

## The Quest 591

### Chapter 591: Five Elements Sect (3)

Cultivators who possessed the Heaven Shu Ring were truly accredited by the Taoist Court, formally assessed and recognized as Formation Masters.

To be certified, even as a Third Grade, one's attainment in Formation should not be underestimated.

But the problem is, this ring was worn on the hand of a little cultivator who was just about ten years old.

This seemed, somewhat ridiculous...

However, the disciple guarding the gate, though arrogant, was not completely without brains.

They were accustomed to fawning over the strong and trampling over the weak, but a Third Grade Formation Master was certainly not someone they could afford to look down upon.

Even if this Third Grade Formation Master could possibly be a fake.

A gatekeeper disciple frowned and said, "Little..."

The words "little brat" were swallowed back down.

His tone also took on a bit of seriousness, "...young brother, are you truly a Third Grade Formation Master?"

Mo Hua lifted his head and puffed out his chest, "Indeed!"

This gatekeeping disciple, still found it somewhat unbelievable.

Mo Hua cast a cold glance at him, "Are you not going yet?"

Due to Mo Hua's poor attitude, these few gatekeeping disciples, on the contrary, did not dare to neglect him any longer.

This little cultivator must truly have some confidence to act so boldly if not genuine courage.

Moreover, he had come in a carriage.

Outside the carriage, there was an old man driving, who seemed perfectly ordinary, yet inscrutable.

And as for who was inside the carriage, and what their status was, they did not yet know.

But, to make a Third Grade Formation Master come down to clear the way, the cultivator inside the carriage must be even more extraordinary.

The leading gatekeeping disciple bowed with his hands folded in front and said:

"Young brother, please wait a moment. I will report to the Sect Leader immediately."

Whether true or false, it would be for the Sect Leader to decide.

If this little cultivator was truly a Third Grade Formation Master, then they should treat him with due respect.

If not...

If anyone dared to bluff their way in front of the Five Elements Sect, they would certainly not enjoy the consequences!

The demeanor of the gatekeeping disciple turned cold, and he went to make his report.

Mo Hua flipped onto Big White and waited, absentmindedly scratching the beast to pass the time.

In less than the time it takes for a pot of tea to brew, there was a stir within the Five Elements Sect.

Bursts of presence suddenly arose.

The noise also gradually grew louder. Stay connected through

After a while, these presences all converged towards the gate.

Sitting on Big White, Mo Hua looked up and saw that, unbeknownst to when, the long steps in front of the gate were already filled with many cultivators. ̄AĐøBÊş

Each one of them was deeply profound in presence, their faces as still as water, staring intently at the carriage, looking as if they were facing a great enemy.

Soon after, the crowd parted.

Out came a figure wearing a golden crown, clad in an even more exquisite Taoist robe embroidered with Five Elements patterns, his face exuding more authority. He appeared to be the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect.

With a serious face yet a hint of anticipation, he walked up to the carriage and bowed, saying:

"I am the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect. I extend a warm welcome to Mr. Zhuang."

Upon these words, those within the Five Elements Sect who were in the know revealed a cold glint in their eyes.

Those who were unaware showed shock and astonishment.

Just who exactly was in the carriage that could make the esteemed Third Grade Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect bend down to pay respects, addressing them as "senior"?

From inside the carriage, Mr. Zhuang's indifferent voice emerged:

"How many generations have passed?"

The Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect folded his hands and replied, "Not to conceal from the senior, it has been three generations since then."

Mr. Zhuang made a sound of acknowledgment.

The Sect Leader's eyes flickered, and then he stepped aside, saying, "Please, senior, come inside."

Old Kui turned his head and glanced at Mr. Zhuang.

Mr. Zhuang, through the curtains, looked at the threshold of the Five Elements Sect, then looked up slightly to take in the entire Sect at a glance, silently contemplating and making calculations, remaining silent.

After a long time, it seemed he had finally made up his mind.

The path one ought to walk must eventually be tread.

That day would always come...

"Let's go."

In Mr. Zhuang's tone hid a trace of complex and indiscernible resoluteness.

Old Kui nodded, glanced at Mo Hua, and then Mo Hua patted Big White.

At the command, Big White began to pull the carriage into the Sect.

After walking a few steps, it encountered the towering threshold.

The high threshold barred the carriage from entering.

The cultivators of the Five Elements Sect, from the highest to the lowest, watched with cold eyes, some sneering as if they intended to intimidate Mr. Zhuang into submission.

Mo Hua raised an eyebrow and patted Big White again.

Big White instantly understood, raising its head to neigh and lifting its front hooves high, fiercely stomping down, shattering the threshold of the Five Elements Sect. Afterwards, the creature affectionately nuzzled Mo Hua's hand with its big head.

Mo Hua smiled radiantly, praised Big White, and smoothed its mane.

With its head held high and chest puffed out, Big White calmly led the carriage into the Five Elements Sect.

Faces of the entire Five Elements Sect were filled with anger, yet they also dared not voice their outrage.

Only the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect's gaze shimmered with a subtle and inscrutable gleam.

Chapter 592: Chief Elder (1)

Mo Hua and his companions had settled down temporarily in the Five Elements Sect.

The place they stayed in was the most honorable guestroom in the entire sect, with an elegant style and luxurious furnishings.

The standard of food and accommodations was the highest.

Spiritual meals, delicacies, century-old wines, cloud-mist teas, various flower cakes, everything was available...

The Five Elements Sect provided a very thoughtful reception, but their attitude was not friendly, just superficially polite with insincere smiles and cold gazes, keeping a distant demeanor.

Although the food was good and the drinks plentiful, Mo Hua was not there for leisure, he was there to learn about Formation.

He was concerned about the Five Elements Spirit Formation.

However, the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect kept making excuses:

"It goes without saying, since it's a promise made by our ancestors, we naturally have no reason to break it..."

"But after all, it has been hundreds of years..."

The Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect showed a troubled expression, "Some of the senior elders in the sect have passed away, and we, the younger generation, are not clear about the specifics of the old promise, so we need to discuss and deliberate on the matters."

"We ask for Mr. Zhuang's understanding."

"During this time, please rest for a bit at the Five Elements Sect and experience our sect's heritage and the great scenery..."

"We will discuss the matter of learning Formation as soon as possible."

The Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect, surnamed Liao, wore a golden crown and jade robe, had a fair face without any beard, and an elegant appearance that befitted the leader of a sect.

His words were just as such.

It was as though he hadn't said anything at all.

Mo Hua pursed his lips, about to say something, when Mr. Zhuang said:

"Then we'll have to trouble Sect Leader Liao."

Sect Leader Liao appeared flattered and hastily replied:

"Don't mention it, it's the least we juniors can do."

After some more polite small talk, Sect Leader Liao stood up to take his leave.

After Sect Leader Liao left, Mo Hua voiced his doubts:

"Master, are they playing tricks on us?"

Mr. Zhuang nodded, "The Sect Protecting Ultimate Formation would not be easily taught to others. Delaying is quite normal..."

"They won't go back on their word, will they?"

"They won't, and they wouldn't dare."

Mo Hua asked, "So should we wait?"

Mr. Zhuang nodded, "Let's wait."

Mr. Zhuang looked at Mo Hua, who was frowning, smiled gently and said:

"The journey has been tiring, it's a good opportunity to rest. You can also take this time to enjoy yourselves in the Five Elements Sect..."

"Enjoy ourselves?" Mo Hua was somewhat confused.

"Yes," Mr. Zhuang said, "The scenery of the Five Elements Sect is pretty good. You can take this chance to look around. There is no need to rush about the Formation." 果然如他所言,

Mr. Zhuang appeared to have his own plans.

Mo Hua, unable to guess what they were, could only say, "Okay then..."

He decided to follow his master's advice and enjoy himself for a while...

...

After leaving the guest room, Sect Leader Liao walked along the spacious corridors, past the ornate carved beams and painted rafters but somewhat deserted pavilions and towers, through the lavish but insubstantial variety of palatial rooms, to a quiet mountain peak.

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On the mountain peak, there was a cave abode.

The cave abode was somewhat ancient, obviously built earlier, but the materials used for the details were equally expensive, only more understated in appearance.

Sect Leader Liao, with a respectful expression, rang the carved jade bell at the entrance of the abode.

The crisp and pleasant sound of the jade bell rang out, penetrating into the cave.

Sect Leader Liao stood solemnly and waited.

After an indefinite amount of time, a flash of light appeared before the cave, the Formation was lifted, and the door opened wide, an old voice came from inside:

"Come in."

Sect Leader Liao, invigorated, straightened his Taoist robe, and walked into the cave.

Inside the cave, everything was also refined and luxurious.

In the main hall, there sat an old man with snow-white hair, exuding a formidable presence and great authority.



This person was none other than the Chief Elder of the Five Elements Sect.

And the only remaining Golden Core Realm Great Cultivator in the Five Elements Sect.

Sect Leader Liao bowed in greeting, "I apologize for disturbing the Chief Elder in his seclusion."

The Chief Elder opened his eyes, his gaze was sharp, "Has that person arrived?"

Sect Leader Liao bowed, "Yes."

The Chief Elder furrowed his brows, his expression somber, silent, seemingly pondering something.

Sect Leader Liao spoke softly:

"The Formation... Should we pass it on?"

The Chief Elder's gaze turned icy, "We cannot pass it on!"

Sect Leader Liao hesitated, "This is a promise made by our ancestors, wouldn't it be... difficult to explain if we don't fulfill it..."

"You don't understand," the Chief Elder said gravely, "The Five Elements Sect is not what it used to be. It's not the time to be rigidly adhering to the decrees of our ancestors."

Sect Leader Liao was puzzled, but he didn't dare to contradict the Chief Elder and could only bow in agreement.

The Chief Elder looked at Sect Leader Liao and sighed inwardly.

The Five Elements Sect had truly declined.

There used to be a time when the sect was filled with powerful cultivators. How could someone at the Foundation Establishment Late Stage possess the merit to lead the Five Elements Sect?

Even I, a Golden Core, was only an Elder back then...

But things have changed, it's no use complaining.

This is already the most talented disciple among the younger generation of the Five Elements Sect.

There are some things that still need to be made clear to him.

The Chief Elder's gaze darkened and he began to explain:

"Our Sect's prosperity, the building of our cave abodes, and the good fortune we brought to the Sect, all of this was possible because of our Formation knowledge."

"It is only with the Formations that our Five Elements Sect was able to establish itself."

"Due to the Formations, cultivators seeking knowledge gathered here, making Li Mountain City flourish, and making our Sect's land exponentially valuable."

"Even if we disciples of later generations do nothing, we still earn Spirit Stones."

The Chief Elder frowned:

"The current issue is that the Five Elements Sect's knowledge of Formations is deteriorating..."

"Earning Spirit Stones has been too easy, the profits too large, we've had our fill, top to bottom, everyone has stopped striving for progress, neglected cultivation, and no longer studies Formations..."

"As long as those cave abodes out there exist, the Five Elements Sect will have a never-ending inflow of Spirit Stones."

"Without the need to strive, we can still earn Spirit Stones."

"Who would bother putting in the effort then?"

Chapter 593: Chief Elder (2)

"Our Five Elements Sect has stopped establishing our reputation with Formations, instead, we are now known for Earth and Wood."

"But by doing so, the mastery over Formations within the entire Five Elements Sect has plummeted dramatically!"

"Now, let's not even talk about a Second Grade Formation Master, being able to have a few First Grade Formation Masters is already quite an achievement..."

Sect Leader Liao said solemnly:

"The juniors also deeply agree with this concern and have already thought of ways to solve it."

"The Sect has decided to rectify the atmosphere, reform the cultivation industry, encourage disciples to delve into Formation Study, cultivate Formation Masters, and ensure that the Five Elements Sect once again becomes a great sect of Formations..."

Sect Leader Liao spoke sincerely.

However, the Chief Elder's face remained calm, even somewhat indifferent.

These platitudes had been spoken for over a hundred years.

Interests are deeply entrenched, and touching one thing affects the whole Sect; no one dares to take action.

The Sect's disciples have scattered Taoist Hearts; expecting them to go through hardship and relearn Formations is like daydreaming.

The reality of self-interest is not easily changed.

The atmosphere surrounding Formations, being related to the Taoist Heart, once corrupted, is extremely difficult to rectify.

And in all these years, besides myself, the Chief Elder, the one who has benefited the most from this, is none other than the Sect Leader of the Five Elements Sect.

The knife to kill the pig is held by the pig itself.

How could this flesh possibly be sliced away.

The Chief Elder said indifferently:

"This isn't something that can be resolved overnight..."

"The immediate priority is to find a way to protect the inheritance of our Five Elements Sect."

"Especially the core of our Sect's establishment, the Five Elements Spirit Formation, must not be passed on to outsiders!"

The Chief Elder's gaze turned icy:

"This Ultimate Formation must be firmly held in our hands, monopolized by our Five Elements Sect."

"It doesn't matter if we cannot learn it, but outside of the Five Elements Sect, there cannot be anyone who learns it, even if it were to decay, it could only decay within our Five Elements Sect!"  
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"Even if it is lost, it must not fall into the hands of others." Experience new tales on

"Otherwise, it would surely undermine the very foundation of our Five Elements Sect!"

Sect Leader Liao's eyes lit up, "The Chief Elder is far-sighted and has considered well!"

This flattery was neither painful nor itchy.

The Chief Elder's expression was noncommittal.

Sect Leader Liao pondered for a moment before saying:

"However, this Formation is extremely difficult in itself; over the years, only a few people in our Five Elements Sect have managed to learn it, most of whom were the former Elders."

"Since the former Sect Leader passed away, no disciple among the later generations has truly mastered this Five Elements Spirit Formation."

"If our disciples from the Five Elements Sect struggle with it, can these outsiders really learn it?"

A flicker of apprehension crossed the Chief Elder's gaze.

"They can!"

Sect Leader Liao showed a hint of surprise.

The Chief Elder's eyebrows twitched, "You don't know, that man surnamed Zhuang nearly succeeded in learning the Five Elements Spirit Formation!"

Sect Leader Liao looked shocked, "How could that be possible?"

The Chief Elder, recalling the past, was still shaken:

"Back then, I was just an ordinary disciple, witnessing that man's exceptional talent and extraordinary brilliance. In front of the Sect Leader and all the Elders of the Five Elements Sect, he started to piece together the Formation Patterns of the Five Elements Spirit Formation, discerning its Formation Pivot, gradually penetrating the Formations of the Five Elements Spirit Formation..."

"He was just a bit short of truly mastering it; if not for..."

If not for...

The Sect Leader and Elders of that time had interfered; otherwise, he really would have mastered it...

The Chief Elder's gaze became intense as he swallowed the rest of his sentence.

Sect Leader Liao still found it hard to believe, "Qi Refinement?"

"Qi Refinement!"

Sect Leader Liao frowned, "The Five Elements Spirit Formation, First Grade with Thirteen Stripes, could he really have the Divine Sense of Thirteen Stripes at the Qi Refinement Realm? That's impossible..."

The Chief Elder sighed, "His Divine Sense wasn't at Thirteen Stripes, but he almost learned it..."

Sect Leader Liao found it inconceivable:

"With insufficient Divine Sense, he could learn this Formation?"

The Chief Elder said solemnly:

"Their lineage possesses a heritage that allows them to comprehend the Formation Method Origin Stream. Mastering one thing is mastering everything; even if his Divine Sense is insufficient, he can still comprehend some Formations that they would not usually grasp!"

Sect Leader Liao was dumbstruck, "Such a heritage exists?"

The Chief Elder's expression was one of reverence:

"This is among the very top tier of legacies within the Formations, requiring exceedingly high comprehension and supreme spiritual roots. It's not something ordinary cultivators can learn, let alone master."

"And he was the best among all the disciples of his generation."

"That's why, being only at the Qi-refining Realm, he could break the norm to comprehend, and he almost grasped the Five Elements Spirit Formation that is First Grade with Thirteen Stripes!"

The Chief Elder lamented:

"Although our Five Elements Spirit Formation is extremely rare in our Five Elements Sect, when compared to such truly secret and unimparted knowledge, it still falls short..."

Sect Leader Liao lowered his head, with greed and desire in his eyes.

But he couldn't hide his little ambition from the Chief Elder.

The Chief Elder's face darkened as he said icily:

"Do not harbor ill intentions, their lineage, no matter how down and out, is not something we can afford to provoke!"

Sect Leader Liao's heart chilled as he bowed in agreement.

Yet there was still some skepticism in his gaze.

Sect Leader Liao thought for a moment and then said:

"Chief Elder, but this time, it isn't him learning it... He came here probably to have his disciples learn. Do we need to be so cautious?"

The Chief Elder said lightly: "Better safe than sorry."

Sect Leader Liao nodded, "What the Chief Elder says is true..."

He recalled the scene at the mountain gate and remarked:

"Among his disciples, that Junior Formation Master, who looks to be only about a dozen years old, is already a First Grade Formation Master with confirmed assessment, truly gifted..."

"Who knows where he found such a promising disciple..."

Why can't our Five Elements Sect have one?

Chapter 594: Chief Elder (3)

Sect Leader Liao harbored some resentments.

"A First Grade Formation Master at just over ten years of age..."

The Chief Elder frowned and shook his head, "Such talent is quite good for an ordinary cultivator, but within their faction, it's just common."

"Especially compared to that Mr. Zhuang of the past, it's not even worth mentioning."

Sect Leader Liao was slightly startled, feeling that the Chief Elder was really pompous!

A First Grade Formation Master, yet not worth mentioning...

But he didn't dare to contradict him.

He was only at Foundation Establishment, indeed not as world-wise as the Golden Core Stage Chief Elder.

After pondering for a moment, the Chief Elder suddenly advised:

"More than this Junior Formation Master, what you should be cautious of are his senior brother and sister."

"Senior brother and sister?"



Sect Leader Liao thought of the other two disciples around Mr. Zhuang.

One with sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, the other as fresh as a hibiscus emerging from water.

They looked like a brother and sister, although separated by a Spiritual Artifact that hindered Divine Sense from probing, but their demeanor of a Great Clan, the robustness of their cultivation, and their distinguished aura...

They were flawless!

Exemplary seeds for Tao Cultivation!

And at a glance, it was clear that they were not the kind of disciples that the Five Elements Sect deserved to have.

Sect Leader Liao's expression also became solemn:

"Chief Elder, do you mean that they are the true inheritors of Mr. Zhuang's Formation knowledge?"

The Chief Elder nodded affirmatively, "Correct."

The Chief Elder thought for another moment, his eyes lighting up as if he had seen through Mr. Zhuang's intentions:

"That Junior Formation Master is just leading the way."

"Just over ten, at the Qi Refinement Ninth Level, a First Grade Formation Master, he aims to give us a warning."

"But this Junior Formation Master probably isn't that important."

"If he were really important, he wouldn't personally debase himself to clear the path."

"Clearly, the truly troublesome ones are this little Formation Master's senior brother and sister."

"His senior brother and sister, hailing from Noble Clans with deeper cultivations, naturally possess even more profound knowledge of formations!"

"Moreover, there are two of them."

"If they really were to learn, there's a good chance that they might completely master our Five Elements Sect's Ultimate Formation!"

...

The Chief Elder wore a serious gaze, and Sect Leader Liao also appeared worried.

"Then, Chief Elder, what should we do? It can't be possible to actually stop them from learning formations, can it?"

Acting on this would equate to breaking off relations.

The outcome would be unpredictable.

The Chief Elder thickened his face, "Delay them first, drag it out as long as possible until they lose patience."

"And if we can't hold them off?"

The Chief Elder's eyes gleamed sharply, "If we can't hold them off, then we'll use other methods..."

Sect Leader Liao's expression flickered, and he nodded slightly.

...

The Five Elements Sect began to stall for time.

Mr. Zhuang, however, appeared nonchalant and not in a rush at all.

Mo Hua had no choice but to follow his master's orders and, along with his junior brother and sister, started to "play" within the Five Elements Sect.

The Five Elements Sect was vast, with many cave abodes; there were even more abodes than disciples...

It seemed that there was a time when they were very wealthy, with Spirit Stones so abundant they couldn't use them all up, which is why they were so extravagant, building cave abodes everywhere.

Apart from the cave abodes, other Tao Cultivation structures like practice rooms, meditation chambers, Alchemy Rooms, Artifact Refining Rooms, Formation Pavilion, etc., were all readily available.

Some buildings, which were entirely unused, were also built in great numbers.

These buildings, neither occupied by cultivators nor used by them, and even without any function, had their doors closed - empty and desolate, it was unclear what they were built for...

Like most other sects, the Five Elements Sect was divided into Inner Gate and Outer Gate.

The Inner Gate is the essence of the Sect.

Inner Sect Disciples are one with the Sect, sharing in its glory and misfortunes.

They learn the orthodox heritage of the Five Elements Sect, follow the master-disciple hierarchy of the Sect, and are bound to the Sect, with shared interests.

The Sect's assets are also managed by Inner Sect Disciples.

The Sect's core positions are also held by Inner Sect Disciples.

Generally speaking, Inner Sect Disciples are not allowed to leave the Sect.

The Outer Gate Disciples, on the other hand, are less formal.

They are mostly freelancers who study formations.

Their relationship with the Sect includes a lineage but is not stringent; they have grace, but it is not close-knit.

As long as they pay Spirit Stones, they can learn if they want to, and if they decide not to, they can also leave; the Sect does not bind them.

The Outer Gate is more like an industry of the Sect.

The Sect shares part of its heritage with the outside world, teaching it to expand its influence and earn cultivators and Spirit Stones.

As a Third Grade Sect, the Five Elements Sect has a great reputation, and the tuition is very expensive—at least for Mo Hua, who could not afford it.

Mo Hua and the two walked together, strolling leisurely within the Five Elements Sect.

Most of the people they saw were Elders and Disciples of the Inner Gate.

The Elders within the gate ignored them.

On the contrary, some Disciples, although cautioned by their Instructors, didn't know the full story and would point and discuss them behind their backs, buzzing with talk.

Mo Hua had strong Divine Sense, so he clearly heard what they said behind his back.

What surprised Mo Hua was that the male disciples harbored animosity towards them, while the female disciples were relatively fine with them.

The male disciples generally spoke discontentedly:

"That's the brat who rode in on a big horse, crushed the doorstep, and swaggered into the mountain gate, leaving all the Elders inside without face!"

"Too arrogant!"

"Relying on his status as a First Grade Formation Master, he's so conceited!" Your adventure continues at

"His senior brother, that one in white clothes, is even more conceited than him!"

"I heard that several brothers in the Sect wanted to challenge him, but he ignored them completely."

"No, I heard that some brothers who tried to spar with him were thoroughly beaten by him!"

"That's because he concealed his true strength; it was not a fair fight!"

"Although he is in the Qi Refinement stage, he has the strength of Foundation Establishment, yet he deliberately didn't reveal it!"

"Truly despicable!"

...

The male disciples were indignantly furious.

The female disciples, on the other hand, said something else:

"That white-robed youth is so handsome!"

"I heard he's from a Noble Clan too..."

"No wonder, his demeanor is different at just one glance."

"I wonder which Noble Clan he comes from, whether it's far away, and if I marry there, will I be able to come back to visit..."

"And that little Formation Master, so fair and delicate, he's quite adorable too!"

"I heard he's a First Grade Formation Master."

"So impressive!"

...

The male disciples also heard these comments.

As a result, Mo Hua and his companions were even more scorned by the male disciples...

Mo Hua sighed helplessly.

Chapter 595: Confidential (1)

Although it is a Sect, and a Sect that established itself through the use of Formation Arts, the disciples have a poor attitude towards learning.

These Five Elements Sect disciples, instead of studying Formation Arts day by day, are all about gossiping.

No wonder the Formation Arts of the Five Elements Sect have declined...

However, what puzzled Mo Hua was that, although these female disciples were praising themselves and the Junior Brother, their eyes, glistening like autumn waters, were all fixed on their Junior Sister.

Mo Hua turned his head and glanced at the Junior Sister.

Bai Zixi, for the sake of convenience in her activities, dressed as a man, her hair tied into a ponytail. She had a valiant and spirited appearance, with clear eyes and long eyelashes, and a cold kind of beauty.

But she didn't deliberately disguise herself as a man.

Even though she was in men's clothes, at first glance, she still appeared to be a woman.

"But why are the female cultivators of the Five Elements Sect staring at their own Junior Sister?"

Previously on Jinhua Street in South Yue City, even the female cultivators in the Hundred Flower Tower seemed to exhibit this behavior.

Mo Hua furrowed his brows, thoroughly puzzled.

At first, he thought it was just his imagination.

In the following days, Mo Hua secretly observed and indeed found this to be true.

These female cultivators, daring to look openly at the Junior Brother, would blush and have a love-stricken look in their eyes as soon as they turned to the Junior Sister.

When the Junior Brother looked at them, they smiled cunningly and enchantingly.

But when the Junior Sister glanced at them, they hurriedly averted their eyes, tidied their hairpins, and lowered their gaze in shyness.

After that, there were female cultivators who secretly sent invitation cards, fresh flowers, pastries, jade hairpins, or sent paintings to the Junior Sister.

This time, Mo Hua was truly confused.

Was it because he was too young and naive, or was it that he was inexperienced and ignorant...

What exactly were these female cultivators thinking?

Unable to figure it out, Mo Hua finally decided to ask the Junior Sister.

"Senior Sister..."

When the surroundings were empty, Bai Zixi sat in the pavilion, watching the fish in the pond, lost in thought, and Mo Hua asked softly.

Bai Zixi turned her head and looked at Mo Hua, her voice soft:

"What is it?"

Mo Hua considered his words: "Why do those female cultivators only give gifts to you?"

Bai Zixi appeared somewhat astonished, her expression becoming slightly complex.

"Is it inconvenient to say?" Mo Hua asked softly.

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Bai Zixi was silent for a moment, her eyes shining as if she had made up her mind, and slowly said:

"This matter, I haven't told anyone else..."

Mo Hua was about to say, if it's inconvenient to mention it, then let it be.

But Bai Zixi had already spoken: "It's about the bloodline..."

Mo Hua was taken aback, "Bloodline?"

"Mm." Bai Zixi nodded gently, "My bloodline... is somewhat special..."



Special?

Attractive to other women?

What use could such a bloodline have?

Mo Hua was somewhat bewildered.

"The specifics, I can't tell you..."

Bai Zixi's lips curved slightly, sharing a faint smile, her voice quiet:

"The matter of the bloodline, my mother instructed me not to tell anyone, so..."

Bai Zixi glanced at Mo Hua, "You must keep it a secret for me."

Mo Hua nodded repeatedly:

"Senior Sister, don't worry, I wouldn't divulge it even under pain of death!"

In that moment, Bai Zixi's eyes radiated the charm and brilliance of the spring sun.

Mo Hua's heart involuntarily skipped a beat.

At the same time, his emotions were mixed.

His Senior Sister had confided her secret to him, so in the spirit of reciprocity, he should reveal some secrets too, right? Wouldn't it be somewhat... improper not to?  $\mathbb{R}a\mathbb{N}\beta\mathbb{E}\mathbb{S}$

Secrets are to be exchanged!

But what secrets did he have?

He definitely couldn't mention the Taoist Stele...

But apart from the Taoist Stele, it seemed he had nothing else...

Bloodline...

He didn't have any special lineage... his parents were just ordinary Loose Cultivators.

Innate weakness... was not a special bloodline.

After pondering for a while, Mo Hua brightened up and said softly:

"Senior Sister, I'll also tell you a secret that I haven't shared with anyone else."

Bai Zixi smiled gently, leaning closer to Mo Hua, curious about what secret he could possibly have.

Mo Hua pointed up at the sky, his face serious as he said:

"Senior Sister, there are really Formations in the sky."

Bai Zixi was momentarily taken aback, pondered for a moment, and then said, "Didn't you mention that before?"

Mo Hua shook his head, "It's different..."

"When I told you before, it was because our Master said so."

"But now, I'm telling you because I've really seen it!"

Bai Zixi's beautiful eyes widened in surprise, and after a moment of thought, she realized:

"You saw it during the thunder tribulation?"

Mo Hua sighed inwardly.

His Senior Sister was just too clever...

Mo Hua nodded: "Yes, when the tribulation thunder descended, then receded, I saw the Formation Patterns through the clouds!"

Bai Zixi was indeed surprised.

She hadn't expected that there really were Formations above the nine heavens, and that Mo Hua had actually seen them with his own eyes...

The Heavenly Dao Formation...

Bai Zixi looked at Mo Hua, her lips pursed with a shallow smile:

"Alright, I'll keep your secret too."

"Yeah!" Mo Hua nodded.

Now, with one secret each, they were even.

Thinking of Mo Hua's words, Bai Zixi couldn't help but raise her head to look at the sky.

The sky above the Five Elements Sect was clear and as blue as a wash, with no sign of any Formation, but Bai Zixi still gazed upward.

Mo Hua also habitually raised his head to look.

When he had nothing else to do, he would also look up at the sky.

Wondering when he would be able to comprehend the true Heavenly Dao Formation.

Although he couldn't see any Formations at the moment, just looking at the vast sky would make him feel the infinite nature of the Heavenly Dao and the profound mysteries of the Great Dao.

It also made him feel at ease.

Any gains or losses, any trials and tribulations, would not linger in his heart.

In the small pavilion.

Mo Hua and Bai Zixi sat side by side, looking up at the clear blue sky together.

Chapter 596: Keep a Secret (2)

After a while, Bai Zisheng came running over, full of excitement.

He had just gone to spar with a disciple from the Five Elements Sect and returned triumphantly, ready to show off to Mo Hua. However, he saw Mo Hua sitting at the railing, gazing into the distance with a far-off look in his eyes.

Zixi was doing the same.

So Bai Zisheng sat down too, following their lead, and looked up at the sky.

After a while, there was still nothing in the sky.

Bai Zisheng couldn't help but ask, "Junior Brother, what are you looking at?"

Mo Hua replied lazily, "Looking at the sky."

"The sky?"

"There's nothing there, so what are you looking at?"

Bai Zisheng didn't quite understand, but he couldn't help joining his sister and his junior brother in sitting and staring at the clear sky for a long time...

...

After sitting for a long time, Bai Zisheng eventually couldn't stand the boredom and said,

"Junior Brother, let me teach you a Taoist skill!"

Mo Hua was startled, "A Taoist skill?"

"Yes." Bai Zisheng nodded proudly, "I created it myself, a Tao Cultivation martial art!"

"I'm not learning it." Mo Hua declined decisively.

Bai Zisheng was stunned, "Why won't you learn it?"

Mo Hua sighed, "One, I don't practice body refinement; two, I don't study martial arts; three, if you created it, it certainly won't work."

Bai Zisheng said with displeasure, "How can it not work just because I created it?"

"You're only in the Qi Refinement Realm, what kind of impressive Taoist skill could you create?"

"Let me show you!"

Bai Zisheng grasped his spear, ready to demonstrate to Mo Hua.

Mo Hua quickly gestured with his hands, "Forget it, take a break..."

"Not happening!"

Mo Hua sighed in resignation, "Fine then, demonstrate and let's see."

The three found an empty space, surrounded by artificial mountains and green waters, the scenery tranquil.

Bai Zisheng was serious, holding the spear with both hands, gathering momentum as the wind howled and the vegetation trembled.

Mo Hua's expression also became more serious.

"This is a spear technique that descends from the heavens!" Bai Zisheng declared.

After gathering his spiritual power, he suddenly leaped into the air, assuming a very imposing pose and shouted:

"Dragon Soaring in the Sky!"

Then, like a rainbow, the spear plunged downward, fiercely stabbing into the ground and kicking up a bit of dust...

Mo Hua was stunned for a long time, feeling uncomfortable with the awkwardness.

It felt as if ants were crawling over his body.

Bai Zixi also covered her mouth, struggling to suppress her laughter.

After the demonstration, Bai Zisheng, having lost his earlier pride, said with some embarrassment, "Isn't it good?"

Mo Hua said helplessly,

"The charge-up time is too long, there are too many openings in the movements, it consumes too much spiritual power, and the power it unleashes is too weak..." 乱

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"If you're fighting a spiritual cultivator, jumping into the air makes you an easy target."

"Against a body cultivator, your long charge-up would have gotten you slashed already."

"And this name..."

Dragon Soaring in the Sky...

A Qi Refinement Realm technique with such a name made Mo Hua so embarrassed he didn't know what to say.

But Bai Zisheng insisted, "The name is the essence, you can criticize everything else, but not this name!"

Mo Hua asked skeptically, "You didn't create this fancy but impractical technique just for the name, right..."

Bai Zisheng, feeling guilty, "Of course not!"

Indeed, he had impulsively created this technique because he thought the name sounded cool.

Bai Zisheng then said, "It can't be that bad... I've used this technique against those Inner Sect Disciples of the Five Elements Sect, hit every single one accurately, hardly finding an equal in a match!"

Mo Hua replied helplessly, "That's because your cultivation level is too high. Even without using any Taoist skills, they would find it hard to resist you..."

Although Bai Zisheng was only in Qi Refinement, he was already capable of facing a Foundation Establishment head-on.

The Qi Refinement disciples of the Five Elements Sect naturally stood no chance against him.

Furthermore, the Five Elements Sect was rich in Spirit Stones, too comfortable, with disciples' Taoist Hearts scattered and their strength itself quite ordinary.

That's why Bai Zisheng was able to triumph using this merely "flashy" Taoist skill...

Bai Zisheng felt unhappy after being criticized by Mo Hua.

Mo Hua paused, then comforted him, "It's not good now, but if you refine it more, who knows, it might really become a Taoist skill that will shake the world and be passed down for generations!"

Bai Zisheng's eyes lit up and he immediately said,

"Then I'll teach you!"

Mo Hua waved his hands, "I don't need to learn it, I'm a Spiritual Cultivator, I need to use spells..."

"The more skills, the better!" Bai Zisheng insisted.

"I already know enough, can't afford to dabble in too many..."

Bai Zisheng said, "Learning this technique will be beneficial."

"What benefit?" Mo Hua asked, puzzled.

Bai Zisheng with a serious face, "It's very impressive!"

Mo Hua: "..."

"I'm thinking of your future," Bai Zisheng said earnestly,



"You'll definitely want to find a Taoist companion in the future. Although you are quite good-looking, clean and fair, you are nonetheless not from Noble Clans. Actually finding a good Taoist companion will be difficult."

"You don't know that the women from noble families are mostly very materialistic; they look at lineage, at Spiritual Roots, at the wealth of Spirit Stones, at whether you have a cave dwelling or not..."

"You'd be at quite a disadvantage there."

"Also, the Taoist skills you've learned are mostly just Concealment Techniques, Water Prison Techniques, the more sinister kind."

"In a battle, you'd sneak around, hide far away and throw fireballs, not standing out in the fight."

"Though this way of fighting is very effective, not standing out puts you at a disadvantage."

"Not standing out means you are not impressive, and if you're not impressive, it's hard to attract women's interest."

Bai Zisheng's gaze was intense, "That's why I'm teaching you this technique!"

"When it comes time to play the hero and save the beauty, first use the Fireball Technique to cripple the other guy, so he can't resist, and then finish off your opponent with Dragon Soaring in the Sky, looking fierce and imposing!"

Chapter 597: Confidential (3)

"In this way, you'll not only look impressive but also dashing."

"Who knows, you might even find yourself a dao companion."

Bai Zisheng had planned thoroughly.

Mo Hua was speechless, "Why are you always thinking about such things..."

"I don't need these thoughts..."

Bai Zisheng patted Mo Hua's shoulder, "This is your elder brother's painstaking efforts, planning for your future!"

Mo Hua still didn't want to learn.

Bai Zisheng was unhappy, "You're my disciple, so I teach you. Others wish to learn, but I won't teach them..."

Mo Hua remained adamant about not learning, so Bai Zisheng nagged and cajoled.

Ultimately, Mo Hua couldn't stand up to Bai Zisheng and reluctantly agreed to learn.

The move was called Dragon Soaring in the Sky.

But in fact, it had nothing to do with dragons and wasn't very powerful; aside from jumping up into the sky and being an "eye-catching target," it had no other significance...

Mo Hua wasn't a body cultivator, so the power of this technique was mediocre when used by him.

However, he didn't want to ignore his elder brother's kindness and studied seriously, not as a Tao cultivation martial art, but purely to refine his movement technique.

Executing the Water Passing Step, he leaped into the air, then descended holding the spear.

Thus, when Mo Hua and Bai Zisheng used it, it looked completely different.

Bai Zisheng was imposing and heroic, with broad and sweeping movements, like an Azure Dragon raising its head.

Mo Hua, on the other hand, moved with a light and graceful body technique, as elegant as a startled swan and as nimble as a swimming dragon.

On the beautifully scenic grassland.

Bai Zixi took out a book and read quietly, occasionally lifting her head to watch the two of them, imprinting the twin figures in her eyes...

...

Time, like a breeze through the mountains, neither fast nor slow, gently flowed by.

Several days later, Mo Hua had visited all the accessible places within the Five Elements Sect.

The remaining places were either the residences of the Inner Sect Disciples, the elders' caves, the Book Pavilion, the Pill Pavilion, the Formation Pavilion—these places not open to the public.  
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Or they were the sect's critical forbidden areas, locked and heavily guarded by cultivators.

Other than these, there were the formations of the Five Elements Sect.

If Mo Hua wasn't mistaken, within the Five Elements Sect lay a Large Formation!

Moreover, this Large Formation was ancient, with a profound aura and meticulously arranged Formation Patterns.

Mo Hua had tried to perform calculations, but he couldn't deduce anything at all.

Mo Hua then went to inquire with Mr. Zhuang:

"Master, is there a Large Formation within the Five Elements Sect?"

Mr. Zhuang nodded, "There is." Continue your adventure at

"Isn't it First-grade?"

Mr. Zhuang's gaze flickered slightly, "It's Second-grade."

Second-Grade Large Formation!

Mo Hua was shocked.

Up until now, he had rarely seen Second-Grade formations, and here he encountered a Second-Grade Large Formation!

The ability to construct a Second-Grade Large Formation showed the profound legacy and deep knowledge of the Five Elements Sect's ancestors in formation study.

"Master, what's the name of the Five Elements Sect's Large Formation?"

Mo Hua asked curiously.

Mr. Zhuang's gaze became more serious, "Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation."

"Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation..."

Five Elements...

Mo Hua felt a chill in his heart, "Master, is this formation related to the Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation?"

Mr. Zhuang was surprised at first, then chuckled, "To say they are related wouldn't be wrong..."

"The Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation is focused on offense, while the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation is focused on defense. Both formations rely on the Five Elements, and both have some origins with the Five Elements Sect..."

"The ancestors of the Five Elements Sect also once laid out the Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation, completely exterminating a Demon Path's Monster Gate, and vanquishing the monster cultivators within."

"However, the current Five Elements Sect might not have this capability."

"When a sect is flourishing, it can focus on offense, but when it's in decline, it can only maintain defense..."

Mr. Zhuang sighed softly, "This Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation is also a legacy left by the ancestors of the Five Elements Sect..."

"In a Third-Grade state boundary, constructing this Second-Grade Large Formation, basically, it can ensure that the Five Elements Sect remains unassailable amid the turbulent winds of the cultivation world."

Of course, that is generally the case.

No matter how impregnable the Large Formation is to outsiders, if it rots from the inside, then there's nothing that can be done...

Mr. Zhuang's thoughts stirred, and his gaze became profound.

Mo Hua also reflected on this.

"Mo Hua, I'll test you," Mr. Zhuang suddenly said.

Mo Hua nodded, "Master, please say."

"Spend some time, try to deduce the structure of the Formation Pivot of the Large Formation..."

Mo Hua was startled, "Master, this is a Second-Grade Formation, isn't it?"

Mr. Zhuang nodded slightly, "You can start trying to work with Second-Grade Formations."

Mo Hua was stunned.

Contact with Second-Grade Formations...starting with a Second-Grade Large Formation?

Is it like trying to fly before learning how to walk?

Does Master...think too highly of me...

Mr. Zhuang saw Mo Hua's thoughts and smiled gently, "Second-Grade Formations, compared to First-grade Formations, will have fundamental changes in Patterns, but their Formation Pivot structures do share similarities."

"You don't need to deduce the Patterns, just observe the structure and grasp the overall context."

Mo Hua had an epiphany, "Alright, Master!"

After Mr. Zhuang finished instructing, Mo Hua excitedly ran off, dragging his elder brother and sister to study the Second-Grade Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation of the Five Elements Sect.

The house was quiet for a moment.

Old Kui appeared, frowning, "You really are in no hurry."

Mr. Zhuang's eyes were clear, looking at the distant undulating mountains, the towering caves, and the Large Formation hidden within, and he spoke calmly,

"Wait for it, I'll wait until the preparations I need to make are all in place..."

Mr. Zhuang then glanced at Mo Hua, who was walking away, and fell silent in his heart.

"Let me spend a little more time with these children..."

Chapter 598: Life-gate (1)

Mo Hua began to study the Five Elements Sect's Mountain Protection Array.

But this Large Formation, after all, was a Second-Grade Formation, and Mo Hua, having no foundation whatsoever, found the study extremely challenging.

However, after pondering it for a long time, Mo Hua did discern some insights.

Second-Grade Formations differ from First-grade Formations.

Their Formation Patterns are more complex and profound, the Spiritual Power required to activate the Formation is stronger, and the nature of the Spiritual Power circulating within the Formation also fundamentally differs from that in a First-grade Formation.

This difference is somewhat similar to the disparity between the Spiritual Power of Qi Refinement and Foundation Establishment.

The Spiritual Power of Qi Refinement is still vaporous.

While the Spiritual Power of Foundation Establishment is like mercury.

Spiritual Power like mercury, as if condensed into a liquid like quicksilver.

The Spiritual Power within a Second-Grade Large Formation is precisely such.

Divine Sense Calculation isn't effective either.

Although Mo Hua possesses a peak Thirteen Stripes Divine Sense, reaching the limit of the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage, due to the qualitative difference in Formation Patterns between the Second-Grade Formation and the First-grade Formation.

Therefore, after Calculation, the Formation Patterns that emerged in his Sea of Consciousness were a mass of profound, complex, and dense patterns, utterly indecipherable.

Fortunately, while the Formation Patterns were difficult to understand, the structure of the Formation Pivot was generally consistent.

Mo Hua was unable to deduce specific Formation Patterns, but by comparing them to the Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation and drawing on his experience, he could still deduce the basic layout of the Second-Grade Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation.

After several days, Mo Hua had a superficial understanding of the skeleton of the Mountain Protection Array.

But as for the more specific and profound details of the Formation, Mo Hua was none the wiser.

Nevertheless, this was enough.

At least Mo Hua had a preliminary grasp and understanding of the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation.

As its name implies, the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation, is primarily defensive.

The multitude of Single Formations connected within it are, most of them, of the Earth and Wood of the Five Elements, and also include the Golden Series Second-Grade Formations.

The purpose is to fortify the Sect, shelter disciples, and defend against external enemies.

As Mr. Zhuang had said, by establishing such a Second-Grade Large Formation within a Third-Grade State Boundary, no matter what kind of power invaded, as long as the Large Formation was activated, one could basically be invincible.

There are cultivation restrictions of the Heavenly Dao Formation.

Within the Third-Grade State Boundary, with Mo Hua's limited experience in Tao Cultivation, he could not conceive of any method that could break through this Mountain Protection Array.

Beyond that, Mo Hua discovered another issue.

This Large Formation seemed to have been renovated.



Five Elements Sect's construction of caves and palaces, which involved the Sect's foundations, naturally affected the Large Formation.

Now, this Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation appeared to have been modified in many places.

Mo Hua went to ask Mr. Zhuang.

Mr. Zhuang nodded and sighed:

"Indeed, they don't appreciate the Formation left by their ancestors..."

Mo Hua glanced back at Mo Hua and asked:

"How is your study coming along?"

Mo Hua then told Mr. Zhuang about the Formation Patterns, Formation Pivot, and some Formation structures he had deduced.

Mr. Zhuang nodded his head in approval and praised:

"You've made good observations."

Mo Hua chuckled.

Mr. Zhuang then asked, "Do you still remember the Life-gate?"

Mo Hua thought for a moment and nodded.

He remembered Mr. Zhuang saying that within the Formation Principle, where there is life, there is death, and within death, there is also life.

Via the Reversed Spirit Formation, when causing Formation Collapse, it is the "death" within the Formation principle, yet within the deathly state of the Formation's collapse, there exists a sliver of life, which is the "Life-gate" within the Formation. rÂnôBËŞ

Thinking of this, Mo Hua startled and whispered:

"Master, you're not planning to bring down the Five Elements Sect's Formation, are you..."

Mr. Zhuang was taken aback, then couldn't help but laugh:

"Where did your mind wander off to... Causing a Formation Collapse has significant destructive power and is harmful to the heavenly harmony; we can't just use it casually."

Mr. Zhuang drew a mountain diagram on paper, traced several lines along the mountain's contours, and instructed:

"These are the main veins of the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation's Pivot Structure that I've outlined, memorize them."

"When the Formation is in motion, there will be a Life-gate above the Formation Pivot."

"Although this small section is a Second-Grade Formation Pivot, it is similar to the layout of the Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation, and with your Divine Sense being sufficient, you should be able to calculate the Life-gate yourself..."

"All right, Master." Mo Hua nodded.

But he was somewhat puzzled.

Why was his master asking him to calculate the "Life-gate"?

Mo Hua thought about it and expressed some concern:

"Master, could it be that the Five Elements Sect is planning to use the Formation against us?"

Mr. Zhuang appeared slightly startled, then tousled Mo Hua's hair, "Don't worry, it's just being prepared for any eventuality."

Seeing that Mo Hua was still somewhat anxious, Mr. Zhuang explained:

"A Second-Grade Large Formation isn't available everywhere; this is a rare opportunity. I'm just taking this chance to teach you some key points about Second-Grade Large Formations..."

Mo Hua's eyes lit up, and he gratefully said:

"Thank you, Master!"

Mr. Zhuang smiled, nodded, and then imparted some key points about Second-Grade Large Formations.

There were no specific drawing methods, only some concepts about Formation Pivots, Formation eyes, and some overarching strategic ideas.

Mo Hua listened with keen interest.

He had already constructed a First-grade Large Formation.

Regarding Second-Grade Large Formations, without delving into specific Formations, just from the perspective of Formation principle, he could understand the concepts.

It's just uncertain whether he would ever have the chance to truly construct a Second-Grade Large Formation.

After Mr. Zhuang had finished teaching, he instructed: Enjoy more content from

"Remember these words well, think about them when you have time, and go see the Five Elements Sect's Large Formation again to verify them for yourself."

"Also, the section of the Formation Pivot that I have outlined, make sure to repeatedly calculate it and find the Life-gate."

Mr. Zhuang's expression became somewhat stern.

Mo Hua did not understand the reason, but he still nodded earnestly.

In the following days, Mo Hua, following Mr. Zhuang's teachings, began to observe the Five Elements Sect's Second-Grade Large Formation.

Chapter 599: Life-gate (2)

Meanwhile, whenever there was a chance, Mo Hua began the calculations for the section of the Large Formation's Formation Pivot that Mr. Zhuang had pointed out on the mountainside.

Searching within the ever-rotating Formation Pivot for that constantly shifting Life-gate...

By the time Mo Hua had observed enough and honed his calculation skills thoroughly,

Mr. Zhuang called over Sect Leader Liao and instructed,

"We are well-rested now, you can fulfill the agreement."

Sect Leader Liao was taken aback.

The agreement...

Naturally, it referred to the arrangement of allowing Mr. Zhuang's disciple to learn the Five Element Ultimate Formation.

Sect Leader Liao said with a smile, "There is still time, Elder could rest a few more days while I consult with the Inner Gate Elders again..."

Mr. Zhuang said indifferently,

"What I have just said was a notification, not a discussion."

Sect Leader Liao, thick-faced, still wanted to make excuses, but suddenly felt a sinking feeling in his heart. Looking up, he saw Mr. Zhuang's gaze withdrawn, his entire presence like an unparalleled sharp sword, his aura majestic and peerless.

There was no fluctuation of Spiritual Power, no trace of Spell use.

But there was an extremely strong oppressive feeling.

Rendering him utterly unable to harbor any thoughts of resistance.

In Mr. Zhuang's eyes seemed to lurk thousands of sword glints, as if capable of directly piercing through Sect Leader Liao's veil of secrets, causing his heart to tremble and making him lower his head, unable to look him in the eye.

A moment later, everything dissipated like smoke and clouds.

No might, no pressure.

The breeze blew gently as if nothing had ever happened.

But Sect Leader Liao was drenched in cold sweat, his voice trembling,

"Elder, please calm your anger, I will... report back to the Chief Elder right away..."

...

Sect Leader Liao left in a state of panic and soon reported the matter to the Chief Elder in the cave dwelling behind the mountain.

The Chief Elder slammed the table in anger, "This is outrageous!"

"The pressure of Divine Sense!"

"Do they really think the Five Elements Sect is without capable people?!"

Sect Leader Liao thought to himself, isn't our Five Elements Sect exactly without capable people... but he harbored not a hint of resentment.

He just didn't understand.

How could a person without Spiritual Power and a shattered Sea of Consciousness exert such a terrifying Divine Sense pressure?

It seemed that without lifting a finger, just one look was enough to shatter his courage and kill him!

Sect Leader Liao was deeply frightened.

This was when that person was down and out, with only a tenth of his Cultivation and power. If he were in his prime, what an overpowering presence he must have had... RÄNÖBÉS

No wonder so many people, in their efforts to deal with him, had to be extremely careful and use all their wits...

This person was truly fearsome!

Sect Leader Liao calmed his mind and asked about the crux of the matter,

"Chief Elder, what should we do now?"

The Chief Elder glanced at Sect Leader Liao with an emotionless face, but felt irritated inside:

"The moment something happens, you ask what to do. Do you look anything like a Sect Leader at all?"

"How can you shoulder great responsibilities and revitalize the Five Elements Sect in this manner?"

The Chief Elder said, "Postpone..."

Before he could finish, Sect Leader Liao interjected with a wry smile, "We can't postpone any longer..."

Just one look from that person is enough to make me tremble in fear.

If we keep delaying and he looks at me a few more times, my courage might not shatter, but my Taoist Heart might.

How can we dare to delay further?

The Chief Elder frowned.

Sect Leader Liao stood to the side, holding his breath, and after a long moment said slowly,

"Why not just let them learn?"

"No way!"

The Chief Elder firmly replied.

He looked at Sect Leader Liao with an icy gaze, "We must never allow them to learn!"

"As I've said before, this Formation, even if it becomes obsolete, must only perish within our Five Elements Sect!"

"Even if no one can master it, even if it's lost forever, it must not fall into the hands of outsiders!"

Sect Leader Liao was somewhat troubled, "Then..."

We cannot allow them to learn, but we also dare not refuse them outright.

We in the Five Elements Sect cannot afford to offend that person...

The Chief Elder also understood the dilemma, and with a flicker in his murky eyes, said, "We shall set some trials."

Trials?

Sect Leader Liao hesitated, "There doesn't seem to be such a rule within the Sect..."

"There is one starting now," said the Chief Elder casually.

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As expected of the Chief Elder, he has lived long and has a thick skin.

Sect Leader Liao muttered to himself and then asked,

"But these trials... How shall we conduct them? Who should be tested? Mr. Zhuang, or his disciple?"

The Chief Elder's eyes turned cold, "Would you stop and think? Mr. Zhuang... who can test him? Who is qualified to test him?"

Sect Leader Liao's eyes grew cold, but he didn't become angry. He just nodded slightly.

That meant his disciple would be the one to be tested.

"Chief Elder, what exactly do you plan to test him with?"

The Chief Elder spoke gravely, "Host a Tao Discussion Meeting."

"A Tao Discussion Meeting... to compare formations?"



The Chief Elder nodded.

Sect Leader Liao was hesitant, "But who will compete?"

The Chief Elder frowned and said,

"The Elders and Instructors within the Sect obviously won't do, for that would clearly be bullying the weak, and Mr. Zhuang would definitely not agree. Therefore... it must be a comparison of formations amongst disciples..."

"The Inner Sect Disciples will compete..."

"His disciple must win over all our Five Elements Sect's Inner Sect Disciples in formation arrays, in order to learn our Sect Protecting Five Elements Spirit Formation!"

Sect Leader Liao said quietly, "Chief Elder, are you serious?"

The Chief Elder looked displeased.

Sect Leader Liao reminded him, "Apart from everything else, his young disciple is already a First-Rate Formation Master..."

A genuine, value-for-money First-Rate Formation Master at that...

At present, none of the Five Elements Sect's Inner Sect Disciples could reach such position during the stage of Qi Refinement.

How could they possibly compete?

Do you intend to let him publicly embarrass our Five Elements Sect?

And are we voluntarily presenting our face for him to slap...

Sect Leader Liao was somewhat speechless.

But the Chief Elder shook his head, "Not at all!"

Sect Leader Liao didn't understand.

The Chief Elder retorted, "Amongst the Inner Sect, aren't there some disciples who are of First-Rate standard but have repeatedly failed their assessments?"

Sect Leader Liao nodded, "There are."

The Chief Elder sighed in relief, "Then that will do."

Chapter 600: Life-gate (3)

Sect Leader Liao asked, "You mean to say..."

The Chief Elder mused, "The Taoist Court's assessment has a limited number of quotas, and the waters can run deep or shallow."

"In some remote areas, where Formation Masters are scarce, the assessment standards are looser, and the quality of Formation Masters might be lacking."

"And then there are the sons and daughters of certain clans, young cultivators, who for the sake of being known as a genius, pull strings using their connections, and even if their standards fall short, they are guaranteed a First Grade."

"Such First Graders often contain even more watered-down ability."

Sect Leader Liao frowned, "Are you saying that Junior Formation Master surnamed Mo is one of these First Grade Formation Masters?"

The Chief Elder nodded slowly, "Even if he didn't take any shortcuts, he was most likely given a First Grade in some backwater small place."

The Chief Elder continued, "It's different for our Five Elements Sect."

"Within the Dali Mountain State Boundary, there are many sects that are established based on the Formation, and this place was once a stronghold for Formations. Even though times have changed, the foundation still exists, and there are many Formation Masters."

"To be assessed in this state boundary is extremely difficult!"

"Even achieving a First Grade feels as arduous as ascending to heaven."

"Because for assessment, you don't compete with cultivators of your age, but with all Qi Refinement, and even some Foundation Establishment Formation Masters; it's merit-based."

"Others have been cultivating for longer than you, their Divine Sense is stronger, having immersed themselves in Formation for many years, drawing more Formations than you, how can these ordinary disciples compare?"

"So it's normal that they are not assessed."

"At the same time, don't think that just because they are not assessed, their Formation skills are insufficient."

"Placed in some Little Immortal City or Second-Grade Prefecture Border, they would already be genuine First Grade Formation Masters."

"Therefore, some disciples within our sect who haven't been assessed might not necessarily be weaker in Formation strength than that little disciple of Mr. Zhuang who has already achieved a First Grade!"

Chief Elder's words were well-founded, making Sect Leader Liao see the light.

Sect Leader Liao praised, "Worthy of our Chief Elder, so thorough in your considerations!"

"With this understanding, that First Grade Junior Formation Master isn't necessarily as brilliant, Maybe he was just lucky to be assessed..."

Sect Leader Liao pondered again, "Indeed, although talent is important for a Formation Master, proficiency comes with practice, and diligence can compensate for lack of skill. That Junior Formation Master is just around a teenager; even if he started drawing Formations from the womb and did so every day without rest, how many Formations could he possibly have drawn?"

"With so few Formation drawings, his comprehension would naturally be shallow."

"No matter how high his talent is, without rigorous practice, it is ultimately as untenable as a castle in the sky."

This struck a chord with the Chief Elder.

The Chief Elder nodded in agreement but also cautioned, "However, we shouldn't be careless. Even when catching rabbits, a lion uses all its strength. We mustn't underestimate him..."

Sect Leader Liao bowed and said, "The Chief Elder is absolutely right."

Following that, he frowned, "The Junior Formation Master is easy to deal with, but his senior brothers and sisters..."

Thinking of the pair of siblings with profound cultivation and unmatched Spiritual Roots, appearing almost celestial in their bearing, the Chief Elder's expression also turned gravely serious. ٲٲٲٲٲٲٲٲ

After a moment, the Chief Elder sighed and said slowly, "In that case, we will have to seek assistance..."

"Assistance?"

The Chief Elder nodded, "In the Dali Mountain State Boundary, many Formation Sects and clans have close relations with our Five Elements Sect. Among them, there are quite a few talented individuals with an exceptional aptitude for Formations. We can borrow their support to bolster our presence and take the wind out of that person's sails!"

"Can they win against that pair of siblings?"

"By gathering the entire Dali Mountain State Boundary's Formation Genius, there should be no problem..."

Sect Leader Liao nodded but couldn't help but ask curiously:

"But can they win against Mr. Zhuang from back then?"

The Chief Elder snorted coldly, "Don't even think about it; no matter how talented they are, they can't hope to beat that man..."

The Chief Elder's gaze filled with fear as he was forced to admit,

"How many like Mr. Zhuang exist in this world?"

Sect Leader Liao still hesitated, "Won't it be obvious?" [Enjoy exclusive content from](#)

The Chief Elder shook his head, "They are guests from afar, not members of the Five Elements Sect. How could anyone discern whether they are our disciples?"

"Then, can we really persuade these talents?"

"Just offer them benefits."

"The cost won't be small..."

"If a problem can be solved with Spirit Stones, it's not a problem."

Sect Leader Liao winced at the cost but still nodded.

With the planning completed, the Chief Elder also breathed a sigh of relief and said coldly,

"At the Tao Discussion Meeting, when it comes to comparing Formations, if those disciples under that man cannot surpass our cultivators of the Five Elements Sect, with his arrogant nature, he probably won't have the effrontery to request learning our Ultimate Formation..."

Sect Leader Liao was still not entirely reassured:

"Such an obvious scheme, will that man agree?"

The Chief Elder sneered, "If he wants his disciples to learn the Formations of our Five Elements Sect, he will have to agree!"

"We haven't refused; we've just made a fair and reasonable request."

"If they can't win against the disciples of the Five Elements Sect, what right do they have to learn the Ultimate Formation of the Five Elements Sect?"

"In other words, if they can't win against the disciples of the Five Elements Sect, even if they went to learn the Ultimate Formation, they would certainly be unable to master it!"

"By saying this, I'm saving both our times; it's for the good of the Five Elements Sect as well as his..."

...

The Chief Elder put on a righteous façade.

But in his heart, Sect Leader Liao sneered.

The older they get, the thicker their skins become.

It's only because the Five Elements Sect has these old, scheming parasites that it has been gradually declining.

However, he had no other options in this matter.

Just he didn't know whether Mr. Zhuang would agree...

Feeling uneasy, Sect Leader Liao went to see Mr. Zhuang to explain the situation.

Unexpectedly, Mr. Zhuang was not surprised, nor did he show anger; he remained indifferent and nodded,

"Good!"

Sect Leader Liao felt relieved.

Agreement boded well.

At least he had an explanation to provide.

But the more he observed Mr. Zhuang, the more inscrutable and mysterious he seemed to be.

He simply could not fathom what Mr. Zhuang was truly thinking or planning...

...

After Sect Leader Liao took his leave, Mr. Zhuang called over Mo Hua and the others.

"In a few days, you will be comparing Formation skills with the disciples of the Five Elements Sect..."

"No, not you..." Mr. Zhuang looked at Mo Hua and smiled faintly, "Mo Hua, you alone will suffice."

Mr. Zhuang wore an expression of looking forward to a good show,

"You take the lead, and at the same time, support your senior brother and sister..."

"And also make your master proud..."