

Time 451

Chapter 451: Unique physique

Shun Long was stunned for a moment after seeing this kingdom-toppling beauty turning around and smiling at him and Liu Mei, while causing many young men from the Holy sect to feel envy in their hearts in the process.

After all, nearly every single one of the male disciples who had already passed the test, had already thought that they could happily take Xie Xingyi as their servant if she happened to fail her own test.

And yet, their hopes were quickly ruined since not only did Shun Long seem to have a relationship with that white-robed, terrifying goddess of death, but even this stunningly beautiful girl ended up taking the initiative to smile at him.

Even some young men from the Holy sect who had already decided to court Xie Xingyi felt dejected when they saw this scene, but most of them didn't choose to give up.

After all, unlike the white-robed Liu Mei, Xie Xingyi didn't seem to have any relationship with Shun Long. Besides, no matter how abnormal Shun Long was, inside the Holy sect, they wouldn't have to restrict their cultivation to the peak of rank 3 in the Nascent Soul!

Regardless if it was in terms of strength or status, most of these outer disciples felt that they were definitely stronger than a peak rank 1 Nascent Soul cultivator from the Night star continent like Shun Long.

Of course, Shun Long was completely oblivious to the thoughts of the people around him, as he turned to look at Liu Mei next to him and asked in a curious tone

"Mei'er, do you know her?"

Liu Mei looked at Shun Long with her enchanting black eyes hidden behind her white veil, before she nodded her head a moment later and continued with that same radiant smile on her face

"Long-ge should also know her. After all, her elder sister is madam Xie Rong."

Just like Liu Mei when she had first found out about Xie Xingyi's identity, Shun Long was also stunned when he heard this.

Although Xie Xingyi did indeed resemble Xie Rong greatly and Shun Long had already guessed that the 2 of them were most likely related one way or another, he hadn't expected that this girl was actually Xie Rong's younger sister.

With that same smile on her face, Liu Mei then didn't hide anything, as she started to explain to Shun Long how she had met Xie Xingyi in the third test, and what the 2 of them had been through together in the past 25 days.

At the same time, standing at the center of the arena, Xie Xingyi looked at the young man from the Holy sect opposite to her and smiled lightly as she said

"Senior, let's start."

Without waiting for a response, Xie Xingyi's body was quickly covered with a black aura, before she suddenly disappeared from the arena under the astounded eyes of the yellow-robed young man in front of her.

The young man from the Holy sect didn't even have a chance to attack, before he saw the gorgeous blonde-haired young woman vanish instantly!

Of course, as an experienced outer disciple of the Holy sect, he wouldn't just sit there and do nothing when he was placed in a dangerous situation.

Although he couldn't see where Xie Xingyi was, as a Nascent Soul stage cultivator, he definitely wouldn't lose so easily against an opponent he can't locate.

Closing his eyes, he immediately activated his soul sense and spread it around him, trying to find out where Xie Xingyi disappeared to.

At the same time, the white-robed Dao Emperor, Cao Ling, stared at the scene at the center of the arena with a deep look in his eyes, before he mumbled to himself in a quiet voice

"This girl was actually born with the Vanishing Shadows unique physique!"

Although Cao Ling's voice wasn't loud, the long-haired Dao King standing next to him clearly heard this, as he then stared at the scene in the arena with an incredulous look in his eyes.

Elder Zhuan already knew, that the white-robed Dao Emperor next to him was extremely knowledgeable regarding the countless unique physiques under the heavens. Since he said that the green-robed young woman was born with the Vanishing Shadows unique physique, it was most likely to be true.

Even though Elder Zhuan didn't know exactly how high-level of a physique the Vanishing Shadows physique really was, but to be able to garner Cao Ling's attention, its level was definitely not low!

At the same time, the yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect was still standing at the center of the arena with his eyes closed, as he tried to locate Xie Xingyi using his soul sense!

Finally, a few moments later, he could sense something akin to a formless shadow circling around him at a very quick speed, almost as if that thing had burrowed itself inside the ground.

With a smirk on his face, the young man from the Holy sect took a step forward and said

"There you are!"

With extremely swift movements, the yellow-robed young man then took out a long, light yellow-colored spear from his spatial ring, and infused his qi inside it before he turned around and slammed it downwards on the ground behind him.

At that moment, the entire arena started to rumble, before the nearly invisible shadow that had suddenly appeared behind him was struck by the yellow-colored spear's tip.

And yet, a radiant smile actually appeared on Liu Mei's face when she saw this scene, as she continued to quietly stare at the nearly invisible shadow without any anxiousness in her eyes.

At that moment, under everyone's shocked gazes, the black shadow-like figure actually ignored the yellow-colored spear that had struck it, as it quickly reformed itself, revealing the silhouette of a stunning blonde-haired young woman dressed in green robes.

Holding a silver dagger in her left hand, Xie Xingyi grabbed the spear's handle that was slammed on the ground, before she moved forward, ready to stab the yellow-robed young man of the Holy sect!

At that moment, the yellow-robed young man's eyes suddenly widened, and seeing the small, silver dagger that was moving towards his chest, he decisively abandoned his spear as he stepped forward, opening up the distance between himself and Xie Xingyi.

And yet, at that moment, Xie Xingyi's lips curved up in a mesmerizing smile before she said in a low voice

"Creeping Shadows!"

Chapter 452: A chance to strengthen your physique

At that moment, the yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect felt a horrifying sensation suddenly gripping his heart, as a sense of danger overcame him.

The first action that came to his mind was to quickly dodge and open up the distance between himself and the green-robed blonde beauty in front of him even further, when something completely suddenly unexpected happened.

Black-colored, shadow-like tentacles extended from his own shadow from the ground below him, as they started to wrap themselves around his arms and legs, trapping the yellow-robed young man into place.

This was the Saint low-grade martial skill that Xie Xingyi had gotten from the barrier of knowledge during the second test, Creeping Shadows!

This martial skill used up a large amount of her qi, but it allowed Xie Xingyi to control an enemy's shadow for a few seconds.

The young man from the Holy sect was startled when he saw the shadow-like tentacles wrapping themselves around his arms and feet, while completely immobilizing him in the process.

He knew that he had suddenly fallen into an extremely dangerous situation!

But before he had enough time to break free and escape their entanglement, Xie Xingyi suddenly took a few steps forward, and holding the silver-colored dagger in her hand, she thrust it towards the yellow-robed young man's throat.

The yellow-robed young man's eyes widened as he felt the silver dagger's cold touch on his throat, while a droplet of blood slowly trickled off the dagger's surface before it fell on the ground.

Silence once again filled the arena, as everyone stared at the green-robed beauty who was still holding the dagger against the yellow-robed young man's throat.

Xie Xingyi's lips once again formed a dazzling smile, before she turned her attention towards the white-robed Dao Emperor in the sky and took a step back as she slowly retracted her dagger.

It was obvious that if she had pressured her dagger slightly further in, she would have most likely taken the yellow-robed young man's life.

Nodding his head, the white-robed Cao Ling smiled amiably and asked in a voice that didn't hide his curiosity

"Little girl, what's your name? Which continent do you come from? Hehehe, it's been a while since this old man has seen a new disciple with a rare physique like your Vanishing Shadows unique physique."

Xie Xingyi bowed her head slightly and cupped her hands as she replied in a somewhat shocked voice

"This junior's name is Xie Xingyi and I come from the Xie family of the Night star continent."

Although Xie Xingyi didn't express her doubts, how could Cao Ling not realize, that she most likely had never heard the name of her unique physique before? Of course, although the white-robed Dao Emperor had been surprised that there was another genius from the weak Night star continent, he still nodded his head with that same, amiable smile on his face. before he said

"Although your physique is not suited for head-on battles, you are a naturally born assassin. Your Vanishing Shadows unique physique is exceptionally suited for surprise attacks and assassinations rather than fighting your enemies head-on.

But from what I have noticed, you can't remain in that state for too long! Hehehe, after entering the sect, you will really have a chance to strengthen your physique."

Astonishment flashed past Xie Xingyi's eyes, but she didn't ask Cao Ling what he meant by that. Instead, she bowed once again, thanking the white-robed Dao Emperor, before she flew back towards the audience seats.

Regardless of what Cao Ling meant by a chance to strengthen her physique, she would definitely find out once she entered the sect.

And yet, what surprised everyone, was the fact that Xie Xingyi wasn't actually returning back to her original seat, and instead, she was flying directly towards Shun Long's and Liu Mei's seats.

At the same time, an ugly look flashed past Sheng Huang's eyes when he saw this scene, but the golden-robed prince suppressed his anger and killing intent as he remained seated instead.

A few moments later, the gorgeous green-robed, blonde-haired young woman, had already arrived in front of Shun Long and Liu Mei, before a dazzling smile appeared on her face for the first time since she had entered the Holy sect's test, as her eyes stared at the blue-robed young man and the white-robed young woman in front of her with excitement in her eyes.

Without waiting for Xie Xingyi to say anything, Liu Mei stood up as a mesmerizing smile appeared on her lips behind her white veil, before she said gently

"Xingyi, congratulations!"

Although it was a simple line, it was filled with warmth and sincere happiness.

"I am still not as strong as you, Mei!"

Xie Xingyi replied with a slight blush on her face, before she turned her attention towards the blue-robed young man next to Liu Mei.

A deep look flashed past Liu Mei's eyes when she saw the look on Xie Xingyi's face, but her smile only widened without saying a word.

Bowing slightly, Xie Xingyi stared at Shun Long with that same blush on her face, before she introduced herself

"My name is Xie Xingyi. Brother Long, it's nice to meet you!"

Shun Long was startled for a moment after hearing Xie Xingyi calling him 'brother Long', but with a gentle look on his face he nodded his head and said

"Mei already told me that you are madam Xie Rong's sister and how the 2 of you spent the last month together. Thank you for taking care of her."

Xie Xingyi shook her head lightly when she heard this, and holding Liu Mei's hand she said with a serious look

"If someone has to say thank you then that's me. After all, it was Mei who saved me first, otherwise I would have definitely died during the third test!"

As she finished speaking, Xie Xingyi turned her gaze to the side, and threw a murderous glance at a purple-robed young man sitting in the audience seats.

This was the same person who had tried to kill her during the third test, the person ranked 17th in the House of Rankings in the Night star continent, Hua Ping.

After failing to obtain Xie Xingyi's token, this purple-robed young man managed to obtain another token from a city not too far away from it.

However, he knew that his chances of passing this fourth test were already very slim.

If it wasn't because Xie Xingyi had been tired and had expended a lot of energy obtaining the Holy sect's token during the third test, then even if he and the other 3 peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators who were chasing after her could still join hands, they wouldn't dare to go after her for her own token!

At this moment, Hua Ping's face instantly paled when he felt Xie Xingyi's cold glance, while his body involuntarily shivered.

He knew that this woman who was ranked 5th in the House of Rankings, wouldn't let his attack during the third test go!

At the same time, Liu Mei smiled gently and had Xie Xingyi sit next to her, as the fights in the arena continued.

Once the 921st fight ended, a cold smile appeared on Xie Xingyi's lips as the purple-robed Hua Ping got eliminated.

Finally, 2 hours later, a young man from the Holy sect landed at the center of the arena holding the token with the number '1000' in his right hand. This was the final fight before these disciples finally entered the Holy sect!

Chapter 453: Bai Longtian

Everyone's eyes stared at the bald, yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect at the center of the arena with excited looks in their eyes.

This was going to be the final fight of the fourth test.

At that moment, the disciples sitting in the audience seats all turned their attention to the only person who had yet to step on the main stage.

It was a handsome young man dressed in white robes, with long black hair, deep blue eyes, and sword-like eyebrows. A snow-white sword was strapped on his waist, as his hand held a golden-colored token with the number '1000' on it.

This was the same young man who was staring at Shun Long with an intense gaze once his fight was finished, before nodding his head as a greeting.

Seeing this white-robed young man fly towards the arena with a serious look in his eyes, the look in Sheng Huang's, Zhong Fang's, and Xie Xingyi's eyes instantly changed, turning extremely serious as well.

In just a few moments, the white-robed young man had already appeared at the center of the arena, and staring at the bald, yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect who was standing in front of him, he actually smiled and cupped his hands before he said

"My name is Bai Longtian. I come from the 'Holy White city' of the Night star continent."

The moment that they heard the white-robed young man introducing himself, Shun Long's and Liu Mei's expressions slightly changed as well.

At that moment, Shun Long didn't hold himself back from mumbling

"So this is the young white lord who is ranked 2nd in the House of Rankings in the Heaven's Dome city, Bai Longtian?"

Although his words sounded like a question, it was obvious that Shun Long was actually verifying his guess.

After all, this was the first time that he and Liu Mei were seeing Bai Longtian. As the young white lord and the person ranked 2nd in the House of Rankings, Bai Longtian's fame in the Night star continent wasn't inferior to even Sheng Huang's!

At the same time, Shun Long seemed to have suddenly realized why Bai Longtian had showed so much interest in him earlier.

As the person ranked 2nd in the entire Night star continent, it was natural that he would be stunned after seeing someone else coming from the Night star continent as well, who was able to pass the Holy sect's test with a cultivation at the peak of rank 1 of the Nascent Soul.

Turning her head to the side, Xie Xingyi stared at the surprised expression on Shun Long's face and asked in a curious voice

"Brother Long, is this the first time that you are actually seeing Bai Longtian?"

Of course, the reason why Xie Xingyi was surprised, was because she had seen Shun Long nod at Bai Longtian earlier, and she assumed that they must have already been acquainted with each other. She had also noticed that Sheng Huang seemed to have hated Shun Long for some reason, so she had ended up guessing that she was the only one who didn't know Shun Long and Liu Mei before entering the Holy sect's test.

However, based on Shun Long's reaction, it seemed that he had no idea that this person was Bai Longtian.

Nodding his head, Shun Long didn't hide anything as he explained directly

"Me and Mei'er spent the last 2 years training in the 'Ten Thousand beasts' mountain range' and the 'City of Sin' and didn't stay in the Heaven's Dome city for too long."

Xie Xingyi nodded her head in enlightenment when she heard Shun Long's answer. Since he and Liu Mei didn't spend too much time in the Heaven's Dome city, it wasn't too surprising that he hadn't met Bai Longtian before.

After all, both Bai Longtian and Sheng Huang, and even the young lord of the Mercenaries' Association, Zhong Fang, only showed up in the House of Rankings when they had a fight to attend to. Otherwise, they would spend the rest of their time training, and preparing for the Holy sect's test.

As for the reason why Sheng Huang seemed to have hated Shun Long, Xie Xingyi didn't ask. Instead, a smile appeared on her face as she looked at the blue-robed young man who was sitting next to Liu Mei, before she then started to explain

"Brother Long, although Bai Longtian and Sheng Huang have never fought with each other before in public, it is said that Bai Longtian isn't inferior to him at all despite being ranked 2nd in the House of Ranking of the Heaven's Dome city.

Actually, it was just a few days before the Holy sect's test started that Bai Longtian defeated Zhong Fang and was ranked 2nd in the rankings!

At the same time, there are rumors that Bai Longtian has comprehended a very rare Dao, not inferior to his Dao of Light at all. And yet, during his fight with Zhong Fang, Bai Longtian only revealed his Dao of Light."

Unlike Shun Long and Liu Mei, Xie Xingyi had spent a lot of time in the Heaven's Dome city.

As the person ranked 5th in the House of Rankings, even if she hadn't fought with Bai Longtian before, she already knew about the rumors going around regarding this genius, who wasn't inferior to Sheng Huang.

Shun Long nodded his head when he heard Xie Xingyi's explanation, as his eyes stared at the white-robed, handsome young man at the center of the arena with a curious look in his eyes.

Of course, to be able to be mentioned in the same breath as Sheng Huang, Bai Longtian had to have comprehended a Dao that could at least put up a fight against Sheng Huang's Dao of Destruction. After all, no matter what, Sheng Huang had actually managed to pass this fourth test effortlessly.

The bald, yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect opposite to Bai Longtian snorted when he heard the white-robed young man introduce himself before passing the test, and with a mocking look on his face he said

"Kid, you are too arrogant. Aren't you afraid that you will lose and become a laughingstock?"

Chapter 454: Do you want to give up

Bai Longtian simply smiled when he heard this and cupping his hands a second time he answered

"Senior, you misunderstood. It's not that I am looking down on you, but I am indeed confident in my strength."

"Hmph!" The bald, yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect snorted, but he didn't say anything in response.

Instead, he waved his hand and took out a dark brown bow that seemed to have been made from some kind of wood from his spatial ring, and held it in front of his chest. A quiver filled with arrows had appeared on his back at the same time, as the bald, yellow-robed young man grabbed an arrow with his right hand and placed it on the bowstring stretching it tightly. Then, with a smile on his face, he said

"Since you are so confident, let's begin!"

At that moment, the yellow-robed young man released the bowstring, as the sound of an arrow tearing through the air sounded, flying towards Bai Longtian at extreme speed.

The look on Bai Longtian's face quickly turned serious as he placed both of his hands in front of his chest and clasped them together. A bright white light erupted from his body, immediately drowning his surroundings, as 2 light arrows were quickly condensed in the air above him.

The 2 light arrows tore through the air, as they flew towards the bald, yellow-robed young man's arrow in an attempt to stop it. And yet, the moment that they collided together, Bai Longtian's arrows that were created from his Dao of Light were destroyed in an instant, as the yellow-robed young man's arrow continued to fly towards him.

The bald young man from the Holy sect smirked when he saw this outcome, almost as if it was completely expected, but the look on Bai Longtian's face didn't change. Instead, his body was quickly enveloped by a layer of light, before he suddenly disappeared.

The arrow that the bald young man from the Holy sect had fired seemed to have pierced through Bai Longtian's afterimage, before it landed on the ground a few tens of meters away from his original position.

At the same time, Bai Longtian's figure that was covered in a layer of light quickly appeared a few meters away from the yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect, but didn't directly attack him. Instead, Bai Longtian saw that the yellow-robed young man had that same smirk on his face as he nocked another arrow on his bow and said in a mocking tone

"Do you think that if you comprehend rare Daos like the Dao of Light, that you will be stronger than someone who had comprehended the Dao of Earth or the Dao of Wind? Let this senior teach you a lesson today then!"

As he finished his words, the bald young man from the Holy sect released arrow after arrow from his bow, as he started to bombard Bai Longtian with his attacks.

The white-robed young white lord constantly used his Dao of Light to avoid the arrow attacks, while using his snow-white sword to fend off the arrows that he couldn't dodge.

And yet, the force behind each arrow seemed to be no weaker than a full-powered attack from a powerful peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage expert.

Even with his extreme speed from his Dao of Light, Bai Longtian noticed that he had no room to attack the bald young man from the Holy sect. Every time he tried to approach him, the arrow attacks would completely block his path, while the bald young man would step backwards, opening up the distance between them

At the same time, the arrows in his quiver seemed to be endless, as he continued to fire them without a care.

Of course, Shun Long who was sitting in the audience seats instantly noticed, that the bald young man was using an ingenious way to retrieve the arrows he had fired, which was why they didn't seem to have an end.

He used his Dao of Earth to retrieve every arrow that fell on the ground, before he returned them back to his quiver and fired them again.

A few minutes later, the young white lord stopped trying to dodge and stood still, as he stared at the yellow-robed young man opposite to him.

The bald young man from the Holy sect had the same smirk on his face as he looked at the white-robed young man in front of him and said

"Hahaha! Have you figured it out yet? My arrows have all reached the same level as normal rank 3 gold grade weapons, and I don't have to be afraid that they will run out. No matter how fast you may be, as long as you aren't faster than my perception, then I can guess where you will go and block your path. It's impossible to get near me and sooner or later my arrows will hit you. Even if you attack me with your own Dao attacks or that sword in your hand, it will still be impossible for you to destroy my arrows. Hehe, do you want to give up... junior brother~?"

Everyone in the audience seats could hear the mocking tone in the bald young man's words when he said the words 'junior brother'. After all, if Bai Longtian gave up, he wouldn't enter the sect and become an outer disciple, so he wouldn't be able to call himself a 'junior brother'.

Surprisingly, Bai Longtian nodded his head when he heard the yellow-robed young man's words, and with a smile on his face he said

"Senior brother is right. I am indeed unable to defeat you with just my Dao of Light."

The yellow-robed young man's lips curved up into a mocking smile as he then asked

"Are you going to complain that you lost because your sword is only a rank 2 gold grade weapon?"

Bai Longtian shook his head, almost as if he hadn't realized that the bald young man from the Holy sect was mocking him, and after returning his sword back in its sheath he smiled and said

"Senior brother is indeed very strong so I will no longer hold back either."

As he finished his words, Bai Longtian's body lit up with a bright white light, while at the same time, from the depths of the light, an indistinct golden color slowly appeared.

Chapter 455: Bai Longtian's Dao

The golden light was originally extremely faint and almost impossible to discern with the naked eye, but as time passed, it started to turn brighter and brighter.

In just a few moments, it had already covered Bai Longtian's body completely, making him look like an immortal that has suddenly descended from the Heavens!

His white robes fluttered with the wind, while the disciples of the Holy sect and everyone else sitting in the audience seats had shocked looks in their eyes.

The only one who seemed to be relatively calm, was the prince of the Shengtian dynasty, Sheng Huang.

And yet, despite being calm, a deep look flashed inside Sheng Huang's eyes as he stared at Bai Longtian's figure at the center of the arena.

Although the world didn't know about it, as the prince of the Shengtian dynasty and the number 1 genius of the Night star continent, he had already fought against Bai Longtian in the past. Of course, back then, Sheng Huang didn't have his bronze warhammer, but even after using both his Dao of Destruction and his Dao of Metal, he was still unable to beat the young white lord! Of course, he didn't lose the fight either, and they ended up calling this a draw!

Although Sheng Huang believed that he was definitely stronger than Bai Longtian now that he had a peak rank 3 gold grade weapon, he also knew that the Dao that Bai Longtian had comprehended as his foundation Dao for his body refinement, was an extremely terrifying one... a Dao that could actually match his Dao of Destruction!

At the same time, the white-robed Dao Emperor's, Cao Ling's eyes immediately widened when he saw this scene, while a look of disbelief instantly colored his previously calm eyes.

His eyes first stared at the blue-robed Shun Long in the audience seats and Liu Mei who was sitting next to him, as well as the green-robed Xie Xingyi who was also sitting next to her, before he turned his attention towards the golden-robed prince of the Shengtian dynasty, Sheng Huang, and the chubby-faced young lord of the 'Mercenaries' Association', Zhong Fang!

Finally, a few moments later, he turned his eyes towards the white-robed Bai Longtian at the center of the arena, before he mumbled to himself thoughtfully

"The Dao of Space, Dao of Death, Dao of Shadows, Dao of Destruction and now the Dao of the Buddha... is this be the change in the Night star continent's fate?"

The reason why even Cao Ling was shocked by this, was because Bai Longtian who also came from the Night star continent, had actually comprehended the Dao of the Buddha!

This was an extremely rare Dao that wasn't even inferior to Sheng Huang's Dao of Destruction, Xie Xingyi's Dao of Shadows, Liu Mei's Dao of Death, and even Shun Long's Dao of Space!

Of course, every Dao had its own strengths and uniquenesses, and neither one could be considered as clearly stronger than the others, but Bai Longtian's Dao of Buddha required one to have a heart that was extremely suited to practice Buddhism.

At the same time, Bai Longtian was the sixth genius coming from the Night star continent.

The first one to pass the test was Sheng Huang, followed by Liu Mei and Shun Long, as well as Zhong Fang and Xie Xingyi, and now it was very likely that Bai Longtian would be the next.

For so many years, there had been almost no geniuses from the Night star continent who had ended up passing the fourth test, and today, there were already 5 of them, and Bai Longtian was definitely going to be the sixth!

Of course, Zhong Fang wasn't necessarily weaker than the rest of them just because he hadn't comprehended a rare Dao like the Dao of the Buddha or the Dao of Death. After all, each Dao had its own strengths and weaknesses. Even Bai Longtian who had already comprehended the Dao of

Light, was now forced to reveal his Dao of the Buddha against an opponent who had 'only' comprehended the Dao of Earth!

As the golden light completely covered his body, Bai Longtian suddenly took a step forward causing an extremely thick golden barrier to appear around him, as his aura of a body refinement cultivator at the early fifth stage exploded outwards!

The yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect took a few steps back in response, but his hand didn't delay for a single moment, as he nocked another arrow on the bowstring. Although he was stunned that Bai Longtian was also a dual cultivator of both qi and body refinement, this wasn't the first time that this had appeared in the test today!

At the same time, the bald, yellow-robed young man could also feel a sense of danger coming from the golden barrier, causing him to not hesitate to start firing arrow after arrow once again.

However, as the first arrow left the bowstring and crashed on the golden shield around Bai Longtian, the scene that the bald young man from the Holy sect had expected to see didn't happen.

The barrier only rippled for a moment before it returned to its normal condition, instantly deflecting the arrow to the side!

Bai Longtian didn't hesitate any longer, as he instantly shot forward at full speed, heading towards the yellow-robed young man!

Although he could previously block Bai Longtian's advancement with his arrows earlier, the bald young man from the Holy sect had his eyes widen, as he saw arrow after arrow being deflected, unable to penetrate the golden shield!

In just a moment, Bai Longtian who took a straight path forward and was completely covered with the light from his Dao of Light and his Dao of the Buddha, instantly appeared in the sky above the yellow-robed young man, before he swung his sword sideways.

Before the bald, yellow-robed young man from the Holy sect could react, the cold surface of a snow-white sword had already appeared in front of his eyes, before Bai Longtian's calm voice resounded throughout the arena, as he said

"Senior, I win!"

Chapter 456: A chance to change

The bald, yellow-robed young man tried to open his mouth in protest, but the snow-white sword was still hanging in front of his eyes making him unable to utter a word. Although he knew that there was no way for him to die, it was obvious that Bai Longtian was giving him face by not injuring him and allowing him to accept his defeat unharmed. However, this was even more difficult to the yellow-robed young man than if he was actually injured! Finally, a few moments later, he let out a sigh that was mixed with anger and helplessness before he said

"Fine, you won this time!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the yellow-robed young man turned around and flew towards the rest of the disciples of the Holy sect in the sky, while at the same time, he also removed the restriction in his cultivation base, allowing it to rise all the way to the peak of rank 5 in one go!

It was as if he was saying to Bai Longtian that although he had lost, it was only because he was suppressing his cultivation to the peak of rank 3 in the Nascent Soul, otherwise, even though he wasn't a body refinement cultivator like him, the yellow-robed young man would still beat him to the ground.

Bai Longtian didn't seem to mind this as he turned his attention towards the white-robed Dao Emperor in the sky and cupped his hands.

Cao Ling smiled amiably and nodded his head towards him, before he turned his attention towards the white-robed Elder Zhuan standing next to him, and with a calm look on his face he said

"Zhuan Peng, I will leave the rest to you."

Without waiting for a response, the bald Dao Emperor waved his hand, and in front of all the disciples present, he immediately disappeared.

At the same time, since Bai Longtian had already introduced himself before his fight, the white-robed Dao King, Elder Zhuan Peng didn't ask him any questions, and instead, he turned his attention towards the yellow-robed disciples of the Holy sect behind him and said calmly

"You can disperse for now."

The 1000 yellow-robed disciples behind him all bowed their heads before they soared in the sky, all of them heading towards the huge mountain located at the south of the arena, whose peak seemed to have pierced through the clouds.

Elder Zhuan ignored the yellow-robed disciples who left the arena and turned his attention towards those sitting in the audience seats and said with a smile on his face

"Congratulations! Starting today, all of you are now disciples of my Holy sect. I will soon explain everything you need to know, but first, let's enter the sect."

After he finished speaking, Elder Zhuan looked at the 93 disciples sitting in the audience seats who had already passed the fourth test, as well as Bai Longtian who was standing at the center of the arena, before he soared in the sky, heading towards the huge mountain in the distance where the yellow-robed disciples had already flown to.

Shun Long, Liu Mei, Xie Xingyi, and the rest of the disciples sitting in the audience seats didn't hesitate, as they all followed after the white-robed Dao King, flying towards the large mountain as well.

As they headed towards the mountain's peak, Shun Long noticed an enormous city erected at the other side, near the foot of the mountain. Even from so far away, Shun Long and Liu Mei could guess, that this city was at least the same size as the Heaven's Dome city in the Night star continent.

Of course, it wasn't just Shun Long who had noticed this city but the rest of the disciples as well, but no one asked any questions as they continued to follow after the white-robed Dao King at full speed.

Finally, an incense stick of time later, their group arrived at the mountain's peak, only to see a stunning scene appear in their eyes.

A luxurious white palace was standing tall at the peak of the mountain, with its gates wide open. With just a glance, Shun Long immediately understood, that this palace was actually much bigger

than the city located at the foot of the mountain! This was definitely not just a palace, but an entire city instead.

At the same time, he also noticed, that in front of the palace gates, 2 white-robed elderly men standing guard with their eyes closed. The auras of these 2 elders were completely retracted inside their bodies, while the robes that they were wearing were identical to Elder Zhuan's.

The moment that they sensed Shun Long's group approaching, the 2 Elders opened their eyes and scanned the approaching group, revealing their auras at the peak of rank 9 in the Dao King realm at the same time. These Elders were actually Dao Kings who had reached the absolute pinnacle, the same level of strength as Elder Zhuan.

However, after seeing that it was Elder Zhuan who was leading this group, the 2 of them simply nodded their heads before they closed their eyes again.

Elder Zhuan nodded his head as he greeted the 2 Elders, before he turned his attention towards the disciples behind him, and with that same smile on his face he said

"Follow me!"

Seeing the white-robed Elder Zhuan enter the palace, the disciples following after him only hesitated for a single moment, before they followed after him as well.

Finally, a few minutes later, after walking through a long corridor, Shun Long and the rest of the disciples around him found themselves inside a large, spacious room, when Elder Zhuan's voice reverberated inside their ears

"I officially welcome all of you to our Holy sect! All of you are now considered official disciples of our sect.

Before you enter the sect and become outer disciples, each of you will have a chance to change your future today!"

As he finished his words, Elder Zhuan turned around and walked towards the end of the hall, standing next to a large white-colored ball that was hovering in the air, instantly attracting everyone's attention.

Chapter 457: Ball of fate

"Change our future?"

It was unknown who was the one who had asked this, as everyone stared at the white-robed Elder Zhuan standing next to the white-colored crystal-like ball, and waited for him to explain.

Seeing the confused expressions in the disciples' faces, Elder Zhuan nodded his head and smiled as he then said

"Right, today is your chance to change your future!

This white ball's name is the ball of fate. It can read your fate and predict your future to a certain extent. Depending on your results today, you may even attract the attention of an Elder and be accepted as their personal disciple.

Becoming a disciple of an Elder will not only give you status in the sect, but you will also get more resources, a better training environment, and even personal guidance from the Elder.

Of course, every single outer court Elder is at least a peak rank 9 Dao King realm expert!

Now... let's begin!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the white-robed Elder Zhuan turned his attention towards a red-robed young man who was standing the closest to him.

This was actually the same young man that Liu Mei had fought during the third test when they competed for the Holy sect's token. He had barely managed to pass through the fourth test and defeat an outer disciple of the Holy sect.

Of course, he had long since noticed Liu Mei taking the third test, and how easily she had dealt with her own opponent, making him shiver in the process. At the same time, a terrifying feeling had sprouted in his heart when he noticed the 3 peak rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivators that Liu Mei had summoned during the fourth test.

Although he hadn't seen what had happened to the old woman with the red armor during the third test, he clearly remembered that Liu Mei's enormous, hideous black beast, had clearly eaten the old man in black robes and the snake-eyed middle-aged man!

And yet, somehow, Liu Mei could actually command them freely! Of course, the red-robed young man had already sensed, that even though Liu Mei was commanding them, the 3 of them were already dead. Even in death the 3 of them weren't free!

Of course, aside from Liu Mei, the red-robed young man had also noticed other terrifying monsters who had passed the fourth test as well, including Shun Long, the black-robed Jiang Chen, the golden-robed Sheng Huang and many others.

The geniuses who had appeared in the fourth test this time, had already far exceeded his expectations, especially the blue-robed young man next to Liu Mei whose cultivation was only at the peak of rank 1 in the Nascent Soul!

After turning his gaze towards another young man in red robes who was silently standing a few meters away from him, the red-robed young man took a deep breath and gritted his teeth, as he slowly walked towards the ball of fate next to Elder Zhuan.

Seeing the young man who was standing in front of him, Elder Zhuan nodded his head and turned his gaze at the ball of fate next to him, almost as if he was waiting for the red-robed young man to place his hand on top of it.

The red-robed young man named Zi Zhenya stretched out his hand, and without any hesitation, he placed it directly on top of the crystal-like white ball.

Everyone noticed that Zi Zhenya didn't even need to circulate his qi, as the crystal ball lit up with a pale yellow light.

And yet, this light only lasted for a few moments, before it quickly turned white a few seconds later.

Seeing that everyone's eyes were focused on him Elder Zhuan shook his head without a change in his expression, as he looked at Zi Zhenya and said in a calm tone

"You can at most become a Dao King in your life, but it's unlikely that you will even reach the late-stages of the Dao King realm, let alone become a Dao Emperor..."

Next."

Zi Zhenya felt his hopes being shattered while a stifling overcame him in an instant.

"Would at most become a Dao King? Wouldn't even become a late-stage Dao King, let alone a Dao Emperor?"

He was the descendant of an early rank 9 Dao King! His grandfather was a powerhouse and yet he had failed the fourth test of the Holy sect in the past. Zi Zhenya was certain that since he had managed to do so, he would at least become a peak Dao King like Elder Zhuan, if not a Dao Emperor."

Everyone's eyes were focused on the red-robed young man who had yet to move from his spot, almost as if he was in a daze, before Elder Zhuan's words sounded once again

"Did you think that every single one of you who passed the test would become peak Dao Kings at the very least, or even Dao Emperors? You never know what's going to happen in your life, and whether you will survive to see the sunrise tomorrow.

As cultivators you should know that talent isn't everything! You also need luck, powerful comprehension ability, and most importantly, a strong will. Some of you may not even enter the middle-stages of the Dao King realm in your lives, let alone the late-stages. Of course, some of you may even become powerful Dao Emperors, but if you think that becoming a Dao Emperor is so easy, then think again! Those with terrifying talent will find it even more difficult to step into the Dao King realm in the future, let alone the Dao Emperor!"

As he said this, Elder Zhuan's gaze swept past Shun Long, Liu Mei, Jiang Chen, and the other terrifying geniuses that had caught his eye during the fourth test, almost as if he was warning them.

The red-robed Zi Zhenya stepped away from the ball of fate, but a determined look had appeared in his eyes. He simply refused to believe that he wouldn't become a peak Dao King in the future!

As Zi Zhenya stepped back from the ball of fate, Elder Zhuan turned his gaze towards Liu Mei, and looking at her with a curious look in his eyes, he then said

"You are next."

Chapter 458: Liu Mei's fate

The moment that they heard Elder Zhuan's words, everyone's attention was immediately focused on the white-robed, white veiled young woman who was standing next to Shun Long.

At the same time, Liu Mei turned her head to the side and stared at Shun Long solemnly for a moment, only to see him nod his head with a smile on his face.

Finally, the apprehension in Liu Mei's heart eased slightly, as she took a deep breath and slowly stepped forward.

From the very beginning, Liu Mei had been wary of this ball of fate the moment that their group entered the hall.

If this ball could really predict someone's fate, then Liu Mei who was already Shun Long's woman, and knew a few things about his past and present situation, had a connection with a living dragon and had also accepted an extremely high-grade cultivation technique from him, was definitely going to attract a lot of attention no matter what.

Her fate was definitely no longer simple.

However, she also understood that refusing to test her future through the ball of fate was only going to make people even more suspicious.

After all, the white-haired peak Dao King, Elder Zhuan, had clearly stated, that this wasn't a test but an opportunity.

At the same time, Xie Xingyi didn't say anything either, as she calmly stared at the white-veiled Liu Mei who was walking towards the crystal-like white ball next to the white-robed Elder. She already knew that Shun Long and Liu Mei had advanced from Heaven grade 'rookies' to early-stage Nascent Soul cultivators in a short period of 3 years.

To Xie Xingyi, just this alone was nothing short of a miracle!

At the same time, Xie Xingyi had also seen how Liu Mei's cultivation had advanced from the early rank 1? all the way to the middle of rank 3 of the Nascent Soul within a few days.

These things by themselves were certainly enough to cause a huge commotion during this test.

Even Sheng Huang who was considered an extreme genius in the Night star continent, had all the resources of the Shengtian dynasty available to him and had also consumed countless treasures and pills that aided him in his cultivation, took nearly 8 years to advance from the early rank 1 of the Spirit realm to his current stage.

Of course, this could also be related to his Dao of Destruction as well.

After all, the more 'unique' a Dao was, the more difficult and more time-consuming it would be to comprehend it thoroughly.

Even Xie Xingyi herself who had her 'Vanishing Shadows unique physique' and was extremely suited to comprehend the Dao of Shadows, took 6 years to advance from the early rank 1 of the Spirit realm to the peak of rank 3 of the Nascent Soul.

However, it was also obvious that Liu Mei's Dao of Death was definitely not inferior to her Dao of Shadows or Sheng Huang's Dao of Destruction.

Thus, Xie Xingyi had actually come to the conclusion, that from the people inside this hall, aside from the peak rank 1 Nascent Soul Shun Long, and perhaps the black-robed Jiang Chen, Liu Mei probably had the most extraordinary fate.

Of course, although the rest of the disciples inside the hall didn't know so many things about Liu Mei, everyone had already noticed her undead creatures during the third test, and were already curious about her 'fate'.

Seeing the white-robed Elder Zhuan nod amiably at her, Liu Mei closed her eyes for a moment, before she placed her lithe, pale white hand on top of the crystal ball of fate.

The moment that Liu Mei's hand touched the ball of fate, the crystal-like ball instantly lit up with a bright white light that quickly turned yellow. However, in what seemed to be the blink of an eye, the yellow light had already turned black, causing Elder Zhuan's heart to skip a beat.

This light wasn't just a dim black light, but one that could swallow everything around it, including all light itself.

And yet, just as Elder Zhuan was about to end Liu Mei's test, a small part of the darkness at the center of the ball of fate slowly receded, giving way to a bright colorful light, that seemed to contain every possible color inside it.

At that moment, a tiny crack appeared on the crystal ball's surface, causing Elder Zhuan who had already fallen in a trance to shout

"STOP!"

Hearing the white-robed Elder's voice, Liu Mei took a step back while retracting her hand at the same time, not continuing to test her fate any further.

However, the light on the ball of fate still remained there for a few more moments until it slowly disappeared, returning the crystal ball to its original appearance.

And yet, the tiny crack was still on the white ball's surface, like a small stain on a previously spotless jade.

Everyone's eyes were focused on the white ball of fate, before they turned their attention to the white-robed Elder Zhuan next to the crystal ball.

However, the white-robed Dao King didn't pay any attention to the disciples inside the hall, as a complicated look appeared on his face, almost as if he had just realized something.

At that moment, the ethereal voice of a woman resounded throughout the silent hall, as she said in a calm, uncaring tone

"Continue the test!"

Elder Zhuan's eyes quickly returned to normal the moment that he heard this voice, as he nodded his head and stared at Liu Mei for a few moments before he said in a thoughtful voice

"Your fate... is complicated... The only thing I can tell you is, that you will definitely have a chance to exceed the Dao King realm in the future."

Everyone stared at Elder Zhuan curiously, but no one asked any questions as they saw Liu Mei bow to the white-robed Elder and return to Shun Long's side.

It was obvious that the white-robed Dao King didn't want to explain more things about Liu Mei's fate, and was ready to continue the rest of the test.

At the same time, in a seemingly isolated room, a group of Elders were staring at the white-robed Liu Mei in the screen of light in front of them, with a deep look in their eyes.

Chapter 459: Immortal fate

After a few moments of silence, a white-robed old man with deep wrinkles around his eyes and on his forehead was the first one to speak, as he looked at the Elders on the table around him and asked in a deep voice

"What does everyone think about this little girl?"

Silence filled the room for a few moments, before a beautiful middle-aged woman with her long black hair tied in a ponytail turned to look at the white-robed wrinkled Elder next to her, as she then said in the same ethereal voice that resembled a fairy's and had resounded inside the other hall a few moments ago

"Elder Sun Wen, I think everyone here understands what that girl's fate entails.

Death, murder, darkness, blood... and yet this isn't the first time that our Holy sect is getting a disciple with such a deep and complicated fate.

Besides, didn't everyone see the colorful light at the center of the ball of fate? I'm sure that everyone knows what that means. I don't even have to explain the crack at the ball of fate.

An old woman with long white hair that flowed freely through her shoulders stood up from her seat and stared at the middle-aged woman a few seats away from her, before she spoke in a deep, wisened voice

"Xuan Jiao, don't forget that fate is only a possibility and not something certain. No one knows what may happen in the future. Although that girl's fate inside the ball of fate was indeed colorful, this means that there is only a small chance for her to become an immortal in the future! This is not a certainty! After all, there have been plenty of other disciples with immortal fates who have died before they could reach their full potential!

What I am more concerned about, is that tiny crack on the ball of fate's surface. This is the first time that something like this happens."

The white-robed old man, Sun Wen had a deep look in his eyes as he stared at the screen at the center of the hall, before he said in the same deep voice a few moments later

"Have Elder Cao Ling see if he can find that little girl's background. There are very few things that can really tamper with fate like this..."

A middle-aged man with long brown hair and deep blue eyes stared at Elder Sun Wen for a few moments, almost as if he had suddenly come to a realization, before he then asked curiously

"Elder Sun, are you saying that there is someone very powerful backing that girl?"

The white-robed old man, Sun Wen nodded his head with a deep look on his face before he replied seriously

"At the very least, it is someone who has exceeded the Dao Emperor realm long ago...

Perhaps... it is even someone at the same level as the sect master..."

Silence immediately filled the room the moment that the rest of the Elders around him heard Sun Wen's inference, before everyone stared at the screen of light at the center of the hall without saying a word.

Finally, a few moments later, the middle-aged man with deep blue eyes stared at Liu Mei's figure in the screen of light and asked in a cautious tone

"In that case, wouldn't it be better if we gave that girl special treatment? Perhaps Elder Xuan Jiao, Mao Jing, or some other female Elder could accept her as a personal disciple. After all, although our Holy sect isn't considered weak by any means, striking a relationship with a senior at the level of the sect master is important even for us."

Staring at the screen of light in front of him, the white-robed Elder, Sun Wen didn't even turn his head to the side to look at the Elders around him, before he shook his head and said calmly

"If that person sent her here through the tests of our sect, he obviously doesn't want her to be treated specially."

Turning his head towards the beautiful middle-aged woman named Xuan Jiao, the old woman with long white hair named Mao Jing, and another female Elder at the end of the table, Sun Wen nodded his head lightly before he continued

"Of course, if any of you want to accept her as an in-name disciple, then that's still acceptable. After all, her talent definitely warrants at least that much attention."

"Then, what about that blue-robed kid who seems to be close to her?" Another Elder asked curiously as he stared at Shun Long's figure next to Liu Mei.

"Let's wait for his results first." Although Sun Wen's tone was calm, it was obvious that he was placing a lot of attention on Shun Long as well.

At the same time, at the center of the hall where Shun Long and the rest were in, the white-robed Dao King, Elder Zhuan continued the test, 10 more disciples tested their fates after Liu Mei on the ball of fate.

Among them, disciples who were fated to become Dao Emperors started to appear, but after the commotion and shock that Liu Mei's fate had caused, the subsequent scenes weren't as shocking.

Finally, as the 15th disciple tested himself, the white-robed Elder Zhuan turned his attention towards a short, red-robed young man with spiky black hair, standing a few meters away from him.

The moment that Elder Zhuan's gaze fell on the red-robed young man, everyone's attention including Shun Long's fell on this young man as well.

Shun Long clearly remembered that this was one of the few people that was worthy paying a lot of attention to during the fourth test.

This person's name was Jun Ren, an early rank 4 Nascent Soul stage genius, the same level as the black-robed Jiang Chen. However, the reason why Shun Long had placed so much attention on him, was because this young man had comprehended an extremely rare Dao... the Dao of War.

Seeing everyone's gaze fall on him, the red-robed Jun Ren's lips curved up into a smile, as he took a step forward and quickly appeared in front of Elder Zhuan and the crystal-like ball, before placing his right hand on top of the ball of fate.

Chapter 460: Extraordinary fate

The moment that his palm touched the white-colored ball of fate, a bright red light instantly erupted from the depths of the ball, before it covered its surface in its entirety.

This bright red color resembled the color of blood, while at the depths of the crystal ball, there was a faint, almost indistinct mix of colors, that was similar to Liu Mei's colorful light that had appeared during her test.

The only difference was, that Jun Ren's light was actually much fainter than Liu Mei's.

And yet, regardless of how faint it was, the moment that this light appeared, it didn't stop Elder Zhuan's expression of shock from showing on his face.

The white-robed Elder clearly knew, that even if Jun Ren didn't have the same chances as Liu Mei, his fate was also considered an immortal fate!

This meant that Jun Ren also had a chance of becoming an immortal in the future!

Although immortal fates weren't too rare in the Holy sect, they definitely weren't common enough for 2 of them to appear during one selection process from the disciples that came from the continents surrounding the central region.

After all, Elder Zhuan also knew, that even in the Holy sect's previous selection that took place 2 months ago, there were only 3 geniuses with immortal fates.

A few moments later, Jun Ren's expression slightly changed as he retracted his hand from the ball of fate while his eyes stared at the white-robed Elder in front of him with an impassive look.

Despite the shock on Elder Zhuan's face, Jun Ren could clearly see that the colorful light that had appeared on the ball's surface just now, wasn't as bright as Liu Mei's.

Although he didn't know exactly what this light symbolized, he still had a certain guess in his mind, causing his expression to turn somewhat ugly.

Jun Ren didn't wait for Elder Zhuan's instructions, as he turned around and stared at the white-robed young woman next to Shun Long with a deep look in his eyes, before he turned his attention towards the blue-robed young man who also had his gaze fixed on him.

Was Liu Mei stronger than him? Did she have a more promising future than him? Then what about that blue-robed young man with that terrifying bloodline?

"No. It's impossible for a single ball to predict my future! Whether it is talent, luck, or willpower, I am not inferior to anyone in the world!"

The red-robed Jun Ren shook his head firmly while a determined look had appeared in his eyes at the same time, and after staring at the blue-robed Shun Long for a few more moments, he walked back to where he previously stood as he waited for the test to continue.

At the same time, Shun Long also cast another deep look at this red-robed young man, before he turned his attention towards the white-colored ball of fate.

Just like everyone else inside the hall, he had already guessed that the colorful light inside the ball of fate signified something extraordinary, making even the Elders of the Holy sect pay close attention to it.

Besides, although Jun Ren's colorful light wasn't as bright as Liu Mei's it didn't mean that Shun Long would underestimate him!

Instead, this made Shun Long pay even more attention to this red-robed young man who had comprehended the Dao of War.

After all, although others didn't know about it, Shun Long clearly knew that Liu Mei's fate had already been tampered with.

By coming in contact with Shun Long who had a terrifying secret inside him, as well as coming in contact with Little Black and obtaining an extremely powerful cultivation technique from him, it would instead be weird if Liu Mei's fate wasn't abnormal.

And yet, the red-robed Jun Ren had such a result without coming in contact with a king of magic beasts.

No matter what, his fate was definitely extraordinary, which was enough for Shun Long to pay some attention to him.

Besides, Shun Long wouldn't trust the Holy sect's ball of fate completely.

It wasn't that he didn't believe in fate, but he refused to accept that one's future could really be divined.

"At best, this is just a vague prediction. Even if someone is really talented enough to become a powerful cultivator in the future, it's possible for him to die before he can mature. At the same time, even someone who isn't 'fated' to become powerful enough, if they obtain the legacy of a powerhouse or if they find a rare treasure that helps them advance their cultivation, their future may change."

Having comprehended the Dao of Time to his current level, Shun Long had already understood that fate was impossible to truly predict.

And yet, this didn't mean that the ball of fate's test wasn't important. At the very least, it showed the path that one would follow in their life. After all, it was also unlikely that someone with a very weak fate would end up becoming a powerhouse, unless they met something completely unexpected in their lives.

As Shun Long reached this conclusion, he turned his attention towards the white-robed Elder next to the ball of fate, waiting to see whom he was going to choose next.

At the same time, the white-robed Elders remained silent as well, not commenting on Jun Ren's fate, as everyone waited for Elder Zhuan's decision.

Elder Zhuan's eyes swept past the disciples in the hall for a few moments, before they finally landed on the figure of a devilishly handsome young man in black robes, with brown eyes and a single scar below his left eye.

The moment that Elder Zhuan's figure landed on him, everyone immediately turned their attention towards the black-robed Jiang Chen.

And yet, the black-robed young man had a leisure look on his face, seemingly not caring about the attention of the people around him.

Surprisingly, Jiang Chen turned his head to the left, and stared at Shun Long seriously for a few moments, before his lips curved up into a smile, as he slowly took a step forward and appeared in front of the crystal ball of fate.