

The Quest 821

Chapter 821: Merit Points

Mo Hua was still somewhat uncomfortable being called "Junior Brother" by a group of fellow disciples, some about the same age, others one or two years older, and some who at least appeared quite a bit older than himself.

These disciples called him "Junior Brother" awkwardly, as though they were ashamed, in hushed voices like mosquitoes, for fear of being overheard.

But this was Elder Master Xun's intent.

Elder Master Xun, a man of great virtue and esteem, had words that even some of the True Transmission Elders of the Inner Gate dared not lightly disobey.

Let alone these newly admitted Outer Gate disciples.

However, familiarity came with repetition.

After calling him that enough times, they got used to it.

The more they said it, the more fluent they became.

But some, deep down, were still resentful.

Occasionally, "thorns" would find an excuse to "challenge" Mo Hua.

Mo Hua didn't take them to heart, though; he didn't need to make much of an effort. He simply leveraged Elder Master Xun's reputation and his authority as "Junior Brother" to assign them extra Formation homework.

These "thorn" disciples would immediately behave themselves.

A Foundation Establishment Initial Stage cultivator's Divine Sense ranged between Ten Patterns to Thirteen Stripes.

These disciples, newly entering Foundation Establishment, mostly only had Divine Senses of Ten or Eleven Patterns. Drawing one or two Formations was bearable, but doing more was truly "excruciating."

Mo Hua drew Formations every day and thus had an exceedingly precise grasp on Divine Sense capacity.

The homework he assigned was just enough for them to manage to complete; although it was very strenuous and painful, it wouldn't damage their Sea of Consciousness.

It was a minor lesson.

Overawed by Elder Master Xun's authority, they dared not shirk their duties.

After Mo Hua had dealt with them in such a manner several times, no disciple dared to publicly challenge his "dignity" anymore.

Over time, Mo Hua's identity as "Junior Brother" was gradually accepted by the disciples.

Even though he was called "Junior Brother," Mo Hua carried no airs; he treated others and went about his tasks in the same way as before.

More and more disciples began to seek Mo Hua's advice on Formations, secretly approaching him during breaks or after class.

Some had confusion over Formations that they couldn't clarify during lessons and were too scared to ask Elder Master Xun, so they came to ask Mo Hua instead.

Mo Hua was far more approachable than Elder Master Xun.

And when others sought instruction in Formations, Mo Hua would share everything he knew without reservation.

He still remembered Instructor Yan's admonition:

"Formations are like water; to flourish for ages, they must be passed down..."

Selfishly hoarding knowledge would only cause Formations containing elements of the Great Dao to decay into stagnation.

Thus, Mo Hua sincerely offered his teachings to those truly eager to learn about Formations, providing complete and attentive explanations.

Having benefited from Mo Hua's preaching, the disciples found the term "Junior Brother" even more natural to utter.

As Elder Master Xun became increasingly "lazy," Mo Hua's teaching duties also increased, thus solidifying his relationship with his fellow sect disciples.

Their comradeship, half mentorship, and half friendship, deepened as well.

Elder Master Xun silently observed all this and felt reassured.

With these bonds, Mo Hua was gradually laying down roots within Taixu Gate.

As time went by, the bonds deepened, and his foundation grew firmer.

However, the number of people was still lacking...

Taiyi Residence had only nearly a hundred disciples, and only these nearly hundred would call Mo Hua "Junior Brother" when they attended the Formation classes together.

But there were nearly a thousand Proud Sons of Heaven in this cohort.

Those not in the same Tao Teaching Room naturally wouldn't be taught by Mo Hua...

Elder Master Xun thought to himself:

"In the future, I must find an opportunity to have all the disciples of this cohort attend Mo Hua's 'classes' and call out 'Junior Brother'..."

Not a single one should be left out!

Elder Master Xun was very far-sighted.

The foundation of the Sect was people, those disciples who carried on its tradition.

The bond with the sect's disciples was equivalent to a bond with the sect itself.

Taixu Gate, being one of the Eight Great Gates, had sect disciples who, although not as numerous as those of the Four Great Sects, were still considered elite within the states of the Cultivation World.

Having good relations with his fellow disciples, when Mo Hua eventually left the sect to traverse the world, he would naturally have a network.

All throughout the Nine State would be fellow sect members, and friends would greet him everywhere.

Being called "Junior Brother" wherever he went, his endeavors would be more convenient.

With the support of his fellow sect members, he wouldn't forget the Sect's bond of fellowship.

With the Sect as his backbone and the help of fellow sect members, even if he was alone in the future, he wouldn't fear the suppression of Noble Clans or the allure of the Demon Sect.

Only then would he have the confidence to maintain his original intention, avoid deviant paths, and seek the true Great Dao...

Elder Master Xun nodded with a profound look in his eyes.

Then he seemed to remember something, furrowing his brow, realizing another issue:

"While it's true that people are the foundation of the Sect, the Sect itself has an established tradition..."

"The rules of the Sect must still be upheld, and the disciples must be made aware of their tradition of inheritance."

"What comes too easily is often not appreciated..."

"I shouldn't be overly partial to this boy; that could rob him of the opportunity to be tempered..."

"The necessary hardships must still be endured..."

Elder Master Xun arched his eyebrows slightly.

...

Mo Hua was unaware of Elder Master Xun's painstaking intentions.

He was busy every day with cultivation, teaching classes, and then taking responsibility to "lecture," and in the little free time he had left, studying Formations.

Mo Hua was now learning a Formation called the "Rain Formation."

This was an Eight Trigrams Formation of the Water element, Second Grade with Fifteen Patterns, and was the most challenging Formation he had learned so far with the limit of his Divine Sense.

This Formation was also given to him by Elder Master Xun.

Elder Master Xun seemed to want Mo Hua to cultivate a kind nature and a gentle approach to Formations, so what followed were Formations of Water and Wood or Earth and Stone, those that nourish all beings and promote the industry of Tao Cultivation.

Chapter 822: Merit Points (2)

There wasn't a Killing Formation.

Mo Hua, having arrived, settled in and decided that having something to study was good enough.

Taixu Gate had a peaceful atmosphere; there were no Sin Cultivators, no Demon Cultivators, no slave traders, and nothing of the sort like Evil Fiends, so he temporarily had no use for a Killing Formation.

His main goal was to enhance his Divine Sense through learning Formations.

Then, after enhancing his Divine Sense, he would learn even more difficult Formations...

In this way, his Divine Sense and Formation skills would complement each other and progress side by side.

His breakthrough in cultivation was also closely related to his Divine Sense and Formation skills.

...

He practiced the Heaven Yan Jue, where the bottleneck lay in Divine Sense, needing to solve Mystery Formations, especially when making a breakthrough in major realms, where he had to solve the Mysterious Heaven Great Formation.

This time, when making his breakthrough, Uncle wouldn't be helping him anymore.

It seemed he would have to rely on himself, so his Divine Sense must be strong, and his Formation skills precise.

All of the spells he knew also depended on the strength of his Divine Sense.

Divine Sense Proving the Dao, Divine Sense was the foundation.

As for cultivation, it had always been about gradual accumulation; success would come when conditions were ripe, and it could not be hurried.

Mo Hua's current plan was to learn Fifteen-pattern Formations, honing his Divine Sense to Sixteen Patterns, or even higher, so that when it came time to advance his cultivation, his bottlenecks would be easier to break through.

He would start with Fifteen-pattern Formations, then move on to Sixteen Patterns, and then to Seventeen Patterns, continuing to learn like this...

However, half a month later, Elder Master Xun told Mo Hua that there were no more Formations for him to learn.

Mo Hua was stunned.

Elder Master Xun sighed, "I forgot to tell you before, but Taixu Gate has its rules too."

"Rules?"

Mo Hua blinked.

"Rules!" Elder Master Xun emphasized before patiently explaining to Mo Hua.

"This rule was set by the Ancestors, and I can't change it

Mo Hua nodded, feeling it was reasonable, not realizing that Elder Master Xun himself was one of the "Ancestors" he mentioned.

Elder Master Xun continued:

"The Formations taught in class are decided by the Sect and are taught to you for free

"But the Formations outside of class, theoretically, come at a cost."

"Especially since you've just started and are at the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage, the Formations you learn in theory should not exceed Eleven Patterns."

"Formations of twelve or thirteen patterns, even if learned quickly, are something you'd only be taught in the next year or the year after."

"And even then, it's not mandatory."

"Usually, a Formation Master at the initial stage of Foundation Establishment, even at the peak, would find learning a Twelve-pattern Formation quite difficult, let alone Thirteen Patterns

Elder Master Xun looked at Mo Hua, "So the Formations you've learned, Fourteen and Fifteen Patterns, are seriously beyond what's required, and it was an exception I made to teach you."

Mo Hua was touched and gratefully said, "Thank you, Elder Master Xun!"

Then he became worried, "You're not going to settle the score afterwards and make me pay with Spirit Stones, are you?"

He didn't know how many Spirit Stones a Second-grade Fourteen-pattern and Fifteen-pattern Formation would cost.

But the sort of Formations kept by the Sect, legitimate Eight Trigrams series Formations, presumably would not be cheap...

Mainly because he learned a lot.

Unconsciously, Elder Master Xun had already given him quite a few Formation Diagrams.

There was only one Rain Formation at Fifteen Patterns, but Mo Hua had learned a heap of Thirteen and Fourteen-pattern Formations.

If he had to retroactively pay with Spirit Stones, his modest savings would be instantly "bankrupt."

Mo Hua furrowed his brows, somewhat worried.

Elder Master Xun silently looked at Mo Hua for a moment before speaking up:

"That won't be necessary; since I gave them to you, you can study in peace without paying any Spirit Stones.

In Taixu Gate, the Sect's inheritance isn't bought with Spirit Stones."

"Not with Spirit Stones?" Mo Hua was slightly startled.

"Then what with?"

Elder Master Xun said, "Merit Points."

"Merit Points?"

Mo Hua frowned.

No one had mentioned this to him when he joined...

Elder Master Xun explained:

"Merit Points refer to the disciple's contribution to the Sect, or accomplishments

"Not only in Taixu Gate, but across the entire Qian Xue State Boundary, including the Four Great Sects, Eight Great Gates, Twelve Streams, Qian Learning Hundred Gates, and the thousands of Sects under the Hundred Gates all implement the 'Merit Points System'."

"This was established by the ancestors of Qian Xue State Boundary to reform the Sects, enhance cohesion, level the disparity between rich and poor disciples, and give every disciple a chance to obtain cultivation resources to advance the status of the Sect."

"If disciples enter the Sect with too great a disparity in wealth and social standing, it inevitably leads to sycophancy and vain comparisons."

"The poor become servants of the rich; the powerless cling to the powerful."

"If so, the Sect would inevitably become a den of iniquity, with the Taoist Heart corrupted by fame and gain, no one sincerely pursuing the Dao."

Mo Hua suddenly understood, "So that is why the Sect limits the amount of Spirit Stones a disciple can bring in when joining, and other items like Pills, Spiritual Artifacts, and Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures are also regulated

Elder Master Xun nodded, "Exactly, once you join the Sect, you naturally need to rely on your own efforts."

"Descendants of Noble Clans with good backgrounds also need to earn Merit Points with their own skills, exchanging them for cultivation resources, thus experiencing the difficulty of Tao Cultivation;"

"Ordinary disciples from lesser backgrounds can also work hard to become self-reliant, earning Merit Points from the Sect to obtain Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures they can't get outside, thereby breaking through their realms and striving for the Great Dao

It's just that...

Nowadays, in these Eight Great Gates, such "poorly born" disciples were becoming more and more rare...

Elder Master Xun sighed slightly to himself.

"Merit Points

Mo Hua's eyes lit up, "So can these Merit Points be exchanged for good stuff?"

Elder Master Xun nodded, "Better than what you're thinking of

Chapter 823: Merit Points (3)

"The Taixu Divine Thought Sword True Art!"

With enough merit points, could he obtain this extremely powerful Divine Thought Sword Technique, possibly hidden within the Taixu Gate?

Mo Hua considered this and decided not to ask Elder Master Xun.

Such matters should be kept secret...

Just in case he told Elder Master Xun, who might ask how he knew about it, and if Mo Hua couldn't answer, or didn't answer well, he might inadvertently reveal the secret of the "Heavenly Secret Calculation."

Besides, might he also be able to exchange for...

A Second Grade Ultimate Formation?

Mo Hua's eyes lit up with anticipation.

Elder Master Xun, unaware of Mo Hua's thoughts, continued to explain:

"!Therefore, merit points are extremely important to sect disciples."

"The merit system of the sect also increases a disciple's loyalty and sense of belonging to the sect."

You make contributions to the sect, the sect rewards you, helping your cultivation.

...

This mutual exchange deepens the relationship!

In this world, emotions without interests are usually as ephemeral as flowers in a mirror, unable to withstand turmoil.

Having lived for so long, Elder Master Xun naturally understood this truth.

Mo Hua remembered something else and asked:

"Elder, you mentioned that merit points are also related to one's position in the sect; does this refer to promotions from the Outer Gate to the Inner Gate?"

Elder Master Xun looked somewhat surprised but nodded, "Yes."

He pondered for a moment, then counter-asked Mo Hua:

"Mo Hua, what do you think is more important for a sect when taking disciples – talent or character?"

Mo Hua thought for a moment and replied, "Both talent and character are important, but character is actually more important than talent."

Elder Master Xun nodded in agreement, "Correct, it's just a pity that now when the sect takes on disciples, they only focus on talent, not character

"Although it is said that the human heart is unpredictable and changing, those with bad character might not necessarily fail to turn from wickedness to righteousness, and those with good character could also become corrupted and adopt cunning schemes."

"As for talent, the good is good, and the bad is bad, it's straightforward and clear!"

"However, even so, cultivating without considering the heart is in vain.

Having cultivation but lacking a firm heart, one can easily end up as a puppet controlled by others' Divine Thought

Mo Hua nodded his head in deep agreement.

He had seen too many cultivators planted with the devil in their Taoist hearts by their Uncles and dying at their hands.

Those with a steadfast mind could hold out for a while.

But those with a shallow character could lash out in madness with just one glance from their Uncle...

However...

Why did Elder Master Xun suddenly bring up this matter?

Mo Hua was puzzled and asked:

"Elder, what does this have to do with merit points?"

Elder Master Xun sighed deeply, recalling the past:

"In the beginning, the sects of the Qian Xue State Boundary didn't have this merit point system, and back then, there were fewer rules, and taking in disciples heavily favored talent."

"A top top-grade or upper middle-grade Proud Son of Heaven would often be frantically vied for by numerous sects."

"Cultivation Techniques, Taoist Skills, Spiritual Energy, Dan, Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures everything they wanted was provided to them, whatever they asked for, they received."

"But

"This also made these Proud Sons of Heaven too arrogant, believing that everything they had was earned through their own abilities, forgetting the sacrifices and benevolence of their sect."

"Ungrateful, betraying the sect, and even succumbing to demons such 'Proud Sons of Heaven' were not uncommon."

"The sects paid a heavy price, only to raise a group of ingrates."

"Later on, our predecessors reflected on these woes and established the 'merit' system, stating that no matter how good one's talent, to obtain true inheritance, they must have made substantial contributions to the sect."

"Outer Gate disciples seeking to advance to the Inner Gate must be evaluated not only for talent but also for their merit points."

"Inner Gate disciples, whether ordinary disciples or True Disciples, must have made certain contributions to the sect to qualify for promotion to Elder."

"In other words, as long as you make significant contributions to the sect, you can enter the Inner Gate, become a True Disciple, and even advance to become a True Transmission Elder, or even!"

"Promote to Sect Leader!"

Elder Master Xun spoke with fervor.

After he finished, he glanced at Mo Hua and saw that Mo Hua simply nodded but did not show any eager expression, so he understood that Mo Hua had no interest in joining the Inner Gate.

Joining the Inner Gate required taking a master.

If Mo Hua didn't want to join the Inner Gate, it also meant that he did not want to give up his original mentorship.

Even the possibility of becoming the Sect Leader of the Taixu Gate didn't seem to have much appeal to him.

This also meant that the boy truly had a mentorship.

And he valued loyalty and integrity, only recognizing his first Master.

Elder Master Xun felt a bit regretful but also admired Mo Hua's sentiments.

Elder Master Xun then added a few more words, finishing his explanation about the origin and purpose of the merit system, before saying:

"Therefore, from now on, if you want to learn Formation, you'll have to make some contributions to the sect.

Once you've earned enough merit points, you can then exchange them for those Fifteen Pattern, Sixteen Pattern, or even higher-grade Formation Diagrams."

Mo Hua thought it over and felt it was fair.

Nothing in the world comes for free.

The sect couldn't just let its members shear it without giving anything in return.

If there were too many disciples like himself, the sect might be sheared to the bone, sheared out of existence, and that would be problematic!

Mo Hua nodded and asked:

"Elder, how can I earn these merit points?"

Elder Master Xun saw that Mo Hua showed no discontent and nodded slightly, explaining:

"Achieving 'A' grades in various sect classes can grant you some merit points!"

"Refining Artifacts, Alchemy, Refining Rune, Drawing Formation for the sect can also be converted into merit points!"

"At major Qian Xue events, such as Taoist debates and sword tournaments, achieving a ranking awards merit points!"

"In addition, the sect will have certain tasks, such as collaborating with the Taoist Court to capture Sin Cultivators, Evil Cultivators, Demon Cultivators, and so on, which will also count as contributions to the sect's merit points!"

Chapter 824: Merit Points (4)

...

Elder Master Xun said a lot.

Mo Hua silently took note of it all and then asked with confusion, "Elder Master, what you've mentioned, how come I didn't know any of it before

Elder Master Xun raised an eyebrow and replied, "That's because you didn't have the authority to know."

"Authority?"

Elder Master Xun pointed at Mo Hua's waist.

Mo Hua suddenly understood, "The Taixu Token?"

"Correct," said Elder Master Xun.

"When you first joined, someone must have told you that the Taixu Token is extremely important and that you should not lose it

"Not only do you need to use the Taixu Token for cultivation lessons and entering or exiting the Sect, but more importantly

"The Taixu Token determines your authority within the Sect!"

"When you first joined, this Taixu Token was just the initial one.

Aside from attending cultivation lessons and entering or exiting the Disciple's Residence, it basically has no authority whatsoever."

"Once you have been cultivating within the Sect for a full year, when the Sect has fully 'sounded out your depth,' only then will they unlock the real Taixu authorities for you

"This is also known as 'Merit Points' authority."

"With authority, you will be able to undertake tasks on behalf of the Sect, as stipulated by the Taixu Token, earn Merit Points, and exchange them for a series of treasures held by the Taixu Gate, including Cultivation Techniques, Taoist Skills, Formation inheritances, as well as Spirit Stones, Pills, Spiritual Objects, and other cultivation resources

Mo Hua was somewhat shocked and then said with difficulty,

"But I've only been a part of the Sect for four or five months, I can't unlock the authority of the Taixu Token

"No matter," Elder Master Xun said, "I'll unlock it for you in advance."

"Ah?" Mo Hua was stunned.

"Can you unlock it in advance?"

Elder Master Xun nodded and replied, "You've been learning Formation with me for so long, that naturally counts as 'sounding out your depth.' Unlocking an authority in advance isn't a big deal."

"Hand me your Taixu Token," ordered Elder Master Xun.

...

Mo Hua respectfully passed his initial, somewhat simple Taixu Token, engraved only with a Sword Pattern, to Elder Master Xun.

Elder Master Xun accepted it, his Divine Sense moved slightly, and a faint light flashed on the Taixu Token.

Afterward, Elder Master Xun handed the Taixu Token back to Mo Hua, “There, it’s done.”

Mo Hua was a bit surprised, “That’s it?”

Unlocking authority is that easy...

He speculated in his heart, faintly guessing that Elder Master Xun must have used his Divine Sense to activate the Formation within the Taixu Token, altering its authority...

But as for the specifics, Mo Hua, who was only at the Foundation Establishment Initial Stage, still couldn’t understand.

Mo Hua took the Taixu Token and swept it with his Divine Sense.

Indeed, he felt that his Taixu Token was different from before; it seemed to have acquired some new content.

Mo Hua hadn’t examined it in detail when another question came to mind.

"Elder Master, you said the rules of the Sect cannot be changed

Mo Hua looked at Elder Master Xun with doubtful eyes.

"But what you’re doing, isn’t that also changing the rules?"

Elder Master Xun hesitated.

This kid, this little brain of his, how quickly it turns...

Elder Master Xun’s expression became serious.

"No, it does not count!"

"Really doesn't count?"

Elder Master Xun nodded.

"If I say it doesn't count, then it doesn't count!"

...

Mo Hua didn't know what to say.

But Elder Master Xun unlocking the authority of the Taixu Token for him was a good thing, so he didn't dwell on it any further...

Whether it was against the rules or not, what would he, a disciple who had just joined, know?

Holding the Taixu Token, Mo Hua looked forward with anticipation, thinking about scrutinizing it later to see what tasks were available and what good things he could exchange for...

Elder Master Xun watched Mo Hua and gave one last piece of advice:

"Cultivators should prioritize stability in their practice, and not aim too high or far

"Though I've unlocked the authority for you, you've only just joined, and your cultivation is still weak, with little experience

"To begin with, take on some low-level, beginner tasks, like Drawing Formations, sweeping the Taoist Field, guarding the gate, and the like

"Those tasks like pursuing Sin Cultivators, killing Evil Cultivators, subduing major and minor Demon Sects

"You absolutely shouldn't take on such dangerous missions

"Understood!"

Mo Hua nodded obediently.

Chapter 825: Large Formation

Returning to his Disciple's Residence and locking the door, Mo Hua eagerly used his Divine Sense to check his Taixu Token, which now had Tao Cultivation privileges enabled.

Within the Taixu Token was a void of white, yet dense and numerous characters surfaced.

Some were about cultivation courses and sect rules, etc.

Those were already there.

But now, like ink sketches and natural pastel colors, two large sections of text had been added to the empty spaces of the Taixu Token.

...

One section was the Bounty Scroll, the other the Merit Scroll.

The Bounty Scroll recorded various sect missions.

Missions were posted, and rewards of Merit Points were offered.

The text was dense, stating mission objectives, general content, locations, danger levels, and the Merit Points for rewards.

It also listed the requirements for accepting the bounties.

For instance, the Cultivator's realm, Cultivation Techniques, Taoist Skills, and specialty in Alchemy or Drawing Formation, etc.

The Merit Scroll showed the assorted rewards one could exchange for Sect Merits.

There were Cultivation Techniques, Taoist Skills, Formation Diagrams, Pill Recipes, Artifice Manuals, and secret Taixu Gate cultivation inheritances.

There were also Spiritual Artifacts, Pills, and rare cultivation materials such as Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

For the convenience of disciples, some sword Spiritual Artifacts, Miracle Pills and Medicines, and some Lingzhi, Spirit Grass, Hibiscus, and Immortal Ginseng were even accompanied by small, colorful illustrations, which were intuitive and aesthetically pleasing, very considerate.

Mo Hua guessed this Merit Scroll must be designed by some Female Elder within the sect.

Meanwhile, his heart was also full of confusion.

How on earth was such a thing within the Taixu Token created?

This was somewhat contrary to his cultivation common sense.

He had never seen such things before.

These seemed to be things only accessible upon reaching Foundation Establishment, and not just any Foundation Establishment, but one within a grand inheritance like the Taixu Gate, where sect disciples would have such a "Sect Token

But what was the principle behind this Sect Token?

"All things in the world are Taoist Skills, myriad phenomena and myriad Great Dao, turning complexity into simplicity, manifesting as Formations

"So is this perhaps also some sort of Formation?"

Mo Hua pondered for a long while but still shook his head.

He couldn't figure out what kind of Formation logic could construct such a peculiar and wondrous Merit Scroll within a tiny Token.

Using ink to solidify characters, transmitting messages.

And even using pigments to transform into images, bursting with color...

But according to Mo Hua's intuition, these must all be superficial.

It was most likely a type of Formation he had never seen or learned.

It would require extremely special Formation Patterns, Formation Pivots, and Formation Eyes to construct the underlying basic Formation framework.

Mo Hua furrowed his brow and suddenly had a thought.

"Why not...

Calculate it?"

See if he could deduce anything from the Taixu Token...

When he first enrolled, Mo Hua had glanced at the Taixu Token.

But at that time, his access was extremely limited, his Divine Sense blocked by the Taixu Token, and with his shallow understanding of Formations, he couldn't make out anything.

Now, after studying Formations with Elder Master Xun for nearly half a year,

His Divine Sense had strengthened, his Array Formation Skill had deepened, and his experience with Formations had broadened.

And at this moment, Elder Master Xun had opened up “privileges” for him...

Mo Hua’s eyes brightened, he immediately sat up straight, his Divine Sense delving into the Taixu Token, examining the changes of various characters and ink paintings within.

At the same time, his Divine Thoughts rapidly moved, following the Heavenly Secret Calculation method, trying to glimpse the essence beneath the words and images...

The characters on the Taixu Token gradually blurred, the colorful patterns began to double.

The facade of the Taixu Token dissipated bit by bit, revealing a faint and elusive essence...

Between the vague glimpses, Mo Hua caught a clue.

The ink characters and watercolor images were indeed appearances.

The essence of these characters and images were Formation Patterns.

All words and images were composed of simple, uniform, rigid yet orderly Formation Patterns, neatly arranged and combined into transformations.

And these Formation Patterns were all controlled by Formation Pivots.

All Formation Pivots were neat and precise, and like many rivers flowing into the sea, they converged into one overall, powerful Large Formation Pivot.

This kind of Large Formation Pivot was extremely complex and massive.

It was shrouded in a labyrinth of intricate and dense Formation “cloaks,” forming an impenetrable defensive Formation barrier.

In front of such a Formation Pivot, Mo Hua's Divine Sense seemed insignificant and thin.

As the Sea of Consciousness gradually waned, the Calculation came to an end, and Mo Hua's Divine Sense, being limited, could deduce no more...

But he was profoundly shaken as a result.

"This can't be...

Also a Large Formation, can it?!"

A Large Formation built by the Taixu Token!

Every disciple in the Taixu Gate, each Taixu Token, was a Formation "terminal," then collectively linked to the Large Formation Pivot core "core sequence" of the Taixu Gate.

Thus, all Taixu Gate disciples, by virtue of the Taixu Token, could achieve "information" sharing and Divine Sense letter transmission.

This was another type of entirely different Large Formation.

Unlike the outwardly powerful and majestic Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation, the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation,

The Large Formation of the Taixu Token was one built within inches, a grand information sea and Divine Thought torrent encompassing everything.

This...

Was it also a kind of Great Dao of heaven and earth?

Mo Hua's horizons widened, overwhelmed with shock, and then he couldn't help but silently contemplate:

If...

He learned this Large Formation...

Deciphered the Formation Pivot barriers, took control of the Large Formation's "core Formation Pivot

Would he be able...

To eavesdrop on all Elders and disciples in the Taixu Gate's communications?

To peer into the core secrets of the Taixu Gate?

Chapter 826: Large Formation (2)

That he could tamper with the "permissions" of Taixu?

Grant himself "authority"?

Or even manually edit his own "Merit Points"?

What about exchanging Sect Treasures, Innate Spiritual Objects, and Divine Thought Sword Techniques at will?

Endless Merit Points to spend for a lifetime?!

...

...

Mo Hua opened his mouth wide.

Evil little thoughts sprouted like mushrooms after the rain, one after another, ceaselessly popping up...

He then shook his head solemnly and said,

"No!"

"I am now a dutiful little disciple of the Taixu Gate, I have principles, and I cannot do things that harm the Sect's interests or usurp its authority!"

"Greed is a great taboo in Tao Cultivation!"

Yet, his heart still fluttered with excitement.

He couldn't steal from the Taixu Gate, but...

Mo Hua's thoughts raced.

If Taixu Gate used this Formation System, it suggested that other Sects in the Qian Learning State Boundary might also use it.

By extension...

Even the larger, older, and more profound Sects with a longer history and deeper foundations likely had a Large Formation that integrated communication, rewards, and promotions all in one.

Even if not a Large Formation, at a minimum it would be a Compound Formation.

The scale may vary, but the type of Formation, framework logic, and underlying structure were bound to be the same.

He didn't yet know how to operate this Formation,

But with the Taixu Token right in front of him, once his Array Formation knowledge improved, his Divine Sense grew stronger, and his grasp on the Heavenly Secret Calculation became more proficient, he would eventually be able to deduce this entire Formation System...

Mo Hua couldn't help but feel elated, then pondered,

"I am a disciple of Taixu Gate, I can't do wrong by them

"But other Sects...

I'm not their disciple

"Some so-called Righteous Dao Sects don't do good deeds either

"Moreover, in this world exist Demon Monsters, and Evil Sects like Corpse Gate

"If in the future, I master this Large Formation

Mo Hua's face broke into a sly smile, and he hummed inwardly,

"All you Sects had better not offend me

"Otherwise, if I ever happen upon your Sect Token, you'll be in for a 'great fortune

...

Of course, that was still a bit early.

Mo Hua put away his thoughts and began planning pragmatically.

You have to eat your meal one bite at a time, walk the path step by step.

Study the Taixu Token slowly.

For now, he needed to accept Sect bounties, earn Merit Points, exchange them for Formations, and strengthen his Divine Sense.

Once he accumulated enough Merit Points, gained more authority, he would then look at the higher-level Merit Scrolls to see if they contained the Taixu Divine Thought Sword True Art.

And also...

Formations capable of “reversing life and death

Mo Hua’s gaze was determined.

He then began to take on tasks.

Remembering Elder Master Xun’s advice, not to aim too high, he started by only accepting “entry-level” tasks.

"Accepting" tasks was a bidirectional affair.

It required Mo Hua to apply, and others to agree.

Within the Taixu Token, one could manifest characters with Divine Sense.

There was a myriad of tasks on the bounty board, densely packed.

If one wished to apply for a task, you’d manifest your name with Divine Sense beneath it.

This name contained some basic information about the disciple.

Including one’s cultivation realm, Cultivation Techniques, expertise in Taoist Skill, and the grade of their Formations, Pill, Artifact, Rune, and so forth.

Exactly which details to show was up to the disciple to decide.

The Cultivator posting the task would consider this information and carefully decide whether to let you undertake it.

Only with mutual agreement could a contract be reached.

Mo Hua, who was a “newcomer” with prematurely accessed Taixu permissions thanks to Elder Master Xun’s influence, even faced setbacks when attempting to accept even just “entry-level” tasks via the Taixu Token.

Watching the Sect gate...

Others wouldn’t have him, saying he was too young, his height and appearance even younger, which could lead to comments about Taixu Gate employing a schoolchild, not a good influence...

Sweeping the Taoist Field...

Mo Hua did sweep once.

The Sect’s steward thought he swept too slowly and, seeing his small arms and legs, didn’t have the heart to let him keep sweeping, so thereafter he simply stopped giving him tasks...

He didn’t know Artifact Refining, Alchemy, or Refining Rune.

The other rewards were even less achievable.

So in the end, Mo Hua could only resort to Drawing Formations.

"If I must draw Formations, so be it

Originally hoping to experience other tasks, Mo Hua had no choice but to put aside those thoughts and focus on Drawing Formations.

But he had oversimplified things.

Sect tasks were essentially a kind of “bounty.”

These bounties were issued within the Taixu Gate by other neighboring Sects, the Taoist Court, and other allied forces or individual Cultivators.

Demand generated the bounty.

Others must need your formations for you to draw them.

You don’t get to draw whatever you please.

This in itself was no issue.

Mo Hua was extremely proficient in universal Five Elements Formation and reasonably skilled in the Eight Trigrams Array.

Most of the “bounties” in the Taixu Token for Secondary Stage Initial Grade, and even some Primary Stage above Formation-related tasks, Mo Hua was more than capable of handling, even with “ease

But he couldn’t receive any!

The Cultivators offering the bounties didn’t choose him!

Because Formation-related bounty tasks required one to look at the Formation Master’s grade assigned by the Taoist Court.

Those competing with Mo Hua were uniformly “Second Grade Initial Stage,” “Second Grade Middle Stage” Formation Masters...

These Formation Masters, seniors by several terms, while Mo Hua, having passed only the First Grade Formation Master assessment, bore the title “First Grade Formation Master,” and others simply didn’t bother looking his way.

Chapter 827: Large Formation (3)

His talents found no place to shine.

Mo Hua sighed helplessly.

He could only turn back and take on some “minor orders” for First-grade Formation Methods...

These small orders were all for First-grade Formation Methods, basically unclaimed by anyone because the Merit Points offered were too few for a Second Rank Formation Master to bother with.

First Rank Formation Masters, mostly just new disciples, for the most part, hadn't yet gained access to the Taixu Token privileges.

So, these types of orders were only taken by a very few, budding Second Rank Formation Masters who would accept them to practice their skills.

...

The title of “First Rank Formation Master,” as assessed by the Taoist Court, carried a significant “weight” when Mo Hua claimed rewards for First-grade Formation Methods.

He didn't hold back, his Divine Sense swiftly scanned, and wherever he spotted “First-grade Formation Method” in the bounty, he clicked on it, leaving behind his illustrious name:

"Mo Hua!"

After a while, the Taixu Token trembled slightly, seemingly with a notification.

Mo Hua checked with his Divine Sense and, sure enough, some rewards had been accepted, while a few “short-sighted” ones still rejected him.

Mo Hua huffed.

Today you dismiss me, tomorrow you'll be unable to reach me!

Who would take these First-grade Formation assignments if not for “a tiger fallen on flatlands”?

Then Mo Hua scanned the Bounty Scroll again, applied for a few more First-grade Formation rewards, waited a bit, and some were agreed upon, some rejected.

Mo Hua counted, in total, he had six First-grade Formation bounties.

He wanted to take on more but realized he couldn't manifest the words with his Divine Sense anymore.

After pondering a bit, he roughly understood why.

This was him reaching the limit for bounties.

A disciple could only take six assignments at a time.

Mo Hua felt a bit regretful.

"But six is still okay, I guess.

I'll finish these first

Mo Hua tucked the Taixu Token into his Storage Bag and stood up, leaving the Disciple's Residence and, using the map of the Taixu Gate etched in his mind, found the location of the Merit Pavilion.

The Taixu's Merit Pavilion managed the Merit Points system, responsible for dealing with the posting, acceptance, and reward distribution related to bounties.

Sect bounties had to be accepted through the Taixu Token.

But for some necessary procedures, and prize collection, one would have to visit the Merit Pavilion in person.

The same was true for Drawing Formations.

Mo Hua had to retrieve ink, paper, and basic Formation Diagrams from the Merit Pavilion.

Of course, simple formations, or formations with special requirements, required others to supply the Formation Diagrams.

For slightly more challenging, or rarer formations, the person Drawing the Formation would have to find a way to obtain the Formation Diagrams himself.

Inside the Merit Pavilion, there were plenty of disciples bustling about.

Mo Hua waited in line for a while, and when it was his turn, he approached the counter, displayed his Taixu Token, and said,

"Elder, I'm here to accept Formation assignments."

The Merit Elder was an old man, with grey and withered hair, but chubby.

He checked Mo Hua's Taixu Token, and although looking somewhat puzzled, he still took out six Storage Bags and handed them to Mo Hua.

Inside the Storage Bags were the ink and Formation Diagrams needed for the bounties.

Mo Hua took the Storage Bags, turned around, and was about to leave.

"Wait a moment

The Merit Elder, eyeing Mo Hua, couldn't help but ask,

"How old are you?"

"Fifteen!"

"Fifteen the Merit Elder furrowed his brows, "Then you must have just begun, not yet a year, how can you use the Taixu Token to accept assignments?"

Mo Hua pinned it all on Elder Master Xun, "Elder Master Xun urged me to undertake missions, earn Merit Points, and learn Formation Methods!"

The Merit Elder was taken aback, "Elder Master Xun?"

Strange...

Wasn't the old man always obstinate?

How come he's bending the rules now?

The Merit Elder looked at Mo Hua again, noticing the small figure laden with six Storage Bags and couldn't help but ask,

"Can you complete six Formation Methods?"

"I can!" Mo Hua replied, "I'm very quick at Drawing Formations!"

Drawing Formations quickly?

How fast could a child that young be?

The Merit Elder shook his head, not asking further, simply waved his hand, "Alright then, go on and draw them.

Don't bite off more than you can chew though; failing to complete assignments can negatively affect your reputation

"Understood, Elder."

Mo Hua responded.

The Merit Elder watched Mo Hua leave without giving it much thought.

But after two hours, Mo Hua returned, placing the six Storage Bags on the table.

"Elder, I've finished."

The Merit Elder was astounded.

Finished?

He opened the Storage Bags and indeed they all contained First-grade Formations, some using paper as Formation media, others with Array Plates or Spiritual Artifact embryos.

Each Formation was neat and precise, conforming strictly to standards, without a single error.

"Truly finished so fast

The Merit Elder was slightly surprised, but after reflecting, he found it unremarkable.

After all, they were only First-grade Formations.

The Merit Elder swept his Divine Sense over them, nodded, and said, "Indeed, all are completed.

Six First-grade Formations, in total nineteen Merit Points, have been added to your Taixu Token."

Mo Hua was delighted, and when his Divine Sense entered the Taixu, he indeed found a small number beneath his name:

Nineteen.

This meant he had earned nineteen Merit Points.

"Alright, you The Merit Elder was about to say, "You may go," but then Mo Hua immediately interrupted,

"Elder, please wait

Mo Hua plunged his Divine Sense into the Taixu Token and after a moment, lifted his head and handed the Taixu Token back to the Merit Elder, "I've accepted some more

The Merit Elder's eyelids twitched.

This young boy isn't following the norms...

Who accepts tasks like this?

Chapter 828: Large Formation (4)

And you're so young, yet you take on so many Formation methods; aren't you afraid of overextending your Divine Sense...

The Merit Elder hesitated for a moment, but seeing Mo Hua's spirits high and not showing signs of fatigue, he said nothing and handed several Storage Bags to Mo Hua's hands.

Mo Hua walked away cheerfully.

As he watched him go, the Merit Elder silently noted the name on his Taixu Token.

...

In the days that followed, Mo Hua continued his Drawing Formation.

But a First-grade Formation Method yielded too little Merit Points, usually just three or four, which accumulated too slowly.

...

And the ones he wanted to exchange for, the Fifteen Patterns and Sixteen-Pattern Formations, each required several hundred Merit Points.

Fortunately, Mo Hua drew them quickly, so he made decent progress initially.

But gradually, his plan to accumulate Merit Points began to stall.

Firstly, because he still had to attend Tao Cultivation classes and couldn't draw every day.

At most, he could only draw for two hours.

He also needed to practice the Fifteen Patterns Rain Formation to enhance his Divine Sense, so he didn't have much time.

Another reason was that the number of bounties for First-grade Formation Methods in the Taixu Token became scarce.

Disciples of Taixu Gate were all above Foundation Establishment, and the demand for First-grade Formation Methods was naturally not high.

Since Mo Hua drew extremely fast, fulfilling five or six at a time and taking on many at once, the bounties for First-grade Formations were quickly finished by him.

The remaining ones were sporadic, with maybe only one or two bounties available per day.

And Mo Hua might not even be able to take them.

Adding it up, that was two or three Merit Points a day.

As slow as a tortoise crawling.

Saving for a year might not even suffice to exchange for one Fifteen Patterns Formation.

Mo Hua sighed and pondered with furrowed brows:

"This won't do, it's too slow.

I need to find a way to do some other tasks and quickly accumulate Merit Points to exchange for Formations

"But how to do it

Mo Hua was at a loss for a moment and then sank his Divine Sense into the Taixu Token, flipping through the Bounty Scroll for many days, and finally found a reliable method.

With his low realm and shallow experience, he couldn't take on many bounties.

But he could "mix in" with the bounties!

Some bounties couldn't be completed by a single person.

After a leading disciple took it on, they would recruit three or four disciples to complete the mission collaboratively.

After completion, Merit Points would be distributed based on contribution.

There might be some discrepancies, but they wouldn't be too significant.

Mo Hua glanced over and saw that some of the tougher tasks offered bounties of several hundred.

If he mixed in, he could at least get several tens of Merit Points.

That equated to what he would draw in a month of First-grade Formations.

Mo Hua's eyes lit up, and he was ready to act.

On the Taixu Token's Bounty Scroll, there would be recruitment messages attached.

That is, someone takes on a bounty and needs to recruit others to complete it together.

Mo Hua flipped through back and forth, his Divine Sense numbing from the search, and finally found a suitable task for himself on one of the recruitment messages:

"On the ninth day of the fifth month, a Second Grade Diancang State Boundary chase for a Sin Cultivator

"This Sin Cultivator is skilled in Formation methods and adept at setting them up, which makes him difficult to deal with."

"One of our Fellow Formation Masters is needed for assistance, Second Grade Initial Stage preferred, but if one has exquisite Formation skills and self-protection capability, First Grade is acceptable

"Merit Points will be distributed based on contribution after success, starting from one hundred points

...

Mo Hua took another careful look.

"Self-protection capability," "First Grade is acceptable

Isn't that describing himself?

And starting from one hundred Merit Points!

Mo Hua was delighted and left his name neatly on the recruitment notice:

"Mo Hua."

He then thought for a moment and added afterward:

"Capable of concealment, has self-protection capability

"Very skilled at Formation methods!"

Chapter 829: Water Prison Technique

Finally, after the time it took an incense stick to burn, the Taixu Token vibrated slightly.

Mo Hua's application had been accepted.

One hundred Merit Points!

Mo Hua was overjoyed.

Afterward, he began to prepare for the bounty task regarding "that I could pass the test."

He packed some Spirit Stones, some Spiritual Ink, and his "hidden" little cloak.

Though the Thousand Jun Stick was not of much use anymore, it had been with him for so long, so he decided to bring it anyway.

...

Besides, within the Diancang State Boundary, there seemed to be a Mount Diancang!

He didn't know if there would be any poisonous gases or miasma in the mountains, so he decided to take Miasma Repelling Pills and Poison-Repelling Pillssecond grade ones.

He also prepared some other odds and ends, ensuring he had everything he needed.

The last issue to consider was preparing some means of overcoming his enemy.

Mo Hua pondered silently!

A task for a Mid-Stage Foundation Establishment Cultivation was to pursue a Sin Cultivator, so that Sin Cultivator should also be at the Mid-Stage Foundation Establishment Cultivation.

Since his cultivation was higher than Mo Hua's, the power of the Fireball Technique would probably be greatly reduced.

As for Formation!

The Second-grade Earth Fire Formation was Thirteen Stripes, a second-grade initial stage Formation, which he estimated would also be less effective in killing a Mid Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

"My offensive means are still too weak!" Mo Hua sighed.

However, he was only at the Foundation Establishment Early Stage.

It seemed normal for him not to be able to beat a cultivator in the Mid-Stage Foundation Establishment.

Moreover, the requirement for this bounty was a Formation Master "adept in formations."

Apparently, he didn't need to kill himself.

Relying on his ability in formations, he could just "go with the flow"!

But it wouldn't hurt to prepare a bit more.

In case he encountered a powerful enemy, it was best if he could also lend a hand.

"Now it's the third day of the initial period; there are six days left until the ninth!" Mo Hua thought, "Six days should be just enough time for me to learn a new spell!"

"This spell doesn't need to be offensive!"

"Because my Spiritual Power is weak, apart from the Fireball Technique, other powerful spells would probably be too difficult to learn, and even if I managed to learn them, their power would be too low!"

"So, I should learn a controlling one!"

A controlling spell!

Mo Hua's eyes lit up, "Second-grade Water Prison Technique!"

The Water Prison Technique was indeed quite useful.

Especially for trapping enemies, interrupting their attacks, and countering cultivators with excellent movement techniques generally effective every time.

But previously, he had only owned a secret manual for the Primary Stage Water Prison Technique, which was more commonly used during the Qi Refinement Realm.

After his Promotion to Foundation Establishment, the effectiveness of this spell had decreased significantly, and hence he used it less frequently.

And he couldn't find the secret manual for a higher grade spell.

This was the plight of a Loose Cultivator with a weak legacy.

Mo Hua had no other choice.

But now, having joined the Taixu Gate, things were different.

The Taixu Gate had a long-standing heritage and a profound foundation, having collected many Taoist Skills from all over.

In the Merit Scroll, there should be a Second-grade Water Prison Technique.

Mo Hua felt a hint of excitement as he immediately immersed his Divine Sense into the Taixu Token and rummaged through the Merit Scroll.

In the time it took to drink a cup of tea, he actually found the spell for the Water Prison Technique!

Moreover, it was a complete set!

Primary Stage to Fourth-order, a complete secret manual of the Water Prison Taoist Skill!

There were even some remarks below:

"Water Prison Technique, a rare spell.

Once the Ultimate Technique of the Water Prison Sect, never shared with outsiders.

In the 19,080th year of the Taoist Calendar, the entire Water Prison Sect fell to demonization, suppressed by the Taoist Court.

After its destruction, the Water Prison Technique spread across the world; however, many parts of the spell were missing!

In the 19,900th year of the Taoist Calendar, True Man Yi compiled this technique into volumes, included in the Taixu Gate!"

There was another comment at the end:

"The Water Prison Technique has a niche utility, easy to learn yet hard to master, choose with caution."

Mo Hua was somewhat astonished after reading it.

This Water Prison Technique actually had some history behind it.

What kind of sect was the Water Prison Sect?

Why did the entire sect turn to demonization?

And who was this True Man Yi!

Mo Hua thought for a moment but didn't care too much.

The Cultivation World was so vast, with so many sects and cultivators of origin; he simply didn't have the time to look into each one.

It was good enough that he had something to learn.

Mo Hua glanced at the Merit Scroll and noticed that the complete set of the Water Prison Technique from Primary Stage to Fourth-order cost over ten thousand Merit Points!

Mo Hua gasped.

Too expensive!!

Even selling himself would not cover the cost.

Mo Hua looked carefully again and realized that the spell could be bought separately.

Primary Stage to Second Grade cost only two hundred sixty Merit Points.

The higher grades were the expensive ones; Third Grade cost over two thousand, while Fourth-order cost over eight thousand.

Mo Hua breathed a sigh of relief, "Luckily, I only need to buy the Second Grade

But upon further thought, even the two hundred sixty Merit Points for the second grade were not cheap!

He currently had a total of only about two hundred seventy to eighty Merit Points.

This was the result of his hard work, accepting so many bounties, drawing nearly a hundred Formation patterns, and saving up for so long.

Mo Hua was torn, mentally weighing his options for a long time before finally making a painful decision.

Merit Points were meant to be used!

What was the point of earning them if not to spend them?

It was only the cost of one or two Sixteen-Pattern Formations.

If he could master this Water Prison Technique thoroughly, it would benefit him throughout the entire Foundation Establishment stage!

"I'll buy it!"

Mo Hua gritted his teeth.

Then, with a swipe of his hand, the hard-earned Merit Points vanished in an instant.

Mo Hua found it hard to breathe from the pain.

But the thought of having a new spell to learn made it feel somewhat better.

Without delay, Mo Hua immediately went to the Merit Pavilion to exchange his newly purchased “Second-grade Water Prison Technique.”

The Merit Elder who served Mo Hua was the same one as before.

He glanced at the “Water Prison Technique” secret manual and expressed his surprise:

"Didn't you say you wanted to save Merit Points to learn Formations?

How come, after saving for so long, you exchanged them for a spell manual?"

"And! for this peculiar Water Prison Technique?"

Mo Hua said, “Sharpening your axe won't delay the chopping of firewood!

If I learn the spell, I can ‘mix in’ with missions better and earn more Merit Points!

Then I can exchange them for more Formations!"

Chapter 830: Water Prison Technique (2)

Mo Hua, feeling a bit guilty, said, “I misspoke, what I meant was ‘taking’ tasks.”

The Merit Elder shook his head, somewhat bewildered.

"This kid, what strange things is he up to

"Learning such tricky spells...

What exactly does he want to do?"

But since Mo Hua wanted to exchange, the elder couldn't say much.

After all, this was in keeping with the traditions of Taixu Gate.

As long as one had merit points, he could exchange them for whatever he desired; the elder couldn't interfere.

The Merit Elder handed the Second-Grade Water Prison Technique Secret Manual to Mo Hua.

...

Mo Hua, receiving the secret manual, ran off with a beaming smile, leaving the Merit Elder deep in thought.

...

Mo Hua hurried back to the Disciple's Residence, eager to open the "Water Prison Technique Secret Manual."

This secret manual was of the second grade.

But since the disciples of Taixu Gate all started their studies from the Foundation Establishment Realm, the second-grade secret manual also "came with" a first-grade spell as a bonus.

"Buy one get one free

Mo Hua nodded, feeling like he hadn't made a bad deal.

In hopes of gaining more, Mo Hua reviewed the first-grade Water Prison Technique from start to finish only to discover, to his astonishment, that this first-grade Water Prison Technique was quite different from the secret manual he had obtained...

The spells were more complete, the vital points more complex, and the circulation of Spiritual Power through the meridians was more difficult.

Recalling the origin of the Water Prison Technique on his Merit Scroll, a realization dawned on Mo Hua.

His previous First-Grade Water Prison Technique Secret Manual was obtained from a Sin Cultivator from Big Black Mountain, an inheritance lost and incomplete after the destruction of the Water Prison Sect.

Taixu Gate's version, however, had been edited by True Man Yi, and this was the complete, authentic inheritance of the Water Prison Technique.

"This True Man Yi really is a good person!"

Mo Hua affixed the label of "good person" to True Man Yi.

Then Mo Hua started to warm up and revise his first-grade Water Prison Technique, looking for and fixing any gaps, while simultaneously studying and practicing the authentic second-grade Water Prison Technique.

The authentic Water Prison Technique emphasized using "water" to form shapes, drawing out prisons on the ground.

Mo Hua's previous Water Prison Technique could only simply "bind."

But the authentic Water Prison Technique was more akin to "shackles."

Even the Water-attribute Spiritual Power could erode meridians, causing pain.

The lethality was not significant, but it could make one feel a sense of "suffocation."

Just as if one were truly in a "water prison."

Whether it was "imprisonment" or "suffocation," the spell's effects were a cut above the previous version.

Because Mo Hua was extremely proficient in the first-grade Water Prison Technique, optimizing the spell and upgrading it to a higher grade proved to be highly efficient.

Although the Water Prison Technique was obscure and difficult to cultivate.

Mo Hua's Divine Sense was strong and keen, so learning it wasn't too strenuous for him.

Five or six days later, Mo Hua had managed to use the second-grade Water Prison Technique quite skillfully.

He tested the effects and was quite satisfied with them.

It's important to know oneself.

To have a clear understanding of one's position.

Since he was not adept at slaughter, learning something like the Water Prison Technique, to vex others, was also good.

It was, after all, a contribution to completing the task!

On the ninth day of the month, Mo Hua packed his things and set off on his journey to meet a few "teammates" at the foot of Taixu Mountain.

Taixu Gate had a bi-monthly holiday, with two days off every ten days.

The holiday for the early part of the month fell on the ninth and tenth days.

During these two days, disciples could arrange their time freely, as long as they did not engage in misdeeds; the sect did not impose restrictions.

Previously, on these holidays, Mo Hua would stay alone in his residence practicing Formation.

This was his first time venturing out.

Wearing the Taoist Robe of Taixu Gate, Mo Hua left the sect and arrived at a foothill to the southwest at the agreed-upon hour and location.

Beside the foothill was a prominent boulder.

Having reached the foothill, Mo Hua saw two cultivators already there, both women.

One wore the Taoist Robe of Taixu Gate, tall and elegant with a gentle beauty.

The other was dressed in a gold and rose-embellished robe, lavish in appearance, clearly not from Taixu Gate.

Both were of Foundation Building Cultivation and appeared somewhat older than Mo Hua.

Mo Hua greeted them, "Hello, senior sisters."

The two women looked at him with some surprise but, seeing Mo Hua's painting-like eyebrows and eyes, fair skin, and clear gaze, not to mention his black-and-white interwoven Taoist Robe of Taixu Gate, also smiled and said,

"Hello, junior brother."

But since they were all relatively unknown to each other, they didn't say much else.

Mo Hua stood obediently to the side, waiting.

The two senior sisters gave Mo Hua a curious glance, thinking he was waiting for someone, so they also didn't say anything and just waited quietly.

After a while, another cultivator arrived.

It was a man wearing a golden-red Taoist Robe with mountain patterns, a robust aura, tall and handsome.

He came straight over, with a warm demeanor, and greeted,

"Good day to both of you, junior sisters."

The two female cultivators returned the greeting, "Good day, Senior Brother Feng."

The man looked around and then asked, "Has everyone arrived?"

The gentle woman in the Taoist Robe frowned slightly, "We agreed to meet here, but we haven't seen anyone yet

"Surely they wouldn't break the appointment."

"Once a task is taken, a Spirit Pact is set, they shouldn't

"How about that person's abilities in Formation?"

"It's unclear, but at the very least, he is a First-Grade Formation Master.

I've seen him taking on many bounties for first-grade formations, so even if he can't do second-grade formations, his mastery of first-grade formations should be quite skilled

"If he only knows first-grade, that might not be enough the elegant woman spoke.

The gentle woman sighed,

"Formation Masters typically only take on formation-related tasks, these missions that require going out and hunting Sin Cultivators, a bit risky, are usually not their cup of tea