

## The Quest 391

### Chapter 391: Thick Earth

In the following days, Mo Hua buried himself in studying the Formation Diagrams, examining the changes in the Spirit Fields, and then comparing them with the current situation of the Spirit Fields to infer the structure of the Formation.

Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi were also helping.

Each of them took a portion of the Formation Diagrams to restore on their own.

After restoration, they would compare their findings together, and ultimately Mo Hua would perform the final verification through Calculation.

By doing this, they saved a great deal of effort.

In the spacious hall, the three of them set up a table, drawing and calculating side by side.

After five or six days of hard work, they finally managed to sort out and infer the preliminary Formation Diagram of this Formation.

And indeed, this Formation contained eleven Formation Patterns.

It was a genuine, first-grade, eleven-pattern Ultimate Formation!

The Formation Patterns were primarily of the Earth Series, and the stylus technique was different from the usual Formation Patterns, carrying an ancient and profound sense.

The Formation Pivot structure was also much more complex than that of ordinary first-grade Formations.

Bai Zisheng marveled as he examined it:

“So this is an Ultimate Formation...”

Bai Zixi was also so absorbed that she traced a few patterns with her delicate fingers inadvertently. But as she continued, she felt dizzy and her brow furrowed slightly as her body slowly collapsed.

Mo Hua quickly caught her and expressed concern:

“Senior Sister, are you alright?”

Bai Zisheng also hurriedly asked:

“Zixi, what’s wrong?”

Bai Zixi regained her composure, her cheeks slightly flushed, and said lightly:

“I used too much Divine Sense...”

She had never seen an Ultimate Formation before, and Mr. Zhuang had not taught her either, so she was a bit curious and had tried to visualize it in her mind.

But she had not expected that an Ultimate Formation would consume so much Divine Sense.

She had only comprehended up to the ninth Formation Pattern, and after half of the next one, her Divine Sense was nearly depleted.

Then Bai Zixi turned to look at Mo Hua with curiosity and asked:

“This Formation... can you learn it?”

Mo Hua blinked, “I can’t learn it either...”

Bai Zixi silently looked at Mo Hua, “Tell the truth.”

Mo Hua then admitted with slight embarrassment:

“Barely, I can learn a bit...”

That means he can learn it...

Bai Zixi sighed softly to herself.

Her little junior brother’s Divine Sense had become frighteningly profound.

He also had a keen sense for Formations; he could infer such an Ultimate Formation from mere clues.

No wonder their master valued him so much.

Feeling the caring look from Mo Hua, warmth burgeoned in Bai Zixi’s heart.

Apart from her brother and Aunt Xue, this was the first time someone had looked at her with such clear and concerned eyes.

Mo Hua was her only junior brother.

He was also the first person to call her “Senior Sister.”

She felt she needed to live up to the responsibilities of a senior sister.

Bai Zixi hesitated for a moment, then extended her fair little hand to pat Mo Hua’s shoulder, and spoke earnestly:

“You must study Formations well.”

Mo Hua had joined their mentor together with her, learned things together, and they had spent quite a long time together.

Bai Zixi was very familiar with Mo Hua.

She knew that when it came to other areas of Tao Cultivation, even if her junior brother put in the effort and studied diligently, he would not make much progress.

But Formations were different.

Perhaps Mo Hua could truly rely on Formations to find his own place in the talent-filled Cultivation World.

On his own, he could continue his Cultivation and seek the way to immortality.

Bai Zixi's appearance had softened, and though she was not as stunningly beautiful as before, her eyes were just as lovely.

In her otherworldly gaze, reflected was the image of Mo Hua, with a touch of concern and expectation.

It was the look of a Senior Sister caring for her Junior Brother.

Mo Hua was at a loss for words for a moment.

Bai Zisheng also joined in the excitement, "Listen to your Senior Sister, she's right!"

Mo Hua rolled his eyes at him.

Bai Zisheng appeared unconcerned.

He glanced at the Formation Diagram again, and just by looking at it, he felt a headache coming on.

Eleven Formation Patterns, with Divine Sense strength reaching the level of a Second-Grade Formation, it was hard to see what good learning it would do.

Bai Zisheng frowned and realized a problem, he asked Mo Hua:

“The Old Ancestor of Sun Family is a Second Rank Formation Master, right?”

“Yes,” Mo Hua nodded.

“Then why didn’t he draw a Second-Grade Formation in the Spirit Fields? The effects of a Second-Grade Formation should be stronger, right?” Bai Zisheng asked.

Mo Hua thought for a moment, then explained:

“A Second-Grade Formation would indeed be more powerful, but it would also require more Spiritual Power to operate and consume more Spirit Stones, something that a Qi Cultivation Loose Practitioner simply can’t afford.”

“Moreover, the effect of this Formation is unique, and ordinary Second-Grade Formations don’t have this sort of function.”

“Even if there were such a Formation, it would have to be a Second-Grade Ultimate Formation, and the difficulty of that would be even greater...”

Bai Zisheng nodded as if he suddenly understood, “Then you better hurry up and learn it, see if it’s of any use.”

“Yes.”

In the following days, Mo Hua began to study this Ultimate Formation.

However, this Formation seemed somewhat special.

Mo Hua practiced several times during the day, with little progress.

At night, meditating on the Taoist Stele allowed him to vaguely feel the flow of qi within the Formation, leading to a deeper understanding of it.

After a few days, Mo Hua could perfectly outline the entire Formation on the Taoist Stele.

But come daytime, when he tried to put pen to paper, the entire Formation seemed to lose its essence.

Divine Sense indeed got consumed, and he drew all the Formation Patterns correctly.

Yet the Formation on paper seemed to have only shape and no spirit; nor could he sense the flow of Spiritual Power.

All three were puzzled.

Bai Zisheng, resting his chin on his hand, said, “Could it be that the calculated Formation is wrong?”

Bai Zixi shook his head. “It’s not.”

“So, it was drawn incorrectly?” Bai Zisheng guessed, then denied his own guess, “No, it’s not that either.”

The Formations drawn by Mo Hua were always accurate; they couldn’t be wrong.

Besides, all three of them had checked it over and found no issues.

The trio looked at each other in confusion.

Mo Hua sighed, “It seems we can only go and ask Master.”

...

Mr. Zhuang was in the yard, sitting on a bamboo chair, basking in the sun.

This chair seemed to be the same one Mr. Zhuang often sat on back at Forgetful Residence, a place he was nostalgic about, so he had brought the chair with him.

In the spacious courtyard, Mr. Zhuang was either resting with his eyes closed or possibly contemplating the Dao.

Mo Hua did not disturb Mr. Zhuang and waited beside him for a while.

In less than a moment, Mr. Zhuang opened his eyes and beckoned to Mo Hua with a slight gesture.

Mo Hua's eyes brightened, and he stepped forward to hand the Ultimate Formation he had drawn to Mr. Zhuang.

Mr. Zhuang took it, glanced over it, and with a slightly puzzled look but a hint of approval, said:

“Not bad.”

“Master, is it this Formation?”

“Yes,” Mr. Zhuang nodded.

Mo Hua was overjoyed.

Mr. Zhuang's confirmation meant he hadn't miscalculated.

“But why does it seem ineffective when I clearly drew it out?” Mo Hua voiced his doubt.

“That's because...” Mr. Zhuang said with a slight smile, “you don't know the name of this Formation.”

Mo Hua was slightly taken aback, “Name?”

The Sun Family's legacy did not mention it, or rather, the Sun Family simply did not have the transmission of this Ultimate Formation, so naturally, they did not know the name of this Formation.

In Thousand Families Town, inside and out, there was not the slightest record of it.

"Master, what is the name of this Formation?" Mo Hua couldn't help asking.

Mr. Zhuang did not play coy and slowly began to speak:

"This Formation is called... the Thick Earth Formation."

"Thick Earth?"

Mr. Zhuang nodded slightly.

Mo Hua was somewhat confused, "Why is it called that?"

Mr. Zhuang's gaze grew serious, with profound meaning, "The Formation contains the ultimate truths of heaven and earth."

"Heaven's way is strong, constantly striving to become stronger; Earth's position is Kun, bearing all things with great virtue."

"This Formation is named the Thick Earth Formation, and it is derived from the word 'thick' in 'bearing all things with great virtue.'

Mr. Zhuang looked at the distant, rolling Spirit Fields and the earing Spirit Rice, and said with emotion:

"Heaven creates all things, Earth nourishes all things."

"Heaven is the Dao, and so is the Earth "



“This Thick Earth Formation embodies ‘Earth nourishes all things,’ the Dao of the Earth, which can enrich the soil, nourishing everything within.”

Understanding dawned on Mo Hua, but then he furrowed his brow again:

“But what does this have to do with the Formation being ineffective?”

“Think about it again,” Mr. Zhuang prompted but did not answer directly.

After pondering for a moment, Mo Hua slowly said, “Thick Earth Formation... does that mean it has to use ‘earth’ as the Formation media?”

Mr. Zhuang nodded slightly:

“More accurately, it’s ‘ground’ as the Formation media.”

“In a Formation, the media is the most easily overlooked element, even by Formation Masters who often fail to pay enough attention to it, thinking it is just a carrier for the Formation...”

“But a Formation is whole, and the media is an integral part of it, containing its own Formation principle.”

“Especially when using ‘ground’ as the media, which is a type of comprehension of the Great Dao, not all Formation Masters can grasp it.”

“Heaven covers, Earth bears.”

“Cultivators are born into this world, each one with the heavens above their heads and standing upon the earth.”

“If you can learn the Thick Earth Formation and grasp the principle of ‘bearing all things with great virtue,’ knowing how to use ‘ground’ as the Formation media, then henceforth, whatever Formation you draw will have a bearing.”

“Then the media of the Formation will no longer limit you,” Mr. Zhuang said with an expectant look.

Mo Hua had a sudden epiphany, deeply moved in his heart.

He had thought that within the Spirit Fields, there was merely an Ultimate Formation for nurturing the land, but he had not expected the profound depth of Formation principle it contained.

Within all things lies Formation, and within Formation, the Great Dao is concealed.

Earth’s position is Kun, bearing all things with great virtue.

The Earth bears all things and can likewise bear Formations.

By comprehending the Thick Earth Formation and understanding its principles, the boundless earth can serve as the media.

Wherever the heavens stretch and the earth extends, Formation can be drawn!