

The Quest 791

Chapter 791: Sect (2)

Gu Changhuai furrowed his brow, "Why?"

Shangguan Yi shook his head, "I haven't figured it out yet."

Gu Changhuai's gaze turned slightly cold as he nodded his head.

But in his heart, he knew it was probably not that simple.

He had always felt that there was something fishy about the deaths of those dozen or so traffickers in the restaurant.

And that child Mo Hua, whom he had met once—even though he looked innocent, his eyes were extremely profound.

He was both innocent and a bit... eerie.

One must not judge a book by its cover, even if it's just a child...

Gu Changhuai had his suspicions, and also some wariness.

Yet, as he always found this cousin-in-law unpleasant, he kept these thoughts to himself and didn't voice them...

...

In the following days, Wenren Wan busied herself securing a school spot for Mo Hua, with Shangguan Yi also helping.

Both of them not only pulled many strings within the Noble Clans but also poured in a great amount of Spirit Stones and owed significant favors.

These actions caused some dissatisfaction in both the Shangguan Family and the Wenren Family.
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For the Wenren Family, Wenren Wan was a daughter who had married out.

A married daughter is like spilled water.

Yet now, not only was she not helping much, but she was also pulling the wool from her own family's lamb. This was truly difficult to justify...

And for the Shangguan Family, it was an outrage for them to help an unknown little cultivator, impacting the interests of quite a number of people.

Many disciples from the Shangguan Family's own lineage didn't have entrance spots to the Eight Great Gates.

And now, out of nowhere, they were supposed to give one to an outsider.

They were, of course, unhappy about it.

The quota for entering each Noble Clan is also tied to the prestige of the clan, involving some interests.

If the person who enters causes trouble or turns out to do next to nothing, it reflects badly on the Shangguan Family.

Of course, if he achieves something, it could also bring some benefits to the Shangguan Family that recommended him.

But this is Qian State. What can an average outsider accomplish after entering the storied Eight Great Gates, where prodigies abound?

They didn't believe for a second that he could.

Therefore, many elders of the Shangguan Family criticized Shangguan Yi's actions to the Family Head, Shang Che.

Shang Che called Shangguan Yi in public to reprimand:

"Wan'er's handling of this matter has been excessive..."

"Since she has joined the Shangguan Family, she should prioritize the interests of the Shangguan Family first."

"You must understand the bigger picture in your actions and not let her drag you into doing something unseemly..."

Shangguan Yi didn't argue but just bowed his head to admit fault, taking all the blame upon himself and said:

"My child will definitely pay attention next time."

Fault can be admitted, but he had no intention of changing.

"Next time for sure," meant that he would persist with this matter to the end, and he would be more careful next time...

Shang Che sighed.

His son had a shrewd mind and was eloquent in speech.

He was doing fine.

Since they had already started this, they naturally had to follow through to the end.

Giving in to pressure and changing course would make one appear weak and indecisive.

All they were doing was giving a small cultivator a chance. Giving or not giving it couldn't be considered a major fault.

But he was too sentimental.

And ultimately, it was up to him, as the father, to clean up the mess.

Shang Che waved his hand, "You may go."

Shangguan Yi bowed and took his leave.

However, Shang Che frowned.

Because of this matter, he still had to apologize to the ancestors.

The ancestors, with their overwhelming cultivation, lay dormant and did not emerge.

They were the true masters of the Shangguan Family.

They strategized behind the curtains, calculating the Shangguan Family's Heavenly secret and the great causality.

The fates of the Shangguan Family, or rather all the Noble Clans of Qian State regarded as "massive entities," were in the hands of these ancestors.

Under no circumstances must he offend the ancestors.

Shang Che heaved a sigh and furrowed his brow.

But what exactly were the ancestors plotting?

And what, after all, was the fate of the Shangguan Family?

Even though his own cultivation was not weak, he could not perform Calculation, didn't understand Heavenly secret, so he knew nothing about these matters...

Shang Che looked up at the sky to see the inscrutable Heavenly Dao, as perplexed as his own expression.

After a moment, he sighed inwardly:

"What, after all, is the Heavenly secret?"

"Why can't I calculate it?"

"If one does not comprehend the Heavenly secret or calculate the causality, no matter how advanced one's cultivation may be, they are just playthings in the hands of others, the ancestors, those old monsters, and even the Heavenly Dao itself..."

Shang Che's brows grew more and more furrowed.

...

Shangguan Yi was reprimanded, but the matter of joining the sect was now out in the open.

Having already begun, the "sunk cost" meant it was unlikely to be stopped mid-way.

The other branches of the Shangguan Family only wanted Shangguan Yi to be reprimanded; they didn't care about what he was actually doing.

Hence, Shangguan Yi hurriedly started to exploit his connections and pull strings legitimately, along with Wenren Wan, to secure an entrance spot for Mo Hua.

Days later, Wenren Wan found Mo Hua and laid out three gold-embossed invitation cards in front of him.

They bore the names of three sects:

Tai'a Sect, Rushing Void Sect, and Taixu Gate.

Mo Hua was astonished, "Aunt Wan, this is..."

"They are invitations for joining the sects. Take a look and decide which one you wish to enter; I'll submit the invitation on your behalf. These three sects are all among the 'Eight Great Gates.' Though they don't compare with the 'Four Great Sects,' they are still quite good..."

Wenren Wan spoke casually, but her eyes couldn't hide a slight sense of pride.

Mo Hua opened his mouth widely, surprised.

"Eight Great Gates... to choose from..."

After a pause, he whispered, "Aunt Wan, these... they must be very valuable, right?"

"Just average, not worth much..."

Wenren Wan said nonchalantly, seemingly not wanting to burden Mo Hua with worry.

Chapter 792: Sect (3)

Mo Hua was moved in his heart.

Since his arrival in Qian State, Aunt Wan had been the kindest to him, although it was because he had saved Yu Er, but the effort she spared in gratitude was extraordinarily commendable.

"Aunt Wan, this..."

Mo Hua's expression was complex.

"Don't take it to heart..." said Wenren Wan, "this is all you deserve..."

"But..."

Wenren Wan immediately furrowed her brows and said, "I went through a lot of trouble to get these for you, don't say you don't want them!"

Her gaze was sincere and earnest, and her tone left no room for doubt.

Mo Hua felt a warmth in his heart, looking at the several letters of introduction, and pondered silently.

He did indeed want to join a sect.

Though relying on himself, painting formations for others, earning Spirit Stones, he could get by in the Qian Learning State Boundary, and then look for an opportunity.

But that would waste too much time, and he may not necessarily come across any opportunity.

If it dragged on for too long, his own cultivation would be delayed.

The advancement in formation skills would also slow down.

He did not know when he would be able to rescue his master...

Mo Hua glanced at Wenren Wan, seeing a trace of concern in her eyes, clearly she had put a lot of thought into this, it was truly for his own good...

Mo Hua felt relieved, nodded, and decided not to be overly modest.

Even heroes have their difficult times, let alone a child like himself.

There's no need to put on a tough front when it isn't necessary.

When others treat you well, accepting their kindness graciously is the way to go.

If there's an opportunity in the future, he would repay this kindness!

"Thank you, Aunt Wan!"

Mo Hua said with a smile, quietly noting this kindness in his heart.

Wenren Wan also sighed a breath of relief, then cheerfully said, "Hurry up and choose. Which one do you like?"

"Can I really choose?"

"Mhm."

Mo Hua looked at the three letters of introduction, then spoke with a hint of doubt:

"Tai'a, Chongxu, Taixu... these three names, why do they feel somewhat similar..."

"They come from the same lineage..." Wenren Wan explained, "These three sects have some ancestral origins, saying they are 'of the same alliance' isn't an exaggeration..."

"But times have changed since then, now they are completely three independent sects, the names are just somewhat alike."

Wenren Wan continued, "All three of these sects have good relations with the Wenren Family, and they also have some connection with the Shangguan Family, though not very deep. Now, I've used favors from both the Wenren and Shangguan families, hence I managed to exchange for these three letters of introduction, but you can only choose one."

"Okay," Mo Hua nodded.

He frowned as he focused on the three sects.

These three sects were completely outside of his expectations.

Tai'a, Chongxu, Taixu...

He hadn't paid much attention to them before, even when he was sending out resumes to test the waters, he hadn't really cared about them, always feeling that these names were somehow not quite right for him...

"Joining a sect is a big deal, make sure to choose carefully..."

Wenren Wan's tone became more serious.

She thought it over and still felt it was necessary to clarify things.

"These three sects all have considerable ties with the Wenren Family; normally, I shouldn't really say this, but..."

Wenren Wan leaned closer to Mo Hua and whispered, "Although all are among the 'Eight Great Gates,' there are distinctions of high and low..."

"Among these three sects, the best one is 'Tai'a Sect,' ranking at the top of the Eight Great Gates..."

"The next is 'Chongxu Sect,' only around the middle..."

"'Taixu Gate' is somewhat inferior, considered the lowest..."

"Their heritage and lineage, being from the same origin and stream, are not too different due to the different branches, it's just that over the years, the difference between the disciples taught by sect elders has grown somewhat..."

"Of course, there are also differences in the sect's status and that of cultivation resources..."

Wenren Wan explained in detail to Mo Hua once more, then said:

"Think it over carefully..."

Mo Hua stared at the three sects, pondered deeply, and after a long deliberation, he decided:

"Aunt Wan, I'll choose 'Taixu Gate'..."

Wenren Wan was taken aback, "Why would you choose Taixu Gate?"

Mo Hua had his own considerations.

The Tai'a Sect and the Rushing Void Sect belonged to the upper-middle tier, which also meant that their Sect thresholds were higher, and the cost of entry was greater. The favor owed by Aunt Wan's side would be even larger.

Therefore, choosing the less prominent "Taixu Gate" would be better.

Moreover, Mo Hua didn't want to compete with the Proud Sons of Heaven.

He just wanted to cultivate diligently and learn Formation Painting quietly.

As one of the Eight Great Gates, the Taixu Gate had enough inheritance and Tao Cultivation resources for his own use.

Of course, there was another reason.

Mo Hua said with a serious face, "Taixu Gate sounds cooler..."

Striving for the utmost of Heavenly Dao, wandering in Taixu!

Taixu Gate!

Wenren Wan was startled, her thoughts momentarily scrambled, and she couldn't help but think to herself:

This child Mo Hua indeed thinks somewhat... differently from ordinary people...

"Have you... really made up your mind?"

"Yes," Mo Hua nodded solemnly.

Wenren Wan said tactfully:

"The Tai'a Sect and the Rushing Void Sect would be somewhat better, their Sect strength is also stronger..."

Mo Hua said firmly with a small face, "The strength of a Sect is only temporary, but whether you are cool or not, that's for a lifetime!"

Wenren Wan opened her mouth, at a loss for words. In the end, she could only sigh and say:

"Alright then..."

"Oh, right," Wenren Wan continued, "do you have any specialties... so I can write it in the invitation letter, it will also give me an excuse, no, a reason to recommend you to others..."

Mo Hua said, "I'm quite good with Formation..."

"Formation?" Wenren Wan hesitated for a moment, too embarrassed to speak frankly, she tactfully said, "Anything else...?"

She felt that Mo Hua, coming from Little Immortal City, might not be very clear about it.

Qian State was a land of cultivation excellence.

Formation was broad and profound.

In a place like Qian State, it was very easy to be mocked for rashly claiming to be "good at Formation"... Explore new worlds at

Mo Hua said, "My Formation skills are truly not bad..."

He took out the first-grade Heaven Shu Ring and showed it to Wenren Wan.

Although he knew how to paint Second Grade formations, he had not yet received an official assessment and was not considered a Second Grade Initial Stage Formation Master, so he did not want to boast too much.

Being modest was still better as a person.

"You're actually a First Grade Formation Master?"

Wenren Wan was somewhat surprised.

Even in Qian State, it was rare for someone as young as Mo Hua to become a First Grade Formation Master, even among the progeny of Noble Families.

Even though Tongxian City, being a smaller Immortal City, had more lenient assessments and somewhat lagging Formation levels.

Their First Grade, compared to Qian State's First Grade, might be "worlds apart," but it was still quite an achievement.

To say he was "good at Formation," at least, it was just barely plausible...

At least on the surface, having a "specialty" was also acceptable to put forward.

Wenren Wan breathed a sigh of relief and nodded.

The matter was thus decided.

And so, Mo Hua planned to head to the Taixu Gate.

However, there was still the most important reason for choosing the Taixu Gate that he hadn't told Wenren Wan.

Wandering in Taixu...

The moment he saw the words "Taixu Gate," his Divine Sense stirred. After silently performing Calculation, he discovered a trace of obscure cause and effect in the dark.

This strand of cause and effect, though difficult to discern, was clearer than it had been during previous Calculations.

Within the cause and effect.

In the ruined temple on the desolate mountain, the image of Lord Yellow Mountain, who had been slain for his malicious thoughts, surfaced again in Mo Hua's mind.

Only a few fleeting images.

But the Yellow Mountain Lord Mo Hua had encountered was different.

It had an extremely powerful aura, an enormous body, eyes soaked in blood, boundless ferocity and evil thoughts swirling around it.

Simultaneously emerging was a name with Sword Qi reaching the heavens, filled with an icy killing intent:

Taixu Divine Thought Sword True Jue!

Chapter 793: Introduction (1)

"Taixu Divine Thought into Sword True Jue..."

Mo Hua slightly frowned.

At the moment, he only knew this very long and impressive-sounding name.

But beyond that, he was completely in the dark.

What type of swordsmanship was this?

Was it a form of Body Cultivation swordsmanship?

Was it a Sword technique that cultivated to the extreme, killing with Sword Qi?

Or was it a purely Divine Thought sword technique...

Mo Hua sighed.

Although he had calculated a trace of cause and effect, there were too few clues, his Divine Sense was limited, and his Calculation Method inadequate, so he couldn't just make a few calculations to understand everything.

It seemed that to learn about the origins and intricacies of this Sword technique, he would need to join Taixu Gate.

Could it truly live up to its name, transforming Divine Thought into Sword Qi, roaming Taixu, and slaying Evil Spirits...

This he definitely needed to clear up!

Mo Hua nodded to himself.

Ordinary swordsmanship could be ignored, but this might be Divine Thought into sword!

Since he was establishing his foundation with Divine Sense and was on the path of Divine Sense Proving the Dao, it would indeed be remiss not to learn Divine Thought into sword...

Although he had said before that mere swordsmanship need not be learned...

But there was no helping it...

Sword Control was indeed very cool!

If he could really learn it, then he would act as if he'd never said anything before.

"Sword Control, ah..."

Mo Hua then recalled Boss Jiang from before, who charged his golden body and condensed Sword Qi, a dazzling spectacle.

Although in the end, he chopped the thatched cottage like a fool, the brilliant Sword Light he conjured truly made Mo Hua envious.

It was much more imposing than his little fireball and extremely powerful as well.

He wanted to learn it!

Mo Hua's eyes sparkled.

However, if there really was such a formidable Sword technique, it would at least be a spell point protected by the Sect, and Taixu Gate might not be willing to teach him...

Mo Hua hesitated for a moment, then relaxed.

There's always a way around the mountain.

Take his Uncle for example, he hadn't planned to teach him, but he had still "stolen"... no, rightfully learned the Heavenly secret Tricky Calculation...

The Sect Leader of Taixu Gate couldn't possibly be stingier than his Uncle, right...

Mo Hua's mind shifted subtly, his calculations set.

Next, he just had to get into Taixu Gate.

Once inside Taixu Gate, he could find a way to learn the "Taixu Divine Thought into Sword True Jue"!

Even if he ultimately didn't learn it, there was no need for discouragement.

Learning additional Tao Cultivation, Formation knowledge, and other Tao Cultivation knowledge to cover his deficiencies was also a no-lose proposition.

However...

Mo Hua furrowed his brows again, recalling another matter.

"Lord Yellow Mountain..."

In his Heavenly secret Calculation, amid fleeting glimpses, he saw another unfamiliar figure of "Lord Yellow Mountain."

Red eyes, sharp claws, a massive body, fierce and demonic.

Its aura was extraordinarily profound and extremely powerful...

This was definitely not a mere Second Grade Mountain God, not even an entranced Second Grade Evil God who could possess such a demeanor...

There was a problem...

This Lord Yellow Mountain, there was definitely something wrong...

Mo Hua's expressive eyes narrowed slightly.

"This Yellow Skin, it definitely lied, deliberately hiding some key things..."

Although it was now down on its luck with meager strength, it must have 'boomed' before.

And it looked like a real big deal, certainly very grand...

The white-robed Sword Cultivator who had once killed it must be much, much stronger than it claimed.

This Divine Thought into sword was definitely extraordinary...

It seemed he had to find that broken Mountain God again to get some questions answered...

"Daring to deceive me..."

Mo Hua snorted coldly, his gaze carrying a trace of danger...

...

In a remote and dilapidated temple on a barren mountain.

Eating lopsided fruits, enjoying humble offerings, basking in the brilliant sunshine leaking through the temple's broken roof.

Lord Yellow Mountain's long face was the picture of leisure.

Suddenly, a chill swept over...

Lord Yellow Mountain shivered involuntarily.

The warm sunshine instantly felt a few degrees colder.

"What evil thing has its sights on me?"

Lord Yellow Mountain's face changed; frowning, he racked his brains in deep thought, but try as he may, he could not figure it out.

For years he had kept a low profile, shrunk back at the slightest conflict, nodded and bowed at anyone he met, occasionally admitting guilt and playing the victim; he hadn't offended any major Cultivators or Wild Ghost Evil Gods...

Life had been "poor," but peaceful.

Lord Yellow Mountain thought hard, but he was still somewhat baffled.

Suddenly, the image of an innocent yet fierce little face drifted into his mind.

Lord Yellow Mountain froze, grinning sheepishly.

"No way..."

"That little rascal..."

Lord Yellow Mountain felt bitter in his heart, and the fruit in his mouth lost its sweetness...

...

Mo Hua did intend to seek out Lord Yellow Mountain for a clear answer, but he currently couldn't find the time.

Moreover, considering Lord Yellow Mountain had once been so "grand," he would surely have formidable methods, perhaps even some ace up his sleeve. Going to him would require careful plotting and thorough preparation.

The main priority at the moment was to join the Sect.

Dealing with Lord Yellow Mountain could wait until later when he was free.

After all, the Mountain God may flee, but the temple won't...

If the temple doesn't flee, he won't be able to escape...

...

Wenren Wan sent an invitation to Taixu Gate.

It contained Mo Hua's origins, along with his expertise in "mastering Formations."

Since the relations were all well-managed, it was merely a formality; the Elder who handled it stamped it with the Sect's seal, signifying his agreement.

In the end, this record of origin was presented before the Sect Leader of Taixu Gate.

The Sect Leader had veto power on his own.

Of course, in such cases, he would normally turn a blind eye, considering it as unseen.

Unless there was total opposition, conflicting interests, and sharp disputes, he would not incite "public anger" by contradicting the Elders and Noble Clans and rejecting the application.

Chapter 794: Entering the Door (2)

After all, it was just a spot.

Even if he was dissatisfied, it wasn't necessary to fall out with the Elders over such a trivial matter, affecting the dignity of Taixu Gate.

But deep down, he was indeed dissatisfied.

The leader of Taixu Gate, over three hundred years old, bore the appearance of middle age, with thick, jet-black hair. He emphasized "nurturing life", had calm brows and eyes, and exuded a touch of indolence.

He felt somewhat annoyed and somewhat helpless.

"Even if there are ties of friendship, one should not heed the words of the Noble Clans in every matter..."

"A Sect must maintain its own backbone..."

However, that said, he still unfolded the "resume" in his hand. But he was slightly taken aback after only a glance.

The Taixu Sect Leader looked up at the Elder who had handed over the resume. "Are you certain there's no mistake?"

This Elder was of tall and thin stature, a fellow Sect member from the same lineage. Three hundred years ago, both were Taixu Gate Disciples, in fact, this Elder was his junior brother.

They both had entered the Inner Gate from the Outer Gate.

Now he presided as the Sect Leader, while his junior brother had become an Elder, deemed one of the most trustworthy Elders in Taixu Gate.

The Elder offered a wry smile. "How can I make a joke of such a matter?"

The Taixu Sect Leader shook his head, finding it quite puzzling.

"What's the meaning behind this from the Shangguan and Wenren Families? Two great Noble Clans, recommending a Loose Cultivator? Quite strange indeed..."

"According to rumors, some favors are involved..." the Elder said.

"What kind of favors?"

The Elder shook his head. "How would I know that?"

After pondering for a moment, the Taixu Sect Leader nodded. "Acknowledging a favor with gratitude does create a good karmic bond. Let's accept him then."

"Aren't you going to make an issue of it?" the Elder asked.

That had become customary.

The so-called "making an issue" meant putting the matter aside for a bit to express dissatisfaction and then garner some support for certain affairs from the Elders of one's own Sect.

Some matters that Sect Leaders wished to advance, typically fraught with difficulty and hindered by various sides, now offered an opportunity for the Sect Leader to exchange "favors" and garner more support from the Elders.

His initiatives would then proceed more smoothly.

Or he could extract another favor from the Shangguan or the Wenren Family.

Or perhaps, add a little something to the Initiation Fee of the Disciple...

Because exceptional admissions were essentially exchanges of interest.

Where there are people, interests become entangled, so these practices were inevitable.

Compared to other Sects, the internal strife within Taixu Gate was considerably minor...

The Taixu Sect Leader shook his head. "There's no need..."

He flipped through the resume again, sighing lightly. "It's rare for these Noble Clans to not abuse their power for personal gain but to actually fulfill a debt of gratitude. That in itself is quite admirable..."

"And this child is a Loose Cultivator, after all. It's not easy being a Loose Cultivator. There's no need to add an Initiation Fee... Let's treat him the same as the other Disciples. Whatever applies to them applies to him..."

The Elder nodded. "Alright."

As the Taixu Sect Leader continued to leaf through the documents, his eyes suddenly fell upon the "Special Skills" section where the words "Talented in Formations" were written. He was startled and found himself at a loss for words.

After a long while, he finally exclaimed.

"This is truly... the fearlessness of youth, worthy of praise..."

Let alone a Loose Cultivator.

Even among the Shangguan Family, the Wenren Family's rightful heirs, and even among all of Taixu Gate's Direct Disciples, very few dared to claim they were "Talented in Formations..."

With a touch of amusement, the Elder said, "The child is naively fearless. It's not really something to criticize. Once he joins us, he'll realize that the way of the Formations is not that simple..."

The Taixu Sect Leader nodded slightly, then said, "Let's leave it at that. Have him come for initiation in three days."

He took one last glance at the resume.

It bore the name "Mo Hua".

"Mo Hua..."

The Taixu Sect Leader murmured the name, nodding to himself as he inwardly noted it.

"Quite a pleasant-sounding name..."

...

The subsequent initiation process proceeded as usual.

Wenren Wan was also taken aback.

She had assumed that Taixu Gate would haggle over the terms, but everything that followed went unexpectedly smooth.

In three days, Mo Hua would be able to join Taixu Gate.

Wenren Wan breathed a sigh of relief; finally, the matter was settled.

And Mo Hua was very happy as well.

Despite some twists and turns, he was finally about to be initiated.

Wenren Wan had arranged the initiation affairs for Mo Hua, procuring some items, and three days later, took him to the base of Taixu Mountain where Taixu Gate was located.

Before they parted, Wenren Wan once again instructed him about the precautions of the Sect and what to be mindful of after entering.

"Some Disciples are arrogant and unruly; try to avoid them as much as possible."

"If you run into trouble, don't be afraid. Tell the Elders, and have them seek me out at the Shangguan Family..."

"If you experience bullying, don't resort to fighting — you're small and can't defeat others. Go to the Elders, and if they don't care, I'll have your back..."

"You must learn to protect yourself..."

...

Wenren Wan was concerned about Mo Hua's tender age. With his innocent and kind nature, she feared that upon entering the Sect, he might be deceived, ostracized, scorned, bullied, unable to voice his suffering or find someone to stand up for him in times of trouble...

So her heart ached for him.

Although Mo Hua felt that he probably wouldn't be bullied, Wenren Wan's concern still filled him with gratitude.

Mo Hua nodded vigorously, asserting confidently,

"Don't worry, Aunt Wan. I'll be careful and won't let others bully me!"

Seeing Mo Hua's confident posture, as if he had never been bullied, Wenren Wan couldn't help but smile and tenderly touched Mo Hua's head.

Yu Er also came to see Mo Hua off, her little face filled with reluctance as she whispered,

"Brother, when you're free, can I come to visit you?"

Mo Hua looked toward Wenren Wan.

Wenren Wan nodded with a smile.

Then Mo Hua said, "When you have time, come to find me. I'll make you a fierce and majestic Big Tiger!"

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Yu Er's eyes immediately lit up, and she nodded eagerly like a pecking chick:

"Mhm mhm mhm!"

Afterward, a senior brother from Taixu Gate came down to receive Mo Hua.

"This is your Senior Brother Xu, who is also a disciple of the Shangguan Family, but he joined two terms before you. After you join the Sect, you can ask him if there's anything you don't understand," Wenren Wan introduced Mo Hua.

Mo Hua looked at this senior brother, saw that he was dressed in a deep black and white interwoven Taoist robe, adorned with Taixu patterns, genteel and amiable in manner, looking quite approachable, so she clasped her hands and said:

"Senior Brother Xu."

Shangguan Xu also returned the gesture cordially.

After Wenren Wan left with Yu Er's small hand in hers.

Yu Er walked away while turning back, waving her hand in heartfelt farewell to Mo Hua.

After Wenren Wan and Yu Er had left, Mo Hua followed the senior brother named Shangguan Xu up the mountain, one in front of the other.

Taixu Mountain was very high.

And the gate of Taixu Gate was midway up the mountain.

Therefore, there was quite a distance to cover from the foot of the mountain to the gate of the Sect.

Shangguan Xu had profound cultivation and a steady gait, while Mo Hua possessed exquisite movement techniques, treading lightly. After walking together for a while, Mo Hua found it a bit boring and started chatting with Shangguan Xu.

At first, Shangguan Xu was somewhat reserved; however, seeing Mo Hua's innocence and sincerity, he also grew fond of her.

After all, she would soon be his junior sister within the Sect.

Even though she would be a junior sister from the Outer Gate, they still shared camaraderie as fellow sect members.

Therefore, Shangguan Xu was willing to answer all her questions without reserve.

Once they became more acquainted, Mo Hua chattered non-stop along the way: Explore stories on

"Senior Brother Xu, is the Sect's discipline strict?"

"If I violate the Sect rules, will I be expelled from the Sect?"

"If I'm not expelled from the Sect, will I be put in solitary confinement, or will I be punished to watch the gate or sweep the grounds?"

"Senior Brother Xu, by chance, inadvertently, just coincidentally, through a stroke of luck...if I learned something on the sly, would that violate the Sect rules?"

"...Of course, I don't mean to learn secretly, I'm just asking..."

"Also, what does the Sect Leader look like, and are the Elders temperamental?"

...

Hearing these questions, Shangguan Xu found it both amusing and exasperating, but he still answered them one by one:

"Don't worry, the rules of Taixu Gate are, relatively speaking, not so strict..."

"Unlike the Four Great Sects..."

"Within the Four Great Sects, the disciples' every movement and gesture has strict standards; they must observe propriety. They can't delay waking up or going to bed;"

"When Instructors teach something, you must learn it. If you don't learn it well, you'll be reprimanded, and they might even have you apply to leave the Sect;"

"The Four Great Sects have many assessments..."

"Do well in the assessments and be treated well; do poorly and face disdain."

"Cultivation, Formation, Artifact Refining, Alchemy, Refining Rune...and so on, all these are rigorously tested, not tolerating any sloppiness, the rules are extremely strict..."

"There's a minor test every ten days, a major test every month, and they rank disciples into different levels based on these assessments..."

"So, the disciples of the Four Great Sects must be 'ambitious' ..."

...

Mo Hua listened until her scalp tingled, "Is it really that extreme?"

Shangguan Xu nodded, "Yes, that's why they are the 'Four Great Sects.' They aim to be better than others in everything. The disciples they cultivate are truly exceptional talents..."

Shangguan Xu sighed, feeling a mixture of admiration and envy, and then his tone relaxed a bit.

"Of course, our Taixu Gate is much more lenient..."

"There are many inheritances within the Sect. You can learn whatever you wish. Even if you don't learn it well, you won't be too harshly criticized, even if you end up with the lowest rank..."

"Certainly, if you can get through the Instructors' lessons or the Elders' tests. Otherwise, if you truly anger them, it won't be good..."

"Learning spell points..."

"Apart from the true Sect Protecting spell points, most spell points can be learned at the Outer Gate as well, since after all, it is a Sect that passes on teachings and duties. Prejudice between different levels within the Sect isn't that deep..."

"If you manage to learn them, that's a credit to your own skill."

"Of course, that's excluding the Sect Protecting Ultimate Techniques..."

"There aren't too many rules during everyday life, just make sure to attend classes on time, complete your assignments punctually, and the rest of the time is quite ample. The Sect won't restrain you too much..."

...

You're free to learn what you want, and it's fine even if you don't excel...

It means you can "get by"!

Mo Hua nodded in agreement.

He realized that he had made the right choice in coming to Taixu Gate!

Shangguan Xu went on to say, "You will see the Sect Leader during the induction ceremony a few days later. Anyway... he looks quite approachable."

"The Sect Leader is pretty easy-going and places importance on health cultivation..."

"As for the Elders, it's hard to say. They come in all varieties..."

"Some are easy to communicate with, while others have quite the temper..."

"This batch of you all, let me think..."

Shangguan Xu frowned in thought and then said:

"There's an old Elder who teaches Formation techniques, with a really old and venerable tenure. He hasn't retired and stays to teach Formation at the Sect. He's quite eccentric and extremely strict, intolerant of even a speck of dust in his eye and he doesn't allow disciples to be careless in the slightest..."

Shangguan Xu looked at Mo Hua and sighed, "You are a bit unlucky, be careful..."

"Oh..."

Mo Hua nodded but was also somewhat curious about who this "old Elder" really was...

Shangguan Xu wanted to say more, but when he looked up, he realized that in the midst of their conversation, they had unknowingly reached the halfway up the mountain, at the mountain gate of Taixu Gate.

Mo Hua also looked up and saw an ancient and mysterious mountain gate.

The threshold of the gate wasn't high.

A stele was suspended above the gate, bearing three words etched in bold, ancient strokes brimming with Taoist Meaning:

Taixu Gate.

These three words, sharp like a knife or a sword, were integrated with the stele, unassuming yet staunch. However, upon beholding them, one could sense the underlying sharp Sword Qi within them.

It seemed to be the handiwork of some great Sword Cultivator who had returned to the state of uncarved simplicity.

Mo Hua glanced at it only once and became somewhat entranced.

He didn't understand Swordsmanship and didn't cultivate Sword Qi, but his Divine Sense could vaguely perceive the vast and ethereal Sword Intent, as if soaring through Taixu.

"Taixu Divine Thought Sword True Jue..."

Mo Hua murmured to himself.

"Junior Brother?"

Seeing Mo Hua in a daze, Shangguan Xu showed a puzzled look.

Mo Hua came back to his senses and asked, "Senior Brother Xu, these three words..."

Shangguan Xu looked up at them, "Oh, those three words have been there since the establishment of Taixu Gate. Probably the handwriting of some old ancestor of our Sect, they've been around for quite a long time..."

He glanced at the sky and said to Mo Hua, "It's getting late. Let's enter the Sect for now. You've just joined, and there are many trivial matters to take care of."

"Right."

Mo Hua nodded and stepped over the threshold, following Shangguan Xu into Taixu Gate.

As Mo Hua crossed the threshold, walking past the mountain gate, he failed to notice that the words "Taixu Gate" above the gate trembled slightly and emitted a flicker of Sword Intent.

Afterward, the nearby mist condensed on the mountain gate, refined by the Sword Intent, turned into a pure stream of vapor, and rose, curling towards the sky.

This strand of Sword Intent was extremely condensed and yet very subtle.

The refined mist carried a pristine hue of fire, yet it merged indistinguishably with the surrounding clouds.

Most disciples and Elders of Taixu Gate felt nothing, but the Taixu Sect Master, who was sitting in meditation, cultivating his health within a room, suddenly opened his eyes.

His figure flashed as he stepped outside, peering through the majestic mountains and Taixu's Daoist Courtyard towards the mountain gate, where he saw the curling vapor rising above.

The Taixu Sect Master stared in disbelief for a long moment, finding it somewhat inconceivable as he said:

"My Taixu Gate's mountain gate is actually... emitting blue smoke?!"

Chapter 796: Taixu Gate (1)

In the Taixu Gate, everything was ancient and magnificent.

The clouds and mist were resplendent, brimming with immortal presence.

A wide and long jade stone path stretched up the mountain, like a stairway to heaven, leading directly to the summit.

The path served as a hub, flanked by numerous cultivation structures: pavilions, terraces, towers, palaces, and courtyards, all steeped in an antique charm, shrouded in misty white fog, seemingly saturated with the passage of time, adding to their substantiality.

As Mo Hua walked among them, he felt purified of worldly dust, his mood became serene, and his Divine Sense was much more at peace.

Shangguan Xu led Mo Hua to several lofts on the right side, greeted a few cultivators who might be either Instructors or Elders, exchanged a few words, and went through some procedures.

Afterward, Mo Hua had to be examined by several Elders.

This included his Blood Qi, meridians, Cultivation Technique, Divine Sense, and more.

This kind of inspection utilized a spiritual artifact resembling a glaze mirror, instead of having the Elders look with their Divine Sense.

Disciples from the noble clans, with their familial Daoist Skills and Cultivation Techniques that often descend from their ancestors, naturally wouldn't allow others to probe into their secrets, especially those high-reaching Elders.

Otherwise, the inheritance could easily be leaked.

The purpose of the Sect is to convey the teachings and instruct disciples, not to steal inheritances. Elders rashly probing the foundations of disciples would commit a great taboo within the Sect.

In the Qian Xue State boundary, where noble clans were numerous and their inheritances strictly guarded, this was particularly emphasized.

Thus, such inspections could only be conducted with standardized spiritual artifacts.

During the check, they also stopped at the slightest indication.

The sole purpose was to see whether the disciples had impure Blood Qi or chaotic meridians, whether their techniques aligned with the Righteous Dao, or if their Divine Sense harbored any evil spirits...

This was only to prevent disciples from straying into the Demon Path or becoming possessed by madness—nothing more.

When Mo Hua was illuminated by the glaze mirror, the Elders looked and nodded in approval.

A clean Taoist Heart, pure breath.

A good-hearted little cultivator, sincerely devoted to the Dao.

It was just that... his aptitude was indeed a bit poor...

Also, the images in the mirror were a bit blurred, as if disturbed, some details hard to discern.

But as long as he was a sincere little cultivator, that was enough.

Having been admitted into the Sect, things like aptitude were beyond their purview, and they could not be bothered to care.

"That will do," said an Elder.

Mo Hua breathed a sigh of relief.

Next, Mo Hua's Storage Bag was also inspected.

This was mainly to ensure that disciples entering the Sect did not bring any improper items up the mountain.

Such as dangerous Runes, prohibited Pills, and irregular Formations...

Especially any Evil Artifacts associated with the Demon Path.

The Taoist Court had established clear laws, with a definitive line between Righteous and Demon Paths.

Manufacturing, privately possessing, or even using an Evil Artifact was a grave offense.

If a disciple was discovered to have hidden an Evil Artifact, their admission to the Sect could be revoked, or they might even be taken to the Taoist Court to be dealt with as Demon Cultivators.

Their families would also be implicated.

Therefore, everything related to Demon Path Skills, Daoist Skills, and spiritual artifacts were not condoned by the Taoist Court, nor by the Sects of the Righteous Dao.

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Beyond these items, there were also some contraband...

Some disciples would secretly keep certain age-inappropriate paintings and Jade Slips that could muddle the Taoist Heart...

This wasn't considered a serious mistake, as they would simply receive a mild reprimand from the Elders.

However, these paintings and Jade Slips would definitely be confiscated and not returned.

Finally, to Mo Hua's surprise, Spirit Stones were a concern.

There was a limit to how many Spirit Stones one could bring into the Sect—just enough to cover daily cultivation expenses.

This was to prevent rich noble clans from indulging their disciples by bringing large quantities of Spirit Stones into the Sect, potentially leading to favor-carrying, bribery of instructors, extravagant competition, and creating a corrupt atmosphere within the Sect, which would severely damage the spirit of pursuing the Dao.

Therefore, most Sects would limit the amount of Spirit Stones a disciple could bring into the Sect.

Mo Hua had never heard of this limitation on Spirit Stones.

He worried that the "fortune" of tens of thousands of Spirit Stones he had saved and acquired from killing bandits might be too much and not allowed through the Sect gates.

Then he realized that his concerns were misplaced...

After all, bringing only "so many" Spirit Stones already qualified him as being very "frugal and simple"...

Mo Hua was stunned; it dawned on him that even the smallest hair from a noble clan was thicker than his entire being...

"The wealth disparities in cultivation are just too great...", Mo Hua lamented.

The contents of Mo Hua's Storage Bag were all very ordinary, clean items.

The truly important things, such as the Heaven Yan Jue technique and the Five Elements Formation Flow Map with its peculiar Source Patterns, were all kept in his Storage Ring.

The Storage Ring was a gift from his master and invisible to others.

After the Elders finished their inspection, they returned his Storage Bag to Mo Hua.

However, perhaps pitying the meagerness of Mo Hua's Storage Bag, with so few Spirit Stones, and him being a Loose Cultivator, one Elder felt a touch of sympathy and offered a few words of comfort:

"Being a bit short on Spirit Stones doesn't matter."

"Once you're in the Sect, as long as you work hard, you can stand on your own two feet, earn some Spirit Stones, enough for your cultivation needs..."

Earning Spirit Stones by standing on his own...

Mo Hua paused for a moment.

Did that mean... he could still "shear the Sect's wool"?!

If he worked diligently, shearing more, did that imply that his entry into Taixu Gate would not only cost nothing but also potentially turn a neat profit?

Taixu Gate truly was a great place!

Mo Hua's eyes sparkled, and he said with a beaming smile, "Thank you, Elder!"

The Elder nodded slightly, inwardly praising him.

Poor but steadfast, not losing the aspiration to reach the clouds, an optimistic and uplifting Loose Cultivator, a promising young man...

Afterward, the procedures were completed.

Mo Hua received a new Storage Bag.

This Storage Bag was much better than what he had used before, larger in space and more robust and stylish, marked by the distinctive emblem of the Taixu Gate.

It was a pattern with black and white swirling in an Eryi design.

Eryi mixes with Chaos to give rise to Taixu.

The more Mo Hua looked at it, the more he liked it.

Inside the Storage Bag were a set of Taixu Gate disciple's Taoist Robe, some Pills, a few Tao Cultivation Canons, and a Taixu Token.

Chapter 797: Taixu Gate (2)

This token is a Disciple Token.

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It is also the most basic token of Taixu Gate, made of jade, warm to the touch, with a grand design, though somewhat plain. There is only a single sword scratch on it.

This means that Mo Hua is a new disciple of the Outer Gate of Taixu Gate, in the initial stages of Foundation Establishment.

Shangguan Xu said, "This Taixu Token is very important; you must take good care of it..."

"In Taixu Gate, whatever you do that involves Sect privileges, you will rely on this token."

"Whether you are entering the Disciple's Residence, the Tao Teaching Pavilion, Taoist Fields, the Alchemy Room, Artifact Refining Room, Book Pavilion, and so on, you must show this Taixu Token."

"If you have Merit Points within the Sect and need to exchange them for Tao Cultivation items, you will also need this..."

"Also, look at the back..."

Startled, Mo Hua flipped the Taixu Token over and saw that the back of the token was luminous, with fine patterns that transformed into floating characters.

Shangguan Xu said, "This Taixu Token also acts as a messaging jade slip..."

"It will have some internal Sect information, like orders from the Sect Leader, commands from Elders, including messages between disciples... And most importantly, the study schedule for Tao Cultivation."

Mo Hua was taken aback, "Tao Cultivation... study schedule?"

"Yes," Shangguan Xu nodded, "It will tell you, at what hour, and in what place, you should attend which Tao Cultivation class..."

"The Sect has many classes, encompassing Cultivation, Formations, Artifact Refining, Alchemy, Runes, Taoist Skills, and so forth. The arrangement of the classes, the times and places for the classes, are all quite complicated. Occasionally, the Elders or Instructors who teach may have personal matters to attend to and might reschedule or postpone classes..."

"So, the arrangement and scheduling of the Tao Cultivation classes for the disciples within the Sect largely rely on this Taixu Gate Disciple Token..."

"At what hour, which class, the Taixu Token will remind you; if you arrive on time, it will register you; if you skip class, it will also record it..."

"These may seem simple, but contained within are extremely complex Formation logics..."

"Formation logic?!"

Mo Hua's eyes lit up.

Shangguan Xu was stunned, not knowing why Mo Hua suddenly seemed so happy. After thinking for a moment, he slowly nodded, "Yes..."

"Senior Brother Xu, what is the Formation logic? What is the name of the Formation? Is it a Five Elements Formation or some other type of Formation?" Mo Hua asked eagerly.

Shangguan Xu gave a wry smile, "I don't know... I just heard from the Instructor that such a Formation, the Sect will not teach us. Otherwise, surely there would be disciples trying to find ways to tamper with the Taixu Token to cheat..."

Mo Hua felt somewhat disappointed.

He really wanted to know what this Formation was...

Purely for the sake of studying the Formation!

He was a serious Cultivator who would not cheat!

But since Senior Brother Shangguan Xu did not know, Mo Hua was even less likely to find out...

"But, what kind of Formation could it be..."

Mo Hua frowned and began to ponder.

Taixu Token...

If every disciple has one, then that means that this Formation, similar to the "Spiritual Pivot Formation", is constructed in a "master-slave" control mode.

There must be a place that holds the Formation eye, over which the Formation Pivot is constructed.

Through the Formation Pivot, all the disciples' Taixu Tokens are connected, building a whole set...

Mo Hua frowned, "...a whole set of Messaging Formations?"

"Or maybe, there are other functions as well?"

Mo Hua walked and pondered, frowning along the way, muttering to himself...

Looking at his demeanor, Shangguan Xu could not help but laugh and shake his head, not knowing what his junior was mulling over...

After pondering for a while longer, although Mo Hua was proficient in the Five Elements Formation and even some Ultimate Formations, his overall knowledge of Formations was limited, and he could not figure out much more.

He also tried to perform Calculations, or to sense the Taixu Token.

Inside the Taixu Token, it seemed like some Formation was indeed depicted, but it was completely sealed within the token without revealing the slightest clue.

"Can't calculate anything..."

Mo Hua felt a bit of regret.

It seemed he could only wait until after enrollment, enhance his insight into Formations, consult relevant books, and improve his mastery of Formations before he could study the Formation inside the Taixu Token...

As the two walked, they arrived between a hall and pavilion.

"This is the Disciple's Residence, where disciples live and practice daily Tao Cultivation..."

"To the left past the Taoist Field are the Tao Teaching Pavilion, as well as the Artifact Refining Room, Alchemy Room, and other buildings that teach the various arts of Tao Cultivation."

"The Disciple's Residence is one room per person, also very quiet, suitable for self-study or Cultivation without disturbances."

"With the Taixu Token, you can enter the Disciple's Residence and find your own living space..."

Shangguan Xu advised patiently.

Mo Hua looked at the Taixu Token, noticing that there really was "Taiyi" engraved on it, followed by the number "fifty."

"Taiyi?" Mo Hua was a bit puzzled.

"Oh," Shangguan Xu seemed to have just remembered, "I forgot to tell you, Taixu Gate accepts disciples every three years, roughly a thousand people per cohort..."

"Within three years, those who advance to Foundation Establishment Middle Phase can move up a grade, if not, they will retain a grade."

"These nearly thousand people will be divided in the Disciple's Residence, which is essentially class division."

"Since it's Taixu Gate, 'Tai' is the prefix for each residence, followed by the Earthly Branches in order, starting from 'Taijia', 'Taiyi', 'Taibing', and continuing all the way to 'Tairen' and 'Taigui'... making up ten residences, or ten classes..."

"Disciples of the same class will live in a single building."

"You are in Taiyi, so you reside in the Taiyi Residence; the number fifty indicates the fiftieth room."

Mo Hua whispered, "Is this division based on Cultivation or talent?"

Chapter 798: Taixu Gate (3)

Shangguan Xu shook his head, "No, it's random. The Elders draw lots, so it's about luck and your own opportunity."

"Oh."

Mo Hua nodded, understanding in his heart.

He thought to himself, with his own aptitude, how could he possibly be assigned to "Taiyi"? Turns out his "luck" was good...

Shangguan Xu smiled and said, "The four major sects arrange disciples strictly according to lineage, identity, and background, so every time they assign Disciple's Residences, they have to consider for a long time, involving many interests..."

"Where you live also determines the treatment and status of the disciple..."

"Moreover, once it's decided, in order to motivate the disciples to advance, they adjust the rankings anytime based on their academic grades and achievements. If you lag in cultivation, or learn poorly, you will gradually be demoted to the last place..."

"Our Taixu Gate's Sect Leader and Elders are much lazier, they just draw lots. Whatever you get is what you get, and it saves a lot of trouble..."

Mo Hua clicked his tongue in amazement.

The four major sects are really intimidating...

The disciples they teach are likely to know only how to compete and vie for superiority.

But that's probably the intention of the noble clans, or the sects above them, nurturing them like raising gu worms, so that only the truly outstanding geniuses can stand out...

But all these have nothing to do with him.

With his aptitude, except for knowledge of the Formation, he can't even count as bottom-tier in other aspects; he can only muddle through his days...

Shangguan Xu thought for a moment, and then, pointing to some buildings far across, he quietly reminded Mo Hua:

"The Disciple's Residences over there are where the female disciples live, separated by quite a distance. If you have no reason to go, you mustn't, otherwise, you'll be considered a 'little pervert'..."

"Little pervert?"

Mo Hua was taken aback.

"Yes," Shangguan Xu said with lingering fear, "I remember before, a few of our male disciples wanted to go over to... ahem, look for something. They were discovered by a group of senior sisters and junior sisters and were beaten half to death..."

"Their injuries were severe. Not accepting their fate, they went to the Elders to complain. But when the Elders found out, they flew into a rage and beat them up again..."

"It was quite pitiful..."

Mo Hua opened his mouth, but after a moment's thought, he quietly said, "Isn't that what they get..."

Harboring improper thoughts was one thing.

Being beaten up and not learning their lesson, and then going to the Elders to lodge a complaint, was like walking into a trap...

Mo Hua shook his head.

Indeed, lust leads to muddled thinking...

Cultivators must keep a firm Taoist Heart and be wary of the seduction of women!

"I'm just reminding you. Don't go around talking about it, okay..." Shangguan Xu said.

"Don't worry, Senior Brother Xu, I won't say a word!" Mo Hua promised solemnly.

Shangguan Xu nodded, "Go on in then. I'm two terms your senior and live behind that mountain peak. If you have any issues later on, come and ask me..."

"Yes, yes!" Mo Hua nodded, "Thank you, Senior Brother Xu!"

Shangguan Xu waved his hand and left.

Mo Hua, holding the Disciple Token, entered the Disciple's Residence and found room number "fifty". He presented the Taixu Token in front of the door, and then, with a flash of light, the Formation was unlocked and the door opened.

Mo Hua walked in and looked around, quite astonished.

The chamber was spacious, with tables, chairs, screens, blankets, and beds—everything was complete, simple yet elegant.

But it was very fitting for a person cultivating the Tao, embodying the style of purity and simplicity.

Mo Hua was satisfied.

This room would henceforth be his "home" at the Taixu Gate.

And so Mo Hua settled down.

Three days later, the Taixu Gate held its opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony, held once every three years, was a major event hosted by the Sect Leader and all the Elders to welcome the new disciples.

Although called a "ceremony", it was actually quite simple.

The ceremony took place in the massive Taoist Field in the center of Taixu Gate.

Over a thousand disciples bustled about.

The Sect Leader spoke first, then several respected Elders took turns speaking, and their speeches were more or less the same.

They recounted the long history of the Taixu Gate, its profound heritage, ancient lineage, and shining achievements.

Then they encouraged the disciples to diligently pursue cultivation.

And to bring glory to the Taixu Gate once their cultivation had reached a certain level. Read latest stories on

They also emphasized the need to maintain their Taoist Heart, adhere to the Righteous Dao, not to make mistakes, stray down wrong paths, or fall into the Demon Path... and so on.

It was also the first time Mo Hua saw the Taixu Sect Master.

He seemed... just like any other Sect Leader, with a gentle face, splendid dress, profound energy, but nothing else stood out.

Only the hair, pitch-black and thick, just as Shangguan Xu had said, he was extremely good at "nourishing life".

The Taixu Sect Master also silently observed the vast array of disciples in the Taoist Field, outwardly without expression, yet inwardly he murmured:

"Looking at it... they seem to be just ordinary disciples, conforming to the norm, not too bad, but not particularly outstanding either..."

"Why on earth would there suddenly be blue smoke on the sect's entrance?"

The Taixu Sect Master was puzzled.

After the ceremony, everyone dispersed, and classes for cultivation would officially start the next day.

Having attended the entrance ceremony also meant that Mo Hua was now officially initiated. He was now a disciple of Taixu Gate.

Afterward, he could dedicate himself to cultivation, and learn the Formation in peace.

The Heavenly secret was chaotic, the causes and effects obscure. There were many profound and complicated affairs in the world, and Mo Hua knew little of them and was powerless to do much.

He was just a minor Foundation Establishment cultivator.

All he could do was take care of what he was supposed to do.

Steadfastly follow his path of cultivation, gradually learn the Formation, and step by step, climb the Great Dao, to save his master...

And his next goal was the Golden Core!

To comprehend his life's Tao and transform it into the Golden Core!

Mo Hua's gaze was resolute and sparkling with radiance.

He aimed to craft a Divine Thought with over twenty patterns, with an indestructible golden body, to Prove the Dao with Divine Sense, and become a Great cultivator in the Golden Core Realm!

Chapter 799: Elder Master Xun (1)

Although that was the case, he is now still just an ordinary Taixu disciple, and it would be best for him to diligently cultivate in silence.

But this is for the best.

His master had taught him that humans fear fame as pigs fear fattening.

The protruding beam rots first.

It's best to make a fortune in silence and cultivate discreetly, focusing on improving oneself.

The next day, after Mo Hua had practiced Formation at the Taoist Stele all night, he rose early, full of energy, and went to class.

On the Taixu Token, it showed that his first lesson was a cultivation class.

The class on Tao cultivation was taught by an Inner Sect Elder, adorned in a splendid Taoist robe, respected and esteemed.

But since it was only the first lesson, he didn't say much—only a few brief words about the content of the cultivation class.

"Cultivation is the foundation of a cultivator."

"All Taoist skills are based on cultivation; Formations, Pill, Artifact, Rune all take cultivation as the foundation for assessment."

"Only when your cultivation breaks through and your realm improves can you transcend the categories of Tao cultivation, advancing step by step."

"Therefore, cultivation is the stairway to seeking immortality and questioning the Dao."

"For descendants of Noble Clans, Qi Refinement is but enlightenment; Foundation Establishment is the true beginning. Only with a solid foundation and robust Spiritual Power can one form a high-quality Golden Core..."

"With a high-quality Golden Core, can one ascend to higher levels of the Great Dao..."

"Step by step, the more solidly one's foundation is built, the farther one will go in the future..."

"The matter of Core Formation is still far off for you. Knowing a little is enough for now. You are currently at the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage—your immediate priority is to walk the path of Foundation Establishment steadily and solidly..."

"There are various paths to the Great Dao, but they all lead to the same destination. Most of you are Noble Family Descendants, coming from different backgrounds and practicing different Cultivation Techniques, but there are some common spell points that you must learn wholeheartedly."

"How to purify Spiritual Power, how to make your Circulation flawless, how to stabilize your Taoist Foundation..."

"How to avoid mishaps in the course of Foundation Establishment, not to harm your energy channels, not to damage your Qi Sea..."

"How to both steadily and swiftly elevate your cultivation..."

"How to discard bad habits in cultivation, how to avoid arrogance and impatience, to calm your Taoist Heart, and what to do if there are signs of deviating into devilry?"

...

"These are the invaluable insights and experiences accumulated over thousands of years by countless predecessors of Taixu Gate, who have dedicated their efforts and studied diligently."

"In the upcoming lessons, I will teach you these gradually..."

"No matter what your previous background is, or what legacy you have, after learning these cultivation lessons, you will broaden your horizons in Tao cultivation, and have a clearer understanding of the future path of Tao cultivation..."

Your next read is at

"Next, I will briefly discuss how to practice Foundation Establishment..."

"Qi Refinement cultivators treat Spiritual Power as a refined gaseous state. At the Foundation Establishment Realm, Spiritual Power undergoes a qualitative change, condensing like mercury..."

"Spiritual Power that's like mercury needs further refinement, distillation, condensation until it forms crystals, and eventually turns into your personal Golden Core..."

"This cannot be achieved overnight; it requires years of persistent cultivation and consistent effort..."

"In addition, Foundation Establishment Spiritual Power also needs to cleanse Blood Qi, strengthen channels, and expand the Qi Sea..."

"In the past, this was referred to as 'Marrow Cleansing', but with the evolution of Cultivation Techniques, the effects are no longer so pronounced..."

"Nowadays, Cultivation Techniques, improved over generations, emphasize gentle nurturing, gradual progress, and also reducing the risk of mistakes in cultivation and deviation into devilry..."

...

The Inner Sect Elder, with his profound knowledge, spoke in a calm tone, explaining comprehensively.

Mo Hua listened attentively and benefited greatly.

Ever since his Foundation Establishment, he had been following the Heaven Yan Jue, groping his way through cultivation on his own—after all, as long as he absorbed Spirit Stones and his Spiritual Power was growing, that was enough.

He had never realized there were so many details to be mindful of in cultivation.

For Core Formation and even higher realms beyond, one must look to the future, plan every step, and cultivate methodically...

Although the Elder didn't say much, Mo Hua was still profoundly moved after listening.

This is the legacy of a Great Sect!

This is the crystalization of experience from thousands of years, from countless generations of Taixu Gate predecessors!

However, Mo Hua felt somewhat perplexed.

The Elder's teachings seemed to be about how cultivators who build their foundations on "Spiritual Power" and "Blood Qi" can refine their Blood Qi, refine their Spiritual Power, perfect their Taoist Foundation and move further.

But as for himself, he was proving the Dao through Divine Sense...

The Elder didn't mention anything about Divine Sense...

And with his meager Spiritual Power and weak Blood Qi, not having polished his realm or solidified his foundation, he had essentially bluffed his way up...

His way of cultivating was far from what the Elder described.

Mo Hua sighed silently in his heart.

It seems that he would have to start by learning this way, and study it in detail later when he had free time...

After all, he had just begun and had plenty of time.

In the days that followed, Mo Hua cultivated, drew Formations, and attended classes...

But a few days later, Mo Hua suddenly realized a problem:

He was still very unfamiliar with Taixu Gate and did not know much about it.

This wasn't good...

In the next few years, or even decades, he was going to mingle in Taixu Gate, so he had to become familiar with the environment of Taixu Gate.

This was basic for a Monster Hunter.

Upon arriving in an unfamiliar place, one must get to know the environment first.

When he had first entered Big Black Mountain, his father, Mo Shan, had taken him around the Outer Mountain and Inner Mountain, making him familiar with the topography, traces of Monster Beasts, and locations of herbs and minerals...

That's how he managed to thrive in Big Black Mountain.

Though Taixu Gate was not Big Black Mountain, and the instructors and elders were not Monster Beasts, the principle was the same.

Sharpening the axe will not hinder the cutting of firewood.

Mo Hua decided to do some research and get his bearings, to understand Taixu Gate clearly first.

Chapter 800: Elder Master Xun (2)

"This way, I'll be able to "get by" in the future..."

Having just joined the sect, Mo Hua had few academic tasks and plenty of free time, so he began to wander around Taixu Gate with his hands clasped behind his back...

Then he inquired about some things with Shangguan Xu and some other senior brothers and sisters.

Because he was cute and spoke in a way people enjoyed listening to, and he asked about things that new disciples wouldn't know but would indeed be curious about, he was usually able to get answers to most of his questions.

After spending a month, Mo Hua had gained a general understanding of Taixu Gate.

First was the environment.

Taixu Gate was located on the majestic and quaint Taixu Mountain.

A long jade staircase connected the Inner Mountain and the Outer Mountain.

The front of the mountain was the Outer Mountain, and the back was the Inner Mountain.

The Outer Mountain of Taixu Gate provided a place for Outer Gate disciples, external instructors, and Guest Elders to live and practice cultivation.

In addition, there was a large Taoist Field in the middle.

To the right of the Taoist Field were the Disciple's Residences.

To the left were the Tao Teaching Pavilion for classes and other buildings dedicated to the practice of Taoist skills and the various aspects of Tao Cultivation, like the Artifact Refining Pavilion, Refining Pill Pavilion, Refining Rune Pavilion, and Taoist Skill Pavilion.

And the Book Pavilion stocked with Tao Cultivation Canons, especially those on various Formations, which Mo Hua eyed greedily but couldn't enter due to access restrictions.

Behind the Outer Mountain was the Inner Mountain.

There resided the Sect Leader, Elders, Inner Sect Disciples, and some preaching buildings.

Further back was the Rear Mountain.

The Rear Mountain was forbidden territory, and no one knew what was hidden within.

Mo Hua, an Outer Sect Disciple, couldn't even go to the Inner Mountain, let alone the Rear Mountain, which he guessed to be the hiding place of either monsters or ancestors, so he didn't inquire much about it.

Taixu Gate also had a famous Large Formation:

"The Taixu Chaos yuan Mountain Protection Formation"!

To Mo Hua's surprise, this Formation was a Fifth Rank Large Formation!

A Fifth Rank state boundary, constructed into a Fifth Rank Large Formation...

Mo Hua, who had personally constructed a Large Formation before, was shocked and even found it somewhat inconceivable.

What level of Formation Master would it take to accomplish such a feat...

He wanted to learn more, but heard that this Large Formation hadn't been activated for over ten thousand years; no one knew if it still worked, or even if it truly was a Fifth Rank, so most disciples had nearly forgotten about it...

There were even rumors claiming Taixu Gate's Fifth Rank Large Formation was fake, a product of misinformation, and it was in reality only Third or Fourth Rank...

Mo Hua didn't believe it. He wanted to verify it for himself, so he tried to dig into the sect's boundaries.

Unfortunately, he couldn't dig through, and his Divine Sense Calculation revealed no traces...

This level of Large Formation, from the Formation base materials to the construction of Formation Patterns, was completely beyond Mo Hua's cultivation level and understanding of Formations.

He could neither dislodge it nor calculate its secrets.

But Mo Hua was not discouraged.

"Once my cultivation is higher, I'll definitely return to the sect to pry at its foundation and see if there really is a Fifth Rank Large Formation!"

Mo Hua nodded, silently making this "grand vow" in his heart.

In addition, there was the issue of the Inner and Outer Gates.

Originally in Tongxian City, Tongxian Gate also divided disciples between Inner and Outer Gates, but that level of division was different from the Fifth Rank Sect of Taixu Gate in the Qian Xue State Boundary.

And it was different from what Mo Hua had previously understood.

He was now an Outer Sect Disciple.

During the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage, all newly joined disciples were considered Outer Sect Disciples.

Once they reach the Golden Core Stage, they could graduate.

After graduation, they could choose to leave the sect and return to their clans or seek a livelihood with other powers for a longer-term path.

Alternatively, they could choose to stay in the sect and become an Inner Sect Disciple through an assessment.

The Outer Gate took in disciples openly and earned their keep.

The Inner Gate retained disciples for teaching and managing the sect and for preaching and teaching duties.

Disciples of the Inner Gate were mostly expected to become "Instructors."

Find your next read on

An "Instructor" in Taixu Gate was a position denoting a cultivator responsible for teaching and passing on knowledge, ranging from Golden Core Stage Inner Sect Disciples to Elders, and even the Sect Leader.

There were also two types of Instructors.

One type was externally hired, living in the Outer Gate, being Golden Core Stage or even Feather Transformation Realm cultivators, who were employed as instructors or Guest Elders.

These people weren't part of the Inner Gate but were hired for teaching.

The other type was Inner Sect Disciples who had joined the Inner Gate and received Inner Gate inheritance, as well as Elders who had been promoted from disciples.

Inner Sect Disciples and Elders were again divided into ordinary and True Disciples.

Ordinary Inner Sect Disciples paid homage to ordinary Elders, learning the important traditions of the Sect.

True Disciples of the Inner Gate paid homage to True Transmission Elders, thereby gaining permission to learn truly core and Sect-Protecting traditions.

These were also two distinct paths to promotion.

Ordinary disciples, as they advanced in cultivation, were promoted to ordinary Elders.

True Disciples, upon breaking through to the Feather Transformation Realm, were promoted to True Transmission Elders.

And the core positions of the sect, including the Vice Sect Leader and Sect Leader, would only be chosen from among the True Transmission Elders.

Ordinary disciples, ordinary Elders;

True Disciples, True Transmission Elders, and even Vice Sect Leader and Sect Leader.

These were two paths of promotion, seemingly similar, but distinctly separate.

It took Mo Hua quite some time to get his head around the differences between the Inner and Outer Gates, the externally hired Instructors and Inner Sect Instructors, Guest Elders and Inner Sect Elders, ordinary Inner Sect Disciples and True Disciples, and ordinary and True Transmission Elders...

"Even within a sect, the hierarchy is clear and complex..."

Mo Hua mused.

After understanding all these things, Mo Hua now knew what status the senior cultivator who was currently serving as an "Instructor" for his classes held.

Some important courses, such as cultivation lessons, due to their critical nature, were personally taught by True Transmission Elders of the Inner Gate.

The one teaching Mo Hua's cultivation course was named Gongsun, a Feather Transformation Realm True Transmission Elder of Taixu Gate!