make a mistake?"

The examinees mumbled.

Gu Qingyan naturally wasn't as shallow as what these people thought. He wasn't looking for mistakes. He only wanted to ascertain Sun Mo's standard.

Three minutes later, he suddenly pulled out his sword and slashed the announcement board.

Chapter 450: The Start of the Third Round

"What the hell?"

Gu Qingyan suddenly slashed his sword out and gave everyone a scare. This was especially so when his aura changed at the moment he pulled out his sword. He exuded a feeling of piercing sharpness.

From this, one could see that Gu Qingyan's combat strength was extremely high.

Ka! Ka!

The sword qi whistled, slashing on the announcement board and leaving behind a sword scar two thumbs deep.

Everyone turned their heads over. The words 'full marks' in parenthesis behind his own name were struck off.

"What does this mean?"

"Is he saying he is inferior to Sun Mo?"

"Or maybe he felt contempt for sharing the #1 place with Sun Mo?"

The surrounding examinees started whispering.

Gu Qingyan retracted his sword. Given his pride, he felt disdain to explain anything at all. However, after hearing what people said in the surroundings, he frowned and still decided to speak out. If not, his actions would surely cause a misunderstanding.

"For the final major question, Sun Mo's answer is extremely excellent. By comparing both our answers, I don't feel worthy of receiving full marks!"

After Gu Qingyan spoke, he turned and left.

“So this is the case!”

Everyone was enlightened, but some examinees still didn’t understand.

“But why? I feel that both answers are extremely perfect!”

“Maybe Gu Qingyan’s ego caused this!”

“A genius wouldn’t allow themselves to be inferior to others!”

The examinees discussed, guessing the motives of why Gu Qingyan struck off the words ‘full marks’ beside his name.

“It’s obvious. Gu Qingyan’s answer is about the extreme application of spirit runes in combat. Some great teachers would also be able to think of this answer, but as for Sun Mo, his idea is an unprecedented brand new concept. If I had to choose, I would also give Sun Mo full marks!”

Sun Shao originally came here to see Gu Qingyan’s results. In the end, he coincidentally saw the scene of Gu Qingyan slashing at the announcement board, striking the words ‘full marks’ away from his name. Hence, Sun Shao couldn’t help but feel a little bit of admiration for Gu Qingyan.

“This fellow’s manner is quite impressive. As expected of an opponent I look up to.”

The other examinees frowned. (This fellow is so arrogant!)

“What? You don’t understand? Let me put it simply. Gu Qingyan’s answer is like walking down a pre-existing path, but he made it longer. This answer depends on the wisdom from experts of the past. But as for Sun Mo, his answer opens up a new line of thought to all spirit rune masters.

“Finding a new path is much more difficult compared to extending a pre-existing path.”

Sun Shao shook his head. He had planned to take the study of spirit runes as his second secondary occupation. But now, he was prepared to give it up.

For the next tens or even hundreds of years, the study of spirit runes would be enveloped by Sun Mo’s glow.

Even if he learned it, he would have no way to be the very best in this field. Hence, he might as well not learn it.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Sun Shao +20. Prestige connection unlocked. Neutral (20/100).

...

In the field, many people were moving through it. Some examinees were wild with joy, and some were wailing in anguish. This was especially so for those who came here for their fifth attempt. Their faces were filled with despair.

Who would have expected that the examination this year would be so difficult?

Liu Mubai stood before the announcement board with an unhappy look on his face. His results were the same as Fang Wuji; they both shared second place. Although this achievement was excellent, they didn't get full marks.

Above them, there was a person named Tong Tong!

"What the hell, this person actually scored full marks?"

Liu Mubai was extremely depressed, but it was fine. The third round would be the crucial time where they decided victory and defeat. He would surely defeat and suppress everyone.

Upon thinking of this, Liu Mubai walked over to the announcement board for the study of spirit runes. He wanted to check Gu Qingyan's ranking.

After all, Gu Qingyan was his main opponent!

He directly looked at the top-area. As expected, Gu Qingyan's name was there.

"Eh, why is there another person who scored full marks?"

Liu Mubai felt even more depressed, but he was somewhat puzzled. (Why were the 'full marks' beside Gu Qingyan's name struck off? Who's the one who has done this?)

(Isn't this too audacious?)

After that, Liu Mubai noticed the name at the side. It was Sun Mo and his result was...full marks?

"Did I see wrongly?"

Liu Mubai rubbed his eyes. After that, the amount of depression he felt increased by ten times.

This fact hurt his heart even more than the fact that he got second place. One must know that the examination this year was extremely difficult. Being able to get full marks indicated that Sun Mo's attainment in spirit runes was nearing the standard of a 3-star great teacher.

"Why is the 'full marks' beside Gu Qingyan's name struck off? Was this done by Sun Mo?"

"No, Gu Qingyan did it himself. He said that he was inferior to Sun Mo!"

When Liu Mubai heard the words of the surrounding examinees, he frowned severely. Sun Mo convinced Gu Qingyan of his superiority?

Was this a joke?

(Gu Qingyan, to think that I've treated you as a formidable opponent. You are just trash that can't even defeat Sun Mo.)

Although thinking like that was purely for Liu Mubai to vent his emotions, his view of Sun Mo had changed. If he continued to underestimate Sun Mo, he would definitely lose very badly.

...

On the way back to the hotel, Sun Mo received the notification about favorable points from Gu Qingyan. This caused him to feel some surprise, but he soon forgot about it.

Because the third round was about to begin.

This round tested the examinees on their teaching ability, and each examinee would have an hour to give a lecture. The 'students' were made up of three groups.

Three examiners, fifty freshmen from Guangling Academy, fifty first-grade students from Guangling Academy who specialized in the same subject as the examinee.

Why did they need to use freshmen?

Because freshmen had just joined the school, they didn't have much experience, and this also meant that they had not formed their preferences yet.

This way, it would be easier to see if they could be convinced by the examinee's lecture.

One must know that to higher-year students, if they didn't go and listen to the lecture of a great teacher, it didn't mean that the great teacher's lectures were lousy. Rather, it was because they didn't like the great teacher's style, teaching methods, or even voice.

Finding a great teacher that was suitable for oneself would naturally be the best.

For higher-year students, if they couldn't even find a suitable great teacher for themselves, this meant that they wouldn't have any future.

Other than this, there were also 1,000 patrolling students and 100 patrolling examiners. These people could enter the classroom to observe. If they felt that the lecture of any examinee was good, they could simply enter at any time. If they didn't like it, they could also leave and find the next one.

Each of these 'listening students' had three votes that were categorized into 'excellent', 'ordinary', and 'eliminated'.

The 'students' could choose the vote they wanted to give to the 'teachers' based on their judgment.

A 'teacher' had to obtain over 80 excellent votes before they could be considered to have passed.

...

Sun Mo's luck had never been good. This time around, his lecture was set to be 6 p.m. on the second day.

At such timing, many students would already be hungry. And after listening to a day of lectures, their mental energy would surely be sapped and they would feel somewhat fatigued.

When a human was fatigued, they would be more severe and demanding toward things.

It was like after you watched a day's worth of movies, you would feel somewhat tired. And if you were to watch a movie again during the night, even if the movie's quality was ordinary, you would still feel it was trash.

Bluntly speaking, if one wanted to ignite the excitement of these students, it would take much more effort compared to the lectures held in the morning.

"Teacher Sun, your luck is 'godly'!"

Qian Dun sighed. He didn't need to take the examination anymore because he had failed in the written exam round.

"I'm rooting for you!"

Sun Mo encouraged Gu Xiuxun. Her lecture timing was 10 a.m., so it was relatively not bad.

"Wait for my good news!"

The masochist exuded an imposing manner as she went for the exam.

"Teacher Gu, with your pretty face alone, you would be able to get 30 excellent votes!"

Wang Chao felt envy.

Qian Dun didn't say anything. He was looking at Sun Mo instead.

In teaching, a beautiful female teacher would always be able to attract male students. There was no need to doubt this. It was just like how a handsome male teacher would also be able to attract female students.

"I feel I won't be able to make it this year!"

Wang Chao sighed.

Usually, one would pass as long as they could obtain 50 excellent votes. But this year, the requirement soared to 80 =votes. This indicated that they had to impress 80% of the 103 'students' listening to their lecture.

After an hour plus, the masochist came out.

"How is it?"

Sun Mo smiled as he asked.

"I think I can pass!"

Gu Xiuxun flashed a thumbs-up. Actually, she had no idea. The results would only be out five days later after all the examinees finished their lectures.

Time flowed by and evening arrived.

The winter's nights were unforgiving. Everything was dark when the clock struck 6 p.m.

"Go for it, get a 'grand slam' and suppress Gu Qingyan!"

Gu Xiuxun waved her small fists, cheering for Sun Mo.

The volume of her voice wasn't low, so those in the surroundings could hear her words. All of them involuntarily turned their gazes over.

"Who is this? Aren't her words too arrogant?"

Many people felt that Gu Xiuxun was very bold.

The so-called 'grand slam' could only happen if an examinee managed to get all the excellent votes of everyone on the scene and 2x the number of the seats of the classroom. It was basically an impossible mission.

No one had ever gotten this achievement throughout history!

Because no matter how outstanding these examinees were, they were still new teachers. Their experience and skill level were still not enough.

"It's Sun Mo!"

Many people recognized Sun Mo. After that, the mocking voices vanished because his written exam results had been circulated so widely that almost everyone knew about him.

In the #301 classroom, the 'students' had heard an entire day's worth of lectures. All of them were already tired. They either went for a toilet break or were slumping in front of their desks, resting.

"One more lecture and we can go to eat!"

Zhang Mai stretched his body. After that, he lifted his flask that was filled with wolfberries tea and drank a large mouthful.

"Who's next?"

Tang Nian was recording the names of the candidates, and he asked casually.

Su Tai searched through the name list. Then a hint of unhappiness appeared in the center of his brows. "It's Sun Mo!"

Pu!

Zhang Mai splurged the tea out.

(What the hell is with my luck?)

Zhang Mai felt depressed. Right now, he truly didn't want to form any connection with Sun Mo. After that, he cast an ambiguous glance at Su Tai and sighed.

Sun Mo became famous after obtaining full marks. Hence, the incident of how Sun Mo's great teacher halo caused Su Tai's face to be covered with dirt also spread out.

Zhang Mai felt that as long as Sun Mo's performance had some flaws, he would not be able to obtain Su Tai's excellent vote.

As for his vote...

If he gave Sun Mo the excellent vote, he would be offending the Jiang Clan, right? Now, he could only hope that Sun Mo's performance was ordinary so he could feel no burden in his heart when he cast the ordinary vote.

"Ai!"

Zhang Mai felt like peeing his pants.

Tang Nian noticed the emotions of his two fellow examiners and couldn't help but sigh. Sun Mo's luck was really too bad. Unless he performed truly well, he would definitely get ordinary votes from these two.

After Sun Mo reached the third floor, he couldn't help but take out his pocket watch for a look. He then slowed his steps, wanting to wait for the bell to ring first before he entered the classroom. However, the system notification rang first.

Ding!

"Congratulations, you have obtained full marks in the written examination. Reward: 1x silver treasure chest!"

"Congratulations, you made the talented Gu Qingyan ashamed of being inferior to you. Reward: 1x black-iron treasure chest."