

The Quest 801

Chapter 801: Chapter s Elder Master Xun (3)

Occasionally, a Golden Core Instructor was responsible for substitute teaching.

This Golden Core Stage Instructor was a direct disciple of Elder Gongsun and also a true disciple of the Inner Gate.

However, other courses focused on Tao Cultivation skills were not so strict.

For example, the one teaching Refining Rune was an externally hired Golden Core Instructor;

The one teaching Alchemy was a Guest elder in the Feather Transformation Realm;

The one teaching Artifact Refining was an ordinary elder of the Inner Gate;

There were also ones teaching general knowledge of the Cultivation World, history books, and classics, some of whom were externally hired instructors with low cultivation levels but had traveled extensively outside for years, broad in knowledge, old in age, but only at the Golden Core stage.

Without understanding these, one would never know who, standing in the Tao Teaching Room, was lecturing them, whoever the sacred figure might be.

Even if one did understand these, it was sometimes hard to recognize them.

And what Mo Hua could not understand most was the "old Elder" mentioned by Senior Brother Shangguan Xu.

"The one teaching Formation Method is very old and quirky, extremely strict, cannot tolerate the slightest fault, and absolutely does not allow disciples to be negligent..."

This old Elder was respectfully called "Elder Master Xun" by the students.

Elder Master Xun wore the Taixu Gate Taoist Robe, extremely simple, without any embroidered Sword Patterns, and the style was very old, who knew from how many years or generations ago.

He was old and frail, with a weak aura, seemingly not of high cultivation.

The only impression left was truly "old."

His face was full of wrinkles, somewhat hunched, hair and beard all white, with only his eyes shining, stubborn and strict.

Even stricter than Instructor Yan.

Elder Master Xun taught Mo Hua Formation principles.

Mo Hua was extremely serious when attending Elder Master Xun's classes at first, sitting up very straight.

But after a few times, he began to slacken off.

Because he found the introductory Formation classes for the initial stage of Foundation Establishment at Taixu Gate were only teaching First-grade Formation Methods...

For the initial stage of Foundation Establishment, learning First-grade Formations was considered standard.

Moreover, some disciples were not good at Formation Methods at all, teaching them First-grade Formations was even considered "overly advanced" for them as they found it very difficult to learn.

But for Mo Hua, it was very boring...

He already knew these things by heart.

Elder Master Xun's voice was hoarse and serious, emphasizing the importance of the basics of Formation Methods:

"Formation Methods value the fundamentals; without a solid foundation, rashly learning more difficult Formation Methods is nothing but rootless vines climbing aimlessly, lacking one's own foundation."

"Any basic array formation must be firmly memorized, drawn hundreds and thousands of times, refining through forging a thousand times to enhance one's Array Formation Skill..."

Mo Hua felt this was right, but he had already practiced these...

At first, Elder Master Xun's classes still had something new, and his understanding of First-grade Formation Methods was profound, so Mo Hua could still listen.

But after all, they were only First Grade, using the generic Five Elements Formation as examples.

Mo Hua understood most of it after listening once or twice, and afterwards, it was just repetitive and dull.

Mo Hua began to slacken off.

Unable to do anything else, and without anything to do during class, he could only study on his own.

While he appeared to be attending the class on the surface, he was actually performing Calculations in his mind and Drawing Second-Grade Formations, occasionally studying ahead for the harder Formation Method courses to see if there was any knowledge he hadn't learned.

But Calculation greatly drained one's Divine Sense.

That day in class, while Calculating, Mo Hua wasn't paying attention and nearly exhausted his Divine Sense.

Since it was during class, he couldn't meditate to restore his Divine Sense and felt it becoming difficult to focus, his eyelids constantly battling to stay open.

Mo Hua had to forcibly persist.

But at that moment, Elder Master Xun's monotonous and rigid voice echoed by his ear, hypnotic.

"Formation Methods value the fundamentals, without a solid foundation..."

Unaware, Mo Hua quietly dozed off, his head drooping low.

When he opened his eyes, he realized the room was very quiet.

Even frighteningly quiet.

Mo Hua raised his head and discovered, as expected, that Elder Master Xun stood before him with a deep frown, clearly restraining his anger.

Mo Hua felt a little guilty.

Elder Master Xun also did not rebuke him first, but according to routine said,

"Go up there and draw the Formation Diagram I was just talking about."

It was a chance for him.

If he could draw it correctly, it would be good; if not, he was in big trouble...

Mo Hua breathed a sigh of relief.

Drawing the Formation would be easy...

At the front of the Formation Method Room was a Large Array Plate where Elder Master Xun would draw Formation Diagrams while explaining the principles.

Mo Hua walked respectfully to the Array Plate, picked up the pen, looked up, and suddenly froze.

He had been a bit nervous just now and forgot to look; now when he looked up, he realized that there were four Formation Diagrams on the Array Plate.

"Draw the Formation Diagram I was just talking about..."

Which Formation Diagram was Elder Master Xun just talking about?

Mo Hua had dozed off; how would he know...

Holding the pen, Mo Hua was hesitant and indecisive, just standing there stupidly.

The disciples below also felt tense for him, whispering quietly to each other:

"Done for..."

"Elder Master Xun's class, and he dares to doze off..."

"He can't draw, now he's really in for it..."

"No good, just watching makes me anxious..."

"Disaster, I just lost focus too... Did Elder Master Xun notice me as well? The next one won't be me, right... Ancestor of the Cheng Family, please protect me, don't choose me to go up there, I can't do it either..."

...

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While Mo Hua was still hesitating, he suddenly felt a chill on his back.

Is this... Elder Master Xun's Divine Thought?

Mo Hua was startled, and his heart skipped a beat.

It's over, Elder Master Xun is really angry...

"Forget it, just guess one..."

With closed eyes, Mo Hua randomly chose the most difficult one, his little hand moved swiftly, the pen flowed like a dragon or snake, and in no time, he'd finished drawing it...

After he finished, the Tao Teaching Room instantly became quiet...

The chill on Mo Hua's back also faded slightly.

"I guessed right..."

Mo Hua sighed in relief.

Suddenly, whispering started again, the disciples murmured softly:

"Just now..."

"His little hand moved so fast, I couldn't see clearly..."

"He drew it so quickly!"

"How is he so proficient..."

"...But, he drew it wrong, didn't he? It's not that one..."

Mo Hua, with his keen Divine Sense, heard everything clearly and complained inside:

"If it's not this one, then tell me which one it is!"

Helpless, Mo Hua glanced at the other three Formation Diagrams, and feeling the chill on his back intensify once more, he knew Elder Master Xun was getting angry again.

No point in stopping halfway!

Randomly guessing another, swish swish swish, in a few strokes, he finished drawing it.

The Tao Teaching Room became even quieter.

So quiet you could hear a pin drop.

Before Mo Hua could relax, disciples started whispering again:

"Even faster..."

"Is that the hand speed of a Foundation Building Cultivator..."

"Did he grow up eating Formation Diagrams?"

"Which Noble Clan's cultivator is he? His Formation Painting is both fast and excellent, is it the Ming Family? Or the Zheng Family?..."

"Jealous, I wish I could borrow those hands to draw a Formation just once..."

...

"But, the one Elder Master Xun mentioned wasn't this one either..."

Mo Hua took a deep, silent breath.

Not this one either?!

Feeling helpless inside, he started to get a little angry.

Not this one either!!

Then I won't guess anymore, I'll just draw them all!

If I draw all four, that should definitely be correct!

Mo Hua's little hand waved, creating afterimages with his wrist, his brushwork outlining like the wind, moving like clouds, flowing like water, and within moments, he had completed the other two Formation Diagrams...

Now the Tao Teaching Room was dead silent.

The disciples below were all agape, speechless, looking at Mo Hua as if they were seeing a "Small Formation Evil Monster" wrapped in human skin...

Having finished the four Formation Diagrams, Mo Hua set the brush aside, bowed his head, and stood obediently to the side.

Elder Master Xun's gaze was murky as he looked at Mo Hua, silent for a long moment, contemplating something, finally his voice stern but with a slight tremble said:

"Even with some talent, one mustn't be conceited or complacent, and certainly not slack..."

"No repeat of this behavior!"

Despite the stern tone, he said "No repeat of this behavior."

Mo Hua knew he had dodged a bullet, took a long sigh of relief, and said respectfully:

"Elder Master's teaching, the disciple will bear in mind!"

Elder Master Xun nodded slightly, "That will be all for today's lesson, you may leave."

The other disciples, as if granted a royal pardon, quickly stood up, bowed respectfully, and said: "Disciples taking their leave!" Then they quietly and orderly left the Tao Teaching Room.

Mo Hua also slipped away with the crowd.

Elder Master Xun didn't say anything.

Not until all the disciples had left did he turn to look at the Array Plate on which Mo Hua, with quick, dragon-and-snake-like strokes, had drawn the four Formation Diagrams, meticulous and precise, befitting of a First-grade Formation.

Elder Master Xun's murky eyes opened slightly, revealing a glimmer.

Chapter 802: Yi Wood Gen Mountain

Elder Master Xun, with his hands clasped behind his back, cast only one glance at the four Array Formations on the Array Plate, and each was dissolved without a trace.

He then walked out of the Tao Teaching Pavilion and along the jade-stoned main pathway of the Taixu Gate, striding alone towards the back mountain.

Along the way, all the disciples bowed and greeted him:

"Good day, Elder Master Xun."

Elder Master Xun nodded slightly in response, "Good day."

Upon reaching the back mountain, all the Inner Sect Elders, even the True Transmission Elders, also bowed and said:

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"Good day, Elder Master Xun."

Elder Master Xun simply nodded slightly in acknowledgment.

After returning to the Elder's Residence, Elder Master Xun brewed a cup of tea and instructed someone outside the door, "Go fetch me a portfolio."

A Taoist Child bowed and said,

"Yes, Ancestor."

Afterward, Elder Master Xun sat in his room with a cup of tea and a scroll, reading and frowning in thought.

The Elder's Residence was spacious and serene, devoid of anything superfluous.

There was only a table and a meditation cushion.

The taste of the tea was bland and unadorned.

Yet, Elder Master Xun did not mind.

After the time it takes an incense stick to burn, the Taoist Child, holding a portfolio, respectfully handed it to Elder Master Xun.

Elder Master Xun nodded as he took it, his cloudy gaze scanning it briefly.

"Li State, Second Grade, Loose Cultivator from Tongxian City..."

"Mid-Lower Grade Spiritual Root..."

"To think he's a Loose Cultivator with a Mid-Lower Grade Spiritual Root..."

Elder Master Xun felt a slight surprise, then nodded again, "Being open to talents of all sorts shows some progress..."

Elder Master Xun looked further and noticed the specialty section, which mentioned "Skilled in Formation."

He pondered for a moment and nodded, "Indeed, not bad..."

Disciples from Li State, traveling thousands of miles to seek knowledge here...

"Admirable indeed..."

Elder Master Xun's expression was a bit emotional, his gaze concentrating as he pondered something...

...

Mo Hua was eating at the Disciple's Residence, surrounded by quite a number of disciples.

Having joined the school for just over a month, Mo Hua was deemed adorable, spoke pleasantly, and exhibited an innocent charm, thus she was well-liked. She was also quite familiar with her fellow sect disciples from the Taiyi Residence.

Disciples from Noble Clans, focused purely on cultivation, tended to be rather naïve.

Although most were seventeen or eighteen years old, they lacked worldly experience and had not yet reached the stage of "pursuing fame and profit," making them less scheming and more appreciative of the bonds between sect mates.

A disciple then said to Mo Hua,

"Mo Hua, be careful."

"You're involved in a big deal..."

"Elder Master Xun is very stingy..."

A disciple nearby made a "shush" gesture, "Do you want to die? How dare you speak ill of Elder Master Xun..."

"I'm saying it here; he can't hear it anyway."

"Hard to say..."

"If he hears it... what can he do..."

"Then you'll truly experience firsthand the 'profound and vast' nature of Formation..."

"Right, Elder Master Xun will keep a special eye on you, teaching you those very difficult formations, till your Sea of Consciousness dries up, and you lose all your hair without mastering them..."

"Is that a good thing?!"

"Of course..."

The disciple stopped mid-sentence, suddenly realizing that a discordant note had crept into the conversation...

He turned quietly to look at Mo Hua, unsure what to say.

Mo Hua asked softly, "Will Elder Master Xun teach very difficult formations?"

The disciple looked bemused, "Mo Hua, why do you seem... so eager?"

"Nothing, nothing." Mo Hua quickly shook her head.

"Nonsense, your eyes are shining!"

"Exactly!"

"My eyes are naturally like this!" Mo Hua asserted confidently.

"..."

"However..." a disciple voiced doubtfully, "Mo Hua, why are you so good at formations?"

Mo Hua replied shyly, "Good? It's just average..."

Some envied, some were jealous, gritting their teeth,

"Modesty helps one progress, but excessive modesty invites a beating!"

Mo Hua responded, "I just happen to be a bit better at formations, that's why I was admitted with a Mid-Lower Grade Spiritual Root..."

"Mid-Lower Grade?!"

All the present disciples were shocked.

"You have a Mid-Lower Grade Spiritual Root?!"

"No wonder, I thought your Spiritual Power was weak..."

"And your Blood Qi is rather inadequate too..."

"Your Taoist Foundation isn't solid either..."

"And you aren't very tall..."

Mo Hua became upset, "Enough already..."

Blood Qi, Spiritual Power is one thing, but height too? Is that even something to mention?

The other disciples hurriedly offered sheepish smiles.

Someone else puzzledly inquired, "That's not right, even if you're great at learning formations, with a Mid-Lower Grade Spiritual Root, you shouldn't be able to enter the gates, right?"

"Yeah, my family's ancestor tried to get a member with a Mid-Lower Grade Spiritual Root into the Taixu Gate by pulling many strings, and still failed..."

"If even Mid-Lower Grade is not acceptable, let alone Mid-Lower Grade..."

"Mid-Lower Grade, entering the Eight Great Gates..."

The group began to look at Mo Hua with strange expressions...

After a while, several distant disciples walked directly over, standing in front of Mo Hua with stern expressions, and bowed,

"Qian State's Cheng family, I'm Cheng Mo, let's be friends!"

"Li State's Situ family, my name is Situ Jian, destined to be the foremost great Sword Cultivator in the Nine State, greetings!"

"Qian State's Wen family..."

"Gen State..."

...

Mo Hua was confused.

He had thought, with their hostile momentum, they were coming to fight.

But they were here... to make friends?

What did that mean?

If Mo Hua remembered correctly, he mentioned having a "Mid-Lower Grade" Spiritual Root, not a "Top Top-Grade"...

Could it be that within the Taixu Gate, the importance of Spiritual Roots was reversed?

Was a Mid-Lower Grade better than a Top Top-Grade?

Mo Hua was perplexed.

In the distance, disciples whispered among themselves; although their voices were low, they still reached Mo Hua's ears.

Chapter 803: Yi Wood Gen Mountain (2)

"But just a mid-lower grade spiritual root, why would you make connections with him?"

"What do you know?"

"If he really is just mid-lower grade, could he have entered the Taixu Gate?"

"To enter the Taixu Gate isn't that simple."

"Exactly."

"Besides, if he can enter the Eight Great Gates with a mid-lower grade spiritual root, isn't it that his Taoist foundation must be exceptionally supported, with a very strong backing!"

"Yes... mid-lower grade indeed..."

"Such a shallow Taoist foundation..."

"Just think, being able to be admitted with that..."

"Then his background, how deep must it be! His backing, how strong must it be!!"

Upon this realization, all disciples started respecting Mo Hua solemnly.

"Probably the illegitimate child of some great power, maybe even related to the ancestors of Taixu Gate..."

"If that were the case, his spiritual root wouldn't be so poor..."

"You know nothing, the inheritance of spiritual roots isn't one hundred percent, there are always variations..."

"A father and mother with inferior spiritual roots can have a child with a top-grade spiritual root, and a top-grade spiritual root can once in a while produce a mid-lower grade too..."

"It's just a very small probability though..."

"Now that you mention it, mid-lower grade... it could really be possible..."

"That's logical..."

With a complex expression, Mo Hua, speechless, emphasized:

"I really am just a Loose Cultivator..."

Hearing this, the disciples paused, then nodded in agreement, "Mm-hmm."

But their expressions all suggested they saw through him, an unsaid understanding, "We know what's going on."

"Don't worry, we will keep your secret..."

"We promise not to tell anyone..."

Mo Hua sighed, feeling helpless.

Another disciple expressed concern:

"Mo Hua, though your background... cough..."

The disciple hinted meaningfully, "Is just a Loose Cultivator..."

"...but you still shouldn't offend Elder Master Xun, his credentials are very old, even the Sect Leader might not get face from him..."

"You've just joined the Sect, and your days here are long; if you displease Elder Master Xun and are punished to keep Drawing Formations, your future days will be tough..."

Grateful, Mo Hua said, "Thank you."

But in his heart, he wondered, "I wonder if Elder Master Xun will teach me more difficult formations..."

He currently couldn't find any "difficult" formations to study.

His divine sense had also been stagnant at fourteen patterns, with no advancement for a long time...

Elder Master Xun...

With a gleam in his eyes, Mo Hua thought:

"Maybe, tomorrow in class, I should just fall asleep, sleep through it?"

"See if Elder Master Xun will punish me by having me draw some even more 'difficult' formations?"

...

The next day, Mo Hua found he didn't need to sleep anymore.

Because Elder Master Xun indeed treated him specially...

During the class, Elder Master Xun distributed a set of Formation Notes to everyone, which covered the Key Points of the First Grade Nine-pattern Synthesis Gold Formation, including a Formation Diagram.

Only Mo Hua did not have one in front of him.

Elder Master Xun handed another set of notes to Mo Hua, saying firmly:

"To learn formations, you must be solid, the foundation is the most important."

"The better the talent, the more important the foundation."

"Study this one..."

The other disciples looked at Mo Hua with sympathy.

Mo Hua, expression serious, couldn't help but feel secretly thrilled.

"There is a formation to study!"

He quickly opened the notes, finding inside a drawing of a Gold and Fire Series' First Grade Five Elements Compound Formation.

Mo Hua had not seen this Compound Formation before, but its structure was not complicated, being a Five Elements Formation that could be easily understood at a glance.

It indeed was harder.

But only a bit harder...

The level of difficulty was something like getting stuck between teeth.

A bit disappointed, Mo Hua still seriously read through the notes once, sorting and recording some knowledge points he had not learned before, and then started drawing the formation.

Elder Master Xun lectured above, and he drew below.

By the time Elder Master Xun had finished lecturing and the other disciples started brainstorming and drawing the formations, Mo Hua had already finished drawing, sitting back relaxed, watching the others furrow their brows in deep thought...

Elder Master Xun's eyelids twitched.

But he stayed solemn and said nothing.

In the next class, while the other disciples still studied the First Grade Five Elements Series Formation, Mo Hua is given a slightly harder one, this time the Three-series Five Elements Compound Formation.

But it's still only First Grade.

Mo Hua, as usual, finished drawing very quickly...

And thereafter, each time it got slightly harder, but each increase wasn't much...

...

After four or five incremental difficulties...

Finally, Mo Hua encountered unfamiliar formation patterns.

This was linked to the Five Elements but varied slightly from the Five Elements Formation System:

The Eight Trigrams Formation!

The Five Elements are metal, wood, water, fire, and earth.

The Eight Trigrams are Qian, Kun, Kan, Li, Gen, Zhen, Xun, Dui representing the heavens, earth, water, fire, mountains, thunder, marsh, and wind respectively.

The Eight Trigrams Formation overlaps partially with the Five Elements but involves broader and more complex legal principles of the Great Dao than the Five Elements.

Moreover, the Eight Trigrams Formation includes the principles of Yin and Yang, and the Six Yao, though not directly harnessing the power of Yin and Yang, or the Six Yao, but it uses these as a framework, deriving different formation logics on the base of the Five Elements.

Compared to each other, the Five_ELEMENT... Read exclusive content at

Chapter 804: Yi Wood Gen Mountain (3)

Alas, the "Introduction to Formation Methods," after all, was meant for beginners, and the content was still too simple.

Mo Hua could not learn anything deeper; the book only had some basic principles of the Eight Trigrams and did not include complete Formation Patterns of the Eight Trigrams, let alone a fully formed Bagua Formation Method.

Mo Hua wanted to learn but had no way to learn.

But now, the "food" had been served right to his mouth!

Elder Master Xun's handouts contained a Five Elements Bagua Series Compound Formation, which integrated the Five Elements and included the Eight Trigrams.

This kind of Compound Formation was also one that Mo Hua had never seen before; it combined two different categories of formations.

One was the Five Elements Formation: Yimu Formation.

The other was the Bagua Formation Method: Gen Mountain Formation.

Therefore, the full name of this Compound Formation was the Yimu Genshan Compound Formation.

Within the Compound Formation, there were also some other simpler small formations and scattered Patterns; these were not critical.

Mo Hua guessed from experience that this Yimu Genshan Compound Formation was used on mountains, for cultivating "wood" type Spiritual Objects such as spirit trees, Spirit Plants, and Spirit Grass.

Using Gen to solidify the mountain, using wood to nurture things.

As for the Bagua class' Formation Patterns, Mo Hua had not yet studied them, so if he wanted to learn this Compound Formation, he had to start from scratch with the Eight Trigrams "Gen" Pattern.

New formations, new patterns!

Mo Hua's eyes brightened, and he immediately began to study enthusiastically.

Elder Master Xun was lecturing on the stage, his peripheral vision caught sight of Mo Hua; he saw his serious little face diligently studying the handouts and nodded slightly in approval.

But then, Elder Master Xun was taken aback.

He found that Mo Hua seemed to be starting to learn the Compound Formation from the "Gen" series Patterns...

Elder Master Xun was slightly astonished.

"Hasn't studied the Bagua Formation Method?"

"Impossible..."

"Even if he hasn't studied it, he shouldn't need to start from the Patterns..."

Elder Master Xun frowned.

"Who taught him Formation Methods, and how can he be so 'biased' in learning them?"

Mastering the First Grade Five Elements Formations to perfection.

Besides that, he estimated the foundations of other formation categories to be very superficial...

If he hasn't even studied the Eight Trigrams Patterns, there's no need to mention those even rarer Three Talents, Four Symbols, Six Yao, Seven Stars categories of formations...

Elder Master Xun shook his head with a hint of regret.

A promising talent, but a pity that his foundation was too weak and his horizons too narrow.

It seemed that whoever taught the child formations was planning to have him learn profound things, and so they force-fed him the Five Elements Formation Methods, making his learning somewhat uneven...

Feeling a sense of regret, Elder Master Xun said nothing.

He continued teaching as usual, and Mo Hua taught himself formations, which he left unbothered.

Until the end of the session, the other disciples had handed in the "homework" from the handouts.

Mo Hua remained still, continuing his study and attempting to draw the Yimu Genshan Compound Formation.

Elder Master Xun did not reprimand him but waited patiently.

The other disciples finished submitting their "homework" and looked sympathetically at Mo Hua, who was being "troubled" by Elder Master Xun and still writing furiously; they all sighed.

But there was nothing they could do, so they left in silence.

In the Tao Teaching Room, only Elder Master Xun and Mo Hua remained.

Elder Master Xun watched Mo Hua with a touch of pity.

But after the time it takes an incense stick to burn, Mo Hua suddenly stopped writing, took a long breath, and then respectfully presented a piece of Formation Paper to Elder Master Xun.

Elder Master Xun was startled.

What was this child submitting?

If the drawing isn't finished, continue to draw it; if it's really not doable, take it home to study and practice; submit it when it's done well.

What could he have submitted now?

A scrambled, incomplete draft of a formation?

Elder Master Xun felt a trace of annoyance, took the Formation Paper, and looked at it, his eyes suddenly twitching.

The Yimu Genshan Compound Formation...

This was a neat, perfect, and error-free Yimu Genshan Compound Formation!

Elder Master Xun's gaze narrowed.

"This child... he drew it out?!"

Starting from patterns, in less than two hours, he drew a Compound Formation containing the Bagua Series Formation Method that he had never encountered before...

Did he learn and draw it on the spot?

Elder Master Xun's hand trembled slightly, his gaze at Mo Hua complicated and difficult to interpret.

"You..."

Elder Master Xun paused for a moment before slowly saying, "Have you studied the Bagua Formation Method?"

Mo Hua shook his head honestly, "No, disciple only knows the Five Elements Formation..."

I also know some Ultimate Formations, which are not within the scope of the Five Elements, but it is not convenient to mention these...

Elder Master Xun was silent for a long time before slowly nodding, "I understand, you may go now..."

Mo Hua respectfully saluted:

"Elder Master, your disciple bids farewell..."

After speaking, Mo Hua breathed a sigh of relief, then his mood lightened with the pleasure of having learned a new formation, and his steps became a bit brisk as he lifted his little head and left the Tao Teaching Room.

Within the Tao Teaching Room.

Elder Master Xun stood silently, looking at the Yimu Genshan Compound Formation that Mo Hua had drawn, his mood unsettled for a long time.

After a long while, he sighed softly, murmuring thoughtfully:

"It seems... I need to change the teaching method..."

"I want to see... just how fast this child can learn..."

Chapter 805: Laying the Foundation

Elder Master Xun began the Formation class by saying,

"Today, we will not study Formations, I will first teach you something more fundamental."

Mo Hua appeared slightly startled.

The other disciples exchanged glances.

As noble family descendants with diverse Tao Cultivation heritages, they had been exposed to these teachings from a young age. Although not experts, they were still familiar with some basic Formation knowledge.

What else fundamental could be taught?

...

Elder Master Xun surveyed the room with a stern voice,

"I know that you all come from noble clans with exceptional heritage and are mostly aware of various Tao Cultivation professions

"But Formations are different; the basics you know are merely superficial, not even the tip of the iceberg, just one or two bricks on top of the foundation."

"If you seek to reach higher in the world of Formations, your foundation is still far from sufficient."

Elder Master Xun's glance briefly met Mo Hua's as he continued, "Today, I will speak to you about all the sources and streams of Formations under the heavens

The disciples sat up straight.

Mo Hua also sat upright, listening intently.

Elder Master Xun's murky eyes gleamed as he slowly said,

"The path of Formations is vast and profound."

"There are many Formations in the world, from Ancient Formations handed down through the ages to modified Formations that have gradually evolved, and even new Formations innovated by later generations atop the efforts of their predecessors

"Not only are the categories of Formations complex and numerous, but the types of Formation Patterns are also diverse

"Even within the same Formation, there can be different variants."

"Between different traditions, even the same Formation—from the Formation Patterns to the Formation Pivot, right down to the construction of the Formation Eye—will have slight discrepancies."

"Even the simplest First Grade Bright Fire Formation, which contains only three Formation Patterns, has no less than eighteen different depictions in the records of various Formation schools

"This is the first point I want to make to you

"There are no fixed rules in the Tao, no fixed form in Formations!"

"What you learn are basic Formation Formations defined and broadened by the Taoist Court's assessment."

"The Taoist Court's assessment and standard setting are based on the most common, most frequently used Formation formats to define the type and grade of a Formation. This is to standardize them, to make them easier to learn, use, and popularize

"For assessment purposes, you must learn this 'uniform', 'standardized' style of Formation."

"Even because of the stringent assessment, the efforts and hard work expended are so great that you will spend your lives within these 'standardized' Formation Formations, exhausting your intellect

"You will consider them the standard

"But

Elder Master Xun paused, his gaze suddenly sharp, "You must understand that this is not the essence of Formations, not the original appearance of Formations

"Mistakes abound, Formation Patterns are complex, Formation principles are chaotic, and contradictions abound. This is the real, original state of Formations

"This reflects the recognition of the universe from different eras, different state boundaries, different Realms, different Cultivators, their insight into Formations, and the manifestation of the Great Dao

"Mistakes are the norm."

"Complexity is correct."

"The myriad things in the human world are just this complex

"Formations are inherently chaotic, obscure, and difficult to understand, manifesting the myriad paths of the Great Dao

"If one seeks the true Great Dao, studying just the standardized Formations of the Taoist Court is not sufficient."

"Those Formations have been 'artificially' modified, 'artificially' normalized, represent an artificial 'correctness,' not the true form of Formations, nor the essence of the Great Dao

"Everything is bizarre and wonderful; Formations are as vast as the universe, encompassing myriad forms."

"A truly top-level Formation Master must transcend standardized formats and see and experience for themselves."

"Eliminate the coarse to preserve the essence, discard the false to retain the truth, observe the traces of the Great Dao amongst the numerous and complex Formation Patterns, and comprehend the flow of the Great Dao from the endless variations of Formations

"Thus, to comprehend the most real, most fundamental Formations, to develop their own Formation principles, to walk their own path of proving the Dao!"

"This is the foundation of Formation principles!"

...

Elder Master Xun's words resonated powerfully.

The disciples seemed perplexed yet intrigued.

Mo Hua, however, appeared profoundly moved.

Similar words had been spoken by his master as well.

Yet, his master's words differed slightly and stressed different points from Elder Master Xun's...

His master encouraged him to find his own path and develop his own "Formation Flow."

Elder Master Xun urged broader observation, free from frameworks, to establish a foundation from the most extensive range of Formations.

Both seemed to aim for the same goal through different paths.

The specifics were beyond Mo Hua's current understanding.

But from these words, Mo Hua could feel that Elder Master Xun's Array Formation Skill was extraordinarily profound!

"The Tao has no fixed rules, Formations have no fixed forms

Capture the essence, discard the form...

Use the Formation as a raft; the other shore is the Dao, abandon the raft once crossed, attain the Dao, and see Formations as formless.

Mo Hua silently nodded his head.

Elder Master Xun glanced at Mo Hua and nodded slightly before continuing,

"The world of Formations is full of varied categories."

"Next, I will tell you about the various categories of Formations in this world

"Some you may already know, but for others, even if you are aware of them or have heard about them, you might not have a clear understanding

"So, listen carefully to the following, and make sure to remember it well

Elder Master Xun's glance lingered on Mo Hua.

Mo Hua nodded repeatedly, understanding the implications.

Elder Master Xun silently nodded, thinking "Quite clever..." and then continued with a solemn voice:

Chapter 806: Foundation Laying (2)

"In this world, everything is diverse, and the Great Dao contained within each thing is complex, varied, and ever-changing

"These Daos manifest as Formation Patterns and are classified into Formation systems, giving rise to many entirely different Formation Systems

"Chaos, Eryi, Three Talents, Four Symbols, Five Elements, Eight Trigrams, Six Harmonies, Seven Stars

"These are eight categories, deeply rooted and long inherited, with clear contexts and evident Formation principles

"I will explain them one by one

...

...

"Chaos Eryi, these two types of Formations are Ancient Formations, initially derived from the Dao of Heaven and Earth by Ancient Cultivators."

"These Formations are quite ancient; their structures are simple, yet they contain extremely complex Formation principles, aligning with the Dao that is simplest yet deepest."

"Because of their simple form, being even crude, they are obscure, and current Cultivators find it difficult to comprehend."

"The simpler their form, the more Divine Sense they consume during comprehension, and despite the painstaking contemplation, one might not grasp anything

"Because of this obscurity, they are hard to learn, harder to solve, even harder to pass on; thus, Chaos Eryi-type Formations have gradually been lost."

"The existing Formations are just a little, cherished and studied by the Taoist Courts or Noble Clans, but it's hard to systematically learn them

...

"Three Talents Formation

"Some disciples, when they first study Formation, might have learned 'Three Talents Formation,' but that is only for enlightenment, quite rudimentary, not even scratching the surface."

"In other words, it's a kind of basic Formation enlightenment 'fixed pattern' of the Taoist Court

"The true Three Talents Formation involves 'Heaven,' 'Earth,' and 'Humanity,' with a vast layout and wide derivations."

"But your experiences are limited, at your young age, you might not realize the boundlessness of Qian Dao, the deep virtue of Kun Dao, and the unpredictability of Human Dao

"Not to mention the unification of Three Talents."

"From this, you should understand that Heaven, Earth, and Humanity Three Talents are not something ordinary Cultivators can consider; this is the knowledge that controls the world under the Taoist Court

"Therefore, the core inheritance of the Three Talents Formation is strictly held by the Taoist Court and is not taught externally."

"Unless in the future you enter the Taoist Court or Taoist State, and get in touch with the high ranks of the Taoist Court, otherwise, you won't be able to learn the true essence of the Three Talents Formation

...

"Four Symbols Formation

"Quite special, it is an inherited Formation method among the Savage tribe cultivators in the lands south of the Nine State."

"This type of Formation is related to some Monster Beasts with special bloodlines."

"Their Formation Patterns also resemble Beast Patterns."

"Beast-like, close to Monster. Before one deeply and thoroughly learns the Five Elements Eight Trigrams Formation, it's better not to learn the Four Symbols, as it can easily skew one's nature and lose humanity

...

"Five Elements Formation, no need to say much."

"Five Elements is the most common and most applicable type of Formation in the Cultivation World."

"In ancient times, there were origins of the Five Elements Formation, but initially, they were of humble origins. As generations of Cultivators researched and developed, nowadays, there is such a large scale and so many varieties of the Five Elements Formation."

"The greatest contribution to the development of the Five Elements Formation was by the once Five Elements Sect."

"Unfortunately, the sudden decline of the Five Elements Sect left only a few remnants secluded away, unambitious, living out their days lackluster, hardly as glorious as before

"Even though the Five Elements Sect declined almost to obscurity, the Five Elements Formation has spread widely across the Nine State, broadly used in various Tao Cultivation disciplines

"It's just that some core inheritances are probably extinct

Elder Master Xun felt some regret.

Mo Hua blinked his eyes, pretending he knew nothing.

The secret of the Five Elements Sect, that "Five Elements Source Pattern," is now on his body.

He had also learned the Five Elements Ultimate Formation.

But he definitely couldn't say it out loud.

"Make a fortune in silence

Mo Hua silently admonished himself.

After expressing regret, Elder Master Xun continued:

"Six Harmonies Formations

"This Formation system is somewhat special; it can be simply divided into two types, one focuses on metaphysics, emphasizing Yin and Yang Mutual Agreement, connecting the Heavenly Stems; the other type is the Six Yao Formation, Three Yin and Three Yang, mutually generating Hexagrams

"Six Harmonies Formations are somewhat of a Cold subject, especially the Six Yao, which if mistakenly handled, it's very easy to lose one's composure, and be seeded with Demon Thought by an unknown Heavenly Demon Evil God, thus falling into the Demon Path."

"Lightly, don't study Six Harmonies Formations

...

"Next is Seven Stars Formation

"Seven Stars Formation bases on the structure of Big Dipper Heaven Shu, Tianxuan, Heavenly secret, Tianquan, Yuhen, Kaiyang, Yaoguang seven stars, refining the stellar patterns, thus constructing the Formation."

"The Taoist Court Seven Pavilions is named after the Big Dipper seven stars."

"Hence, the orthodox inheritance of the Seven Stars Formation is held within the central Seven Pavilions of the Taoist Court and the coexistent Heavenly Observatory."

"This type of Formation, by perceiving celestial phenomena and Calculating heavenly secrets, mastered deeply, can control the power of the stars

"But like the Three Talents Formation, this kind belongs to the secret Formations of the Taoist Court. You are unlikely to have a chance to learn them in this lifetime, and even if you do learn, you probably won't master it

"Moreover, the Seven Stars Formation, involving celestial phenomena and Calculation, is extremely profound, which is fundamentally not something ordinary Cultivators, let alone ordinary Formation Masters, can comprehend."

"Of course, there's no need to worry. Although the Seven Stars Formation is important, it is also niche; ordinary Formation Masters can't learn it, so it's also not within the scope of Formation Master Grading."

...

"Lastly, is the Eight Trigrams Array."

"Five Elements and Eight Trigrams are particularly important, widely applicable, effective, and powerful, and are the necessary two types of Formations tested in Formation.ASCII: Master Grading."

Chapter 807: Foundation Laying (3)

"The Eight Trigrams Array is based on the Five Elements Formation, but it encompasses more broadly, includes more extensively, and the Formation principle is somewhat deeper, yet if mastered well, it is enough to be of use for a lifetime."

"The Bagua Formation Method will also be the main spell point of Formation you will learn next."

"Specific details, I will not elaborate on just now. Later, when I pass on the Formation, I will teach you bit by bit

...

"Besides these eight types, there are also some special spell points of Formation such as the 'Three Talents' Formation, which shares the same origin with the Seven Stars, and the 'Nine Netherworld' Formation, which shares the same style with the Six Yao

"These Formations are more obscure and are secret treasures. You do not know where exactly they are hidden. Whether they belong to a Tao Cultivation family of a Sect, a lost Taoist court, or some rarely visited forbidden land

...

...

"The above are the spell points of Formation in this world that are known as 'Visible Learning.'"

"I tell you this to broaden your horizons, to increase your knowledge, not to make you aim too high and miss the mark."

"Food must be eaten one bite at a time, and Formations must also be learned one Formation at a time."

"The Three Talents and Four Symbols, the Six Harmonies Seven Stars, including some Cold subjects of Formations, you won't be able to learn for the time being, nor do you need to spend too much thought on them."

"The pressing matter is to learn the most fundamental and also the most practical Five Elements Bagua Formation."

"But

Elder Master Xun changed the subject and continued,

"Among all spell points of Formation, the most fundamental Formation Patterns, you must become familiar with."

"This is the foundation, and at the same time, it is to enable you in the future to encounter unfamiliar Formations and, even if you do not know the details, be able to discern the type of Formation through the Formation Patterns. Thus, you can adapt to the situation, avoiding confusion and helplessness

"All the most basic Formation Patterns of the spell points of Formation, I have compiled a copy here. Of course, it is just the Patterns, they do not constitute a Formation."

Elder Master Xun distributed a thick set of lecture notes, one to each person.

Including Mo Hua.

On the title page of the lecture notes was written "Annotations on Formation Patterns of Taixu Gate."

Mo Hua flipped open the lecture notes, and he saw many Formation lines that he had never learned or even seen before.

Their forms varied, infinitely mysterious.

Although they were just Formation Patterns, they were the incredibly vast foundation of myriad Formation methods.

Mo Hua's heart thumped violently, spontaneously lifting his head to look at Elder Master Xun, his eyes shimmering so brightly that they were almost blinding.

Elder Master Xun was taken aback and couldn't help muttering to himself,

"Can he really be this happy, this child

After distributing the lecture notes on Formation Patterns, encompassing eight types of Formations, Elder Master Xun then said,

"Starting from today, all the Formation Patterns in this 'Annotations' book, you will have to learn and practice with them

"Grains of sand can build a tower, streams can form a sea."

"All the Formations in the world are composed of the most basic Formation Patterns."

"Only by mastering the Patterns can you draw the Formations well

"I will periodically check how many Formation Patterns you have learned

"If you are lazy, there will be punishment

The disciples looked gloomy and distressed.

But Mo Hua, looking at the lecture notes in his hands, was blooming with joy.

"Annotations on Formation Patterns of Taixu Gate"!

The Formation Patterns of myriad Formations compiled by generations of Taixu Gate!

For a Formation Master, this counts as the most fundamental, the most comprehensive, but also the most important legacy.

Although it was just First Grade, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Even the most advanced Formations must start with learning the First Grade.

Mo Hua treasured it like a priceless gem, reluctant to put it down. Every day thereafter, whenever he had a moment of free time, he would hold and study it.

When no one was paying attention, he would practice various Formation Patterns on his own.

During meals, he would trace them with his fingers on the table; passing through fields between mountains, he would draw on the ground;

Before going to sleep, he would draw on paper, and after going to sleep, his Divine Sense would sink into his Sea of Consciousness and continue drawing on the Taoist Stele...

Because they were just First Grade Formation Patterns, they were simple and effortless to sketch.

After drawing on the Taoist Stele, he could reflect on his Divine Sense.

Thus, in a single night, Mo Hua could practice thousands upon thousands of Formation Patterns.

He remembered Elder Master Xun's guidance that Formation Patterns are the foundation, and the foundation must be solid.

So even though he had already thoroughly memorized these Patterns, he continued to draw them over and over again...

Mo Hua wanted to remember every type of Formation, every Formation Pattern, firmly embed them in his Sea of Consciousness without any deviation.

Even integrate them into his instincts.

No matter how complex, how obscure, or how easily confused the Formation Patterns were, as long as he glanced at them, without a second thought, he could distinguish the category of Formation to which the Patterns belonged.

The more Mo Hua practiced, the more proficient he became, and even as he grew proficient, he still pushed himself to practice more...

After much practice, he would occasionally get the illusion of “man and Formation as one.”

It was as if these Formation Patterns were not something external, unfamiliar, objective, but rather a part of his own Divine Thought, traces left by his Divine Sense merging with the Great Dao.

This feeling was profoundly mysterious.

Mo Hua was somewhat unable to comprehend it and consequently decided not to worry about it, continuing to bury his head and practice over and over.

The Eight Gates Formation, thousands upon thousands of Formation Patterns, under his pen, repeatedly shaped into existence.

And in his Sea of Consciousness, they repeatedly emerged.

What Mo Hua did not know was that, in doing this unconsciously, he was truly beginning to lay the foundation for the ultimate mastery of the heavens' Formation Methods and the myriad Divine Skills...

Chapter 808: Second Grade

Mo Hua, day and night, proficiently mastered the Formation Patterns of Chaos Eryi, Three Talents, Five Elements and Eight Trigrams, and Six Harmonies Seven Stars.

The Five Elements Formation Patterns were already very familiar to Mo Hua.

He was only a little familiar with the Eight Trigrams.

The Three Talents and the Four Symbols, and the Six Harmonies Seven Stars, were new to Mo Hua, and they appeared quite foreign to him.

Chaos Eryi was part of an Ancient Formation; the Formation Patterns were somewhat fragmented and not very coherent, making them even harder for Mo Hua to understand.

But no matter whether he was familiar or not, or whether he could understand the Patterns, even if he was just memorizing mechanically, Mo Hua firmly remembered them all.

...

Within half a month, he became very proficient.

However, Elder Master Xun did not test him.

It wasn't until a month later, after Mo Hua had thoroughly practiced, that Elder Master Xun deemed it time to conduct a spot check.

"Draw all the Formation Patterns of the Five Elements and Eight Trigrams from the 'Annotations on Formation Patterns of Taixu Gate', and for the Three Talents and Four Symbols, Six Harmonies Seven Stars, just draw two Formation Patterns for each category..."

Elder Master Xun instructed.

Then he glanced at Mo Hua, slightly lifting his long eyebrows as if to say, "Just draw randomly..."

Mo Hua immediately nodded, indicating he understood.

So he drew all the Formation Patterns of Chaos Eryi, Three Talents and Four Symbols, Five Elements and Eight Trigrams, and Six Harmonies and Seven Stars.

Because there were too many Patterns to draw all of them within two hours, while the other disciples had "submitted their papers" and left, Mo Hua was still drawing.

Mo Hua's face was focused as he drew with rapid strokes, appearing confident and non-stop drawing Formation Patterns; the Formations Paper before him piled up increasingly higher...

Elder Master Xun's eyelids couldn't help but twitch as disbelief crossed his mind:

"This child... how much has he learned..."

Could he actually have learned everything within a month...

After a long time, when Mo Hua stood up and respectfully placed a thick stack of Formation Papers almost as thick as lecture notes before Elder Master Xun.

Elder Master Xun finally came back to his senses.

He pondered briefly, then with a sweep of his hand, he flipped through the thick Formation Papers, his profound Divine Sense subtly moving to capture all the Formation Patterns in a glance, and he couldn't help but inhale sharply.

A complete lecture's worth of Formation Patterns, so meticulously drawn...

And the handwriting was precise and neat, the strokes proficient with not a single correction or error, as precise as if they were printed.

One had to practice countless times for the brushwork to be so solid...

Elder Master Xun was stunned on the spot, speechless for a long while.

"Elder Master Xun?"

A crisp voice rang out.

Elder Master Xun looked up to see Mo Hua's bright eyes and after a long while, he sighed softly and nodded, saying,

"You've learned well."

Mo Hua's face brightened with a smile as he politely said, "Thank you, Elder Master Xun, for your guidance."

Elder Master Xun, seeing Mo Hua's happy and composed expression, thought silently:

"Am I teaching too slowly..."

...

Thus, in the next lesson on Formation Methods, to 'challenge' Mo Hua a bit, Elder Master Xun finally began to teach Second-Grade Formations.

"Second-Grade Formations differ from First Grade. The Formation Patterns that compose Second-Grade Formations are based on and more complex than those of First Grade, and their power is also stronger..."

"Second-Grade Formation Patterns are, to some extent, a grounding and 'Sublimation' of First-Grade Patterns; inversely, First-Grade Patterns are actually derived by breaking down the more complex Second-Grade Patterns..."

...

Elder Master Xun explained sternly and meticulously.

Other disciples furrowed their brows, finding it somewhat tough to follow.

Some were even confused.

Elder Master Xun, known for his "steady" teaching style, always emphasized "systematic and gradual progress

Why did he suddenly start teaching Second-Grade Formations...

Only Mo Hua listened with great interest.

He already knew how to draw Second-Grade Formations and had grasped some of the Formation principles.

Some of the Formation lore Elder Master Xun talked about was already known to him, but other principles of the Formation Method were new to him, so he greatly benefited from the lecture.

After Elder Master Xun finished, he distributed a Formation Diagram.

It was a diagram of a Second-Grade Ten Patterns Golden Light Formation.

"Study it on your own, comprehend as much as you can, then try to draw it a bit, and during our next class

Elder Master Xun intended to say, "Hand it in during our next class."

But he paused midway, suddenly startled, and saw Mo Hua looking at him expectantly...

Elder Master Xun pondered, understood Mo Hua's expectations, hesitated for a moment, then, with a complex expression, changed his words:

"Before the class ends, hand it in first so I can take a look... "

Then he added, "Draw as much as you can, no need to force it... "

A group of disciples looked distressed.

Mo Hua, however, was drawing swiftly and confidently.

At the end of the class, Mo Hua handed in a complete, Second-Grade Ten Patterns 'Golden Light Formation' to Elder Master Xun.

Though he had anticipated it, seeing the reportedly newly learned but already proficient Second-Grade Ten Patterns Formation, Elder Master Xun's heart still trembled slightly.

Then he understood.

"So that's it

"At such a young age, he can already draw Second-Grade Formations... No wonder

A sharp gleam appeared in Elder Master Xun's eyes.

"It seems, we can go even faster

...

Two days later, Mo Hua went to the Formation class full of anticipation. As soon as he entered, he saw Elder Master Xun waving him over.

Mo Hua was slightly puzzled.

Elder Master Xun pointed at a small table next to him and said, "From now on, you will sit here."

Mo Hua was taken aback and then whispered, "Gentleman, is this appropriate?"

Elder Master Xun nodded, "Very appropriate!"

Mo Hua took his seat somewhat nervously at the small table, placed near Elder Master Xun, which would be exclusively his from now on.

Chapter 809: Second Grade (2)

Right under the watchful eyes of Elder Master Xun.

The other disciples looked at Mo Hua with sympathy and pity in their eyes.

"Mo Hua is so pitiful

"He's caught the attention of Elder Master Xun

"He's in big trouble now

"Just the thought of having to stay under the teacher's watchful eye in class every day sends chills down my spine

...

Elder Master Xun's ears twitched slightly, and his gaze turned sharp as he called out a few names, "Cheng Mo... Situ Jian, Wen Xuan

If you wish, you can also sit next to Mo Hua."

Cheng Mo and the other disciples shuddered, immediately shut their mouths, buried their heads in their desks, and stayed perfectly still, pretending to be turtles.

Elder Master Xun let out a slight snort.

Then class began.

Mo Hua discovered that the handout he held was different from those of the other disciples.

The other disciples were still primarily focusing on First Grade, progressing step by step, to comprehend Second-Grade Formations.

However, in front of Mo Hua was a genuine Second-grade Eleven Patterns Bagua Formation Method.

This handout was very detailed.

Elder Master Xun's lecture was mainly directed at the other disciples.

But occasionally he would touch on Second-Grade Formations and succinctly explain the essence of these formational principles to Mo Hua.

This way, he could take care of both the ordinary disciples and the excessively "off-syllabus" student Mo Hua's education.

Mo Hua was touched and began to admire Elder Master Xun.

The subsequent lessons were taught in the same manner.

The others studied First Grade.

Mo Hua studied Second Grade.

Starting from Eleven Stripes, he covered both the Five Elements and Eight Trigrams types of Second-Grade Formations. Elder Master Xun methodically and steadily allowed Mo Hua to solidly learn each formation.

With such a rare opportunity, Mo Hua studied earnestly right beside Elder Master Xun, working conscientiously on Second-Grade Formations beyond the Eleven Patterns.

Elder Master Xun, who had been keeping an eye on Mo Hua, became increasingly astonished by what he saw.

Too fast...

Elder Master Xun knew that Mo Hua had not learned Bagua Formation Method before, so his focus was primarily on the Bagua type of Second-Grade Formation.

Yet these formations, which Mo Hua had obviously never seen or learned before, seemed to make sense to him after just a few glances.

After drawing them a few times, his strokes began to show pattern and form.

If he spent one night on them, his technique would turn to be very skillful by the next day.

And after a while, it even seemed ‘Forged a Thousand Times’, ‘Mastering the Craft

As for the Five Elements Formation, it was even more astounding.

Elder Master Xun knew that among the Eight Types of Formations, Mo Hua had learned and was proficient only in the Five Elements Formation.

But “proficient wasn’t quite like this...

For the unlearned Bagua Formations, Mo Hua at least had to frown and ponder for a bit before drawing something decent.

Yet for those unlearned Second-grade Eleven Patterns in Five Elements Formation, he almost only had to glance once, and seemingly had a framework in his mind immediately, his strokes were accurate and well-formed...

This was proficiency gained through practice.

Because he had drawn a large number of First-grade Five Elements Formations, he had come to deeply understand the Five Elements Formation principles, building an exceptionally firm foundation, which greatly accelerated his progress in learning Second-Grade Five Elements Formations.

But how many of these “large number of First-grade Five Elements Formations” could there be?

How many could a fifteen-year-old Cultivator draw?

How deeply could they comprehend?

Even a Formation Master who had primarily constructed a Five Elements Formation might only have about this level of understanding...

This kid couldn't possibly have built a Five Elements Formation, right?

Elder Master Xun pondered with a frown.

What puzzled Elder Master Xun the most was Mo Hua's Divine Sense.

For a Cultivator at the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage, Mo Hua's Divine Sense was exceedingly profound, seemingly very resilient...and even had a sort of...everlasting quality...

When deploying formations, it seemed inexhaustible...

This was completely illogical.

Mo Hua's Divine Sense seemed hazy, as if obscured by something...

Elder Master Xun was very curious, and for the first time in a long while, he felt compelled to break the norm and forcefully probe into the depths of this child...

But he ultimately restrained himself.

That was the rule of the Sect, also a boundary.

Elder Master Xun struggled with himself for a while but then let it go.

In this world, there are always some Cultivators with exceptional talent or deep fortune, or even exceptional intelligence. As long as they are devoted to the path, pure of heart, and avoid the wrong path, it's fine.

Elder Master Xun glanced at Mo Hua's clear eyes, full of eagerness to learn, and he silently nodded his head.

Elder Master Xun then let Mo Hua learn on his own.

Mo Hua, with single-minded focus, studied various Second-Grade Five Elements and Bagua Formations one after another.

His foundational knowledge in formations became increasingly robust.

The Second-Grade Formations he mastered grew in number...

There was something Elder Master Xun didn't say.

These formations originally required Sect contributions to exchange.

But Elder Master Xun wanted to see just how fast Mo Hua could learn. Moreover, to him, a few Second-Grade Formations were a trivial matter, so he didn't mention this to Mo Hua.

As Mo Hua learned more and more, at a faster pace, the difficulty of the formations he studied increased gradually from Eleven Stripes to Shi'er Stripes...

Finally, Mo Hua had learned all the common Five Elements and Bagua types of Shi'er Stripes.

Next was...Thirteen Stripes.

"Thirteen Stripes

Elder Master Xun was somewhat dazed.

So fast...

This...was already the threshold of a Second Grade Initial Stage Formation Master...

This was already the limit for a Foundation Establishment Initial Stage Cultivator's Divine Sense and Formation knowledge...

Elder Master Xun's gaze towards Mo Hua completely changed.

He realized he had still underestimated this youngster...

Elder Master Xun frowned and thought deeply before making a silent decision.

Having come this far, he truly wanted to see if Mo Hua would manage to also master the Second-grade Thirteen Stripes Formation.

Chapter 810: Second Grade (3)

"These are the Second Grade Thirteen Patterns of the 'Rain Transformation Formation,' 'Minor Fire Departure Formation,' 'Moist Soil Formation,' and 'Water Marsh Formation.'"

"These arrays include both the Five Elements Formation and the Bagua Formation, which are the most commonly tested in the assessment exams for Second Grade Initial Stage Formation Masters."

Elder Master Xun said.

Thirteen Patterns, assessment examination formations!

Mo Hua's spirits lifted.

Finally, there were new Thirteen Pattern formations to learn! And they were assessment formations!

...

The most difficult formation he had mastered so far was only the Thirteen Pattern Earth Fire Formation of the second grade.

Mo Hua stared at the formations and suddenly asked out of curiosity,

"Elder Master Xun, these formations seems to lack offensive power

Unlike his Earth Fire Formation, which could kill more than a dozen traffickers in an instant...

Elder Master Xun nodded, "These are Tao Cultivation production formations, either used for the cultivation of Spirit Plants or as formations to stimulate Pill Fire and furnace fires for Alchemy and Artifact Refining."

"The Taoist Court does not advocate that cultivators use formations for slaughter, so the majority of the assessment examinations use production-type Tao Cultivation formations

Elder Master Xun sighed.

"However, these formations are ultimately not widely disseminated

Mo Hua couldn't help nodding in agreement.

Tongxian City, no, not just Tongxian City, but all of the bottom-level Immortal Cities he had traveled through, had an extremely rudimentary application of formations.

Formations should benefit all beings.

Yet this "all beings" did not include the vast majority of cultivators in this world.

Seeing Mo Hua frowning, looking like a little adult with the weight of the world on his shoulders, Elder Master Xun rarely showed a smile and advised,

"Study hard."

"Mhm."

Mo Hua nodded.

Although the Thirteen Pattern Formations were the most difficult formations he had studied so far, they were clearly not the limit of his divine consciousness that had transformed quality at fourteen stripes.

He was just lacking Formation Diagrams, not divine consciousness.

Originally, the ‘Five Elements Formation Flow Map’ could solve this problem, but deciphering the Formation Flow Chart depended too much on luck; the highest difficulty formation Mo Hua had deciphered from it was the Earth Fire Formation with thirteen patterns.

Everything else was just “stinky fish and rotten shrimp.”

Ever since Elder Master Xun had taught him formations, Mo Hua had disdainfully tossed the ‘Five Elements Formation Flow Map’ into the corner of his Storage Ring to collect dust.

He would decipher it when he had more time later.

Now he had no time; he needed to learn the Thirteen Pattern assessment formations.

And since Second Grade Thirteen Pattern general formations were not Ultimate Formations and didn’t involve deeper and more obscure comprehension of the Great Dao, they were difficult but not too difficult to learn.

Especially with Mo Hua’s abundant divine consciousness.

All he lacked was time.

Practice these formations dozens or hundreds of times until they became second nature, and they would naturally be mastered.

Mo Hua started with the Five Elements, studying ‘Rain Transformation Formation’ and ‘Moist Soil Formation.’

The Five Elements Formation was learned quickly; Mo Hua grasped the basics within a day or two and then spent another five or six days practicing until it was second nature.

He even used his Divine Consciousness to control ink, Drawing Ground into Formation on the back mountain of the Disciple’s Residence with these two formations.

Spring breeze brings rain, moistening the soil silently.

Mo Hua felt he could faintly sense the moist breath of the soil in the mountains and the Earth Dao Meaning one could perceive from anywhere upon the earth.

The Earth Dao Meaning also became clearer in Mo Hua's divine consciousness.

Mo Hua nodded, quite satisfied with himself.

Next, he studied the Bagua-like 'Minor Fire Departure Formation' and 'Water Marsh Formation.'

The Minor Fire Departure Formation, similar to the Melting Fire Formation, is drawn inside Alchemy Furnaces and Artifact Furnaces for refining medicinal properties and tempering Spiritual Artifacts.

As for the Water Marsh Formation, Mo Hua was not clear; he guessed it was probably used for alligator farming.

Bagua-type formations were a bit more difficult.

But practice a hundred times, and the meaning will reveal itself.

There was no formation that couldn't be solved with a few more repetitions.

If ten times were not enough, then a hundred times, and if a hundred times were not enough, then a thousand times.

As long as there was time, he could draw indefinitely on the Taoist Stele.

Moreover, Bagua formations were not Ultimate Formations, nowhere near that level of difficulty.

Half a month later, Mo Hua could also draw them very skillfully, even arranging them with divine consciousness posed no problem.

Thus, Mo Hua had learned all four Second Grade Thirteen Pattern formations.

Mo Hua shared this accomplishment with Elder Master Xun.

Elder Master Xun's reaction was clearly half a beat slower, and his look at Mo Hua was somewhat incredulous.

"You've... learned them?"

He knew Mo Hua was a quick learner and guessed that given time, he could learn one or half of them.

But it should not, and could not be that in such a brief time, he had learned all four Second Grade Thirteen Pattern Initial Stage formations.

Learned them all...

That meant he could review and prepare a bit, and he might even participate in the grading examination...

The grading for a Second Grade Initial Stage Formation Master.

Fifteen years old, in the Initial Stage of Foundation Establishment, becoming a Second Grade Initial Stage Formation Master...

That was already the limit for the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage.

At most, he could learn some other Thirteen Stripe formations.

Beyond that, there was nothing to learn and nothing more to teach.

Mo Hua then revealed his small ambition:

"Elder, is there a Fourteen Stripe formation to learn

Mo Hua licked his lips like a kitten yearning for fish.

After spending this period together, Mo Hua knew Elder Master Xun was both an unfathomably profound master and a highly respected and kind-hearted elder.

And since Elder Master Xun had been teaching him formations and had the grace of preaching and education, there was no need to keep some things secret.

"Is there a Fourteen Stripe formation to learn

Elder Master Xun's body visibly shuddered, and as he looked at Mo Hua, his cloudy eyes suddenly brightened.

Fourteen Stripes?!

This child's divine sense... exceeded the grade?!