

Teacher 991

Chapter 991: Calligrapher Li Ziqi

It was very hard to succeed in drawing a spirit rune. It was even harder to draw a high-level one. Moreover, only when the completed spirit rune was at the fifth level and above would a spirit qi tornado manifest.

Since this phenomenon indicated that the spirit rune contained a vast amount of spirit qi, its effects would naturally be better.

To many spirit runists, even for a low-difficulty spirit rune like the Rain Request Spirit Rune, they would need at least an hour to draw something of this quality.

Zhou Wenbin really wanted to assume that Li Ziqi had used her written segment's time to complete a spirit rune of this level. However, his rationale told him otherwise.

Impossible!

This was Sun Mo's eldest disciple!

Sun Mo was a near-ancestor spirit runist, a creator of miracles. In that case, it was very clear how Li Ziqi's standard in the study of spirit runes was.

"She has finished all the papers?"

Zhou Wenbin guessed as he frowned. He then looked at his papers and relaxed.

Luckily, he hadn't started drawing yet, or this pause would definitely sever the flow of spirit qi and cause his spirit rune to be wasted.

"No matter what, I should just follow my own pace. Even if she finished answering all the questions, it's impossible for her to get full marks, right?"

Zhou Wenbin mumbled, consoling himself.

(There's no need to panic, I will still win!)

...

"She can't possibly have finished the papers, right?"

"Maybe she chose to do the final major question first!"

"The phrase 'lying to oneself' is precisely used to describe people like you."

The examinees whispered to each other.

"Silence!"

Liu Fan berated.

A portion of the examinees no longer looked at Li Ziqi and focused on answering the questions instead. But the others were now distracted.

...

“These questions are actually so simple.”

Li Ziqi was speechless when she glanced at the test papers. (I wasted so much effort and squeezed out time for my other subjects, focusing on the study of spirit runes. In the end, you guys actually gave me such simple questions? I feel that my intelligence just got insulted!)

Check through them once? There was no such thing!

Geniuses should be confident in themselves!

Naturally, Li Ziqi was also worried that Zhou Wenbin would hand in his papers first. Hence, after she had returned yesterday, she had found someone to purchase an information report on this beloved great grandson of Secondary Saint Zhou.

He was a genius!

A person that was worthy of his clan’s beautiful reputation.

His presence here was clearly to deliberately target her. He wouldn’t let her break the record so easily.

If not, where would the prestige and face of Secondary Saint Zhou be?

Others would say this, ‘Look, a secondary saint actually judged the potential of someone wrongly.’

Usually, Li Ziqi would check her answers once for the sake of safety. But today, she wanted to suppress everyone with overwhelming might.

(Not only for the results, even when it comes to handing in the papers, I want to be faster than you!)

Hence, a tiny and fair hand was raised.

“What’s the matter?”

Liu Fan glanced over.

“Main examiner, can I hand in my papers in advance?”

Li Ziqi’s clear voice resounded throughout the venue.

Swish!

Those gazes, which had just returned to their own papers, lifted again and stared at Li Ziqi.

(As expected, she finished answering the papers!)

This time around, everyone suddenly discovered that they were much calmer.

Why should they compete with a genius like that? If they did so, wouldn’t that be them courting unhappiness for nothing?

(In any case, it’s good enough as long as I’m better than the others here.)

“You can hand in the papers any time you want to. But you have to leave the venue after doing so to not cause any disturbance to the other examinees.”

When Liu Fan said this, his face was a mask of impartiality, but he grumbled a little silently in his heart.

(You are too impatient! At such a time, if you hand in your papers early, it might boost your fame higher, but the prerequisite is that you can get high marks for sure. If not, doing so would merely be engaging in vulgar claptrap to please the crowds.)

Liu Fan subconsciously glanced at Zhou Wenbin. He had looked at his papers earlier and could tell that Zhou Wenbin’s answers were very accurate.

“But I will suggest that you check through your work one more time!”

This sentence was already a little overboard because it was a hint. (If you want to obtain a high score, you have to be more serious than others!)

Li Ziqi’s Unrealized Dream had allowed Liu Fan to break through his bottleneck and ascend to the next level. Hence, he felt that he owed her a huge favor.

“Many thanks for the examiner’s care, but there’s no need to.”

Li Ziqi smiled gently. After she fastened her papers together, she stood up and left.

This was a convention for examinations in the Nine Provinces. When the students handed in their papers, they had to fasten them together. Not even an examiner could look at the answers before they graded them.

Naturally, this was just a convention so there was no need to strictly enforce it.

For example, right now, the gazes of the five examiners drifted to the table where the papers were. They were hesitating whether they should head over and take a look or not. They were truly too curious.

How brilliant would the answers of this outstanding student of Sun Mo be?

Liu Fan tried to endure it, but he eventually failed.

Cough!

“The papers are not properly put together!”

Liu Fan shook his head and grumbled before walking over.

The other four examiners were stunned. (We didn’t expect someone inflexible and decent like you to pull such a trick. Damn, why didn’t we think of it first?)

But this wouldn’t stop them. One of them immediately moved closer, thinking it would be good to satisfy his curiosity by just taking a glance.

Liu Fan pretended that he wanted to fasten Li Ziqi’s papers properly. But after sweeping his eyes over the papers, he was stunned.

Weren’t these words...

A little too beautiful?

An item's true value could only be determined through comparison!

Just like the saying, 'one's handwriting is like one's face.'

One must know that great teachers had to write on the blackboard. If their handwriting was bad, it would truly be embarrassing.

Among all the calligraphers in the Nine Provinces, two-thirds of them were great teachers.

Because of his father's urging, Zhou Wenbin had put in the effort to beautify his handwriting and was close to a master in terms of his style, comparable to many great teachers. But as for Li Ziqi...

"W...what calligraphy style is this?"

That 4-star great teacher that walked over was also shocked when he saw the words.

Swish~

The examinees lifted their heads again with looks of astonishment on their faces.

There were only a few styles of calligraphy in the Nine Provinces. Let alone great teachers, even students knew the basics. But now, a 4-star great teacher actually couldn't identify a style?

(Is there a mistake?!)

Many examinees shifted their butts subconsciously and stretched out their necks to look, wanting to see what was on Li Ziqi's papers.

The other three examiners weren't reserved either. They hurriedly came over as well.

"I'm not familiar with this style!"

"I have never seen it before!"

"Is it a self-created one?"

The only remaining possibility was this. After that, the five examiners exchanged a mutual glance and had a look of envy on their faces.

She could set up her own sect!

She completely deserved the title of a grandmaster calligrapher!

"Wait a minute, maybe someone else taught it to her!"

An examiner guessed.

"It should be Sun Mo. If someone else taught this calligraphy style to Li Ziqi, that person is definitely an extremely famous person of great talent, and news of this style should have been leaked out."

Liu Fan mentally mused that Li Ziqi was a princess, so how could those qualified to teach her not be famous?

For someone like that, the number of their disciples and grand-disciples would be innumerable; hence, this calligraphy style would surely be leaked.

Also, this was a type of glory and a chance to earn money. Who wouldn't want to earn more of them?

Thus, it could only be Sun Mo.

Sun Mo was already cloaked in glory, so he didn't need this little bit of extra fame and money. His title of a grandmaster calligrapher couldn't be compared to his God Hands, and nor was it as tyrannical as his ancestor-level spirit runist title.

"I heard that Sun Mo seems to be someone skilled in both writing and painting. However, this is nothing major and hence only a small number of people know it."

"I also heard that during his 3-star examination in the Dragon Subduing Academy, Sun Mo painted a famous painting on a tree!"

"Ah? There's something like this? Quickly tell us more!"

The examiners continued their discussion fervently.

"Cough, cough!"

Liu Fan forcefully coughed a few times. (What are you guys doing? The examinees are still taking the exam.)

The few examiners immediately had awkward expressions and could only cast another glance at the handwriting before leaving with regrets.

Let alone great teachers, even ordinary people would want their handwriting to be more beautiful.

The examinees exchanged mutual glances, while Zhou Wenbin's expression was already very unsightly to behold.

A self-created calligraphy style?

When he lowered his head and glanced at his papers again, Zhou Wenbin's mood worsened even more.

(Be composed! Be calm! I can still win! Is this a competition of calligraphy or knowledge?)

Anyway, it was already impossible for him to hand in his papers in advance. Hence, Zhou Wenbin chose to be even more focused, choosing to draw the highest-grade spirit rune he could.

(I, Zhou Wenbin, the great grandson of Secondary Saint Zhou, wouldn't lose!)

(If not, I will eat this table.)

...

Li Ziqi who had left the classroom had no idea that her calligraphy script, the 'thin gold body', caused such a huge commotion.

The first time she had seen her teacher using this script, she had fallen in love with it immediately. Hence, she had practiced it assiduously. Her intellect and hard work allowed her to use merely two years to gain some minor accomplishment in it.

When Li Ziqi left the school, she discovered that it was still very early. Hence, she decided to head to the sports field in advance as the martial segment of the exam would be held there.

(Let's get used to the terrain first!)

...

Jiang Zizhong handed in his papers 15 minutes in advance and slowly strolled out of the teaching building.

"Was re-checking my answers thrice a little too much?"

Jiang Zizhong silently asked himself. If he didn't re-check so many times, he would be able to leave earlier.

(However, Li Ziqi probably isn't faster than me, right?)

When he reached the school gate, Jiang Zizhong was also not in a hurry to leave. He sat beneath the shade of a tree and waited. And not long later, Li Ziqi appeared in his vision.

Jiang Zizhong's lips involuntarily curled into a complacent smile. After that, he got up and patted the dust off his body as he hummed a tune before leaving.

...

Dang! Dang! Dang!

The bell rang out, signifying that the written segment had ended.

The examiners finished collecting the papers and placed them into bags. After that, they sent the papers to the grading chamber.

"After you guys finish grading the papers, please pass Li Ziqi's papers to me!"

Liu Fan was worried that he might miss out on it, hence, he pleaded.

"Ah?"

Wang Song started. He wanted to ask if Liu Fan had gone mad.

(What's the point of taking an examinee's paper?)

"Do me a favor!"

Liu Fan clasped his hands.

"I can't make a decision on this!"

Wang Song shook his head.

Truthfully speaking, the exam papers of the majority of examinees had no collection value. After all, this was just a 1-star examination. It wasn't that important.

As long as the results were published and the examinees had no objections, these exam papers would be sealed. And after every five years, the papers would be destroyed together.

Some descendants from major clans had the hobby of collecting their own papers. They could just look for the person in charge of looking after the stored papers and pay some money to obtain them.

After all, there might be bugs chewing on the papers after storing for so long.

Moreover, some people were willing to pay for Sun Mo's papers because he was famous. Once he became a secondary saint, the collection value of his past exam papers would definitely surge explosively.

But after checking things, these people with scheming intentions realized that they had been slower by several beats as Sun Mo's papers had been bought by someone else long ago.

"Teacher Liu, I know that Li Ziqi helped you before. But there's no need for you to go so far as to do this, right?"

A great teacher at the side with the surname 'Qian' interjected.

"Only Sun Mo's exam papers have collection value. Who would want the exam papers of his disciple?"

"Me!"

Liu Fan pleaded. "Please help me out. I will remember this favor!"

Chapter 992: Full-Marks Exam Paper

For the 1-star examination, it was enough for the examinees to just have a single subject reaching the expert level.

Hence, the examinees would head to their respective venues according to the scheduled time of each subject.

With all the subjects added together, it basically needed three days for all the subjects to be tested.

For a subject like poison study, it was usually held in the smallest classroom, the type where 50 pax was the max capacity. In fact, the classroom might not even be filled up.

While for alchemy, weaponsmithing, and spirit runes—the popular subjects, their testing area would always be filled to the brim. Hence, they were usually scheduled first, and the grading would begin the moment the candidates completed the exam papers.

"Everyone, let's start!"

This time around, the person in charge of the grading was a 7-star great teacher, Tong Xugao. He had already been a grandmaster spirit runist for 30 years and was experienced enough to manage this.

Moreover, the other ten graders were all spirit runists with over ten years of experience in the study of spirit runes.

“Teacher Tong, please!”

Everyone clasped their hands. After Tong Xugao took away a paper, they then started grading.

This was a convention. The main grader would start by doing this first as a sign of respect.

“I wonder if we will see someone scoring full marks this year?”

Wang Song glanced at the exam papers in his hands as he frowned. There was already a mistake at the 7th question.

“A supreme genius like Sun Mo might only appear once in a decade!”

“It should be in several decades!”

“In any case, they are very rare!”

The graders started chatting.

With their standards, they wouldn’t make a mistake even if they chatted as they graded the papers.

And it was fine even if they made a mistake because every set of exam papers would be cross-marked by three people. The others would surely catch it if a mistake in grading was made.

“Sadly, my student went to participate last year. And to avoid gossip, I had no way to become an examiner. Otherwise, he might have to address me as ‘teacher’ now!”

Wang Song sighed.

“It’s fine. We might meet one this year as well. Don’t forget that Secondary Saint Zhou’s beloved great grandson has chosen the study of spirit runes.”

Qian Hao chortled.

The eyes of everyone brightened. Being able to form a relationship with the Zhou Clan wasn’t bad either. If that really happened, it meant that their trip here wouldn’t be a wasted one.

“I wonder how many marks the Great Tang Empire’s Princess, who is also Sun Mo’s student, can score?”

Someone was curious.

“I think it should be above 90 no matter what, right?”

Wang Song guessed.

For the written exam this time around, full marks was 100.

“Let’s get started quickly then!”

The excitement of everyone was immediately stirred, and the speed of their grading became quicker as well.

This was them trying to find a hint of joy in a dry and arduous task like grading papers.

Because the Saint Gate limited the number of people that passed, the grading of the exam papers was extremely strict.

For the first portion, which consisted of basic questions, no mistakes were permitted. One would be eliminated the moment there was a mistake.

The second portion of the written segment consisted of questions with depth to them. The examinees could at most make three mistakes and if they exceeded this number, there was no need for the graders to continue reading as the examinees would be eliminated as well.

Yes, even if the examinees had fascinating and wonderful answers for the latter questions, they would still fail.

And for the third portion, they were collectively known as open-ended questions.

For questions belonging to the third portion, there was only a rough scope and there were no concrete answers. As long as their answers fell into the rough scope, they could be considered to have passed.

As for whether their answers were good or not, it would be judged through a discussion by the graders eventually.

Bluntly speaking, it was to test their creativity and to check if the examinees had a unique understanding of spirit runes. For those examinees who only excelled in rote memorization, they would never be able to pass.

There was a bamboo basket placed before every grader.

The failed papers were tossed inside the basket.

Gradually, everyone no longer bothered to chat and started grading the papers in a mechanical-like manner. They would only engage in discussion if they saw the occasional brilliant answer that was worthy of being a highlight.

“Spirit runes could have life? What wild fantasy is this?!”

Wang Song’s lips twitched.

“Actually, I’m quite fond of the thoughts of these young people. They dare to lose themselves in their imaginations and have no constraints. They are unlike us who are old-fashioned and inflexible.”

Another great teacher spoke.

“Spirit runes have life? How? Even if Sun Mo used spirit runes to revive withered trees, he merely selected the correct runes.”

Wang Song shook his head.

Tong Xugao, who had always been silent, suddenly spoke, “Imagination is not nonsensical thinking. People who feel this way would soon be beaten up by reality. For any subject, they have their own ‘internal rules’. Leaving the confines of the ‘internal rules’ shouldn’t happen.”

Everyone hurriedly agreed with Tong Xugao's words.

Wang Song felt a little awkward. Although this major character wasn't targeting him, the former clearly disagreed with his opinions. (Would I leave behind a bad impression? Sigh! Why was I so mouthy?)

"Eh, this exam paper isn't bad. The front portion is all correct, and the answers to the open-ended questions are very logical as well. This person should have received the guidance of a great teacher before!"

Qian Hao sighed.

After grading so many papers, he finally saw one with the potential to score full marks.

He then flipped to the last question where the examinees were asked to draw a Rain Request Spirit Rune. It was relatively not bad and the standard was around the fifth level.

To be honest, drawing the Rain Request Spirit Rune at the fourth level was already sufficient to get full marks for this question.

"I feel that this set of exam papers ought to be given full marks!"

Qian Hao spoke out, preparing to fight for it.

It was definitely impossible for such an impressive examinee to be 'buried' in the future.

A few of the graders immediately crowded over and lowered their heads to read the papers.

"His or her answers are pretty good!"

"Not bad, not bad. Not only did they answer the questions correctly, but their answers and judgments are quite far-sighted as well. This is really interesting."

"The spirit rune is also drawn pretty well."

The other graders immediately gave that paper a high evaluation.

"Teacher Tong!"

Qian Hao passed the paper to Tong Xugao. The number of marks would be determined by this main grader.

Tong Xugao checked the paper very meticulously, and he gradually revealed a smile as he nodded involuntarily.

"Put it to one side first!"

Tong Xugao instructed.

Qian Hao smiled when he heard this. This was the usual practice. Tong Xugao didn't give it full marks now because he was worried there might be better papers later on.

"This time around, Teacher Tong is too cautious. This set of exam papers can already be considered as choosing one in ten thousand."

Qian Hao already started to feel anticipation for the other graders to finish marking their papers. He wanted to know who the examinee of the papers he had just marked was.

But ten minutes later, his anticipation was crushed.

“Eh?”

A great teacher with the surname ‘Zhou’ opened up the sealed cover and was stunned because there was a weak hint of light glimmering from the paper.

This meant that within this set of papers, there was at least a sixth-level spirit rune. If not, the paper wouldn’t glow.

“Oh no, I guess my examinee would have to take second place now.”

Upon seeing this scene, Qian Hao felt depressed. The favor that he would gain if the examinee he marked was number one was all gone now.

For the exam papers that were handed up, they would be placed by the main examiner into a sealed box that would only be opened after the box reached the grading chamber.

“It would depend on luck, I guess?”

The great teacher with the surname ‘Zhou’ teased.

“Don’t slow down intentionally. Also, I don’t want you guys to neglect the papers you are currently grading just for the sake of snatching that set of exam papers.”

Tong Xugao reminded them.

He was worried that everyone might intentionally waste time because they wanted to wait for that set of exam papers.

Half an hour later.

“Haha, sorry everyone. I guess I’m the lucky one.”

Wang Song laughed.

“Treat us! Treat us! VIP seats at the top level of the Drunken Immortal Restaurant. If I don’t take advantage of you, I won’t be happy!”

Qian Hao chortled.

The others also no longer graded and gathered over.

Basic questions, all correct!

Advanced questions, all correct!

The answers to the open-ended questions that had a high degree of freedom were all done nicely with nothing to nitpick.

As for the last question.

“This is a sixth-level spirit rune!”

Seeing the exam paper shining with a weak glow, everyone exclaimed in admiration.

Just this spirit rune alone could be sold for a few thousand taels of silver.

Naturally, it wouldn't be too expensive because its effect was simply to gather rain. It provided no help toward cultivation.

“Full marks! This examinee is definitely the top-scorer of this batch for the written spirit rune exam!”

“His handwriting isn't bad as well and has the feel of a calligrapher.”

After Wang Song finished speaking, everyone nodded. Even Tong Xugao felt the same way.

Only when one's grasp on the study of spirit runes was high would they be able to draw such a high-level Rain Request Spirit Rune.

“I wonder how Li Ziqi would perform?”

Qian Hao suddenly mumbled.

Everyone started before laughing. This time around, she definitely had no way to replicate her teacher's feat of getting full marks.

The handwriting on this set of papers and the style of answering for the open-ended questions might not be bold and unconstrained, but they also exuded a sense of robust sharpness. The examinee should be a guy.

The grading continued and 15 minutes later, the great teacher with the surname 'Zhou' suddenly cursed out loud.

“Damn!”

Everyone inclined their heads in puzzlement.

“You guys, quickly look at the handwriting...”

Great Teacher Zhou was agitated because he was a lover of calligraphy.

“What about it? Are there any signs that this examinee was cheating?”

Wang Song stretched his head out. After that, he was startled. “This...”

“What calligraphy style is this?”

The others were dumbstruck as well.

“Haha, I didn't expect that I would grade the exam papers of a calligrapher!”

Great Teacher Zhou was joyful.

“Mn!”

Everyone nodded. Although they weren't calligraphers, their ability to appreciate this wasn't low. The handwriting on this set of exam papers was good enough for the examinee to set up his or her own unique style.

This font was sturdy but with a hint of beauty and gentleness. It was really impressive.

Great Teacher Zhou continued reading, but the more he read, the heavier his expression grew. In the end, his brows were completely furrowed, intense enough to crush a crab to death.

"What's wrong? Is that person going to fail?"

Wang Song asked.

This was after all an exam testing for one's expertise in the study of spirit runes and not an exam testing for one's handwriting. No matter how beautiful their handwriting was, it was useless if they failed.

"No, the answers have surpassed my scope of understanding."

Great Teacher Zhou honestly replied.

"Ah?"

Everyone was shocked and hurriedly gathered over.

"Look at this question. The examinee explains the connection between spirit runes and life. It said that all living things needed a type of 'life cycle'. If one could convert spirit runes into this type of system and use purified spirit qi as the energy source, one would be able to create a new life."

Everyone exchanged glances because this concept was super advanced. Moreover, this didn't merely involve the study of spirit runes but also medical studies.

If Sun Mo saw this question, he would say that it was not medical studies but a part of life sciences.

As someone of the modern era, Sun Mo's horizons were too broad. Moreover, because of his habits, he would subconsciously impart some modern concepts to her.

This concept was something casually mentioned by Sun Mo when they had been discussing mechanical puppets. At that time, Sun Mo had been thinking about whether he could create a machine that relied on a spirit rune system to operate.

After all, in this era, coal and oil were too rare. Even if they were excavated, it was impossible to use them. And as for spirit qi, it was then the main energy source that the bulk of the population used.

Also, Sun Mo said before that those aboriginals in the Greenhaze Forest were artificially created. Hence, Li Ziqi extended the thought and mentioned puppets.

Could puppets become alive and gain their own consciousness? Becoming a race of their own?

Li Ziqi's answer was too shocking. All the graders who were veterans in the study of spirit runes fell silent. They could only look at Tong Xugao and wait for his explanation.

However, this grandmaster spirit runist had sunk into deep thoughts after hearing Li Ziqi's answer which was being recited by Great Teacher Zhou.

Chapter 993: Wonderful, Very Wonderful, Extremely Wonderful!

They couldn't continue waiting like this as well. Hence, Qian Hao boldly asked.

"Teacher Tong, what do you think?"

The expression of Tong Xugao whose thoughts were disrupted immediately sank. He angrily shot back. "What do you mean what I think? Don't you guys know how to think critically?"

The expressions of everyone turned awkward. (If we could understand, why would we still need to ask you?)

But seeing that Tong Xugao seemed to fail to grasp the main points as well, everyone's depressed feelings became better. (So, even you don't understand!)

It was like an entire class failing a subject together. The sense of individual shame naturally wouldn't be so great.

After all, everyone was mortal!

"Pass the paper to me!"

Tong Xugao stretched his hand out.

Great Teacher Zhou actually still wanted to look at it a little more, but he didn't dare to defy the words of this major character. Hence, he unwillingly passed it over and resembled an honest guy whose wife was snatched by a bandit.

"Quickly!"

Tong Xugao shouted. He couldn't wait anymore. He impatiently got to his feet and directly grabbed it. After that, he no longer sat. He simply stood there and read the answers to the major questions.

For a time, the entire grading chamber fell silent.

The graders exchanged mutual glances. They also wanted to look, but no one dared to get near Tong Xugao. There was no solution to it as his aura was simply too strong.

Tong Xugao took four hours to finish reading the set of papers.

Actually, he was in deep contemplation for the majority of the time.

This Great Teacher Tong mainly focused on spirit runes, and his secondary subject was medical studies. It was so mismatched because he came from a clan of doctors who had practiced medical arts for generations.

If it hadn't been for Tong Xugao using his life to force his family, his grandpa would have beaten him to death when he had said he didn't want to inherit the clan's mantle.

However, as he saw his grandpa sighing even when drawing his last breath, lamenting why his grandson wanted to waste his talent in the field of spirit runes, Tong Xugao suddenly had a wild thought. He wanted to combine both spirit runes and medical studies.

After that, through several years of research, he finally found a direction. He wanted to create some artificial limbs that could allow a disabled person to be whole again through the usage of some spirit runes.

In the Nine Provinces, let alone some great teachers who were fighting with weapons every day, there were also soldiers and adventurers. In fact, in order to seize water sources, the different villages would fight each other every once in a while.

Hence, there were countless cripples in the Nine Provinces missing a limb or two.

If he could create a perfect prosthetic, it would be a grand plan that benefited the entire Nine Provinces, a saint-level achievement.

It was just that after so many years, Tong Xugao couldn't find a way to do this. But right now, he actually gained inspiration from this set of exam papers.

"Wonderful!"

"Very wonderful!"

"Extremely wonderful!"

A path opened up in Tong Xugao's mind, and he couldn't help but sigh in admiration.

What magical thoughts!

Sadly, this examinee didn't expound on it in a more in-depth manner.

What a pity!

What a pity!

Naturally, there was a time limit to an exam, so the examinee couldn't fully explain everything. After all, a topic like this was sufficient to be the teaching material of an entire lecture.

Swish~

All the graders glanced over with shock in their gazes.

(It can't be right? Such a high evaluation?)

This was a 7-star grandmaster spirit runist. Since he acted like this, this examinee must be extremely outstanding for sure.

"Teacher Tong, how are things?"

Wang Song asked.

Tong Xugao cast a glance at Wang Song but didn't speak. He continued flipping through the papers and wanted to look at the last major question.

Wang Song immediately grew embarrassed because the unspoken meaning of Tong Xugao's action was clear. (You won't understand even if I say it.)

After embarrassment, he felt resentment.

(Tong Xugao's aged eyes must be blind. He actually feels that I'm not comparable to an intern teacher? How preposterous!)

"Perfect!"

Tong Xugao praised it greatly.

"..."

The graders who had been waiting for Tong Xugao's evaluation, no longer cared about their pride when they heard these words. All of them directly rushed over.

One must know that for the previous high-level spirit rune, Tong Xugao didn't say the word 'perfect'.

Everyone cast a glance at the rune and was directly dumbstruck.

T...this...

They had no way to use any words to describe the shock in their hearts.

There was no light emanating from this spirit rune.

Usually speaking, spirit runes that glow would surely be high-level. 99% of the spirit runes that didn't glow were low-level ones. But there was also a type of exception. When the standard of the spirit runist was so high that they had reached a realm where no spirit qi would leak, the entirety of spirit qi would be compressed and sealed in the runic lines of the spirit rune.

Naturally, if one wanted to achieve this, the grade of their ink had to be good enough.

Everyone here was a veteran spirit runist with loads of experience, and they could immediately judge that this spirit rune belonged to the latter category. This was why they were shocked.

Usually speaking, those who could do this were either near-ancestor spirit runists or grandmaster spirit runists with over 20 years of experience.

Even Tong Xugao wouldn't dare to guarantee that he would be able to draw such a perfect spirit rune every single time. Also, one must know that this was done during an exam. This made the act of doing so even more impressive.

"Even people who don't know anything about spirit runes can see how good this type of spirit rune is!"

"Yeah, this has reached a certain standard in aesthetics."

"It's too beautiful to the extent where it will make people feel reluctant to use it."

The graders all sighed in admiration.

"Although I'm cultured, right now I only want to use two words to describe my current emotions. F*cking impressive!"

Qian Hao silently sighed. (The exam paper I graded earlier can only be ranked third now.)

Ai!

It was really a tragedy to be in the same era as such a genius.

At this moment, Li Ziqi's identity as a princess had to be credited. Since she was young, she had received education from royal tutors, and this caused her to have an extremely high level of culture. She was also proficient in music, chess, literature, and painting.

Naturally, if that was all, it would still be impossible for Li Ziqi to have drawn such a beautiful spirit rune. However, Sun Mo was her personal teacher.

After Li Ziqi had learned the fundamentals of spirit runes, she also gained the ability to adjust some details of the runes under the premise that the core structure remained unchanged. An example was the different thickness of the runic lines at different parts.

It was like doing cosmetic surgeries. Everyone had eyes, nose, and mouth. Some would 'adjust' their nose bridge to be higher or go under the knife for double-eyelids, and they would look better than before.

"This set of papers will definitely be the #1 this year."

Tong Xugao sighed ruefully.

"Yeah, if there's another examinee who has better answers, I will eat all the exam papers here."

Great Teacher Zhou nodded with joy in his heart.

He was the one who graded this set of papers.

No one raised an objection.

This examinee got full marks for the earlier question and used a unique calligraphy style. The open-ended questions were also answered with a far-sightedness, and lastly for the drawing of the spirit rune, the examinee even raised the aesthetics of it.

"For someone like this examinee, there's probably only one every century," Great Teacher Zhou mumbled.

"Have you forgotten Sun Mo?"

Qian Hao teased.

"Speaking of which, this examinee might not be any inferior to Sun Mo."

Great Teacher Zhou laughed.

"Say, do you guys think this set of papers belonged to Li Ziqi?"

Wang Song suddenly raised a question.

"It can't be, right?"

"It shouldn't be possible."

“If it really was the case, I would feel so jealous that I want to die.”

As everyone spoke, they turned their gazes to Tong Xugao. Their meaning was clear without words. (Can we tear the sticker to see who the examinee is?)

“Hurry up and grade the other papers!”

Tong Xugao urged.

The rules were the rules; they must not be broken.

Everyone also understood this. Hence, they returned to their seats and began the grading process again.

After Qian Hao took up his brush, he pondered for a few minutes before heading back to the basket and picking up the exam papers of the examinee who answered that ‘spirit runes have life’.

(I shouldn’t ‘kill’ the miraculous thinking of this examinee!)

Qian Hao reflected on himself.

This examinee was lucky because Li Ziqi’s answers in her open-ended questions obtained a pass from Tong Xugao.

The workload, which was supposed to last for three days, was fully completed by everyone within two days. They all wanted to quickly know the name of that examinee who stunned all of them.

The evening arrived, everyone had huge eyebags as they gathered again.

“Let’s start from the third place?”

Qian Hao suggested.

The sticker covering the name was torn and very soon, the name ‘Jiang Zizhong’ appeared.

“Oh, it’s someone from Teacher Jiang’s clan!”

Wang Song shook his head and sighed. In the past, he had learned from Jiang Wei before. This was why he knew Jiang Zizhong was very capable. “He shouldn’t have taken this examination.”

“Yeah, everyone knows that the Jiang Clan specialized in the study of spirit runes. A third rank isn’t sufficient for them.”

Everyone agreed.

Tong Xugao didn’t bother with a minor character like this. He directly peeled the sticker on the second paper. After that, the sound of him inhaling a breath of cold air rang out.

Zhou Wenbin!

This name was very familiar to everyone.

“Could the first place really be Sun Mo’s eldest disciple?”

Qian Hao was speechless and felt somewhat jealous. (You are already so strong. If your disciple was also so impressive, others would have no need to live anymore.)

“What a pity!”

Everyone felt regret for Zhou Wenbin. After that, Tong Xugao continued.

There was no suspense. The name ‘Li Ziqi’, which was written in the thin gold body script, appeared in everyone’s vision.

For a time, the room was completely silent. It was so quiet that you could hear a pin drop.

No one was shocked because everyone had anticipated this result.

“I heard that Sun Mo is known to be skilled in both writing and painting. This calligraphy script must be something created by him!”

Great Teacher Zhou sighed and felt an impulse to pay Sun Mo a visit.

Such a beautiful script made him really want to learn it.

“Teacher Tong, why don’t I hold this set of papers in safekeeping?”

Wang Song spoke.

He finally understood why Liu Fan wanted him to help secure Li Ziqi’s exam papers. This was because even if this girl couldn’t become a saint, this set of exam papers would still have a very great collection value.

“Let me do it!”

“Give it to me!”

Everyone started to argue.

A benefit of being a grader was that they could have first priority to safekeep any set of exam papers. If one wanted a set of papers, there would usually be no objections.

But things were different this time around. It was a set of exam papers that would only appear once in a hundred years.

“Cough, cough. I have to research the answers on this set of papers a little more!”

Tong Xugao rejected and directly kept the papers.

Everyone immediately felt like cursing his mother.

(You are a 7-star major character, what are you doing, snatching things from us from the junior generations? If you really want this, can’t you just get Li Ziqi to write you another set? Wait a minute, given Sun Mo’s fame, even a 7-star great teacher might not have enough prestige to ask him to do something.)

...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Early in the morning, Lu Zhiruo was already knocking on Li Ziqi’s room door with impatience.

“Eldest Martial Sister, you should sleep some more. I will help you to look at your results!”

The papaya girl knew that she didn't have such capabilities. So, she simply treated her eldest martial sister's results as her own. There was no problem with this. When the time came, she would simply shout that her eldest martial sister was the top scorer, and she would also be able to enjoy the envious gazes of others.

(Right, I better shout the words 'eldest martial sister' a little softer later.)

“You are knocking so loudly, how can I sleep?”

Li Ziqi was speechless.

“Let's go and take a look at the results!”

Qin Yaoguang was long since prepared and ready to head out.

“Will Eldest Martial Sister screw up?”

Xianyu Wei was worried. After all, that Zhou Wenbin had also chosen to participate in the written segment for the study of spirit runes.

Chapter 994: The Crushing Continues

Jiang Zizhong stood in the shade of a tree, leaning against a wall while eating a pastry. He was also trying to look for Li Ziqi's silhouette.

Today, the results would be released.

As a victor, he naturally wanted to see the disappointed expression of his enemies. This then would be the most perfect fruit.

Swiftly after that, Li Ziqi's group, who was chatting happily, entered his vision.

Jiang Zizhong quickly finished his food in two to three mouthfuls. He then stretched out his tongue and licked the grease on his fingertips before he moved forward.

(Very soon, you guys will no longer be able to smile.)

In the meantime, the announcement board had been erected. Also, the results had been pasted by the staff during the early morning, but they were being covered by red silk.

Once the time was up, the red silk would be removed.

The law enforcement group from Saint Gate was patrolling the surroundings to prevent people from removing the red silk cloth in advance. They were also here to stop people who might go crazy.

In the past, such a situation had occurred before. An examinee had gotten a result that differed too much from his expectations and he started making trouble. Some had also started crying from extreme joy and became crazy or idiotic.

“Sun Mo is here!”

A balded examinee shouted, but he was scolded by others in the blink of an eye.

“How rude, you should address him as Teacher Sun!”

“It should be Sun-laoshi!”

Some people spoke out.

In the great teacher world, those with no stars were referred to as intern teachers. They couldn't use the word 'Teacher' plus a 'surname' to address a great teacher.

Bluntly speaking, their rank was too low and they were unworthy.

“A bunch of simps.”

The balded examinee felt depressed. But when he saw Sun Mo looking over, he immediately squeezed out the most friendly smile he could muster, friendlier than even when he met his own tycoon father.

Before the announcement board, there were plenty of examinees, and this place could be said to be fully packed to the brim. But as Sun Mo arrived, they took the initiative to open up a path for him.

“Many thanks, but there's no need to.” Sun Mo nodded. “I'm fine just being here!”

The announcement board was very high. Given the prowess of Sun Mo's vision, he could see it clearly even if it was further away.

Sun Mo originally didn't want to come here too early, as he trusted in the little sunny egg's standard. Hence, when he reached here, it was only about 10 minutes before 8 a.m.

After idly chatting for a few minutes, the time finally arrived.

When Tong Yiming appeared, a commotion immediately appeared. After that, the place fell silent. Sun Mo could even hear a few people gulping down a mouthful of saliva.

There were still people saying prayers right now.

At such a time, no matter how many gods there were, it was best to pray to all of them.

Although Tong Yiming was a strict person, he had a touch of friendliness within him as well. He knew that the examinees were impatiently waiting for the results and so once 8 a.m. arrived, he didn't say anything and directly pulled the red silk cloth down.

Even the last-ranking students had dreams of being number one. So, even they started looking from the top to the bottom.

First place: Li Ziqi, full marks!

Second place: Zhou Wenbin, 99 marks!

Third place: Jiang Zizhong, 98 marks!

...

Because of her status as Sun Mo's eldest disciple as well as her shocking performance during the first segment, Li Ziqi's name was quite widely known.

Now, after seeing that she obtained full marks, many people didn't feel surprised. Instead, they felt a sense of relief.

Just think about how impressive Sun Mo was. The person who could become his eldest disciple was definitely someone with extraordinary talent.

In the crowd, Jiang Zizhong was dumbstruck. This was the third time he was rubbing his eyes.

(Did I see wrongly? I'm actually not the top scorer? But this shouldn't be the case? Also, why am I ranked third? There are actually two more fellows more impressive than me?)

(I admit that Zhou Wenbin is strong. After all, he is deeply learned and is the great grandson of Secondary Saint Zhou. But this Li Ziqi... Even if she's overflowing with talent, she has merely followed Sun Mo for two years, right? She only used such a short period and is now already more outstanding compared to me who have worked hard for over ten years? Damn, I have no way to accept this!)

An examinee beside him couldn't help but pat Jiang Zizhong's shoulder when he saw this. That examinee felt sympathy for Jiang Zizhong in his heart.

"Stop rubbing, you might go blind if you continue rubbing."

That examinee consoled him, "It's fine, we might have failed this year, but we can try again next year."

Jiang Zizhong immediately grew enraged. (Did I fall so low to the extent where I need someone who failed to comfort me?)

Pak!

Jiang Zizhong directly knocked the hand of that examinee away and cast a ruthless glance at him.

"Look clearly. This daddy is named Jiang Zizhong. I'm in third place!"

After speaking, Jiang Zizhong headed to the teaching building, wanting to look at his own papers and check the marks.

"Huh?"

That examinee was stunned. After that, he wanted to scold Jiang Zizhong for being mental. (You are still not satisfied with third place and your expression actually looked like you failed.)

When he thought about how rude Jiang Zizhong was, he decided to mock him.

"Is third place that impressive? If you are capable, why don't you get first place?"

Pu!

Jiang Zizhong was so angry that he coughed up blood.

According to previous years, some examinees would be overly confident and feel that there was a problem with the grading. Hence, they would want to check the papers.

The Saint Gate allowed this behavior but with one condition. Once the papers were confirmed to have no grading errors, the examinee who wanted to check wouldn't be able to take any examination for the next three years.

Otherwise, if everyone wanted to check it, wouldn't the Saint Gate's staff be busy to death?

"Are you sure you want to look at the exam papers?"

The one responsible today was Qian Hao.

"Mn!"

Jiang Zizhong nodded heavily.

"What's your name?"

Qian Hao asked.

"Jiang Zizhong!"

"Who?"

Qian Hao, who was originally planning to go fetch the papers, started. He then involuntarily surveyed this young man who was 17 to 18 years old. (Could he be that unlucky guy that I graded?)

"You are in third place, what are you checking the papers for?"

Qian Hao was speechless.

"I ought to get full marks." Jiang Zizhong bluntly spoke, "I have this confidence!"

"Child, the world is very vast. You should understand the logic that there's always a better human and a taller mountain out there."

Qian Hao sincerely persuaded him.

"I just want to know why I'm not the top scorer?"

Jiang Zizhong persisted.

"If there was no Zhou Wenbin and Li Ziqi, you would be the one with full marks. But when compared to them, you are a shade inferior."

Qian Hao sighed/ "Let me tell you something. I was the one who graded your papers."

"Many thanks, Teacher!"

Jiang Zizhong started. After that, he hurriedly bowed.

As someone from a clan of great teachers, he understood that if it wasn't for his identity, Qian Hao wouldn't have said so much. Moreover, Qian Hao definitely wouldn't lie to him.

Jiang Zizhong was also an intelligent guy. Earlier, he had been fuelled by his emotions. But after calming down, he had more or less guessed the reason.

“Is the spirit rune I drew at the end not good enough?”

Only the last question would cause a difference in who was the top-scorer.

“Zhou Wenbin drew a sixth-level spirit rune and as for Li Ziqi, her spirit rune was no longer a spirit rune. It was more like a work of art.”

Qian Hao spoke truthfully, “Do you understand my meaning?”

“I was the one who made a mistake. I shouldn’t have handed in my papers earlier in advance.”

Jiang Zizhong felt regret.

Qian Hao hesitated, but he still decided to tell Jiang Zizhong that the problem wasn’t about time. If not, Jiang Zizhong might misunderstand and assume that he was at the same level as Li Ziqi.

This mistaken judgment might possibly harm him.

“From what I know, Li Ziqi handed in her papers 30 minutes in advance.”

“Huh? Impossible!”

Jiang Zizhong instinctively shook his head. “I waited for her at the school’s entrance. She came out later than me.”

“She should have gone to the sports field to view the environment for the martial segment!”

Qian Hao sighed. From this point alone, he could tell that Jiang Zizhong was not as comprehensive in his thoughts as compared to Li Ziqi.

“...”

Jiang Zizhong fell silent. After that, he bowed to Qian Hao before turning around to leave. But his footsteps now displayed a waning enthusiasm.

Qian Hao had wanted to tell him that his answers weren’t as creative as Li Ziqi’s, but when he saw Jiang Zizhong’s appearance, he didn’t dare to say anything more.

What if this little fellow became autistic from the psychological impact and actually failed the 1-star examination because of this?

“Jiang Zizhong, there’s still the lecture segment and martial arts segment. You have not lost yet, please do not give up!”

After Qian Hao finished speaking, Priceless Advice activated.

A moment after hearing it, Jiang Zizhong became encouraged.

(That’s right, I can still fight! I will definitely crush the dog head of Li Ziqi.)

...

Zhou Wenbin was very confident in his results and didn’t want to join the queue too early. Hence, he only went to the Golden Cherry Academy after he did a mock lecture in the guest room.

“I was really too cautious!”

Zhou Wenbin sighed ruefully.

After the written exam, it was the lecturing segment. He would definitely win for sure this time.

As the beloved great grandson of Secondary Saint Zhou, just this title alone was enough to make plenty of teachers and students come to his lecture.

A 300-pax classroom most probably wasn't sufficient to contain everyone.

“Sadly, it's impossible for Sun Mo to come and hear my lecture!”

Zhou Wenbin felt very regretful. If Sun Mo came to his lecture, he could ask questions and stump Sun Mo. He would then rise to fame after a single lecture.

After entering the campus, some people would glance over occasionally as they pointed and made comments about him.

Zhou Wenbin was long since used to this. Hence, he still puffed his chest out and maintained the bearing of a great teacher, not feeling any nervousness at all.

“Li Ziqi actually takes first place. Truly, a brilliant teacher produces an outstanding disciple!”

This sentence suddenly drifted into Zhou Wenbin's ears and caused him to frown.

“Hehe, I actually started hearing things?”

Zhou Wenbin kneaded his glabella. He had been working too hard recently and it seemed that he should take good care of his body. But as he moved closer to the announcement board, the number of students increased and the number of discussions also increased. Li Ziqi's name began appearing more and more frequently, and his own name was being used as a foil to enhance Li Ziqi.

Right now, Zhou Wenbin had no way to remain calm anymore. He couldn't help but increase his speed and rush to the scoreboard.

After that, he saw his own ranking.

Number two!

If it was someone else, that person would probably be jumping around with joy like a crazy ape. However, Zhou Wenbin's expression turned ashen as his fists were clenched tight.

“Damn it!”

Zhou Wenbin felt the surrounding gazes suddenly being so piercing and penetrative. He no longer wanted to remain here, hence, he turned to leave.

Bang!

Zhou Wenbin wasn't aware of his surroundings, and his shoulder knocked into a girl behind him. However, he didn't bother with the girl and continued heading forward.

“Oi!”

Pak!

Huang Meibo grabbed Zhou Wenbin's shirt from behind. "You knocked into me!"

"Don't touch me!"

Zhou Wenbin roared in a low voice. He subconsciously waved his hand, wanting to shake off Huang Meibo's hands.

There was no solution to it. Because of his noble status, he had never been treated with violence by another person before.

Pak!

Huang Meibo's hand, which was grabbing onto Zhou Wenbin, immediately exerted force. (You actually still dared to hit me? Hmph! I will break your fingers!)

Zhou Wenbin wasn't a softy either. His expression changed as he began his retaliation.

"Halt!"

A few members of the law enforcement group immediately shouted and rushed over. "If you guys continue to fight, both of your qualifications to continue participating in the examination will be stripped!"

Only after hearing this did the two of them suppress their anger.

Huang Meibo glared at Zhou Wenbin before leaving the area swiftly.

Zhou Wenbin ignored her. He was thinking about how he should completely crush Li Ziqi in the lecturing segment.

(There's no way I will lose again in this round!)

Chapter 995: Giving a Lecture, the Little Sunny Egg Displaying Her Prowess!

The Saint Gate was worried that the intern teachers would be lazy and only simulate the previous examinations for the sake of passing. This wasn't something the Saint Gate was looking for. Hence, the content and pattern of the exams would have a huge change every three years, while small details would be altered every year.

In any case, they only had one target. They definitely couldn't allow the examinees to know the pattern of the exams, and they changed things accordingly.

For example, when Sun Mo took his first test, the scores were tabulated via excellent votes for his lectures. And for this year, it became a system of accumulated points.

5,000 people from the Golden Cherry Academy's high-year, mid-year, and freshmen would be selected, and they majored in different subjects respectively.

The number of freshmen was the highest, reaching a total of 3,000.

Why did they set it this way?

Because from the viewpoints of the members from the judging panel, even if a 1-star great teacher had some achievements in a subject, their level of mastery wouldn't have reached the grandmaster level.

After all, people like Sun Mo belonged to the minority.

It was impossible for a 1-star great teacher to explain things too in-depth. At their level, they should be nurturing their own lecturing style and researching about how to pique the students' interest, so more students would like to hear their lectures.

Freshmen mostly had no idea what subjects they liked at this moment, so it would solely depend on the capabilities of the teachers.

An outstanding great teacher could make a new student feel a great interest in any subject.

This was what success should be about.

Hence, the rule this year was that each student would have three votes worth a point each, and these votes could be cast for the examinees they liked.

Naturally, they could cast all three votes for the same examinee too.

So, it would really depend on the individual's capabilities.

After that, there were 1,000 great teachers acting as the final line. They would also have three votes each, but it was much more difficult for an examinee to gain their approval.

...

"Whose lecture are you preparing to attend?"

Qian Hao clasped his hands in greeting after he saw Wang Song.

"Li Ziqi, I guess? After all, her teacher is Sun Mo. I also want to know what her standard is in teaching students. What about you?" said Wang Song.

Wang Song majored in the study of spirit runes, so he definitely would choose an examinee that registered for this. After that, he would stroll around casually for the remaining time.

"Zhou Wenbin. I want to see for myself what's the difference between the scions from great teacher aristocratic clans and ordinary people!" Qian Hao smiled. "Why don't we go together for Zhou Wenbin's lecture?"

This was the benefit of having fame.

Examinees whose fame had resounded loudly before they took the exam would have more attention focused on them. And the majority of people, about 80% to 90% of them, would surely come and take a look out of curiosity.

If Zhou Wenbin could 'retain' these people, the chance of him getting votes would naturally be higher, and he would be able to get more votes.

“Nope, there’s no value in observing a descendant of clans like him. What sort of teaching resources have they enjoyed since young? Ordinary people would have no way to compare with them. And since they dared to come for the examination, they naturally won’t screw up. So rather than listening to his lecture, I might as well listen to Secondary Saint Zhou’s lecture directly.”

Wang Song’s lips twitched.

“That’s true!”

Qian Hao changed his mind. “Oh right, I heard that Li Ziqi is the favorite princess of the Great Tang Emperor and she is very beautiful”

Qian Hao had no shameless thoughts in his mind; he was purely curious.

“Wouldn’t we know once we head over to take a look?”

Wang Song chortled. He had long since wanted to know if this girl, who had obtained full marks in the written exam, was someone with both talent and beauty or not.

At the announcement board before the teaching building, the examinees’ lecture rooms and schedules were written there.

“Haha, does someone in the upper-echelons really have beef with Sun Mo? Look, the timing of Li Ziqi and Zhou Wenbin’s lectures is exactly the same.”

Wang Song laughed after he saw this.

Qian Hao sighed.

The great teacher world was like a vanity fair. There were also conflicts between factions. Even if they were not driven by profit, there would also be area discrimination.

For example, great teachers of the north and south always despised each other.

As Li Ziqi’s popularity exploded due to her getting top scores for the first two segments, news regarding her was already made known to everyone.

This was a girl who had been rejected by Secondary Saint Zhou.

Right now, she was just 15 years old and was already here to participate in the great teacher examination. If she passed, it would definitely be extremely face-smacking for Secondary Saint Zhou.

Secondary Saint Zhou might not care about it, but his disciples or other great teachers who wanted to ingratiate themselves with him would surely not give Li Ziqi a chance to do so.

Naturally, there were plenty of Sun Mo’s ‘enemies’ too.

Those who disliked him and viewed him in contempt for being An Xinhui’s fiance or were jealous that he rose too quickly, or those who failed to headhunt him, would want him to suffer...

Sun Mo had too many reasons to be targeted and as his student, Li Ziqi would be affected as well.

Making Li Ziqi have the same lecture time slot with Zhou Wenbin was just a minor trick, but this was extremely good to disgust people with.

One must know that an examinee had to have three lectures within five days, and they could only pass this segment if they scored 500 points or more. If they shared the same time slot with a genius, a portion of the audience would definitely be drawn away.

The two of them felt that Li Ziqi's current situation wouldn't be too optimistic, but when they finally located her classroom, they discovered that their expectations were completely wrong.

The 300-pax classroom was already full. There were even some students standing outside in the corridor.

"What the hell?"

The two of them didn't understand.

If Sun Mo saw this scene, he would calmly say a sentence. "Adults, you guys simply don't understand the hearts of young people."

If Secondary Saint Zhou was the one giving a lecture, the number of people would definitely be overwhelming, and the classroom would be filled to the brim. But his great grandson? Things were different then. Moreover, Zhou Wenbin had been suppressed by Li Ziqi for the first two segments and was a tier inferior.

Look at Li Ziqi.

She was Sun Mo's eldest disciple.

Who was Sun Mo?

He was the most popular rising superstar last year and this year.

God Hands, a three-time champion, One-Vote Sun, #1 ranker of the Great Teachers Hero Rankings, Black Doggy Sun, skilled in both writing and painting, near-ancestor-level spirit runist, grandmaster-level spirit controller, botany grandmaster, fiance of An Xinhui who was #5 on the Devastating Beauty Rankings...

As his eldest disciple, Li Ziqi would naturally be the focus of attention.

Naturally, her identity wasn't low either. She was a princess of the Great Tang Empire, a genius young girl that possessed Retentive Memory. The most important thing was that she was also beautiful.

Boys naturally would covet the bodies of girls. No, they would admire beautiful girls. This was just natural.

It would then be questionable if they ignored Li Ziqi and chose to attend Zhou Wenbin's lecture.

"There are indeed many people, but whether she can convince them and make them vote for her would be the crux."

Liu Fan stood in the corridor with a heavy expression. He admired this young girl very much and also hoped that she could break the record.

There was only a little time left before 10 o'clock.

Li Ziqi's figure appeared in the corridor. She took out her pocket watch and looked at it before adjusting the pacing of her footsteps according to the time she had left.

She wanted to enter the classroom the moment the bell rang.

Dang!

The first bell chimes rang out.

Li Ziqi drew a deep breath, and a silver light suddenly appeared beneath her feet. It looked like moonlight had cascaded down.

She cast Composed Calm on herself!

Her original feelings of nervousness immediately calmed down.

"So outstanding?"

There were other examinees in this corridor. When they saw such a scene, they immediately felt so nervous that they drooled. It was basically impossible for one not to be nervous.

But Li Ziqi was not nervous at all.

Well, if one had many great teacher halos, they could really do anything their heart desired.

In the crowd, Liu Fan involuntarily raised his opinion of Li Ziqi when he saw this scene.

A person's results didn't only depend on their intelligence, but also on their ability to perform perfectly under pressure. During the first segment, if Li Ziqi had used Composed Calm, she would surely have been more at ease compared to the others. However, she hadn't done so then.

This was a mark of her confidence.

Li Ziqi bowed to those people waiting in the corridor to thank them for their support. She only entered the classroom after that. When she stood on the rostrum, she bowed once again to express her thanks.

"Many thanks to all the senior great teachers that have come to listen to a lecture conducted by the junior me. I also want to thank all the students here for not looking at me with contempt and scorn because of my age."

Li Ziqi's opening line instantly drew many likes.

She had gained most of the good will of the audience.

Naturally, it was fine even if she didn't say anything because she was simply too attractive.

Beautiful girls would always gain preferential treatment.

In the modern era, if the broadcast hosts and streamers were beautiful, it didn't matter even if they had no other talents. They just needed to act coy and interact with their audience normally, and their popularity would shoot up the roof. They would be able to get so many donations until their hands grew soft.

How beautiful was Li Ziqi?

Other than her chest being too small, she was essentially perfect in other aspects. This was especially so for her elegant and noble aura. With it, she could easily crush any other females.

Right now, the guys on the scene only had one thought in their minds. And that was even if Li Ziqi didn't do a good job in her lecture, their trip here wouldn't be a waste because they had seen her beauty.

"Even if her lecture isn't good, I should still cast a vote for encouragement purposes, right?"

Some guys were whispering and urging their friends at the side.

Just like the saying, regardless of the era or difference in countries, simps would always exist.

"Being handsome or beautiful truly makes one have an overwhelming advantage."

Wang Song sighed as his appearance was quite ugly.

"Yeah, she belongs to the type that could be nurtured into a celebrity great teacher. If her standard was a little higher, she could even become the 'signboard' of a school."

Qian Hao agreed.

Even if Li Ziqi's teaching standard was ordinary, her great teacher path would be much smoother compared to other great teachers of similar talent.

(Don't pay attention to my looks, please admire my talent instead!)

After Li Ziqi said this in her heart, she smiled and started giving the first lecture of her life.

"Today, I will mainly be talking about the study of spirit runes. In that case, what are spirit runes?"

Li Ziqi didn't intend for this to be a question, so she answered it herself.

"To the vast majority of people, spirit runes can be used to assist their cultivation. For example, Spirit Gathering Runes. Another example is attacking-type spirit runes, which can be used for combat. However, all of these understandings are one-sided as they make us feel that spirit runes are just tools. It made us ignore the true importance of this subject."

Li Ziqi spoke frankly with insurance.

"The study of spirit runes is actually knowledge that can change the world."

The students listened happily. After all, Li Ziqi's voice was very pleasant to hear. But the great teachers around were frowning.

These words sounded a little empty like a fantasy!

"Everyone uses Spirit Gathering Runes to gather spirit qi to aid them in cultivation. But have you guys ever thought about how they could gather spirit qi?"

"People would use Water Gathering Runes to gather water, Ignition Runes to illuminate and ignite things. However, when everyone uses spirit runes to make their lives more convenient, have they ever asked why a simple diagram could produce such effects?"

“Why?”

A freshman curiously shouted out.

“Because it is a language that can influence the law of the world.”

After Li Ziqi spoke, she pasted a spirit rune onto the blackboard. This was the lesson plan she had prepared beforehand.

The freshmen didn't understand this, but those high-year students and great teachers who had learned spirit runes before all exclaimed in shock.

(This... Is this also a spirit rune? Do you think that I'm a fool who knows nothing?)

Chapter 996: A Flower Amongst Great Teachers, Devastating Beauty!

What was hung up on the wall was a Spirit Gathering Rune.

However, it wasn't the type that was commonly seen in the Nine Provinces, but looked more like a diagram that was hard to describe and very strange. However, it still gave off a different kind of beauty.

It looked in fact just like a circuit board. However, just like how it was when Picasso's painting had been introduced to the world, people would definitely feel astonished when they saw it for the first time.

Regardless of whether it was good or not, one had to admit that this thing surpassed normal human comprehension.

Sun Mo was unable to appreciate whether Picasso's painting was good or not, but the flow and setup of a circuit board could be described as a work of art to some engineering students.

Even people like Sun Mo who knew nothing about it would feel that this thing had a technological sense of beauty. It would be understandable even if it was sold at a slightly higher price.

Hence, it'd be strange if the country bumpkins in the Nine Provinces, who had never seen light bulbs and filaments before, weren't stunned and astonished by a circuit board.

“This is a spirit rune too?”

A new student asked.

“Yes!”

The moment Li Ziqi said this, a great teacher retorted subconsciously.

“That's impossible. This diagram is not normal, how can it be activated?”

After the great teacher said that, he felt that he had been too aggressive and thus felt a little ashamed since one shouldn't treat a 15-year-old girl this way.

“I can activate it on the spot. But can you guys deduce what spirit rune this is?”

Li Ziqi wasn't angry but continued to maintain a gentle attitude.

No one said a word.

“Thankfully I didn’t go in. Otherwise, I’d die from awkwardness.”

Wang Song felt a lingering fear.

“That’s right!”

Qian Hao was gloating a little. It was because the great teachers in the lecture theater were all being looked at by the students around them, clearly waiting for their answer.

But who could understand this spirit rune?

Therefore, all of them felt very awkward as if they were sitting on pins and needles.

These people represented her marks, so Li Ziqi would naturally not offend them. Therefore, she immediately spoke up to get the students’ attention back.

“This is a Spirit Gathering Rune!”

After Li Ziqi said this, she took down the spirit rune and tore it.

Buzz!

This spirit rune was like a fire that was thrown into the plains, causing all the spirit qi nearby to gather over.

Gradually, a small spiral formed and then gradually grew bigger.

The new students didn’t understand, but the teachers and students who knew about this subject were stunned.

(This... Isn’t this too unbelievable? And it seems that its effect is quite strong?)

The spirit qi in the lecture theater instantly became stronger, making everyone feel like a fish in spring water, feeling physically and mentally exhilarated.

“Teacher was right. Something simple and easy to understand can bring about the greatest blow to the audience.”

Li Ziqi didn’t change her expression as she observed the students’ expressions. However, she secretly heaved a sigh of relief inside.

This spirit rune was one that the little sunny egg had drawn herself. However, the source was from Sun Mo.

Given Sun Mo’s current level, he was standing at the forefront of the study of spirit runes. There were too few aspects that he could learn from, so he could only walk his own path.

This circuit board Spirit Gathering Rune was a small achievement he had made from his current research.

When Li Ziqi asked Sun Mo about what content she should teach, Sun Mo didn’t give her an outright answer but instead taught her some tips.

Therefore, there was the line she had said earlier.

He had also shared some sly moves, such as using peak-grade spirit runes to gather spirit qi and create a commotion.

Humans liked to participate in commotions. Those great teachers might be able to hold it in, but the students would definitely come over.

This battle tactic succeeded. Several students started to gather over from other lecture theaters when they heard the commotion.

“Everyone has seen it now. The study of spirit runes is a language that can influence the world. Grasping it will allow one to call upon the wind and the rain, moving mountains and filling up the seas.”

Li Ziqi used an exaggerated explanation. After all, youngsters, especially boys, liked great power.

The new students’ interests were piqued.

The great teachers weren’t influenced as easily.

“Language? May I ask what you mean by that?”

Liu Fan, who was along the corridor, found it troublesome to listen from outside and entered the lecture theater directly from the back door.

With him doing that, the other great teachers followed suit.

“The language I’m referring to is a concept on a wider view and not like the concepts of the Nine Provinces language, Yue Province language, or the ancient language.”

Li Ziqi explained.

“It is a language used in the study of spirit runes.”

Even a lot of great teachers were confused by this, let alone the students.

“Can you explain it in greater detail?”

Liu Fan asked.

Li Ziqi thought to herself. (Dear examiner, you’re really supportive!)

Li Ziqi secretly thanked Liu Fan in her heart before starting to explain things.

“In the past, there should have been many types of spirit runes. However, as time passed, what remained was the most convenient and easiest to learn. After all, such spirit runes would be passed down the most easily.”

Li Ziqi’s words made many great teachers nod.

Deep and profound knowledge would gradually disappear in the long river of history. It was because the world comprised more ordinary people than extraordinary ones.

Things that ordinary people were unable to grasp would naturally die out.

“I don’t know if you guys noticed it, but the prowess of the spirit runes we learned isn’t the strongest. It’s a far cry from some ancient spirit runes of a similar genre. However, in comparison, they are easier to draw.”

Li Ziqi continued to raise examples using the Spirit Gathering Rune.

It was because this was the most commonly seen spirit rune that all cultivators had used before. Therefore, it was a greater representative indicator.

“These spirit runes are like many different types of languages. It’s like how the same thing can be expressed using the Nine Provinces language, 12 types of tribal languages, or even the language of the villagers from the mountains in Yue Province.”

“Take for example, the words ‘kill you!’”

Everyone nodded subconsciously. This was true.

“Since spirit runes can gather spirit qi, condense water and start up fire, then they can naturally be used to do some things that are beyond human imagination.”

“There are no limits to humans’ imagination, meaning that there are no limits to the types and prowess of spirit runes.”

...

Li Ziqi’s teaching style was more light-hearted because she knew that she was young. Even if she put on a solemn front, she wouldn’t come off as awe-inspiring. Therefore, she might as well go the adorable route.

However, at a time like this, no one could care about admiring Li Ziqi’s adorableness. All of them were immersed in her teaching.

The great teachers like Liu Fan were all listening attentively.

Even though their memories were extremely good, being able to remember all the content of the class, they still felt extremely regretful for not having brought tools to take notes.

It was a disrespect to a good teacher for them to not be taking notes in class.

“Can you list an example?”

Someone asked.

“My teacher, Sun Mo, managed to let spring come upon withered trees with the usage of spirit runes, causing the withered peach blossom forest in the Dragon Subduing Academy to bloom in winter, sending the fragrance of peach blossoms throughout the school.”

When Li Ziqi said this, she was very proud.

Some students hadn’t heard of this matter before, hence, they were instantly surprised when Li Ziqi mentioned this.

Bringing spring upon withered trees!

Just the thought of it sounded really amazing. Moreover, this was something that was done in the Dragon Subduing Academy, one of the Nine Greats and the holy ground of the barbarians.

“To think that Great Teacher Sun is so amazing?”

In a short period, several people contributed favorable impression points to Sun Mo.

“Teacher Li, please continue!”

Liu Fan cupped his hands together, wanting to continue to listen to the class.

“Teacher Liu, there’s a limited time in which I can teach. We can’t keep trying to go deeper into this problem as the new students might not be able to understand it. We need to be considerate toward them.” Li Ziqi apologized. “But if you wish to hear more, we can talk more about it in private.”

“En, then I’ll wait until you’re done with the examination!”

Liu Fan nodded.

When the students heard this, they were instantly surprised. They then looked at the stars on Liu Fan’s teacher attire. There were five stars...

He couldn’t be here to give her support, could he?

A minority of the people with a dark mindset suddenly thought of this.

However, the great teachers present understood that the content Li Ziqi was speaking about was worthy of being researched deeper into.

“The study of spirit runes is a subject that has no limits!”

Li Ziqi took out another spirit rune and showed it to everyone. It was still one in the form of a circuit board. She then tore it up to activate it.

Crackle!

Amidst electricity flashes, many lightning balls the size of a fist circled around Li Ziqi.

“It can attack and defend, an indispensable equipment for travel and killing.”

Li Ziqi introduced, “These lightning balls will automatically shoot out toward the enemies when they get close to you due to static electricity. There’s no need for you to worry at all.”

“When you walk in the wilderness, this is the best means to avoid getting hit by a sneak attack.”

A lesson must be interesting.

To youngsters, they wouldn’t understand it when you talked about languages. They didn’t care about them either. However, when one started to describe the prowess of spirit runes, everyone would start to pay attention.

After all, who wouldn’t want to get stronger and have better equipment?

“Right now, I’ll talk about the structure of this spirit rune. As long as you learn it, you guys will be able to draw it too.”

Li Ziqi’s words caused all the great teachers’ ears to perk up.

The drawing of spirit runes must be done in a single stroke to assure the smooth flow of spirit qi. How to start the first stroke as well as the rest of the order was important.

Li Ziqi’s explanation of this spirit rune was equivalent to her teaching it to everyone.

Usually, when people got hold of a rare spirit rune, they’d try to hide it for fear that others would find out about it.

But now, Li Ziqi was scarily generous.

“Such a prodigy!”

Wang Song exclaimed and then perked his ears even more.

He didn’t want to miss out on a single word.

(I’m definitely learning this spirit rune.)

The live lecture reached great momentum.

Even though several tens of people were gathered along the corridor outside the lecture theater, all of them were silent and listening attentively.

If someone were to mumble softly, others would throw them a reproachful gaze to stop them.

Li Ziqi estimated the time and when the bell was about to ring, she ended the class in good timing.

“For the next lesson, I’ll be talking about two other new spirit runes. I hope that everyone can come and show support.”

Li Ziqi smiled.

Sssss!

Hearing this, the great teachers gasped.

(Are you guys bringing out all your resources just so that you can win? To think that Sun Mo is willing to go this far. If I were in their shoes, I wouldn’t teach such spirit runes to others.)

“Aren’t you afraid that Teacher Sun would punish you later on for being so ‘generous’?”

Liu Fan smiled and asked. He was wondering if Li Ziqi had taken things into her own hand in order to win against Zhou Wenbin.

“He won’t. Teacher said that only with more people learning spirit runes would the world’s profoundness be uncovered faster. Only then will humans be able to reach the top of the world, finding solutions to resolve war, hunger, hatred and vengeance, hardships, and other problems!”

Li Ziqi’s expression was serious and filled with admiration.

Her teacher was a great man!

Splash! Splash!

Hearing this, all the great teachers in the lecture theater stood up, wearing solemn expressions.

“Teacher Sun is really a role model for all of us!”

Liu Fan spoke up.

He used a more respectable address for Sun Mo. This showed that in his heart, he had recognized Sun Mo’s status in the study of spirit runes as well as in terms of his character.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Liu Fan+500. Friendly (810/1,000).

All the students were shocked, not understanding what was going on with these great teachers. However, since all the teachers had stood up, they didn’t dare to remain seated either.

Therefore, all of them stood up. They then felt greater curiosity and awe toward Teacher Sun, Sun Mo.

The great teachers were all surprised by Sun Mo’s thoughts and also envied him for having a good student like Li Ziqi. This was a 1-star great teacher examination that would determine one’s career path. Yet, she still kept on bringing attention to her teacher.

Some great teachers from the Golden Cherry Academy started to worry if there’d be examinees who’d be headhunted by Sun Mo after this examination.

The possibility of this happening was very high.. They must inform their headmaster to make early preparations.

Chapter 997: Give Others A Chance to Live, Please?

Zhou Wenbin’s lecture theater was on the third floor, being one floor away from Li Ziqi’s.

For the entire class of 50 minutes, Zhou Wenbin’s performance could be said to be perfect.

“It must be 99 points at least, right?”

When the bell signaling the end of the class rang out, Zhou Wenbin heaved a sigh of relief.

Although teachers and students had come and left during the class, the room remained at full capacity. After all, the people waiting outside the corridors had been ready to fill up the vacancies at any moment.

“Some of them must have come only because of my ties with my great-grandfather. However, being able to use interesting content and personal charm to let them stay was my capabilities.”

It was impossible for Zhou Wenbin to feel unhappy.

With there being so many people, even if only two-thirds of them voted for him, the accumulated points would be quite big. Moreover, there'd surely be even more teachers and students coming for the next two lessons.

He then left the school gates, got on his horse carriage, and returned to the manor.

Zhou Wenbin had decided to give himself a short break.

"An opponent like Li Ziqi isn't worthy of me going all out. I have yet to use my trump card."

Zhou Wenbin started humming.

However, the old butler came looking for him in less than half an hour after he had arrived home.

"Young Master, something bad has happened."

The old butler informed Zhou Wenbin of the grandeur of Li Ziqi's class. He hadn't intentionally collected information on the opponents, but many people wanted to curry favor with the Zhou Clan and thus provided him with the necessary information.

Zhou Wenbin, who had been planning to head out to enjoy the scenery after he had taken his bath, was stunned.

"A new spirit rune? A language? What rubbish is that?"

Zhou Wenbin was angry. "Isn't this just trying to curry up to others by saying impressive things?"

"Regardless of what it is, her accumulated points will only be more than Young Master's and not less!"

The old butler was very worried. If Young Master were to lose, how would their clan head be able to hold his head up high?

Zhou Wenbin's countenance turned grim.

He had initially thought that he'd be able to win this round for sure, but things turned out in this manner. It seemed that he could only make a big move now. Moreover, he had to make modifications to the content and method of his teachings.

With that, Zhou Wenbin was no longer in any mood to go out to play. For his clan's honor, he entered the study and started to simulate his next class's lecture.

...

"Eldest Martial Sister, congratulations on clinching another round!"

During lunch, Lu Zhiruo offered her congratulations with tea in place of wine.

"It's not the time for celebration yet," said Li Ziqi, trying not to underestimate her opponents.

"Don't worry, you're sure to win," Tantai Yutang chuckled.

He hadn't been doing nothing over the past few days. He had looked for a group of people at hotels and teahouses to spread the news of Li Ziqi's acts fervently. He especially focused on describing her looks as well as her identity as the Great Tang's princess.

In these times, princesses were very valuable, especially one like her who was doted on by the emperor. Some wealthy people and nobles wouldn't be able to see her in normal situations. Therefore, now that they had the chance, they naturally wanted to go and admire her.

"There's no need to use those tricks. I'll still be able to win against him."

Li Ziqi furrowed her beautiful brows.

"Do you think that the people from the Zhou Clan are so honest? Some of the people I looked for had accepted the job from the Zhou Clan to boast about him."

Tantai Yutang thought to himself. (You guys are too naive. You haven't seen society's dark side before.)

As long as Secondary Saint Zhou wasn't dead, Zhou Wenbin's accumulated marks would be high. It was because those great teachers would at least cast him a vote out of friendly ties.

This was just the way of the world.

"Your starting point is a lot lower than his from the start, so using a little trick is not a big deal."

Qin Yaoguang felt the same too. They should use the necessary means to achieve their goals.

"Isn't this too unfair?"

Xianyu Wei was stunned.

"Hehe, this is fairness."

Qin Yaoguang took a sip of porridge. "You think that this is a competition between two people, but it's actually a competition between two clans. Secondary Saint Zhou's accumulated achievements will benefit his descendants. Why is that unacceptable? If you're capable, then let your father be a secondary saint too!

"To put it more harshly, if Ziqi wasn't Teacher's student, she'd have been taken down long ago. Look at most of the other examinees. It's normal for them to only have 20 or 30 people attending their classes."

Xianyu Wei was a naive girl from the plains and hadn't been through the harshness of society. Hence, she was stunned. She felt that her perspective of the world had crumbled.

"Teacher, is that really the case?"

Xianyu Wei looked toward Sun Mo who was sitting at the power seat.

"Most of the time, fairness is only present when both parties have similar status. That fairness itself is a regulation to decide what is fair and what isn't. However, with regulation, there'd be people who had decided it. What do you think of these people then?"

When Sun Mo said these, he felt complicated emotions.

The Forbidden City was a treasure to the Chinese. It was a miraculous infrastructure that bore the weight of history and civilization and required to be protected. Even a single brick was considered a historical relic.

In the past, it belonged to the generations of emperors. When miscellaneous people got close to the city walls, they'd be shot down and killed by the guards. However, it now belonged to everyone.

One only had to pay for an entrance ticket to be able to go in and take a look inside. Even an emperor from the last dynasty would have to pay money to enter his own home.

Of course, one would also have to observe all sorts of rules. Otherwise, if any relic was damaged, they'd have to go to jail.

Many people thought that it'd be fair to break the rules of the old society. However, one day, everyone suddenly discovered that some people could drive their Benz in when the palace was closed for the day.

Did those wheels press down on the Forbidden City's tiles that had been through the wind and rain across several centuries of history?

No,

It pressed down on the commoners' faces!

Xianyu Wei was stunned.

"Alright, let's stop discussing such a topic." Sun Mo got up. "Ziqi, after you're done eating, come to my bedroom. I'll teach you more tips."

Sun Mo wasn't really concerned about winning or losing. Therefore, he allowed the little sunny egg to have free rein. But now, he suddenly felt displeased.

(So what if you're a secondary saint? Let this great teacher's eldest disciple crush your great-grandson first.)

It was true that Ziqi had started off with a great disadvantage from the start of this competition.

If it wasn't because she was outstanding enough, the world would be filled with voices that praised and boasted about how Secondary Saint Zhou had an outstanding great-grandson.

"Teacher, can I go and listen as well?"

Lu Zhiruo raised her hand.

"Don't be making trouble!"

Jiang Leng advised.

"Oh!"

The papaya girl knew that she had spoken out of place and quickly lowered her head.

"It doesn't matter. Anyone who wishes to sit in can just come."

Sun Mo didn't mind. They were all his disciples after all, so the stronger they got, the better.

However, everyone knew that this was a critical period for their eldest martial sister and thus they didn't join the lesson, leaving her time to be alone with their teacher.

Neither Sun Mo nor Li Ziqi came out for the entire afternoon and night. They even had their dinner in the guest room.

The second day came.

Li Ziqi's class was still scheduled at 10 a.m.

This time around, she had benefited because of Zhou Wenbin.

Under normal situations, the latter it was, the worse off everyone's condition would be. This was especially so for the teachers and students. They'd be mentally fatigued after listening to one entire day of classes.

Moreover, there was also a high possibility that they had cast the votes long ago. No matter how well the people at the back taught, they'd benefit less.

The judges were the ones to decide the timing in which the examinees would be teaching their classes. They wouldn't let Zhou Wenbin cheat, but there'd be no issue with giving him the convenience of getting him a suitable time slot.

Those people who wished to sabotage Sun Mo would naturally place Li Ziqi and Zhou Wenbin at the same time slot in order to deal her a blow.

The bell rang and Li Ziqi walked up to the rostrum, getting into the topic.

"Today, we'll be talking about the Black Tortoise Spirit Rune!"

Li Ziqi hung up a spirit rune on the blackboard. "Everyone only has one life, and it'd be impossible to restart if you were to die. Therefore, when going out in the world and exploring the Darkness Continent, life-saving measures become a necessity."

Looking at that 'circuit board', all the students' interest was piqued.

"Teacher's battle tactic is really spot-on."

Li Ziqi threw a glance at everyone's expression and felt even more confident. She started teaching.

Sun Mo had said that in order to get more votes, she'd have to convince both the students and the great teachers at the same time.

The former craved to get stronger, hoping to get immediate improvements after attending the class. Therefore, she took out the Black Tortoise Spirit Rune and the Flame Explosion Spirit Rune to entice them.

At the same time, she continued to take the cute and amicable route, getting them to like her and become her fan.

The great teachers were further split into two groups.

The first group was those who were interested in spirit runes. After finding out about the content of her class the day before, they'd definitely come.

Therefore, she had to use a topic that had some depth to entice those great teachers with high star-level to ask questions.

Not only would she be able to get their recognition this way, but she could also give herself an imposing image in the students' hearts. After all, an examinee who could have a discussion with high star-level great teachers must be very amazing.

The other group was those who didn't practice spirit runes and were here to join the excitement.

In order to convince them, she'd have to use new concepts, new things, or content that was helpful to them as well.

The great teachers might not care for spirit runes like the Black Tortoise Spirit Rune and the Flame Explosion Spirit Rune, but they'd definitely care about the Ancient Massaging Spirit Rune.

...

After she was done talking about the two spirit runes, most people felt satisfied.

Li Ziqi looked around and saw that Tong Xugao wasn't around and felt a little disappointed.

She had tried to find out from others and knew that he was a great teacher that had the highest level of achievement in spirit runes amongst all the judges.

Since that was the case, she could only skip the discussion phase and continue on to the next part.

Therefore, Li Ziqi hung another spirit rune onto the wall.

"Can everyone guess what spirit rune this is?"

Li Ziqi smiled. "I dare say that it is an existence that can overturn the common sense of the spirit rune world."

She spoke with an impressive tone, but no one retorted. Even those great teachers were thinking about it.

"Announce the answer. No one can guess it!"

Liu Fan urged. Right now, this 5-stars great teacher wasn't restrained at all.

"This is an Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands Spirit Rune."

Li Ziqi turned her head slightly, appearing very cheeky. "Of course, our Central Province Academy's students like to call it the God Hands Spirit Rune."

"This means that God Hands can be performed when it's used!"

Hua!

A commotion broke out.

Sun Mo's greatest reputation wasn't Three-time Champion Sun but God Hands. It was said that this was a miraculous technique that could even change a person's appearance.

As for fixing broken bones and recovery within 15 minutes, they'd just be child's play.

Everyone felt that this technique would definitely be hard to learn. (Yet you're telling me now that it can be done with this spirit rune? This feels like a big scam!)

"Then please allow me to pick a student here to display the effect of this spirit rune. May I ask who has recently experienced chaotic energy channels? Or did anyone hurt their bones before?"

Li Ziqi had planned on preparing a lame person, but such unaffiliated people wouldn't be allowed to enter the school.

As the little sunny egg didn't have Divine Sight, she couldn't pick someone by herself. She could only ask. In terms of impressiveness, it was a lot weaker compared to Sun Mo.

Everyone's attention was attracted by Li Ziqi.. No one had noticed that the 7-stars great teacher Tong Xugao had appeared along the corridor.

Chapter 998: Exceptional Showcase

"If you play with fire, you'll eventually get burned."

No professional athlete could avoid injuries. To cultivators, the same thing applied. Many people had become crippled from over-cultivating.

Therefore, when Li Ziqi's words ended, one-third of the students in the lecture theater raised their hands.

"There are too many people here. I'd like to ask the students who have lighter injuries to give up this chance to others."

Li Ziqi proposed.

"This isn't fair!"

Some students complained, instantly receiving the agreement from quite a number of people.

Given Sun Mo's current status, most people could hardly pay for his service no matter how much they could offer. Hence, the students knew that they might not be able to enjoy God Hands in their lifetime.

Since there was an opportunity to do that now, they'd naturally not wish to miss out on it.

"After the examination ends, I'll have a lucky draw and pick ten lucky students to be gifted with ten God Hands Spirit Runes. Therefore, please give this chance to someone who needs the help more."

Li Ziqi repeated.

The students felt satisfied. At least, they'd still have a chance. However, when these words landed in the ears of the great teachers who were used to the vicious ways of society, they held a completely different meaning.

"This trick is really good!"

Wang Song teased.

“That’s right. Giving this favor would raise the favorable impression people have toward her tremendously. Those who are thankful would definitely vote for her.”

Qian Hao nodded.

“That’s not all. Giving away spirit runes will build up Sun Mo’s reputation and the Central Province Academy’s as well. Some students and teachers might even travel long distances to seek to be enrolled there.”

Wang Song thought deeper into this.

The great teachers who had a problem with their bodies would definitely head to Jinling to look for Sun Mo. If Sun Mo could cure them, his reputation would definitely increase tremendously.

In these times, great teachers who wanted to be famous across the Nine Provinces must not only have talent, but also need to have meritorious achievements. If Sun Mo healed a lot of great teachers, then even the great teachers who enjoyed great power and status wouldn’t dare to play tricks on him or pressurize him.

Fame was something good.

Take someone like Hai Rui for example. Even if he hated his political enemies to the extent that he wanted them dead, he wouldn’t dare to go too far when dealing with them. Otherwise, in the eyes of the citizens, he’d be considered a treacherous official.

(You’re saying that you’re a good guy?)

(Then why do you need to deal with Hai Qingtian?)

“I envy Sun Mo for having such a student who doesn’t even forget about spreading his name even during the examination.”

Qian Hao felt envious.

...

A guy had become the lucky one and got chosen.

“I’m Ruan Chenggong. When I strived to attain a breakthrough three months ago, I was too anxious for success, and it led to me losing control over my spirit qi. This damaged my heart, lungs, and energy channels. The doctor says that I’ll have to recuperate for at least two years.”

Ruan Chenggong explained his situation, looking dejected.

“En, please come over here!”

After Ruan Chenggong went up to the rostrum, Li Ziqi did a brief check of his situation and then tore up the spirit rune.

Boom!

Under several hundred pairs of gazes, a genie condensed into form.

Of course, as it wasn't summoned by a cultivator, it didn't have any intelligence. It only had a stone-like expression and didn't flaunt its muscles.

However, to everyone, this was already very amazing.

Tong Xugao looked surprised, wanting to get a closer look, but there were too many people.

The genie's hands rested on Ruan Chenggong's body. As it didn't know how to check where the problem was, it'd perform the Circulation Technique and give a full-body massage.

Ruan Chenggong felt a little nervous to suddenly see such a muscular genie. However, when the genie's hands rested on his body, his gaze went into a bit of a daze.

"Is... this the embrace of a mother? It feels so warm!"

Ever since he got injured, his body often felt piercing pain and soreness. But now, they were like weasels that were chased away by his mother with a wooden stick.

He could finally get a good sleep!

"It's so comfortable that he has fallen asleep?"

"That's definitely the case! He is already sleep-talking and calling for his mother!"

"Turns out that he's a mommy boy!"

The students started commenting amongst themselves, but the focus was still on the genie. Just as they were making guesses on how the effect was, they saw Ruan Chenggong's body trembling and he started to achieve a breakthrough.

Three months ago, he had failed.

Now, as the genie helped him to heal his energy channels and stimulate the potential in his body, he entered a breakthrough condition once again.

"Wake up!"

Li Ziqi called out at Ruan Chenggong, but he was immersed in the massage and couldn't pull himself out of it.

Then, everyone saw that Ruan Chenggong just lay there without doing anything and then ended up leveling up.

The lecture theater was suddenly deadly silent.

It was because the effect of this spirit rune was too domineering.

"That isn't right. This is the effect of God Hands and it isn't considered a spirit rune."

"But this God Hands is performed through a spirit rune!"

"Cool! This is too cool!"

As the discussions went on, thunderous applause rang out.

The students with healthy bodies were also planning to join Li Ziqi's lucky draw now. This thing was amazing. Even if they didn't use it themselves, they'd be able to sell it for a large sum of money.

Some anxious people started to raise questions.

Li Ziqi lowered both hands to gesture to everyone to be quiet.

"Everyone, please don't keep your attention on this genie. If you guys really want to experience it, please attend my teacher's Medical Cultivation classes.

"This is a subject started by my teacher. It's currently well-known throughout the whole of Jinling. Some people would even sit in the lecture theater for a night in order to attend the class."

Li Ziqi let out a soft laugh. "Let's return to the spirit runes. The experiment earlier is to tell everyone that the usage of spirit runes we know of right now is still so miniscule. The people from the Nine Provinces haven't even understood 10% of its profoundness."

The students were still discussing away in the lecture theater, the topics focusing on the genie.

There was no helping it. The little sunny egg had underestimated the attractiveness of the ancient massaging technique.

"This is bad. The main topic has been obscured."

Li Ziqi secretly thought that this was trouble and was contemplating on how to pull everyone's attention back. Then she heard a voice ringing out.

"Can you talk about it in detail?"

This voice wasn't loud, but the moment it rang out, the chaotic lecture theater instantly turned silent.

Li Ziqi turned her head and instantly felt elated when she saw Tong Xugao.

The fish had taken the bait.

This was the effect of the Fearful Silence great teacher halo. A great teacher who had been reinforced with this halo would make everyone nearby shut up no matter who they were.

The people around Tong Xugao also noticed him and quickly bowed and made way for him.

"Thank you!"

Given Tong Xugao's habit, he wouldn't usually make use of this advantage. But now, he felt too curious and thus he walked into the lecture theater.

"Can you raise an example?"

Tong Xugao cupped his hands together, his expression that of anticipation.

At the sight of this scene, all the other people watching were shocked.

Was the lesson taught by this little sunny egg so deep and profound that even a 7-stars great teacher wanted to listen to it?

Therefore, all the teachers and students perked their ears, regardless if they knew spirit runes or not. There'd definitely not be any disadvantages to listening attentively. In the worst-case situation, they could still boast about this over drinks.

"Like I said earlier, the study of spirit runes is a type of language. Through various combinations, this language will be able to move the spirit qi, producing the effect that the user wants."

Li Ziqi didn't cower at all. "Take for example, creating the God Hands Spirit Rune."

The little sunny egg paused. Seeing that everyone was listening attentively, she revealed the trump card that her teacher had taught her.

"Take for example, using spirit runes to simulate any cultivation art."

"..."

The entire room was deadly silent. Everyone, even Tong Xugao, was no exception. All of them were astonished by this concept.

She was right. Such a train of thought wouldn't just overturn the spirit runes world.

The great teachers who majored in spirit runes felt a lot of doubt in their hearts. They wanted to ask Li Ziqi questions but were unable to voice them out.

A feeling of perplexity rose in their brains.

This feeling was like a poor-performing student feeling at a loss when facing the test paper. They'd have a strong urge to bang their head onto the desk and kill themselves on the spot.

Tong Xugao started to ponder deeply, but the other great teachers couldn't make sense of it at all. Therefore, they asked.

"How to simulate them?"

"This can't be done, can it? Otherwise, why would people still cultivate? They can just buy spirit runes!"

"We can't say that. Cultivating is a way so that ailments won't be able to encroach upon us and it'll also lengthen lifespans."

Before Li Ziqi replied, people started making noises and the atmosphere was very lively.

"Everyone, be quiet and listen to Ziqi's explanations!"

Tong Xugao spoke up.

The lecture theater fell silent once again.

"What's the meaning of cultivation art? It isn't for cultivating but to achieve certain effects. If that's the case, if spirit runes can produce similar effects, wouldn't it be a simulation?"

Li Ziqi thought of Sun Mo's theories. "There are countless paths in the world, but in the end, all of them will lead to the same universal truth. And the universal truth is eternity! Be it cultivation art or spirit runes, the domain that can reach an extremity would be eternity!"

The lecture theater fell silent once again. The students felt that this topic was very high-end, and they didn't understand it at all. On the other hand, the great teachers felt that what she said made a lot of sense.

Universal truth? Eternity?

They sounded so cool!

Tong Xugao's brows furrowed deeper. In the end, they scrunched up so much that he could clamp a crab to death on his forehead.

After Li Ziqi said that, she waited for Tong Xugao to continue the conversation. But who would have known that he would be silent and ponder deeply?

(What should I do now? I can't possibly just keep on waiting for him, can I? But if I don't, would it be very rude?)

Li Ziqi wasn't worried about her reputation. She was afraid that other people would say that Sun Mo was bad at teaching his students and that his students didn't know the proper courtesy.

Just as the little sunny egg was caught in a conflict, a frightful aura started to emit from Tong Xugao. His teacher longrobe started to flutter in the absence of wind.

Boom!

As Tong Xugao's emotions fluctuated, the spirit qi in his body started to seep out subconsciously.

A terrifying spirit pressure gushed out toward the surroundings.

"Huh?"

Under such a disposition, the students felt like adolescent beasts that were targeted by ancient ferocious beasts. Their countenances turned pale and they felt terrified.

"This is an enlightenment!"

The great teachers were astonished. What had Teacher Tong thought of?

Everyone's gazes unconsciously looked toward Li Ziqi who was at the rostrum.

Was the prowess of that universal truth and eternity really so great?

Li Ziqi had clearly said something really amazing. However, they were too stupid and couldn't understand it.

Otherwise, how could they explain Teacher Tong's condition?

Enlightenment was something that came with luck and not through asking for it. Moreover, once a person encountered it, they'd usually get a great reward.

"Even if Li Ziqi fails the martial art portion of the examination, given her results of having helped a 5-stars great teacher break through his bottleneck as well as helping a 7-stars great teacher enter enlightenment, she'll still be able to pass the exam."

Wang Song exclaimed.

Li Ziqi would definitely get her 1-star title. Hence, Wang Song felt really envious of Sun Mo!

Not only had he created a new record, but even his first disciple had broken a great record.

(Zhou Wenbin?)

(Let me give you a silent mourning for three minutes. Even if Secondary Saint Zhou were to come himself, there'd probably be no chances of turning the tables over, let alone the fact you're just his beloved great-grandson.)

This young lady had really made an exceptional showcase!

Chapter 999: My Teacher Is the Best In the World!

What was the responsibility of a great teacher?

It was to educate and nurture people, helping students to grow and become pillars of the world.

If an intern teacher was able to consecutively help two high star-level great teachers level up, then they'd definitely have the right to be given a 1-star great teacher title directly.

However, that would be restricted to 1-star and 2-stars only.

It was because in the great teacher world, it didn't matter if there was one more or one less great teacher of such level.

However, if the little sunny egg were to hear this, she'd definitely scoff.

She didn't want such 'treatment'. If she were to raise her star-level, it must be through passing the examinations, getting first place in an open-and-aboveboard manner.

It was a mess in the lecture theater.

"What should we do now?"

Li Ziqi didn't know what to do either and could only stop the lesson.

She didn't expect that the prowess of a few words from her teacher turned out to be so great.

Sun Mo had actually played a trick.

The universal truth of spirit runes was eternity?

Sun Mo had no idea either.

The reason he had said this was to make the spirit runes subject rise to a philosophical level.

What was the concept of a 7-stars great teacher?

In the modern world, they'd definitely be someone who could get the Changjiang Scholar Award [1].

If Sun Mo was to go up against Tong Xugao, he might have a chance. But the little sunny egg?

Even if she was a genius, she'd be crushed.

Her goal should be people like Wang Song or Qian Hao.

Then how should she let a 7-stars great teacher take the initiative to ask her questions?

At times like this, it was philosophy's turn to step up.

Regardless of the subject, it was impossible for them to explain the world's profoundness completely. Even deep and profound physics theories were constantly progressing through verifying and overthrowing past theories.

Humans were too insignificant when compared with the world and the universe.

Therefore, philosophy was born.

After all, problems that couldn't be taken care of by science could be comprehended by thoughts.

Ordinary people wouldn't have any interest in philosophy as they couldn't understand it. However, these high star-level great teachers saw a world that was different from ordinary people, and they could comprehend some philosophical thinking.

Of course, Sun Mo wasn't lying. He was just introducing a new system of recognition.

Why would Tong Xugao enter a state of enlightenment?

It was because Sun Mo had given him a brand new way of recognizing the world.

It was like how a person had previously used their eyes to look at the starry sky, but now, after using a high-end telescope, the things that the person could see were naturally different.

Sun Mo's teacher in university taught Marx philosophy, and he had said before that the more one was learned and had their own thinking, the easier it was for the person to be easily immersed in the sea of philosophy.

In the study of spirit runes, Tong Xugao was almost done walking down the path paved by the ancestors. Next, he'd have to walk his own path. However, he had no idea how to do it.

Right now, Sun Mo had broadened his vision.

What Li Ziqi said about how the universal truth was eternity was like a spring breeze, blowing away all the fog that was seething in front of Tong Xugao.

Boom!

A silver halo suddenly erupted from Tong Xugao, extending out over the entire lecture theater. Then, a bunch of silver light spots appeared above his head, flowing down like a waterfall.

Splash!

The silver light spots splattered, looking like clear water splashes. There also seemed to be ringing sounds.

“This... this is... En...”

“Enlightenment Provision!”

“My god, this is my first time seeing it!”

The great teachers who were watching this were completely shocked.

This halo was extremely rare and could only be grasped by a small number of high star-level great teachers.

It was called Enlightenment Provision. After using it, one could forcibly stuff knowledge into a student’s brain. The student wouldn’t need to learn to be able to understand and use the knowledge directly.

At the same time, it’d give students extremely great inspiration.

However, this halo would deplete the great teacher’s mental energy. Usually, after releasing it, they’d be weak for ten days to half a month.

Of course, the effect was very strong.

It was because the duration of one halo would allow a student to grasp all the content the teacher wanted to teach.

However, there were limits to its uses.

If the student was too stupid, their brain cells would be destroyed by the knowledge the great teacher channeled into their brain. In lighter situations, they’d suffer from slight headaches and be giddy for many days. In serious situations, they’d become dull-witted.

In the commonly known value of the Nine Provinces’ great teachers, such ways of taking shortcuts were detestable. Therefore, they rarely used this halo.

Therefore, Enlightenment Provision was even rarer than Teacher for a Day, Father for Life.

Right now, everyone’s vision had been broadened.

Tong Xugao returned to his senses. Looking at the light on him that was gradually turning fainter, he was a little surprised, a little speechless, and a little disappointed.

What he wanted was to understand the universal truth and eternity, as well as the final goal of spirit runes and the path that he should be taking. However, he had only made a little sense of it. He didn’t expect to comprehend Enlightenment Provision by surprise.

The foundational reason was still the fact that Li Ziqi’s words had brought Tong Xugao a great blow.

It was like how believers of the geocentric model would receive a great astonishment that would cause their perspectives to completely crumble when they heard about heliocentrism for the first time.

Returning from his stunned state, Tong Xugao cupped his hands together and gave a deep bow toward Li Ziqi.

“Thank you Teacher Li [2] for your guidance, allowing this student to gain enlightenment and broaden my vision.”

Tong Xugao’s words were sincere and humble.

For a great teacher who had comprehended Learning from Everyone, they had this broad-mindedness. Moreover, Tong Xugao still wanted to look for Sun Mo to discuss this topic further.

If he didn’t give Li Ziqi a hand here and do her a favor, how could he go approach Sun Mo in the future?

Clank! Clank! Clank!

The bell signaling the end of the lesson rang out. However, no one in the lecture theater cared about it. All of them looked at Tong Xugao with a stunned expression, then their gaze landed on Li Ziqi.

(That can’t be, right? How outstanding must you be to let a 7-stars great teacher with such great status say something like this?)

“Teacher Tong, there’s no need to show such great courtesy!”

Li Ziqi quickly dodged the bow. “What I said is just an independent school of thought!”

Although the little sunny egg said this, her heart was palpitating, feeling like it was going to jump out from her throat.

Right now, she only wanted to yell out one line.

(My teacher is the best in the world! Look at this. The content that he had taught me was able to let a 7-stars great teacher attain enlightenment and be convinced in just a few minutes.)

(How amazing is this? Thank you, Secondary Saint Zhou! Thank goodness you hadn’t taken me in. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have been able to learn by Teacher’s side. This is the greatest fortune in my lifetime.)

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Li Ziqi +10,000. Reverence (91,850/100,000).

1

“I wouldn’t dare say that I can get a 7-stars great teacher to be convinced by me even if I had drunk until I vomited blood!”

“That’s amazing. Such an experience is enough for one to boast for a lifetime.”

“Boast for a lifetime? If it was me, I’d engrave this experience onto my tombstone, letting my descendants see it whenever they come to pay respect to me. I’ll let them know that when I was young, I was amazing too.”

Noises broke out in the classroom.

Everyone watching felt very emotional. They’d probably only be able to see such a scene once in their lifetime.

“There’s no need to be humble. These words really inspire one to go into deep thought!”

Tong Xugao shook his head, assuming an amicable attitude. If it wasn’t because this wasn’t the right place for it, he’d really want to engage in a deeper discussion with Li Ziqi. “Oh right, where’s your teacher staying at right now?”

When the great teachers heard this, all of them instantly felt envious. It seemed that Tong Xugao was going to pay Sun Mo a visit personally.

Tsk tsk!

This was really impressive.

“Shall we talk about this in private? Some examinees still have to attend classes later on!”

Li Ziqi suggested.

“En!”

Tong Xugao nodded and then walked toward the rostrum, not holding back because of anyone present, placing all three of his votes into the box there.

“Continue to work hard. I hope that before I die from old age, I’ll be able to witness the rise of a legend.”

Tong Xugao encouraged her.

“En!”

Li Ziqi nodded and left the lecture theater. There was no need to stay and watch. She had achieved great success in this lesson.

(Teacher’s battle tactic was perfect!)

...

After Zhou Wenbin was done with the lesson, he left the lecture theater without even turning back. He then walked out of the school grounds quickly, got on the horse carriage, and rushed back to the manor.

He didn’t wish to stay here even one more second.

His results today were worse than the day before. The number of attendees had reduced by half.

He had taken out an ancient spirit rune to be used as teaching material.

Only a few people knew about this spirit rune. Someone had brought this as a gift when requesting his father’s help in a matter. If this was brought to the black market, it could be sold for at least 100,000 spirit stones.

This was his trump card.

“It’s alright. After the news of a new spirit rune spreads out, the situation will definitely turn for the better.”

Zhou Wenbin consoled himself.

After returning to the manor, he took a comfortable bath and was served by six maids. Zhou Wenbin then planned on taking a short rest, but he couldn't fall asleep.

He was still concerned about Li Ziqi's results.

During lunch, the old butler who had gone out to find out information came back. He looked at the young master, finding it hard to speak up.

"It's very good?"

Zhou Wenbin pretended to be calm.

The old butler was silent. (How am I supposed to say this? It wasn't just very good! It was off the charts. The 7-stars great teacher Tong Xugao has cast three votes for her directly. What's the point of competing now?)

"It's extremely good?"

Zhou Wenbin frowned. When he saw that the old butler still wasn't saying anything, he felt angry.

"Speak up!"

"Young Master, why don't we place our energy on the martial examination?"

The old butler sighed.

They could do some tricks, for example, put Zhou Wenbin and Li Ziqi into the same group. With that, he could defeat her fair and square, salvaging his reputation.

Bang!

Zhou Wenbin, who was being doubted, slapped the table.

"What are you talking about? There's still one more round. I can turn the tables around."

The old butler had no choice but to say everything that had happened in class today.

Zhou Wenbin was stunned on the spot.

Tong Xugao thanked Li Ziqi for her guidance in the capacity of a student?

(Is there something wrong with this? Don't you care about your reputation as a 7-stars great teacher?)

"No, I can still turn the tables around. After all, I have just publicized an ancient spirit rune."

Zhou Wenbin was unwilling to give up.

The old butler didn't wear any expression on his face but retorted in his heart, feeling speechless, (Can't you just admit it? Li Ziqi has brought out several new spirit runes and was even generous enough to explain their structures. In our Zhou Clan, the only one who can compare with her broadmindedness would be the secondary saint.)

...

Jiang Zizhong was more accepting of the situation than Zhou Wenbin was. He stopped comparing but turned his focus onto the martial examination.

Turned out that he was right.

After accumulating popularity in the first two classes, the number of people attending Li Ziqi's third class went over the scale. The entire corridor was packed with people who wanted to listen to her class. This affected the other examinees who were on the same level.

Zhou Wenbin almost spewed blood from anger when he faced a lecture theater with only a couple of people. He walked off directly.

This was really the greatest humiliation.

As a great talent, a member of a reputable clan, Zhou Wenbin had never been put through such humiliation ever since he was born.

...

Five days later, the round ended. Li Ziqi undoubtedly came out in first place.. Then, her greatest shortcoming—the martial examination—came.

Chapter 1000: Kind and Charitable Sun Mo

At the hotel, Lu Feng who was dressed in white was seated on the window ledge, looking at the moon. The wine pot in his left hand had been emptied long ago.

Knock knock!

Someone knocked on the door.

"I'm asleep!"

Lu Feng's voice was cold and emotionless, as if it had rolled on the snowy plains in the northern frozen land, with all feelings sealed up by ice.

Outside the room, Huang Meibo pursed her lips.

She knew that her teacher was quite dissatisfied with her performance.

"Teacher, I'll win!"

After saying that, Huang Meibo bowed and then returned to her room.

"Win?"

Lu Feng sneered. (Li Ziqi isn't good in battles. What's the point of winning against someone like this? If you want to crush someone, then crush that Xuanyuan Po or that Ying Baiwu...)

"This is really a lousy trip!"

Lu Feng tossed the wine pot away, thinking of how he could find something fun to do.

Should he kill a few people? Or a few hundred people? Should he kidnap Li Ziqi?

He really wanted such an outstanding student!

...

It was a bright and beautiful morning.

The bright sunlight scattered down on the lush green grass, as if laying down a layer of light carpet.

“Eldest Martial Sister, don’t worry, you’ll definitely be able to win!”

Lu Zhiruo cheered Li Ziqi up.

This round was the martial examination, and it would be very entertaining to watch.

In order to increase the Saint Gate’s influence, the judges opened up the martial examination for public view to share the fun with the people, allowing the commoners to have more sense of participation.

Of course, there were also some interests behind this. In every martial examination, there’d be bets of various scales set up.

With every gambling setup, be it an underground one or an official one, they’d have to pay a portion of the money to the Saint Gate and the Golden Cherry Academy.

Therefore, it was impossible to conduct a closed-off competition, and the Golden Cherry Academy would even distribute pamphlets to attract the citizens from the Song An Prefecture to come and watch.

This time around, all of Sun Mo’s disciples came to cheer for their eldest martial sister.

“That’s right. You just need to fight two rounds anyway.”

Tantai Yutang chuckled.

After the elimination from the first three rounds, there were 901 examinees left. However, there’d only be 300 accepted in the end. This meant that she’d definitely be able to pass if she could win two rounds.

“Why do you guys think so poorly of Eldest Martial Sister? I placed bets that she is going to become the champion!”

Helian Beifang was upset.

“How much did you bet?”

Li Ziqi turned and asked.

“1,000 taels!”

The barbaric young man didn’t have much money himself, but he had a super rich teacher and he’d always get a good allowance from him every month.

However, Helian Beifang wasn’t someone who would spend money recklessly and thus had saved them up.

And now, it was time to bet it all in.

“Very good. You can cry in advance now.”

Li Ziqi patted Helian Beifang’s shoulder with certainty. “If this money doesn’t go down the drain, I’ll change my surname to yours!”

The barbaric young man’s expression instantly fell. “Eldest Martial Sister, can you be more confident?”

“I’m not good at self-deception!” Li Ziqi’s lips twitched.

Sun Mo followed at the back, watching as his disciples fooled around. He frowned slightly. He knew that the little sunny egg was very nervous. Otherwise, given her character, she wasn’t someone who’d crack jokes.

It was a pity that he couldn’t help her out at a time like this.

Right now, the field was crowded with people.

There were a total of eight arenas, and battles were taking place on each of them concurrently.

Li Ziqi had drawn a lot yesterday afternoon, and she was assigned to arena eight. Therefore, she just needed to wait for her turn.

Sun Mo’s group had the right to get close to the arena to cheer for her as her close company.

“I hope that I meet a weakling!”

Li Ziqi prayed.

Even though there was still the Q&A segment in the fifth round, the questions asked were mostly things like why did they want to become a teacher and what inspirations one had for the future.

As long as the examinee wasn’t an idiot who’d say things like they only became a great teacher because they wanted to enjoy glory and riches, no one would be eliminated.

Therefore, this round would be the deciding factor, and the battles were very intense.

Agonizing cries kept on ringing out, and there’d be unlucky people covered in blood and carried off in stretchers every now and then.

“This is such a good training opportunity, so why are you guys not practicing your Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands?”

Sun Mo suggested.

“I don’t wish to miss out on Eldest Martial Sister’s competition!”

Lu Zhiruo explained.

“Teacher, we have no lack of people to practice the Ancient Dragon Capturing hands on. Some students are even willing to spend a lot of money for us to give them a massage!”

Qin Yaoguang couldn’t help but smile. (You must be unaware of how great your reputation is.)

Many people were willing to pay a price for Sun Mo to use his God Hands on them, but they didn't have a chance to do this.

Those students didn't have the right to get a massage from Sun Mo, so they could only approach his disciples who happened to need to gain experience.

"Who do you guys think will win?"

Xianyu Wei felt curious.

Two guys were engaged in an intense battle on the arena.

"The short-haired one," Qin Yaoguang assessed.

"What's the reason for that?" Xianyu Wei asked humbly.

"His opponent has a big head and thick neck. He's either a rich guy or a cook. If he were to become a great teacher, he'd pull down the looks rating for the entire great teacher world."

Qin Yaoguang's darted toward Sun Mo. "I feel that the Saint Gate should set up a standard, rejecting everyone who is uglier than Teacher."

"Then Teacher will be the only one left in the Saint Gate then."

Xianyu Wei frowned.

Qin Yaoguang was stunned. (I didn't expect that an innocent girl from the plains like you would have learned to flatter people too. Moreover, it was done so well and in a refreshing way.)

(Alright then! I, Qin Yaoguang, am willing to proclaim you to be the strongest bootlicker!)

Bang!

In the time the two of them were talking, the short-haired man struck his opponent off the arena.

"Huh? It really turns out like this?"

Xianyu Wei was surprised.

"Don't listen to her gibberish. The short-haired guy's opponent has suffered internal injuries three months ago. He should have been too anxious to gain progress for the martial examination."

Sun Mo explained.

The defeated young man was upset when he heard Sun Mo's words. He was stunned and looked over. This person's words were so accurate!

"Zhiruo, help give him a massage!"

Sun Mo instructed.

"You are..."

The young man was puzzled.

“Sun Mo!”

When this name was mentioned, all the gazes in the surroundings turned his way with a swoosh.

“This is Three-time Champion Sun? I finally got to see him in person!”

“To think that he’s so handsome? F*ck your mom! He can rely on his looks to be a gigolo, but why does he have to rely on his talent for a living? Isn’t life as a gigolo good?”

“If I had his looks, there’s no way that I’d agree to work.”

“That’s right. If I had his looks, there’d definitely be eight to ten aunties fighting to buy me coconuts every day I took a walk along the streets!”

The surrounding people discussed amongst themselves, feeling very envious and having an urge to tear off Sun Mo’s face to put onto their own.

When the young man heard Sun Mo’s name, he knew that he had been struck by good fortune. He immediately cupped his hands together in pleasant surprise. “Thank you Teacher Sun for your help!”

“Your aptitude isn’t bad, but this Beautiful Tiger Subduing Fist is too lousy. Change your cultivation art!”

Sun Mo sighed.

If this young man had a suitable cultivation art, his battle prowess would be able to increase by at least three folds.

Hearing that, the young man broke into a bitter smile. “I can’t afford to buy one. The school’s heaven-tier cultivation arts can only be read if one pays with spirit stones.”

“You seem to have a cultivation art you are interested in?” Sun Mo asked.

“I want to learn the Minor Dragon Elephant Art!”

The young man scratched his head and smiled in embarrassment.

“Wow, you’re really greedy. This is a superior-grade heaven-tier cultivation art. Unless you’re the headmaster’s son, just forget about it.”

“Young man, focus on working hard and stop daydreaming!”

Everyone mocked, but it was done in good will. In these times where it’d take one to be an apprentice for ten years before they could learn how to make a dish, a superior-grade heaven-tier cultivation art was really very precious.

“Zhiruo, help him over!”

Sun Mo decided to see through the end of this good deed.

However, the most important reason was still because this young man’s aptitude wasn’t bad, and Sun Mo didn’t want to waste his talent.

If this young man continued to cultivate this lousy cultivation art, he wouldn’t see much progress in the next three years. He’d then always lose out in the martial examinations.

Consecutive setbacks would make a person sink into self-doubt and eventually go to waste.

“Oh!”

The papaya girl immediately helped the young man over.

“Teacher... Teacher Sun...”

The young man had no idea what Sun Mo wanted to do, but judging from his words, it seemed that Sun Mo was going to teach him a cultivation art?

That couldn't be, right?

It was a superior-grade heaven-tier cultivation art they were talking about. It was worth many spirit stones. No one would be such a prodigal!

“Calm your mind and get rid of all distractions!”

Sun Mo instructed and then recalled the Minor Dragon Elephant Art's crux in his mind. At the same time, white light lit up on his right hand.

The people near the arena immediately fell silent, looking over curiously.

What was Sun Mo doing?

In terms of age, the young man was actually two years older than Sun Mo. However, he was being very submissive now, looking so docile like a primary school kid who was standing in front of a strict teacher.

Sun Mo didn't let the young man wait for long. After the time taken for seven to eight breaths, Sun Mo completed his preparations and launched out a punch.

Hua!

His right fist stopped in front of the young man and then white light gushed out from it, channeling into the young man's forehead.

Buzz!

The young man's body tilted backward, and then many scenes flashed past in his mind.

This...

This was...

The Minor Dragon Elephant Art?

As the young man hadn't seen it before, he didn't know. But it looked very familiar to what the headmaster had used...

“This is the Minor Dragon Elephant Art. The reason I've taught you this today is because I don't wish to see you getting defeated by this setback. Try again next year and become a great teacher, teaching and educating people, going after your life pursuits and values.”

Sun Mo encouraged him.

“That can’t be real, right? He taught someone a superior-grade heaven-tier cultivation art so easily?”

“This is Sun Mo we’re talking about. Moreover, how would he dare lie so openly in public?”

“You guys are really shallow. A cultivation art of this grade might be very valuable to you, but that person there is Sun Mo. I heard that he knows multiple peerless-grade saint-tier cultivation arts and is extremely strong.”

The teachers and students nearby whispered amongst themselves. Some people who had heard stories about Sun Mo immediately explained to the others.

Plop!

The young man reacted and immediately dropped to his knees, banging his head hard onto the ground three times.

“Thank you Teacher Sun for the bestowment!”

Tears gushed out from the young man’s eyes, covering his face. His body also trembled incessantly from the agitation.

Learning this cultivation art would make his prospects even brighter. It could be said that something that was considered to be a small favor to Sun Mo had changed his life.

Ding!

Favorable impression points from Passerby Young Man +1,000. Respect (2,500/10,000).

“You can get up!”

Sun Mo helped the young man up. “I only imparted the cultivation art to you because I saw that you’re tenacious, not backing off even in a tough battle. When you encounter other failures in life in the future, think back about the battle today.”

“I will remember Teacher Sun’s teachings!”

The young man said respectfully.

The other young man, who had just won the fight and was celebrating with his companions, saw that his opponent had received the Minor Dragon Elephant Art. He instantly felt less happy about this victory.

This was a superior-grade heaven-tier cultivation art!

(I want it too! F*ck your mom! If I knew this would happen, I’d lose the battle intentionally.)

To people like them who came from poor families, such a cultivation art could be used as their family heirloom, one that was passed down only to the sons and not the daughters.

