

## Time 521

### Chapter 521: The Holy city

Since he had just arrived in the central region for less than a month, Shun Long didn't know anything about the city situated at the foot of the Holy mountain aside from the fact that it was called the Holy city.

Of course, since the city had such a name and it was also located directly in front of the mountain where the Holy sect was located, anyone would realize that the city had a connection with the Holy sect and it may even be managed by the sect directly.

20 minutes later, Shun Long had already descended the gigantic Holy mountain and had circled around the periphery of the Holy city as he arrived in front of the city's entrance.

Although Shun Long had guessed that the Holy city was probably just as big as the biggest city in the Night star continent, the Heaven's Dome city, after arriving in front of the huge city gates and seeing the hundreds of luxurious carriages lining up one after the other to enter the city, he realized that this city was much more bustling than the Heaven's Dome city instead.

Thousands of cultivators were lined up in front of Shun Long as they waited to enter inside the city as well, while the city guards on top of the city walls as well as those in front of the city gates who were responsible for allowing cultivators to enter made sure to keep everyone in order.

The heavy breathing of the magic beasts that were pulling the carriages as well as the fervor and excitement of the cultivators who were about to step enter the city for the first time gave an entirely different atmosphere to this city.

Just like the rest of the cultivators, Shun Long queued up in front of the city gates as he waited for his turn to come.

Even though there were thousands of cultivators lining up on foot as well as hundreds of carriages by their side, the guards in front of the city gates were extremely efficient, and in just an hour, it was already Shun Long's turn.

Stretching his hand out, the guard looked at Shun Long with an impassive face and said seriously "100 middle-grade spiri-"

Slap!

Before he could finish his words the guard felt someone slap him at the back of his head, making him turn around and stare at the guard that was standing behind him furiously.

However, before the first guard could open his mouth and berate his friend, the second guard looked at him with an angry look on his face before he turned his attention towards Shun Long and spoke while cupping his hands

"Young lord, please forgive this idiot and go ahead. As a disciple of the Holy sect of course you don't have to pay anything to enter the city."

The first guard who had a furious look on his face immediately turned around when he heard the words 'disciple of the Holy sect'. And yet, the moment he noticed that Shun Long was indeed wearing the robes of an outer disciple of the sect his face turned pale in an instant.

He had actually disregarded a disciple of the Holy sect!

Whether it was the weakest outer disciple or not or that the guard was at the peak of rank 1 of the Nascent Soul, it didn't matter in the slightest.

This guard already knew that any disciple of the Holy sect had more authority than him in the city, so asking for payment from Shun Long was no different than asking for payment from his direct superior.

Even his own superior only had a status where he could look at Shun Long and the rest of the disciples of the Holy sect as equals within the city.

At the same time, it was only now that the remaining cultivators around him looked at Shun Long's robes with hints of envy in their eyes.

An outer disciple of the Holy sect! How many of them wished that they could enter the sect only to be mercilessly slapped by the difficulty of the trials?

Of course, no one could blame the first guard for not paying attention to Shun Long's robes and realizing that he was an outer disciple, as most outer disciples of the Holy sect wouldn't line up here and would directly skip the queue and enter the city as soon as they arrived.

After all, this was their own city, the Holy sect's city.

Why would they voluntarily line up and wait along with the rest of the commoners?

Additionally, most outer disciples of the sect came from the huge families and clans, as well as the rest of the big powers who lived in the territory of the Holy sect, so this sentiment was even further ingrained in their minds.

Of course, the guard who had explained this to Shun Long had already guessed that Shun Long didn't belong to any of the powerful families or clans in the territory of the Holy sect, otherwise he would have already known about this.

Nodding his head, Shun Long thanked the second guard, and without paying any attention to the first guard whose face had turned even paler during this time, he stepped past the city gates and entered the Holy city.

The moment that he stepped inside the city, luxurious homes and mansions, as well as big shops that spanned further than the eye could see filled Shun Long's vision, bringing along with them the vitality of an extremely bustling city.

Knowing that there were still 3 days until merchant Ying Gui and his caravan left the Holy city, Shun Long decided to first take a look around and see what the Holy city had to offer.

After all, there was no way that the city wouldn't possibly have anything that would catch his attention.

Indeed, after leisurely walking around the city for 2 hours while taking in the sights around him, Shun Long finally stopped in front of an enormous tower more than 3.000 meters(9850ft) tall near the heart of the city.

The 2 words on the tower's entrance immediately attracted Shun Long's attention, while his eyes were quickly filled with a look of curiosity as well, as he mumbled to himself

"Dao Tower?"

## Chapter 522: Dao Tower

Staring at the colossal black tower in front of him that had more than a hundred cultivators queued up in front of its entrance, Shun Long walked towards it as well after a few moments of deliberation.

He still had 3 days until his first mission begun so he wasn't in a hurry in the first place.

Waiting in the queue along with the rest of the 100 cultivators, Shun Long looked around him while he stared at the expressions of the people who were also waiting to enter the tower as well.

He saw looks of hope and longing in their eyes as well as gazes that were filled with fighting intent, making Shun Long even more curious about the tower in front of him.

The reason why this tower had attracted Shun Long's attention aside from its colossal size, was the words 'Dao Tower' that Shun Long had never heard of before, as well as the fact that it didn't matter whether one was a Heaven grade cultivator or a Dao King, as they were all queued up and waited for their turn. For a building to have both Heaven grade cultivators and Dao Kings enter inside it, as long as it wasn't a shop, then there must definitely be something extraordinary about it.

Turning his attention towards the young man who was standing right in front of him while waiting in line as well, Shun Long looked at him and cupped his hands before asking in a voice that didn't conceal his curiosity

"Friend, I just arrived in the Holy city and I am still new here. Can you tell me what the purpose of this 'Dao Tower' is?"

The young man in front of Shun Long had a disdainful look on his face the moment that he heard his ignorant question, but as soon as he turned around and saw the yellow robes with the insignia of the Holy sect on them, his expression quickly changed as he stared at Shun Long's face with some doubt in his eyes.

"A disciple of the Holy sect?"

The young man asked Shun Long with suspicion evident in his voice, unable to understand how it was possible for a disciple of the Holy sect to not know about the Dao Tower.

Even those disciples who didn't belong to any powerful forces in the Holy sect's territory still knew about the Dao Tower in the Holy city.

Did the guy in front of him just come out from a cave?

Regardless, after a moment of deliberation, the young man nodded his head and decided to answer seriously. After all, Shun Long still seemed to be an outer disciple of the Holy sect, and the young man knew that he wouldn't lose anything by answering his question.

Pointing at the enormous black tower in front of them, the young man looked at Shun Long and said seriously

"The Dao Tower is one of the most important buildings in the entire Holy city. It is a mystical place that every cultivator can enter to test their Dao, and all you have to do to enter is pay some middle-grade spirit stones!

It doesn't matter if one is a Heaven grade newbie or a Dao King realm expert, the 2 of them can fight and the person who utilizes their Dao better will win. Cultivation ranks don't matter at all when 2 people fight inside the Dao Tower, and it is not too uncommon for the person with the lowest cultivation to actually win a fight. Of course, it's not possible for a Heaven grade rookie to compete against a Dao King expert in the first place, I am simply using it as an example!"

The young man in front of Shun Long whose cultivation was at the peak of rank 1 in the Nascent Soul had a look of fervor in his eyes as he looked at the tower in front of him, and after taking a deep breath a moment later he actually continued with an even more excited look than before

"However, the most exciting thing about the Dao Tower isn't just that you can fight experts above your level using the Dao that you have comprehended, but that the Dao Tower in the Holy city is actually connected with the rest of the Dao Towers in every major city in the rest of our central region!"

Shun Long's eyes widened when he heard this as he stared at the colossal black tower in front of him with a look of disbelief.

He didn't need the young man in front of him to explain the last sentence as he immediately understood what that meant.

The Dao Tower could allow you to fight other people all around the central region as well!

A tower where cultivation didn't matter while only the Dao did?

Shun Long had never heard of something like this in his life!

Of course, his knowledge and memories of his previous life were still sealed for the most part, but the Dao Tower still made his eyes burn with fighting intent.

Almost as if he had guessed what Shun Long was thinking, the young man in front of him smiled and said

"Hehe, even though you are an outer disciple of the Holy sect, don't think that you will be able to fight against the best geniuses around the central region only because you managed to pass the sect's tests! Practically every single disciple of the Holy sect come and train themselves in the Dao Tower when they want to train, and I have heard that even inner disciples and... even the legendary core disciples do so as well, but I don't think that any of them have ever reached the top rankings of the Dao Tower.

Of course, if any of the core disciples have reached the top rankings is not something that anyone would know, but if someone can do it it's only them! It's impossible for you or me to do so, so I suggest you stop dreaming!"

Chapter 523: Dao Tower (2)

The young man stared at Shun Long's yellow robes with hints of envy in his eyes, but his words still hammered down mercilessly, uncaring if they were going to ruin his hopes of ever glancing at the people in the top ranks of the Dao Tower.

And yet, Shun Long merely smiled at the young man's attempt to lower his confidence while a powerful fighting intent appeared inside his eyes as he stared at the enormous tower in front of him, while watching the line moving forward slowly.

"Hmph."

The young man harrumphed when he saw Shun Long's smile, making him feel like he was being mocked while inwardly he thought to himself

"Just wait until you enter the Dao Tower. Outer disciple of the Holy sect or not, no one will give a damn about your identity in there!"

Without another word, the young man angrily turned around and stared at the Dao Tower as he eagerly waited for his turn to come.

2 hours later, after the young man in front of him entered inside, it was Shun Long's turn to enter the Dao Tower.

As he stepped forward, Shun Long saw that the huge gates of the tower were wide-open, allowing him to enter without any obstruction.

A luxurious hall appeared in Shun Long's eyes the moment that he stepped foot inside the Dao Tower, as well as 2 beautiful receptionists standing who were behind a large counter.

Seeing the handsome yellow-robed young man who was approaching them caused the eyes of the 2 receptionists to light up at the same time, as both of them flashed the sweetest smiles they could muster and greeted him gently

"Hello young master!"

"Welcome to the Dao Tower! How may I assist you?"

The receptionist on the right looked at the woman next to her and pouted when she realized that she had taken the initiative to offer her assistance first.

Shun Long simply smiled at the 2 receptionists, before walking towards the one on the left a moment later and asked her

"It's my first time visiting the Dao Tower. Can you explain the rules for me or tell me anything else that I need to take note of?"

"With pleasure young master!"

The young woman's gaze heated up even further when she noticed the yellow robes that Shun Long was wearing that indicated that he was actually an outer disciple of the Holy sect.

Pointing at the huge staircase in the distance she then started to explain

"The Dao Tower has more than 9000 rooms split into different floors, and you can use any room that you want without any restrictions. Every room is the same so it doesn't matter which one you choose.

Additionally, you can stay inside a room for as long as you want, but to use a room you are required to pay 5.000 middle-grade spirit stones. Young master should be careful and shouldn't leave the room unless you are certain that you are going to leave the Dao Tower as well, otherwise you will have to pay 5.000 middle-grade spirit stones again to enter inside.

Since it is your first time coming to the Dao Tower, we will give young master your personal tower token.

Of course, since young master hasn't participated in any battles just yet, your tower token will be the lowest white rank token. However, as you fight and win more of your fights, your rank will rise as well.

The first and also the lowest rank is the white rank, followed by the yellow rank and then the orange rank. After the orange is the red rank, followed by the purple rank and the silver rank, and then finally the legendary gold rank.

Since young master is an outer disciple of the Holy sect, I am sure that you will be able to reach the orange rank in no time so I wouldn't worry about it.

Now to the rules.

When you enter inside the room, it will only take a few moments for the Dao Tower to connect young master with someone else.

During the fights there are actually no rules. You can do whatever you want.

Of course, you cannot use your qi and will only be allowed to use your Dao, but you are free to torture or kill your opponent without any restraints.

Naturally, there is nothing to be afraid about even if the fights look real, since it will only be your mind and your opponent's mind that will be connected. So, even if you die during a fight, your consciousness will return to normal soon... but you will feel an intense pain every time you die."

As she said the last part, the receptionist's voice was lowered significantly, almost as if she remembered the intense pain every time she died inside the tower's fights as well.

This was why most people couldn't handle dying more than 3 times before they left the Dao Tower.

After all, the tower wouldn't wait for you to rest every time you finished a fight, regardless of whether you won or lost, and would at most give you 15 minutes to rest before the next fight began.

After taking a deep breath and expelled the bad memories of death inside the tower, the receptionist looked at Shun Long and handed him a small, white-colored token before she continued

"As long as young master lets a drop of blood fall onto the token, the token will connect with your consciousness every time that you enter a room. As long as you want to stop the challenges or give up a fight, all you have to do is cut off the connection with the token and you can leave the room. Your face will also not be shown to your opponent during the fights so there is nothing to worry about. I wish you good luck young master~"

There was a flirtatious tone in the young receptionist's words as she said the last sentence, but despite her pretty appearance, Shun Long simply nodded his head as thanks before he walked towards the huge staircase in the distance that led him to the next floor.

The receptionist pouted that she couldn't get more of a reaction from him, while the other receptionist next to her simply laughed in response.

At the same time, arriving on the first floor, Shun Long saw nearly 100 doors, all of which were closed, while their entrances were filled with 5.000 middle-grade spirit stones.

Seeing that there was no room available on this floor he continued to walk upwards towards the second floor.

Noticing that there were a handful of rooms 'available', Shun Long picked one at random and stood in front of its entrance. Waving his hand, 5.000 middle-grade spirit stones appeared in front of him, before Shun Long sent them towards the small holes on the door.

As soon as the middle-grade spirit stones embedded themselves on the door, a deep rumbling could be heard as the door slowly opened.

#### Chapter 524: Dao Tower (3)

The room behind the door was filled with nothing but darkness, without a piece of furniture or anything else in sight.

After a moment of deliberation, Shun Long took a step forward and entered inside a moment later.

However, the moment that he stepped foot inside the room, Shun Long heard another loud rumbling sound coming from behind him, as the heavy door of the room automatically closed by itself, blocking off what little light tried to enter the room from the outside.

Inside the darkness that had now almost completely filled the room, Shun Long wasn't even able to see his own fingers.

There was only a very dim light coming from the door itself, which Shun Long assumed was thanks to his 5.000 middle-grade spirit stones.

Of course, even if he couldn't see anything using his eyes, he knew that he could still use his soul sense to sense his surroundings.

As expected, after scanning the room with his soul sense, he noticed that it was indeed empty.

Sitting cross-legged on the ground and closing his eyes, Shun Long then fell into deep thought a moment later

"I wonder how the Dao Tower can force 2 people to fight using only their Dao without utilizing their cultivation. Regardless, if this Dao Tower can really allow one to do so, then this will truly be the perfect place for me to advance my comprehension of my Dao of Space."

Shun Long knew that he was just a step away from advancing to the early fifth stage of his 'Monarch's Eternal body' and that the only thing he required was to breakthrough in his comprehension of the Dao of Space.

However, unlike his Dao of Time, even with the increased affinity that he had for the Dao of Space thanks to his 'Monarch's Eternal body', Shun Long was still unable to breakthrough in the past 2 years that he had spent in the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' and step into the early fifth stage.

Holding the white-colored token that he had received from the receptionist in his left hand, he no longer hesitated as he bit his own finger, causing a bright red droplet of blood to appear and fall on the white token.

Shun Long could instantly feel the token in his hands trying to establish a connection with his own consciousness the moment that it absorbed his drop of blood, but sensing that it was a connection which he could cut off at any moment, Shun Long gritted his teeth before deciding to allow it a moment later.

The moment that the connection was established, he could sense that his pitch-black surroundings had started to change, while a feeling as if he had started to lose control of his own body had also sprouted in his heart.

No, it wasn't that he had lost control of his body. Instead, it was his consciousness that had established the connection with the white token that was making him unable to control his body at this moment.

However, Shun Long quickly calmed down a moment later, as he could still feel that he could simply cut off the connection between himself and his white token any moment that he wished to do so, and everything would instantly go back to normal.

A few moments later, as he opened his eyes, he noticed that his surroundings had completely changed as he found himself standing in the center of a large palace hall.

Looking at his own hands as well as the rest of his body, Shun Long understood that this wasn't his real body but a body made by motes of light instead.

In front of him, he also saw the silhouette of a young man that had started to materialize at the same time.

And yet, Shun Long didn't pay too much attention to the man who had started to appear in front of him, as he stared at his own hands with a look filled with disbelief.

His cultivation seemed to have returned to the early rank 1 of the Heaven grade, but this wasn't the biggest change that he sensed.

Instead, it was the qi inside him that felt completely different from the qi in his body back in the real world.

Shun Long sensed that the qi inside this body that was made by motes of light, was much weaker and circulated much slower compared to his real qi.

When you and your opponent both have your cultivation base restricted at the early rank 1 of the Nascent Soul, while having the same amount of qi inside your bodies as well as the same qi purity, the only difference between the 2 of you would be the martial skills that you know and the Dao that you have comprehended.

However, due to how slowly the qi inside his body was now circulating, Shun Long instantly realized that it was impossible for him to use even Yellow-grade martial skills, let alone Mystic-grade and Saint-grade ones.

It was only at this moment that Shun Long truly realized why the Dao Tower was rumored to test nothing but the Dao that a cultivator has comprehended, while a complicated feeling started to rise in his heart at the same time.

After all, fighting like this was indeed no different than fighting with shackles around your entire body.

And yet, a moment later, Shun Long quickly shook his head, as a look filled with fighting intent appeared inside his eyes before he mumbled to himself

"This is good as well. This place is truly perfect for me to advance my Dao of Space!"



As he came to this conclusion, Shun Long stared at the figure of the young man in front of him that had fully materialized itself as well.

It was a young man dressed in brown robes, with short black hair and a solidly built body. However, Shun Long was unable to discern any details from his face.

Indeed, this was the protection that the Dao Tower offered to its participants.

As long as one wanted to keep their identity hidden, no one could force that person to reveal it.

At that moment, Shun Long saw the young man in front of him take a look at the hall around them before he turned his attention towards him.

Taking a step forward, the young man's foot suddenly stomped on the ground, actually creating a small fissure on the floor of the palace hall.

The fissure rapidly expanded as it moved towards Shun Long, and from the palace's depths, tree branches of various sizes some of them as thin as a person's finger while some of them as thick as a human's thigh emerged from the fissure, as they moved to surround Shun Long, blocking all paths of retreat.

#### Chapter 525: Dao fight

Staring at the tree branches that were moving towards him Shun Long wasn't flustered in the slightest, as he stretched out his right hand before an illusionary purple-colored blade appeared on it.

Although martial skills couldn't be used inside the Dao Tower, anything related to his own comprehension of their Dao could be utilized as long as Shun Long was willing to spend some of his qi.

This meant that although he couldn't use martial skills like the Gale steps, or his Thunderbolt finger, or the only Saint low-grade martial skill that he knew, the Thundergod's slash, things that Shun Long had comprehended through his own Dao, like the spatial blade in his hand, his blink or opening a space tear with his own hands, everything that was related to his own Dao, regardless of whether they originally required Shun Long to use his qi or his body refinement energy to be activated, could now be used inside the Dao Tower.

Of course, Shun Long wasn't planning to use any of his moves that required him to use his Dao of Time, and was planning to completely rely on his Dao of Space instead.

Staring at the tree branches that were about to completely submerge him in their attacks, Shun Long didn't hesitate as the spatial blade in his right hand started to cut through them like a scorching blade cutting through snow.

The tree branches couldn't provide the slightest resistance in front of the purple spatial blade, and regardless of whether it was the thicker tree branches or the small and thin ones, they were all cut down all the same as Shun Long advanced towards the young man in brown robes.

The young man's body trembled when he felt his strongest attack being destroyed from the inside without him being able to do anything.

Although he tried to summon more tree branches, it was obvious that his attempt was futile as Shun Long simply cleared them faster than they emerged from the ground while he moved towards him.

And yet the only thing that he could do was stick to this same plan.

As he kept attacking Shun Long, the young man had started to step backwards at the same time, opening up the distance between them as he wasn't willing to allow Shun Long to get too close to him, but in just a few moments, he realized that he had ended up reaching the end of the hall with his back against the wall.

At the same time, Shun Long finally cut through the last of the tree branches that was blocking his way a few moments later, before he stared at the young man in front of him who was clearly trembling in fright.

Shun Long wasn't certain if this was the young man's first fight in the Dao Tower as well or his first time coming so close to death which made him so afraid, but it was obvious that his comprehension of his Dao was more than lackluster, to say the least.

Although the attribute of his Dao of Space was really terrifying being able to cut through practically anything at will, Shun Long knew that as long as he met someone whose comprehension of their Dao was higher than his comprehension of his Dao of Space, he wouldn't be able to win effortlessly like this.

As for the young man in front of him, Shun Long guessed that his comprehension of his Dao was at the level of someone who had just broken through to the Heaven grade.

Slashing the air in front of him with his right hand, Shun Long then opened a space tear and stepped inside it, closing the distance between them and appearing in front of the brown-robed young man in practically an instant before he swept his right hand horizontally before the young man could even open his mouth to say anything.

A small wound appeared on the place where the brown-robed young man's heart was supposed to be, and a few moments later, his body started to break down into motes of light as he began to disappear in front of Shun Long.

The young man didn't know why he had been so unlucky to face a monster like Shun Long so early in the Dao Tower.

He had won his previous fight almost effortlessly, but just in his second fight, he had to fight against this monster who had destroyed him in less than a minute.

He was still in the white rank!

What the hell was this guy doing in the white rank as well?

Shun Long had also guessed that the young man would probably feel aggrieved about his loss, since this previous fight was no different than bullying, he didn't really care about it since there was nothing he could do about it either.

As he was still in the white rank, Shun Long had guessed that he would probably have to fight against the weaker cultivators before rising in the ranks, causing most of his opponents in the beginning to only have a comprehension at the Heaven-grade level, but as he rose to the yellow-grade, Shun Long guessed that he would start fighting against peak Heaven-grade opponents or even Spirit realm cultivators, making the battles tougher as he rose through the ranks.

The moment that the brown-robed young man disappeared, Shun Long noticed that some of the motes of light around his body didn't disperse in the surroundings, but instead, they were being absorbed by his white rank token.

His token that had a pure white color didn't change externally, but Shun Long could sense that there was a small difference as he held it.

After looking at it seriously for a few more moments, a smile broke out on his face before he sat cross-legged on the ground on the now dead-silent palace hall and closed his eyes.

The cracks on the ground created by the fissure of the young man's attack were quickly repaired in less than a minute, restoring the palace's appearance to its original state before Shun Long's first fight.

Finally, 15 minutes later, after the period for everyone to rest had ended, a new silhouette started to materialize in front of Shun Long, causing him to slowly open his eyes as well.

## Chapter 526: Dao Fight (2)

This second silhouette that appeared in front of him belonged to a young woman who was dressed in pure white robes, and had long silver hair that reached down to her waist.

Even though her facial features couldn't be discerned, from the way she carried herself and how she wasn't in a rush to make the first move, Shun Long could guess that this woman had a calm and collected look on her face as she looked at him, before her gaze inspected the rest of the palace hall around her.

Of course, just like Shun Long and the brown-robed young man that Shun Long had faced a few minutes ago, this young woman's cultivation was naturally at the early rank 1 of the Heaven grade as well.

After all, the rules of the Dao Tower were the same for everyone.

After inspecting the young man in front of her for a few seconds, the white-robed young woman's body was suddenly surrounded by a gust of wind as she lifted herself in the air, and as she looked at the yellow-robed young man who was still sitting cross-legged on the floor without moving, she said in a calm but frigid tone, her voice resounding throughout the entire palace hall

"Prepare yourself or die!"

Without waiting for a response, the silver-haired young woman pointed her hand towards him before tens of wind blades appeared in the air around her.

After staying still in the air for a few moments, the wind blades all flew towards Shun Long at the same time, barraging him at once.

With a calm smile on his face, Shun Long looked at the young woman in front of him who was hovering in their confidently as she waited for her attack to land, before he calmly raised his right hand and punched the air in front of him once, creating a large space tear the size of a normal person.

The silver-haired young woman took a step back in disbelief as she saw her wind blades all disappear inside the space tear that Shun Long had casually opened with a single punch, but before she could even process what was going on, her wind blades had already appeared from behind her.

Before the silver-haired young woman had enough time to realize what happened and move out of the way, her body was riddled with wounds and holes as her own wind blades ended up tearing her apart.

Falling on the floor of the palace hall with her consciousness on the verge of fading, the young woman raised her head with extreme difficulty to look at the yellow-robed young man who was sitting opposite to her and had yet to move a single step since their fight started. She was simply unwilling to accept that she had really lost just like this, but she only managed to see Shun Long sit casually at the center of the hall for a single moment, before her body finally broke apart into countless motes of light.

Of course, what the silver-haired young woman didn't know, was that the reason why Shun Long didn't move from his seat was in order to place more pressure on himself.

Fighting against the brown-robed young man had made him realize that using his spatial blade wasn't really helping him increase his comprehension in his Dao of Space.

Thus, he decided against using it, or his blink, unless he really faced a powerful opponent.

As for the space tear that he had created during the fight that sucked in the young woman's wind blades, Shun Long could only use it when he was fighting opponents whose comprehension of their Dao was at the same level as his Dao of Space at most.

Otherwise, if the young woman's comprehension of her Dao of Wind actually exceeded his comprehension of his Dao of Space, Shun Long guessed that his space tear wouldn't be able to absorb every single wind blade, and would most likely end up crumbling halfway after absorbing around 40 percent of the wind blades instead.

After all, the space tears could only absorb an enemy's attacks, depending on Shun Long's strength and his own Dao comprehension.

No Dao was omnipotent.

Everything relied on a cultivator's own strength in the end.

Of course, in situations where his comprehension of his Dao of Space and his opponent's were at the same level, Shun Long was confident that he could win every single fight.

He had yet to meet someone who was strong enough to fight him head-on.

The only exception so far was when Shun Long fought against Jiang Chen, but to match Shun Long's power when he was utilizing his Dao of Space, Jiang Chen needed to use his Demonic Dao, as well as his rank 1 star-rank weapon and a Saint low-grade martial skill.

Of course, Jiang Chen could also fight Shun Long even without his Demonic Wings when Shun Long was only using his Dao of Space, but in that case, he wouldn't be the one who had the advantage during the fight and could only be placed in a passive position instead, where he would only be able to defend himself.

As for the silver-haired young woman whose comprehension of her Dao was still at the Heaven grade, it was impossible for her to last for even a few seconds against Shun Long when he fought seriously.

Nevertheless, if Shun Long had to compare her with the brown-robed young man from before, Shun Long believed that the young woman would most likely emerge as the victor if the 2 of them fought against each other, and she wouldn't need more than 15 minutes to do so.

As the young woman's body turned into motes of light, a portion of that light didn't disperse but instead, it was absorbed in Shun Long's white token instead.

Shun Long continued to sit cross-legged on the ground without moving, as he waited for his next fight to begin.

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In the blink of an eye, a day soon passed, as Shun Long stared at the body of a robust middle-aged man in front of him, that had started to turn into motes of light before it slowly disappeared from the palace hall.

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#### Chapter 527: Consecutive wins

This middle-aged man was Shun Long's 48th opponent.

During the past 24 hours, Shun Long had actually managed to win 48 battles in a row!? This was a terrifying number that very few people could achieve in the Dao Tower in one go.

In these past 24 hours, his token had also changed from the original white color to a deep orange one, and it seemed to be just a few fights away from having its color turn red.

After reaching the yellow rank, Shun Long had to fight against opponents whose Dao comprehension had reached the level of an average peak Heaven grade cultivator or a newly advanced Spirit realm.

Of course, in front of Shun Long's Dao of Space that was just a step away from reaching the standard of a newly advanced Nascent Soul stage cultivator, none of them could actually last for more than a couple of minutes.

However, after reaching the orange rank, the opponents that Shun Long had to face became even stronger, as every single one of them had reached the standard of a normal middle or late-stage Spirit realm cultivator, causing Shun Long to feel much more pressure fighting them while sitting cross-legged on the ground.

As for the robust middle-aged man that Shun Long had just faced, his Dao comprehension was just a step away from breaking through to the Nascent Soul stage as well.

In this fight against the middle-aged man, Shun Long had actually failed to block some of his attacks as well, causing him to suffer pain similar to what he would have felt in the real world from them.

And yet, despite being hit in the chest 3 times and being placed in this situation of immense stress, Shun Long's eyes lit up as he looked at the unmoving body of the man in front of him.

At the same time, as the middle-aged man's body started to disappear, a few of the motes of light coming from his body were absorbed by Shun Long's orange-colored token, bringing it one step closer to red.

After a moment of hesitation, Shun Long closed his eyes and cut off the connection between himself and his orange-colored token.

His surroundings quickly changed as he suddenly felt himself disappearing from the large palace hall, before he returned back to his dark room of the Dao Tower barely a moment later.

Although Shun Long was confident that he could probably reach the red rank after a few more fights using only his Dao of Space, despite the fact that the difficulty of the opponents that he had to face had already increased exponentially, after 24 hours of non-stop fighting and after this last fight with the robust middle-aged man, an intense feeling had started to appear deep inside him, as Shun Long could feel that his comprehension of space had started to change.

He knew that this was his chance to breakthrough to the early fifth stage in his 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

The moment that he cut off the connection between himself and his orange token and felt himself returning back to the room, Shun Long heard the familiar rumbling sound coming from behind him, as the heavy black door started to open by itself.

Without wasting any time, Shun Long walked out of the room directly, as he returned back to the ground floor of the Dao Tower a few moments later.

Walking past the enormous building's entrance, Shun Long wandered around the Holy city as he started to look for an inn.

Thankfully, he didn't have to search for a long time, as the Holy city was actually filled with plenty of inns, most of them belonging to the powerful clans and families that resided in the city.

After all, as the city located directly below the Holy mountain, it was only natural that many of the powerful clans and families that lived in the Holy sect's territories would not only have their own businesses in the Holy city such as pill shops, formation master shops, and inns and restaurants, but some of them would even choose to relocate their entire clan in the city as well.

Of course, only the strongest families and clans would dare to do something like that since the Holy city was a huge pie that everyone wanted to share but only the strongest would do so in the end. Additionally, those families and clans who dared to send their main forces in the Holy city didn't mean that they wouldn't control any other cities either. After all, the more cities they have under their control the more businesses they will also have, meaning the bigger their profits would be.

After choosing a random inn near the center of the city that belonged to the Qiao clan and paying 200 middle-grade spirit stones to rent a courtyard for the next 2 days, Shun Long entered his room and without wasting any time, he sat cross-legged on his bed and closed his eyes, as he simulated himself returning to the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'.

Sitting in his usual seat, Shun Long waved his hand, causing a single bottle filled with bright red pills to appear in front of him, as well as 100 stalks of rank 5 'Dragonblood grass'.

This was the last bottle of top-grade 'Dragonblood tempering pills' that Shun Long still had, and he had kept it for himself instead of selling it to Wan Zu in the Golden Treasures Hall for sect points because he was preparing for this breakthrough to the fifth stage of body refinement.

The moment that he opened the bottle, the sweet fragrance of the 5 'Dragonblood tempering pills' instantly filled the air around him with their intoxicating scent.

After taking a few breaths to calm himself down, Shun Long held the 5 red pills in his hands, before placing them all in his mouth at the same time.

The 5 top-grade rank 5 'Dragonblood tempering pills' instantly turned into a gentle stream of energy that melted in his mouth, but as soon as the energy went down his throat a familiar pain assaulted Shun Long, causing his eyes to widen in the process under the extreme pain, while his spiritual sea inside his spiritual space had started to split apart.

Chapter 528: Breaking through to the fifth stage of body refinement

As his spiritual sea begun to churn and split into 2 parts, the sudden pain of his soul splitting, once again assaulted Shun Long, making him grind his teeth and try his best to endure it while his eyes suddenly turned bloodshot.

This indescribable pain in his soul was the only thing that neither Shun Long nor any other cultivator could defend against it, no matter what.

This was why attacks directed towards one's soul were considered to be extremely dangerous. If your soul, your spiritual strength and your spiritual sea weren't strong enough to endure it, forget about losing your body, even your soul would be snuffed out.

And yet, along with the soul-splitting pain, Shun Long also felt an intense sensation of hunger from every fiber of his being, almost as if his body was a hungry beast that had starved for countless years and was now demanding energy.

Fortunately, Shun Long had already predicted this, as he started eating the stalks of 'Dragonblood grass' that he had already prepared and had placed in front of him before he started his breakthrough without holding back, not caring about his appearance in the slightest.

Large amounts of energy started to fill his body the moment that he consumed the first stalk of 'Dragonblood grass', but just as the energy entered his body, it quickly disappeared. And yet, Shun Long didn't stop, as he kept eating stalk after stalk of the crimson-colored grass without caring about any of this.

He could sense that the energy from the 'Dragonblood grass' that he was consuming was being split into 2 parts.

One part was absorbed by his body, enhancing his tendons, his muscles, his bones, and even his own blood, while the other half was transformed into spiritual energy and was absorbed by his spiritual sea that was split into 2 halves.

Even after he had consumed more than 30 stalks though, Shun Long still felt that he had barely made a dent in the insatiable feeling of hunger inside him.

Without any other choice, he could only continue eating until he completely filled his stomach.

It was only 2 hours later and after he had consumed nearly 90 stalks of 'Dragonblood grass' that he finally felt his body being full.

However, this wasn't the end just yet, as changes were also taking place inside his spiritual sea as well!

The huge, illusionary sea made of spiritual energy that was previously split into 2 halves was gradually merging together into one gigantic spiritual sea that was twice the size of the original!

At the same time, Shun Long could feel his comprehension of his Dao of Space advancing even more and at a terrifying rate, while his affinity with the element of space was also increasing without any signs to stop.

This process continued for more than a week until Shun Long finally opened his eyes.

Even without standing up from his seat, he could now sense that his body was filled with limitless amounts of energy, as he finally reached the early fifth stage in body refinement.

And yet, the moment that he opened his eyes, before he could actually rejoice in his breakthrough, Shun Long realized that the golden stele inside the foggy space that hadn't shown any changes during the past 2 years, was now emitting a white light that was many times stronger than before.

After staring at it seriously for a moment, Shun Long stood up from his seat and approached the golden stele with a serious look in his eyes.

He was actually feeling a little hesitant to touch this golden stele since everything that was related to the 'Stone of Time' had always subjected him to a certain degree of danger in the past, but after remembering that this stele had only appeared after he had returned from that magnificent white palace with the golden staircase that had allowed him to breakthrough again in his body refinement, he took a deep breath before he placed his hand on the stele's surface.

However, even after waiting for a few moments, Shun Long noticed that there were no changes on the golden stele.

Even after injecting his qi or his soul sense inside it hoping that there would be any changes, there was still no reaction.

"Maybe it needs a bit more time?"

This was the only conclusion that Shun Long could come to, causing him to temporarily give up for now.

After all, no matter what, it was obvious that the white light that was coming from the stele now, was much brighter than the dim and almost nonexistent light that the golden stele was previously emitting.

Shun Long guessed that he either had to wait for some more time, or he had to advance his body cultivation to the middle of the fifth stage or maybe even the peak of the fifth stage before the stele actually reacted again.

Of course, he wasn't certain whether the stele would really take him back to that golden staircase in front of the white palace with the 2 angel statues guarding in front of it, but if he could advance his 'Monarch's Eternal body' further, then this was a risk that he was willing to take.

After all, Shun Long hadn't forgotten how he had been 'abducted' by the 'Stone of Time' twice after breaking through in his cultivation in the past, and he wasn't certain what kind of enemies he would have to face in the future if that happened again.

Thus, advancing his cultivation in both his qi and his body refinement were of utmost importance to him.

Regardless, even if the stele didn't respond right now, Shun Long now knew that it would do so again in the future.



Closing his eyes, he quickly calmed down as he tried to sense the changes around him.

A moment later however, he snapped his eyes open with a surprised look on his face, as he realized that as long as he closed his eyes and focused, he could clearly sense the different layers of space present around him, meaning that his affinity with the element of space had increased even more than what he had originally thought.

#### Chapter 529: One with the world

Closing his eyes for the second time, Shun Long then spread his soul sense around his surroundings before he mumbled in a low, almost inaudible voice

"Let's try this!"

Spatial fluctuations started to ripple out around his body as soon as the words left his mouth, before he suddenly vanished from the spot he was standing on barely a moment later, almost as if his figure had faded into nothingness.

A full minute later, Shun Long's body reappeared back inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', in the same spot that he was standing on before he disappeared.

It was too bad that Little Black was still asleep, otherwise his reaction would have definitely been extremely interesting to look at, after seeing this scene in front of him.

After all, Shun Long hadn't left the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time' just now, but he had really disappeared.

As soon as he reappeared on the same spot as before, a bright smile appeared on Shun Long's face as he mumbled to himself thoughtfully

"Hmm, space has so many different uses, that its uniqueness is almost at the same level as my Dao of Time.

Since I can completely conceal myself with this technique... I will name this, 'One with the world'!"

As he came to this decision, Shun Long decided to spend the next couple of hours testing this new technique that he had comprehended after breaking through to the early fifth stage of his 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

Indeed, after his breakthrough and since his affinity with the element of space had increased even further, he could now clearly feel the space around him even better than before, allowing him to hide his body inside it.

Of course, although it looked like he had actually vanished and even one's soul sense would be hard-pressed to spot him while he used this technique, Shun Long knew that his 'One with the world' wasn't perfect since he couldn't move while he activated this technique.

He could only stay still and observe his surroundings, but as long as he tried to move around, the technique would instantly break.

And yet, despite this limitation, Shun Long was extremely happy with this technique.

The only thing that he didn't have, was such a protective technique to conceal himself.

Although he wasn't certain if he would be able to hide successfully in front of powerful Dao Kings, Shun Long's intuition told him that there was a high chance for him to succeed.

A few hours later, after consuming 5 stalks of 'Dragonblood grass' to replenish his energy, he closed his eyes and imagined himself leaving the 'Stone of Time', returning back to his room at the inn.

Thankfully, his breakthrough had only lasted for a little more than a week inside the foggy space, meaning that barely 1 day had passed in the outside world.

Although he knew that he still had more than half a day left, Shun Long decided to leave the inn before that and take a quick look at the rest of the Holy city, as well as go and meet with the merchant Ying Gui after that.

After all, according to the second mission that he had accepted from the Assignment Hall, there was less than a day left until Ying Gui's caravan left for Yanzhu city.

Shun Long spent the next 4 hours touring through the shops of the Holy city, especially pill shops in hopes that he could find some rare medicinal herbs.

However, Shun Long didn't know whether it was because he simply was unlucky or if the pill shops that he visited just happened to be like that, but most of them didn't sell almost any rank 6 medicinal herbs, but only sold their pills directly.

Of course, Shun Long wanted to take a look at the rest of the Holy city as well and see if the other pill shops really worked like that, but he knew that it was time to meet with Ying Gui as well.

After remembering the details of the mission, he decided that he would take a look at the rest of the shops in the Holy city after completing his 2 missions, so without any hesitation, he then started walking towards the east of the Holy city.

As he walked towards the east of the city looking for the inn that he was supposed to meet Ying Gui, Shun Long thought back to the things that he had seen in the Holy city in the last 4 hours and realized that he was truly much poorer than he thought.

Although his current wealth could most likely rival that of an average early-stage Dao King from the central region, this was as far as it could go.

Shun Long simply couldn't compare yet to even middle-stage Dao Kings, let alone the truly rich heirs and families that lived in the Holy city.

He had already seen that an average early rank 6 magic beast actually costed anywhere from 1 to 1.5 million middle-grade spirit stones!

This meant that as long as an average middle-stage Dao King was strong enough and he managed to capture a living early rank 6 magic beast, he could actually make as many spirit stones as an average early stage Dao King had managed to gather throughout his life.

Of course, this was the price for a living early rank 6 magic beast and not a dead one, otherwise the price would drop by many times. Capturing a rank 6 magic beast alive was also much tougher than one would think, as most magic beasts were almost impossible to be subdued, and would rather fight to the death than submit to humans.

Naturally, if middle-stage Dao Kings could make 1 million spirit stones so quickly, Shun Long couldn't even fathom how rich the late-stage Dao Kings would be, or even the Dao Emperors.

It was only now that he started to understand why Elders like Elder Xuan could burn high-grade spirit stones to fill their courtyards with qi effortlessly.

And yet, not only did this not make Shun Long depressed, but it actually made him so happy, that any passerby who happened to see the evil smile on his face would end up feeling shivers all over their body before they scurried as far away from him as possible.

With so many resources available in the central region why wouldn't Shun Long ever be happy?

### Chapter 530: Meeting Ying Gui

At the same time, in these last 4 hours that he toured through the Holy city, Shun Long also learned about the existence of some cultivators who were called Beast Tamers.

Beast tamers could subdue beasts much easier than normal cultivators, and they could even tame those magic beasts much faster than them and even have them follow them into battles, earning the title of beast tamers.

Of course also knew that there were such people in the Night star continent as well, and even in the Desolate East, but they were so few and far between that he never paid any attention to them.

However, in the central region, beast tamers weren't any less important than alchemists or formation masters.

High-level beast tamers were actually treated with the same importance by the powerful families and clans as well as the other forces in the central region, that everyone longed to become a beast tamer as well.

However, although beast tamers enjoyed a high status, it wasn't easy for someone to join their ranks.

Every beast tamer needed to have extensive knowledge of the magic beasts they have to deal with, including the magic beasts' personality traits and how aggressive or docile the beasts were, their natural habitat that they preferred to live, as well as the internal structure of the magic beast and even the prey that they liked to hunt the most, as well as the natural enemies that the magic beasts had.

At the same time, although alchemists also needed to have extensive knowledge of the magic beasts as well, the difference between them and beast tamers was that alchemists also needed to learn the traits of countless medicinal herbs as well as have a powerful spiritual strength that allowed them to mix the ingredients together and concoct their pills.

In comparison, although beast tamers didn't need a powerful spiritual strength, they needed a high combat strength if they wanted to subdue a magic beast.

And yet, although being an alchemist was considered to be a lot harder than being a beast tamer due to the amount of knowledge that the alchemists needed to know, being a beast tamer and having to deal with terrifying and powerful magic beasts was more dangerous in the end, making both professions enjoy an extremely high status throughout the central region.

Thus, it was extremely common for powerful families and clans to vie with each other in order to obtain the favor of powerful alchemists, formation masters and beast tamers alike.

After arriving at the eastern part of the city, Shun Long noticed that even if the inns and the shops weren't as luxurious as the shops that were closer to the center, they didn't seem to have much fewer customers than the top shops.

Finally, an hour later, he stopped in front of the entrance of a medium-sized inn named 'Blue Heaven inn'.

Shun Long knew that he was supposed to meet merchant Ying Gui here today if he wanted to join his caravan and join the Holy sect's mission.

Before entering the inn, Shun Long first took out his sect identifying token and infused his qi inside it, immediately activating the 'Memory recording formation'.

Then, without any delay, he stepped past the inn's entrance and entered the inn.

A fat, middle-aged woman with her hair tied up in a bun approached Shun Long the moment that he entered the inn, and as soon as she spotted his yellow-colored robes which indicated that he was an outer disciple of the Holy sect, she smiled brightly before asking

"Welcome young lord, can I help you?"

Since Shun Long seemed to be an outer disciple of the Holy sect and the woman knew that most disciples of the sect usually enjoyed an extremely high status everywhere within the Holy sect's territory, she didn't think that the young man in front of her had actually chosen her inn to stay and would most likely be here looking for someone.

Indeed, nodding his head at this woman whom he assumed was most likely the innkeeper, Shun Long then asked curiously

"Thank you, is merchant Ying Gui staying here?"

The woman nodded her head with the same smile on her face as her eyes lit up in realization after hearing Shun Long's question, before she pointed towards the depths of the inn and gestured for him to follow after her before she replied

"Of course. Senior Ying Gui is staying in his own courtyard. I was told that if a disciple of the Holy sect really arrived, I should lead you to his courtyard right away. Please follow me."

Without any delay, the young woman led Shun Long to Ying Gui's courtyard.

A couple of minutes later, Shun Long arrived in front of one of the largest courtyards in the inn, before the innkeeper's voice resounded in the air

"Senior Ying Gui, your guest has arrived."

The gates of the courtyard opened promptly a few moments later, as Shun Long saw a short, almost obese middle-aged man with a fat nose, big lips, and a greasy forehead, walking towards him with a smile on his face.

With just a glance, Shun Long easily guessed that this was probably the man who had registered the mission, Ying Gui.

His cultivation was at the rank 1 of the Spirit realm, which wasn't impressive for someone of his age, but it was still the norm for a merchant who mostly focused on traveling around instead of fighting or cultivating.

Behind him was a huge middle-aged man, whose height probably exceeded 2.5 meters(8.2ft), dressed in battle armor while a big, silver axe was strapped on his back.

The visual difference between Ying Gui and this man who was following behind him made the gigantic man look even more imposing, deterring anyone who would even think of approaching close to him.

Even though Shun Long had also grown taller in the past 4 years, his height that had reached 1.8m(5.10ft) made him look like a kid in front of this man as well.

However, as Ying Gui approached Shun Long with a smile on his face, the robust middle-aged man frowned when he saw him.