

Unfathomable 211

Chapter 211

“How does it look?”

“Think this is going to take a while, didn’t expect so many people to show up...”

Two people in United Element sect robes were talking with each other. They were blue with a sort of emblem attached to the shoulder part. This was something that indicated that they were elders and not disciples. There was also the violet color which was above this, it was reserved for core elders and disciples that were even above them in prestige.

One was a large fellow, quite rotund yet muscular. The robe he was wearing had to be custom made to fit around all of that mass. His name was Zhang Hong and he had a moderate amount of fame in the sect from the old days when the Zhang Clan was still going solo.

The other person was a lot more ordinary. His face was plain and his height might have been a bit short. He was also a person that lasted through the old times and his name was Zhang Bao.

The two young men were in one of the guard towers. They were looking down at the space in front of the large gate entrance to the New Spirit Spring City that was considered United Element sect territory. It was the first time the sect would be accepting new disciples into their midst.

Zhang Hong was holding a bag with some pastries and eating while squinting. What he saw was making him worry. Outside the city gates, there were hundreds of thousands, maybe even a million of people. Tents and impromptu made shelters had been set up even a month before the sect trials could take place. The latecomers were continuing to pour in and some of them even camped out in the forest that hadn’t been cut down.

Zhang Bao just gave out a sigh. He had managed to gain an elder’s position and was even an inner sect elder but this honor came with added responsibilities. Their first task would be to get the prospects through the trials and they had to screen everyone, there were no exceptions.

They weren’t the only blue robe elders tending to this. The more potential disciples appeared the more people the sect had to assign. They had to make sure that everything went smoothly. This wasn’t the only gate that was letting people come through, there were three others.

“Luckily the seniors designed that device, it will make this process more bearable...”

Bao nodded while looking at the swarm of people that were getting ready to be accepted through their gate.

“Yes, thank god we have the divine artifact department. We’ll be able to root out the unfit before they can enter the city.”

Hong nodded while munching on some sweets as the two people headed out of the tower, some other people in gray elder robes followed behind them.

After going down they were now at the large gate. It looked more like a medieval castle gate, it also had a draw bridge and iron bars that slammed down shut if they had too. It was also quite thick on the inside, you had to even go through another gate there that acted as a buffer and a checkpoint.

At the middle point there stood a strange looking machine. Similar looking treasure devices were placed at all the other gates. It was cylindrical in shape and there was an entrance from one side. It was connected by some thick wires to a console in a closed section. The people could see someone operating those consoles through a small window that was covered by glass. There were more than one of those devices here and the sect members were performing the last inspection before opening them up.

“Remember the training, move every potential disciple into the scanner artifact. The result will appear on the console and depending on it we will grant them entrance or have them leave. Only the ones chosen by this artifact will be allowed to participate in the rest of the trials.”

Zhang Bao delivered his short speech while moving to the side. He and his brother Hong were responsible for this gate, they would need to stay here and make sure that nothing went wrong. They had permission from the elders in higher positions to use force if anyone got out of line. They didn't think that anyone would be stupid enough to do this, but there could be a spy among the people and this device apparently could tell this as well.

“Let them in, everyone form a line towards each divine artifact scanner, the faster we finish the sooner you all can go home!”

The people behind the gate started shouting as the metal bars were lifted up into the air. No one dared to move in quite yet though. They waited for a person in a gray robe and with the united element sect's emblem to go out. He did a short speech explaining what would be happening.

“Please follow the instructions in an orderly fashion. If any fights break out, you will be removed forcefully...”

People just wanted to run through the gate and be done with everything. The people that were at the front had waited for a whole month, just sitting there and meditating. The first person moved forward and was instructed to go into some strange looking artifact. The doors slid open and he found himself in a well-lit space.

‘Please place your hand on the measuring orb.’

The man flinched after hearing a woman's voice call out to him. He looked around wondering if someone from outside was calling out to him but before he could ask an orb the size of a bowling ball popped out from some kind of hidden slot. It looked to be made from glass or some kind of crystal. The man didn't react and kept wondering what this was about, the woman's voice repeated the message again before he finally reached out to touch the sphere.

The moment he touched it a jolt of electricity ran through his body and he felt weak. He wasn't able to move a muscle or utter a word. A ray of light appeared above his head in a horizontal line and it started moving downwards. It moved through his entire body, scanning it and feeding that data to the console outside.

A woman from the sect looked at the console. It showed her various biometric data, height, weight, bone structure, and age. Every small detail was revealed thanks to this machine. The woman looked at the numbers and her eyebrows furrowed slightly. There were a few red indicators that didn't spell anything good for this potential disciple.

"Age 27... Qi Condensation 5th stage... Potential: low... Disposition: Orange..."

She did what she was trained to do and pressed a red button. The large capsule-like device where the man was in opened up. It had a little monitor above it that showed a 'Failed' message all in red.

"What, I failed? T-this is impossible!"

The man trembled in utter shock, he wasn't even able to take any kind of test of might or knowledge. He hadn't heard of any other sects doing things like this one, most of the time there would at least be some practical trials for the potential disciples to take. At most, they only tested your realm before allowing you to take a trial.

One member from the United Element sect stepped out to the man that started shouting and demanding to be let into the artifact again. He thought that he must have failed when he couldn't free himself from the scanner in time.

"You lied about your age, this is enough to disqualify you. Leave, or you will be forcefully removed."

The man from the sect activated his spiritual energy and suppressed the Qi condensation cultivator with his foundation establishment aura. The man that failed the test shrunk back and promptly left, other people looked at him with fear. This sect was using some kind of strange treasure that could even tell your age.

Before the next person could move forward Zhang Hong appeared in front of the gate. He activated his cultivation and shouted out.

"If you are above the age of 25 and still at Qi condensation, don't even bother. If you are discovered, you will be lashed ten times! Don't waste mine and the sects time!"

Some people flinched, the sect already announced the age restriction. But some people that were a year or two above 25 still tried coming here. They didn't think the sect would be that strenuous and if they made it through the tests they would probably forgive them. This was apparently not the case and they would be lashed in front of the crowd. They looked to the crafty looking sect members, they all looked tough and radiated power, getting lashed by them could be deadly.

"Continue with the screening. Next!"

The warning seemed to have worked as some of the people that were standing in the line moved back. Not all of them got discouraged though as after half an hour another person that was past the maximum age popped up. Zhang Hong gave the order and the man was pulled out to the front of the gate. He was lashed ten times, his back was now bruised and bloodied and he was tossed outside. They couldn't stop people from trying to sneak in but they had to be resolute with their rules.

The scanning continued and quite a bit of people were getting sent home. No one knew what the criteria of making it through were. There were a lot of people to go through and even though most of them were denied some made it in.

‘Passed’

A beautiful woman walked out of the scanner. Every man in the vicinity craned their necks to get a good look at this beauty. She was quite curvaceous and her choice of clothes made the men gulp. Zhang Bao and Hong couldn’t keep their eyes off the female either, besides her beauty there was also something else.

“Foundation establishment... late stage? Potential... high!”

The woman that was reading the scanner looked at the results. The woman here had better stats than a lot of the current sect members. She clearly was suited for an elder’s position and not for a disciple and she wasn’t even that old.

The woman was given the okay to go through, her shapely hips swayed side to side and you could see a whip-like weapon attached to her hip. There was a small gathering of people that made it through the strange artifact inside the city. Other sect members were greeting these people and showing them the way towards the next area.

This woman wouldn’t need to attend that though. People that were of high enough caliber could skip the trials altogether. She only needed to register with the sect and receive her robe. She would then go through a trial period while learning her duties as a senior.

She looked at an emblem that she was given, it had some kind of long number on it which was apparently something that identified her as a member of this sect. She could use this emblem to gather sect merit which she could trade in for various resources and even spirit stones.

“Interesting... He really made it big. Shouldn’t have let him escape that time...”

The woman gave out a sigh while mumbling to herself. She had managed to make it inside this sect, her new life was finally starting and she would be making the best of it. Her frowning face changed into a smirk as she tossed the emblem that looked like a small shield up into the air. She caught it right back before placing it on her shoulder just as the other people in the sect did.

“Time to start a new life!”

She was promised her own cultivation residence, she wasn’t sure if it would be a cave or a building quite yet. While she left other people were still getting analyzed. The lines moved forward slowly and more people were failing than passing. The testing would continue for multiple days as there were just too many people outside the city. The next part would be the practical trials that would force even more people to prematurely retire.

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“You can do it, senior brother!”

The leader from the Black Scar tribe that was previously at odds with Yang Rong walked into the scanner tube. The other members from his clan looked at him with anticipation. Rong wasn't far behind as he also was the first one to get into another measuring device that was standing to the side.

The machines took some time to process the information and the two stepped out into the open. A 'Passed' in green letters appeared over each of the cylindrical treasures as the two went out. Each one of them wanted to laugh at their enemy when they failed but both passed at the same time.

"Please move, there are other people waiting to take the test."

One of the members from the sect had to move in as Yang Rong kept glaring at the person from the Black Scar tribe. Both of them made it in so they headed inside the city, they stopped right outside the entrance and they waited for more of their tribe members to appear.

"I bet more of my brothers will pass than yours!"

"As if!"

Yang Rong replied while crossing his arms over one another and glancing back into the gate corridor. He had made it through the first test but he was still worried about his tribe members.

"Brother Rong I made it through"

Cheng Yun strutted out right after Yang Rong which caused the person from the Black Scar tribe to frown. They weren't the only three that made it through, each side ended up with 10 people passing which halved their numbers.

"This isn't the only trial, we will see who remains till the end you trash!"

The two enemy tribes slung some profanities at each other before walking away. They all finally looked into the city, it was a lot different from their old fashioned village. The houses here were mostly made from stone and bricks which was the biggest difference. The villages used wood for their houses and straw for the roofs.

The people that passed the initial scanning test weren't left to their own devices on the inside. Everyone was guided to the city square that was quite spacious. When Yun and Rong arrived they spotted something that they recognized.

"Isn't that?"

"Yes it is!"

It was a statue of the renowned Zhang Dong. He was standing gallantly in his tight robe while looking out into the distance. The statue was located in the middle of the city square and was in the middle of a large fountain. There were two other people standing next to him both on the sides while he was in the middle.

"I think that's the Senior's wife Elder Feng Liena."

"Yes and that man over there must be Huo Qiang, the three Elemental Lords!"

These three were considered the founding members of this sect. This came with some titles that they or the closest people to them thought of. Zhang Dong had garnered some titles like 'The Lord of Lightning.' Huo Qiang was the 'Tyrannical Inferno Fist' and Feng Liena was the 'Mistress of the Winds'.

Zhang Dong was sometimes also referred to as the 'Lightning Emperor' but that name was a bit problematic due to the Azure Emperor's existence. At most they could call him the 'Lightning King' otherwise they might offend people in that camp as they couldn't be two emperors in an empire.

The two youths looked around, there were many people here close to their age. They were standing or sitting while just waiting. The person who guided them here told them that they needed to stay here for now. They would be provided food but no shelter for the night.

"This is probably another test, we need to be resolute!"

They all nodded and sat down in their lotus positions. They would use this time to relax and wait. There were still many people waiting to get tested and it would probably take days until everyone was processed.

Everyone took their time to examine the surroundings they were in. This was the new Spirit Spring City that was built after the short war with the Dark Palm sect took place.

The buildings all looked sturdy and had an oriental feel to them. They mostly had hip roofs or xie shan roofs. The area they were waiting in had some parks with flowing water and small bridges outside the square. They could also see some larger pagoda-like structures in the distance sprinkled here and there. They were akin to modern-day skyscrapers and probably could house thousands of people in them.

This city was owned by the sect, but it wasn't populated by the sect members. They lived inside the sect compound that was further in. Even from here, they could see another wall that was twice as tall as the one outside the city. This was where the real sect resided and where they would be taking the trials.

Night came and everything became well lit. There were many soldiers patrolling the area that were mostly in Qi condensation but there were some others that were above it. These people had different uniforms, they were dark blue but not like the inner sect disciples.

"I think they are part of that 'police' unit."

One of the people from the Tatar Tribe spoke up, after the sect rebuilt the police force was reestablished. The only change being that it was now mostly populated by the people from the city. The top bras were made of outer sect disciples and the police chief was at least a core formation expert.

These people in those strange uniforms were all spread throughout the city. There was quite a bit of them out as they were worried that some of the trainees were going to cause some trouble. They were there to break up fights that might occur between the participants. One such fight was taking place right about now but it was swiftly resolved. The rowdy cultivators that couldn't follow the rules were promptly kicked out. This was enough to keep everyone else silent as they still wanted to make the cut.

It took another two days for all of the participants to get examined at the city gates. The moment everyone was at the square the fountain sculptures started rumbling. The eyes of the Sect Patriarch started glowing and his head started turning.

“Welcome potential brothers and sisters, we welcome you to this Trial!”

A beam of light shot out from the statue and produced a hologram of a beautiful woman. This wasn't one of the inferior holograms that the Zhang Clan made all those years ago. This one looked very lifelike. The person was a young woman in a violet robe and snow-like hair. Her characteristic hair color gave her away as most people knew that it was the fabled Zhang Xue.

“Fairy Xue!”

“Such beauty!”

“Is she really here?”

“H-how could this be?”

Everyone's mouth went agape after they saw the hologram projection of the beauty. She floated above and looked like a giant which made everyone realize that this wasn't probably her real body.

“Everyone here will have the chance of being accepted into our sect. The trials inside might be harsh on your body and soul, if you aren't willing to suffer through them you are free to leave.”

Everyone nodded and was unwilling to go back now, there was far too much at stake. A sect that could create such a treasure must have been quite powerful and resourceful. Everyone felt invigorated as they continued to listen to the beauty.

“Good, listen well. Our sect members will escort you to the trial area, please follow their instructions at all costs...”

The introduction continued for a while as Zhang Xue listed out some rules. The participants were to listen to the seniors and do whatever they demanded of them. They could quit at any time, they just needed to voice it out and then they would be removed outside. There wouldn't just be your regular strength-based tests. There would be other various ways you'd be allowed to get in, even with a lower realm than on average.

“That is all, please follow the instructions.”

The hologram fizzled out and turned into multiple colorful lights. Zhang Dong statue's eyes stopped glowing and they went back into looking into the distance.

“This is it, brothers, let us depart!”

“Yes!”

Everyone shouted in unison. The participants here were all hopeful, they had made it through the initial screening so there shouldn't be any problems on the inside. At least that is what they all thought.

They soon arrived at the large gate that would take them into the sect grounds. It was made out of white jade and it was absolutely massive. There were some intricate carvings on it depicting strange monsters like dragons, phoenixes, and qilins. The moment they arrived those doors started to part. As they parted everyone noticed that there was a single person right in the middle.

He had similar snow-white hair as the beauty that they had seen in the square. He was quite handsome and was even standing on a large green crystal sword. He flew forward while everyone watched, his ability of flight gave away his cultivation level to the people here. Everyone did the natural thing and clasped their hands while greeting this senior.

"I welcome you to the sect, please follow me inside."

He did a quick turn and moved inside. He was standing like a grand pillar with his hands behind his back and a stoic expression on his face. The crowd of people didn't ask any questions and quickly moved inside. Even they knew who this man was and it would spell death if they offended him in any shape or form.

From the one million people remained about one fifth. The screening process was quite brutal on these participants. This was still far too many people, the sect could at most accept up to a hundred thousand. This was their first recruitment drive so they would be a bit more lenient with their first new batch.

"Listen up!"

"This is the United Element Sect! We do not accept people without talent that can't offer the sect anything in return. We expect you to work and work hard! These tests will prepare you for your future life as a disciple, if you show us your worth, you will be rewarded!"

Zhang Liu performed a little introduction speech, listing a couple of things that Zhang Xue might have left out. He then pointed the participants in a direction, what they saw there shocked them quite a bit.

Past the gate was another wide-open space, walls were closing off the view of most of the buildings and there were many people in sect robes standing. This wasn't the most interesting part though, there were many circular looking contraptions lined out. It didn't take them long to figure out what they were for as one activated.

"Is that a teleportation gate?"

"My lord, this sect is really a grand sect!"

The people became abuzz with chatter. Teleportation technology was something that wasn't available to the regular clans spread throughout the land. Only powerful sects like the old Dark Palm sect were able to gather enough resources to build one. This cemented the United Elements sect's position in their hearts and made them crave their knowledge and strength even more.

"As you might have heard, combat trials aren't the only way of proving yourself. Alchemy, blacksmithing, healing, herb gathering, and many more. Each gate will take you to a different trial..."

Liu continued explaining, there were multiple trials and the participants had a limited time to pass them. They could abandon trials they were failing at and for instance, try pill creation instead of battling combat puppets. There were many ways of passing the tests and they needed to prove their worth by getting merit points.

"Each trial has a set number of merit points assigned to them if you manage to gather 100 points you will pass!"

The potential disciples looked at the teleportation gates that started activating one after another. Soon the blue light filled the entire area, the strange sound of those gates brought goosebumps of anticipation.

“The trial will commence now, I wish you luck, and may we see each other in the future!”

Zhang Liu nodded before taking off, the trial would have a time limit of a week and would probably bring down the number of participants to one-tenth of what it was before, maybe even lower.

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“Good day Patriarch.”

“Glory to the United Element sect!!”

Zhang Dong was walking through one of the corridors in the main sect sanctuary building. He nodded at the people that greeted him and continued forward. The sect recruitment trials were taking place at this very moment and he wanted to check upon them.

Five years had passed since this sect had been created. Everything had been built to completion before they decided on opening their doors. It took a bit longer than expected but he was also busy with his own personal business.

He was a married man and didn't want to waste away only cultivating for the rest of his life. He made sure to have a good relationship with Feng Liena and the two were seen walking hand in hand quite often. The culmination of their relationship finally resulted in an offspring, the same one he was now carrying in his arms.

The one-year-old was looking around, her eyes sparkling and green like emeralds. Her hair was similarly pink like her mother's but a lot lighter, this probably due to her father's hair being snow white. The Sect leader was known to bring his child out and the sect members never missed a beat to compliment him on his cute little daughter.

“Greetings Patriarch! I see little Xiu is looking as precious as ever!”

A couple of female cultivators were walking past and spotted their sect leader walking around. They instantly surrounded him, the small child being the talking point. With the years the people from the three clans managed to figure out Zhang Dong's true nature. Which was quite stoic and docile, he never got mad at anyone and didn't think much about face. He cared more about his family members than himself and would come to their defense more than towards his own.

He was also known as a doting father and as a good husband. Zhang Dong looked at the group of ladies and then to his cute daughter that was looking up to him with a smile. His face started twitching as he couldn't help but smile back, this didn't go unnoticed by the people from the sect.

“Yes! Isn't she the cutest!”

He gave the little girl a couple of gentle head pats but didn't offer her up to the group of women. He remembered his daughter crying a bit when someone pinched one of her cheeks. The sect member in question then tried to appease this fault by slitting his belly with a sword. To not have a similar

encounter he decided to just not let other people touch his child. This only made everyone think that he was being overprotective.

‘She is getting sleepy, I should go back. Better not have her sleeping outdoors.’

He took off with his daughter in his arms, the little child’s head started wobbling around but he stabilized it with his aura. They slowly flew through the air while taking in the sights. The 10 million large city that used to be Spirit Spring City was moved here along with all of its residents.

He always took in the wondrous sights of this world. The city was five times as big now and still growing, they were ever-expanding. The first sect trials were taking place and after they got more members they could finally start operating like a normal sect.

“Bwo bwaaa...”

The girl said while pointing at something in the distance. Zhang Dong just placed his hand on those pink locks and ruffled them up a bit. The girl protested and squirmed but nothing could save her from those head pats of fatherly love.

He descended towards his own residence that was floating right above the large castle structure. He didn’t want to stand out at first but he managed to recreate the technology that would allow their structures to float. His advisors said that it would be best if he set up his own residence above everyone else, it would show that he is there protecting everyone from above.

He finally relented and had his sect build him a pure white castle that was fit for a shogun. They planted cherry blossoms all over the place as his wife was quite fond of them. She also favored the more Japanese looking kimonos than what you would see the other people wearing. This was probably due to the secret texts of her clan having those types of esthetics.

He did finally get to see her secret stash after they got married as everything from the Feng Clan was put up into their sects mega vault. It housed quite a bit of their treasures and spirit stones. If a sect member had enough merit points he could head over to the treasury department and get a pass for an item.

The text as he had thought was drawn mangas. He didn’t recognize them or the art style. He came to the conclusion that they were drawn by someone that just as he came here from another world. The plotlines in those were your usual rom-com scenes with ecchi parts included. They were heavily focused on the tanned gyarus and ganguro girls for some reason. Each story had one as the main heroine and the male lead always went for them in the end.

He was sure that he wasn’t the only person that came from earth here so this wasn’t much of a shock anymore. The message that the person he heard after he touched the cube was still fresh on his mind. He wasn’t able to find any more of those places after going through the lands again. He didn’t venture outside his sect yet as he was afraid to leave his wife that was in labor.

“Good morning~”

He heard a sweet womanly voice from afar and looked down. There she was, his beautiful wife. She looked a bit rounder than usual and there was a reason for it, there was another little person growing in her belly. He already knew that it would be a boy this time around, even Feng Liena could scan herself with her spiritual sense to tell the gender.

This was quite the joyous moment for the whole sect as they had a legitimate heir to it. Zhang Dong was considered to be the king, little Xiu was the princess and this boy would be the crown prince. The people were quite surprised by both the children as it was quite rare for nascent soul cultivators to ever have children. One reason was that most of them were far too old for such things and the other one that birth was a lot harder on the woman's and the baby's body.

"Bwaba~"

The little girl called out and stretched her hands out towards her mom. Feng Liena just smiled and moved closer taking the child into her hands and giving her a big smooch on the cheek.

"Yes, it's your mommy."

Zhang Dong smiled slightly as he saw his wife rub her nose with his cute little daughter. He moved closer and placed his hand on her protruding belly. The time of the birth was close and it would probably put a strain on his wife.

"How are you feeling? Are you hungry? Are you sure you should be out here? You might catch a col..."

Before he could finish his sentence a finger was placed against his mouth. Feng Liena looked up to him with a smile on her face while chuckling.

"I'm fine, this child will be fine as well, I know my husband won't let anything bad happen to the both of us~"

Zhang Dong nodded while rubbing his neck. He was concerned about his family, finally he could relate to the adults who were responsible for their own children. Luckily with his healing abilities, he could help out during the childbirth, he had done it during the first one successfully and was planning on repeating this procedure.

"Now let us eat, the maids made dumplings and they roasted a spirit duck for my little glutton."

Feng Liena pinched the side of Zhang Dong's belly which made him flinch to the side. He wanted to return the favor but couldn't due to the baby in belly situation.

"Oh, you..."

The two-headed entered the house and started chatting. He gave his sleeping potato of a daughter to one of the maids that helped her into her baby bed. He still needed to check up on the sect test so after giving his wifey a smooch he flew outside. His destination, the command center, or at least that's what he liked to call it.

Without the child in hand, he was a lot faster, no one even spotted him whizzing by in silence. He appeared unannounced and opened the door and gave the people inside quite the scare as always.

"D-Donger please stop doing that, you'll make your grandfather suffer from cultivation backlash."

"Hah, like you'll die from something like that, heard your wife count increased again, maybe giving you that cultivation technique was a bad idea..."

Zhang Dong narrowed his eyes, he was looking at his grandfather that should be over 200 years old. The problem was that he looked like a 25-year-old man. After the library building was set up for the disciples he had put every technique that he knew in there, this along with his disguising technique that was now even improved into heavenly grade.

His old casanova of a grandfather had come across it and used it to sire even more children. Now no one could even prove that it was him sleeping around, his old wives were at an uproar. He had also progressed into the great circle of core formation with the help of his grandson and would probably make it into the nascent soul level soon. Zhang Dong was afraid to prolong this man's life as another thousand years could bring a million kids out of wedlock.

'Maybe when he dies half of the world's population will be related to him?'

He shook his head and went back to business. He looked at one of the screens that was in his command center of his. He had gone with a very futuristic look for it that made it look like some kind of command ship from old sci-fi shows.

On the monitor, he could see some people sitting in front of pill furnaces. They were sweating while creating pills as part of the trial. He watched as one pill furnace exploded and the explosion had to be contained by one of the judges. The person that had failed could continue but some of his merit points would be deducted each time they failed.

On another screen, he could see the puppet corridor where a person was trying to squeeze through it. The many puppet soldiers were keeping the youth away from reaching the destination but somehow he made it till the end. His body looked all bruised and battered but he looked to be satisfied with himself.

'Hm, not bad, that's a good expression he has.'

On another, there was a large pit of lava. This trial was also designed by him, he got the idea from the platformer games that he used to play. Some of the platforms were moving around it and you had to time your jumps correctly so you could get to the end. You could also show overwhelming physical ability and make it through some other way. The lava on the ground looked more dangerous than it was and the contestants wouldn't die if they fell.

He continued walking through the room while looking at the various tests. There was even a scoreboard showing the current contestants and how well they were doing. He didn't recognize the names of the people there but he would have to give the top three medals for good placements.

"Oh and this one is?"

He asked while one of the people answered.

"This is the waiting room for the people that passed on the merit of having a high cultivation."

Apparently the people here had good results from the scanner he designed. It scanned for potential, age, their alignment, and calculated if they would be a good fit for his honorable sect. There weren't that many people there, only twenty but they could be trained up if they decided to invest.

'Wait... what is she doing here...'

He raised his brow as he recognized someone, it was a woman he would probably never forget for the rest of his life. Her curves could give his wife a run for her money. His face twitched for a second she had already made it inside the sect, would his wife get mad if she knew this?

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Zhang Dong was looking at someone that he knew, someone that he had been intimate with. She was only a one night stand but it was an experience that he remembered all to this day. The woman's name was Lan Fei and she was a merchant that he saved the first time he arrived at Moonlight City.

She was apparently a candidate for an elder. This role became available after you reached the late stage of foundation establishment. In the lesser clans, this was already enough to be its leader. Here at most you would be allowed to be the lowest ranking senior. In the future core formation practitioners and up would only be allowed as elders. They still didn't have enough people for that jump.

He could see that Lan Fei took his advice to heart and was now using a whip weapon. She did have talent in that as well as high potential. This wasn't that important though, there were other thoughts going through his head.

'Uh... will Liena be angry if she meets a girl that I've been with before?'

He was a married man and already had kids. Normally having an ex-girlfriend wasn't a big deal but he wasn't sure how his lovely wife would react to this news. He didn't want to lie to her but he also didn't want to bring this information out into the open either.

"Oh interested in that one, Dong'er?"

Zhang Jin called out while glancing at the monitor that had the elder candidates in it. He had a somewhat similar face to Zhang Dong in his younger form but was slightly shorter.

"Gramps... keep it in the pants... you can't be doing this with our sect members. Think about your position..."

Zhang Dong wanted to give his grandfather a smack to the face. Ever since he got his hands on this transformation technique rumors started spreading. Some people even confused the old fart with him which got him in hot water with his wife. Luckily he only had to pull the old pervert over for an explanation and it ended at that. His wife trusted him enough and didn't make a fuss.

'Think I'm worrying too much...'

He thought to his child and to his wife. They had grown more fond of each other through the years and even started calling each other cute names. He was the hubby and she was the wifey.

"What, want her all for yourself?"

Zhang Dong narrowed his eyes and moved his fist up into the air. Zhang Jin just started laughing as he ran away acting as if he was a teenager.

"Anyway... Is everything proceeding as planned? Were there any issues with the artifacts?"

He asked while turning to the other sect members in the room. Everyone here was already used to how the sect leader and his grandfather interacted and were relaxed around the two. One of the people moved forward with some papers and started giving a report.

“Everything is proceeding as we prepared Patriarch, we will be concluding the trials with your speech as we agreed upon. The inauguration ceremony and the pledge is going to be held a day after we are finished with the trials.”

Zhang Dong nodded at the report, the sect member even mentioned a couple of people by name that were quite promising. He was only interested in the ceremony that was going to be held after they gathered the disciples as he had to make a speech. He had kind of grown accustomed to things like this by now but that didn't mean that he liked to do it.

The way this sect was handled was a bit unconventional. First, every disciple was required to take classes on things like reading and ethics. They had created large buildings that were similar to how schools back in his old world looked. The schools were separated and named differently to somehow produce an atmosphere of competition. There would also be regular competitions hosted between the schools, the ones that came out on top would be rewarded accordingly to their achievements.

He was slightly worried that some of the created schools would fall back behind the others. This was something unfortunate but it had to happen to give others motivation not to fail and to work harder.

There would be a four-year curriculum and then they would graduate becoming true disciples. The recruitment drive would then resume to get new students while the old ones started their work at the sect facilities. He deliberated on having a yearly infusion of new students to produce some upper and lower classmates. This would strain their budget too much as handling so many people each year was too much on this growing sect.

He remained in the command center and looked through the monitors some more. He could see people failing and succeeding. It was hard to watch the ones that didn't make it, the expressions of disappointment and sadness were plastered on their faces. Some were even breaking down into tears after getting removed from the trials.

He didn't like this part of his work. If he could he would accept everyone into his sect and form one big happy family. This wasn't feasible, his sect might have been a large faction but they still had limited resources. If they started sharing it with just anyone then they would just spread themselves too thin. He still needed to contend with the other powerful sects but he was slowly building up to a point where they wouldn't need to.

After going through the screens he decided to go check how things were going in the 'true' sect. Zhang Dong needed to perform a small task there. He was going find this task in his 'Dimensional Regalia' immortal treasure that had gone through a slight change.

He was the item's master so as long as he was within a ten-kilometer radius of it he could just teleport in. He didn't use that feature though as he wasn't in a rush, he just used what the other sect members did, a teleportation gate. These handy artifacts were now widely spread throughout the sect.

They had connected all the cities that were owned by them. Moonlight City, Red Lotus City, Qingliang City, and others. In reality, all of those large megalopolises that were situated in their land belonged to

them. The sect didn't invest in all of them though and only set up smaller outer sect bases in the ones at strategic locations.

The original Dark Palm sect area shrunk down and they only needed to contend with two other parties at the borders and not with three. This was not due to one of them having perished, no the Dragon gate sect just took more of the treasures instead of the land while the other two split it between them. The United Element sect also didn't have anyone bordering them from behind as that was where the forest area where spiritual energy was low.

He used one of the teleportation gates that were available to the elders. They all could be accessed and operated thanks to the shield like emblem that he had designed. It was similar to the ones that the new disciples would receive, each one acted as sort of a smart key. The higher your rank the more access to the sect's resources you would have. You could also spend merit points to gain temporary access for a limited time to some of the facilities. This was made so that the new disciples actually worked for their progress and not have everything handed to them on a silver platter.

The gate churned with spiritual energy and he disappeared into it. On the inside, there were already people there to greet him.

"Junior greets the Patriarch!"

There were guards placed on each teleportation station and just as any other job in the sect you would get merit points for performing this task. Zhang Dong went a bit capitalistic with his sect but it was working as the sect members were happy to work in exchange for resources. These being cultivation techniques as well as pills and combat weapons.

"At ease."

He nodded while going in. The gate that he walked through was located at a steep hill that overlooked the pocket dimension in the dimensional regalia. He was looking at the spot where the old dorm building stood before. The old building was renovated into a huge pagoda that was several stories high.

The air around here felt different, it was due to the siphoning formation that was absorbing most of the spiritual energy from the spirit vein. The Qi here was more comparable to what the largest sects at the very top were used to. The Dark Palm sect and the three other factions in the area could only dream of something like this.

The small floating island that was only a couple kilometers in diameter when he first found it had changed into a giant landmass. It was similar to the size of a continent from his old world and it was still growing. By his calculations, the treasure would become complete when this landmass fully formed and it would probably be the size of a regular planet. This was the true power of an immortal treasure, something on the scale of a small world!

There were no enemies here so the sect didn't need to build any defensive structures. Most of them were built to help the core disciples to train. They also kept most of their spirit herbs in here as the high concentration of Qi let them have bountiful harvests. The more energy the treasure absorbed the more lively it got.

Even without their help, trees, grass and all sorts of plants were beginning to grow. It was as if this small world was healing itself, gently regrowing what it had once lost. There were even some spirit beasts appearing here and there that could be used as food and wielded quite potent meat. They were friendly as well, they reacted to the orders of the one that was the master of this treasure, Zhang Dong's thoughts. He could even order them to attack the people here as if he was the master of this whole small world.

He wasn't here to watch the spirit herbs growing though, no he was here to spend some spirit points. The time had come to help one of his more trusted sect members to make the jump. He moved towards one of the larger hills in the distance, there he spotted four people waiting for him.

"Hey Senior Brother, you're finally here!"

Huo Qiang called out while waving at Zhang Dong. Next to him was another muscular man, his father Huo Gang. The man that butted heads with Zhang Dong looked a lot stronger than before and he was also radiating the aura of a nascent soul master. The two had long buried the hatchet.

The third person was a woman that looked to be about forty but her true age was a lot higher. Her name was Feng Suyin, she was the strongest senior beside his wife from the Feng Clan side and she was also at the nascent soul level. Her skin was light brown and she had the usual gyaru features along with the curves that they all had. Her hair was platinum-blond and the makeup was strange to look at.

He wasn't here for those three though, no he was here for the third person. A man that had stayed loyal to the Zhang Clan for quite some time, his name was Zhang Zhi. He had finally reached the pinnacle of core formation and was ready to take the next step towards the nascent soul level. He would be the first one besides him that had reached that level from the Zhang Clan, which for him was quite the honor.

"Greetings Patriarch!"

Zhang Zhi cupped his fists with vigor. He was sitting down in a lotus position with his chest bare. Before he would be allowed the step into the nascent soul he needed to get cleansed. Yes, Matt still used his system points to clear the impurities of the people that were close to going past the core formation level. This was one of the better uses he could spend all those passive points he was getting from his large territory.

"Well then, are you ready? This might feel a bit funny..."

The other three nascent soul elders chuckled to themselves as they all had gone through this cleansing. It was something that would be hard to forget, Zhang Zhi nodded, and soon Zhang Dong's hand was placed on the sitting man's back. Soon the inner core disciples that were training close to this spot could hear a man's sensual moans...

Chapter 215

"Ohhh...t-that f-feels..."

"Ahhh...P-patriarch..."

The strange stuttering sounds of a grown man were heard from atop of the mountain peak. Matt didn't like this part of the process of cleansing his sect members from impurities. If he performed it fast they

would feel an excruciating amount of pain. If he did it slow it wouldn't be bad, it was actually the reverse, it felt good.

He did it the first time with Feng Liena and thought that she might have exaggerated her reaction. After he went through Huo Qiang's father and the second member from the Feng Clan he noticed that she might have underperformed her reaction. This was why Zhang Zhi here was moaning out like a little girl while he had to pretend that he was doing something. The process of cleansing the impurities happened via his system window but he had to pretend that he was doing it himself.

"Sect L-leader n-no more, I can't..."

'It would be nice if you stopped shouting out my title while you are moaning dude...'

He thought to himself while Zhang Zhi's toes continued to curl up. The black ooze that he discharged had a really bad smell to it and he had to be in touching distance of it. Huo Gang and the lady from the Feng clan were looking at the moaning man with mixed expressions while remembering their own procedure. The only curious look was on Huo Qiang as his process was less than stellar and mostly painful.

Luckily this didn't take so long and he had learned from the time with his wifey that he should stand behind the targets. Having them sit down on the ground was also something he came up with so that they wouldn't lean on him.

"There, now go clean yourself up."

Zhang Dong pulled his palm back, it felt sticky and some black goop was on it. Zhang Zhi almost face planted to the ground during the procedure. Now he was just panting while blushing. Zhang Dong used a moist towelette to wipe his hands and then moved down from the peak. While Zhang Zhi was cultivating Huo Gang and Feng Suyin would act as dharma protectors. They would keep anyone away while their junior took that large step forward. This was a delicate process and if he got interrupted he could suffer cultivation regression or even die.

"With junior brother Zhi that will put us on even grounds with the other sects, don't you think so, senior brother Dong?"

Huo Qiang floated next to Zhang Dong and proclaimed while grinding wide. The man was a battle junky so if it was possible he would like to cause some trouble with the other sects and fight some of their nascent soul elders.

"With him we only have six nascent soul elders, if we go by what the Dark Palm sect had...We still fall short by four regular elders, that's not counting the hidden masters that they had."

Zhang Dong calculated that most of the sects had about ten official nascent soul seniors in their midst. These were only the ones that were active, each sect also had hidden monsters that could be stronger than the current sect master.

"That is true, but with our immortal cultivation manuals we won't have trouble trashing those old farts even two on one!"

Huo Qiang performed a smack to his chest as always. This was actually a good point, even though they had lower numbers their nascent soul elders were far stronger than a regular cultivator at the early stage of the nascent soul realm. They were more in line with a middle stage cultivator that practiced a regular heavenly grade cultivation method. They also didn't need to spend long to cultivate their soul-beasts either.

About five years had passed since the war with the Dark Palm sect. He had since made some progress and reached the middle stage a couple of months ago. Now even without his powered-up form, he could battle a regular late stage cultivator. If he fully let loose then he could contend with someone in the great circle.

Huo Qiang and Feng Liena had progressed further as well but both weren't quite there. Liena was about halfway into the middle stage while Qiang had progressed by about 70%. He could clearly see the numbers on his system screen so they had to be true. He attributed Liena's slower progress due to the pregnancies. He also gave her a little boost here and there and she was still behind Qiang.

"You might be right there brother Qiang but it would be better to not show them our fangs just yet. Appear weak when you are strong, and strong when you are weak. Always better to catch your enemy off guard otherwise, they might prepare some contingencies against us. We might suffer the same fate as those Dark Palm lunatics if we don't prepare well."

Matt was somewhat convinced that they should be able to at least tie if they went against one of those three sects. They had also increased the number of their core formation elders by improving all of their cultivation manuals all the way up to heaven grade. This was of course only for the ones that were core disciples and for some of the inner ones.

They just had to train them up as they were just falling behind the others far too much. This brought some trouble with corruption which they would have to clear up with time. Some of the new core formation experts were a bit drunk with power and sometimes caused trouble to other people outside the sect. Matt even had to create a special sect division of internal affairs to root out any corruption.

He gave the position of the chief there to the person that was most loyal to him, Zhang Zhi. His promotion would become official after he broke through to the nascent soul realm. Just as all the rest of the grand elders he possesses an immortal grade cultivation technique. The soul beast that would be formed from it would look like an evolved version of a water serpent. Similar to the one his clan used as a formation.

He had to spend some points he had gained to upgrade. Luckily the land that he was considered the owner of was a lot larger now. It encompassed millions of people now and brought in quite a lot of spirit points. The increase in cultivation level of his people also made his points jump up.

"If you say so, Senior brother..."

Huo Qiang slumped his shoulders forward, he was itching for a fight. Ever since he reached the nascent soul level he didn't have a chance to have a good fight. He was stuck patrolling the border regions and giving the opposing sects the stink eye.

"If you ever change your mind be sure to get me first! You can even activate one of these treasures!"

Qiang flicked the earring from his left ear lobe. It was another treasure that Matt had made, the teleportation feature was just far too good to not use. His elder members could be teleported into battle whenever he needed them. There were even waypoints in their territory that they could instantly appear in.

The other sects would probably be really surprised if they try sneaking in to only find themselves against every single nascent soul elder from the United Element sect. These treasures came in various shapes and sizes but they had a limit to them and needed time to recharge. He could activate them to bring his allies to him, or they could send out a signal when they were in distress to alert everyone. Then the others could just teleport to them.

“I’ll be sure to do that.”

Zhang Dong laughed at his overzealous friend. The only thing he was good at was fighting but he felt reassured that he had him on his side. Matt was planning to stop paying the tributes to the other sects soon as they were slowly becoming self-sufficient. A show of force might be required when the time came but he wanted to wait some more till they were done with the new recruits.

Zhang Dong inspected the rest of the Dimensional Regalia while Huo Qiang went back to training. Thanks to this place being so large he could let loose, his training ground had long turned into a desert riddled with holes and molten lava. Matt also had his own section to train in and cultivate, the lightning energies in that spot were quite volatile.

These pockets were rich in elemental energies which could even be used by the future disciples. Zhang Xue and Liu would be allowed to absorb the golden lighting that appeared there from time to time. Both of them were in the early stage of core formation now and their hair was fully white just like their master’s.

‘Nothing out of the ordinary here, I should get back home.’

There wasn’t much for him to do besides cultivating and making artifacts for the sect. His crafting system was able to copy weapons which just made him have less to do. Thanks to this he could flood the market with affordable goods but he made sure not to sell his wares to his enemies. Most of the weapons and armor that he created would be used by his sect disciples and the seniors.

Before he left he could see a cleaned Zhang Zhi sitting on a mountain peak. He was already back at it and cultivating. He vanished through the gate that he came through and flew right back home. His lovely wife and cute daughter were both waiting for him. The child was getting spoon-fed some baby food by one of their housemaids.

Her mother would probably like to perform this task but she was out of commission due to having quite a large bloated belly. When he arrived he was greeted by smiles, the worries of the day seemed to disappear the moment he saw the mother and daughter duo. Time flew by fast and it soon was nighttime. He watched his wife and child fall asleep before going out to get some fresh air.

He went out onto the balcony and looked off into the distance. The recruits were giving their all even now as there weren’t any breaks even for sleep.

‘I hope nothing goes wrong...’

He was holding onto a parchment. It had a golden seal on it and the symbol of the Dragon Gate sect. This sect was the friendliest one from the three, with the Limitless Sword Society one always acting rudely towards him and his sect.

The piece of paper was an invitation. He was to go into their territory and take part in a sort of banquet. It was something of a get together for the more powerful sects. Besides the three sects that he knew there would be others from all around. This was a good opportunity to gain allies but also to gain enemies. He knew how these people operated and just as there was a fool trying to start a fight with him at his wedding, someone could appear there.

He was in no position to show weakness now. He knew how strong he was and he was certain that he could beat any of those three Patriarchs in a one on one fight. He still wanted to avoid any animosity if it was possible but he couldn't show that his sect was weak. This part of this society didn't change, the strong got stronger and the weak got weaker. If push came to shove he might have to show some of his hand.

'Being the one making the big decisions is hard...'

"Hubby?"

He heard Feng Liena calling out to him. He turned his face and saw her concerned expression.

"Is something wrong?"

He moved over and gave the woman a smooch on the cheek before answering.

"Everything is fine, just don't want to leave the sect grounds while you are still in this condition."

He placed his hand on her belly which made Liena chuckle. He needed to leave for a few days but the protective formations along with the multiple nascent soul masters should be able to protect his pregnant wife.

"Everything will be fine, a certain worrying husband has created many defensive treasures for this wife of his."

She showed off a couple more rings and earrings that Zhang Dong had fashioned for her during these years and chuckled. The two smiled at each other and went back to bed, the two moons lit up the dark night. While they slept the disciple candidates continued to fight for their spot in the sect soon a new chapter in their life would be starting.

Chapter 216

Cheng Yun and Yang Rong were sprawled out on the hard rocky ground. They were panting, sweat was running down their foreheads and their robes were all ripped up. The continuous panting was only drowned out by the sound of the teleportation gates. The artifacts were active and produced a sort of humming noise.

The two youths weren't the only ones here. The tired bodies of other disciple candidates were similarly unmoving on the cold ground. The test had finally ended and now the only thing that was left was to count the merit points. Most of the people knew if they had already passed or not as there was a certain

scanning device that would show you the number you had. The contestant just needed to go over to it and have it scan their emblem to show the number of merits.

The two weren't quite sure, they were ejected from the last trial they were taking. They were frantically trying to pass and didn't use the scanner to tell how many merit points they had. The two had to settle on the combat and physical trials. There were various other ways of passing even with no fighting ability whatsoever.

There were trials where you could show your knowledge about formations. There were even ones that required you to read and write as that was a skill that wasn't that common in this world. The sect wasn't only looking for powerful fighters, they also needed intelligent prospects that were good at management. Strength with no reason behind it wasn't something this sect wanted.

A large gong sounded which indicated the end of the sect trials. The gates started to forcefully eject the participants that were still on the inside. Those areas where the tests were being held were specially built with an ejection feature. This was mostly for safety reasons as the people inside would be brought outside if their life signals dropped too low. If such a thing happened the contestants would be taken away into one of the clinics for a checkup. Matt didn't really want people to be dying when trying out for his sect.

After a long week of trials and tribulations, the potential disciples that had passed would finally become part of the sect. They would not become true disciples though, they would first have to go through a trial period in the sect academy. They would be given the title of trial disciples and could always fail during the years the school was active. They could at most be held back by a year there, if they didn't manage to progress they would be kicked out.

Zhang Liu came out once more on his flying sword. The sect could remotely tell who had passed and who had failed. The last thing that these youths had to do was just walk through another gate.

"Congratulations brothers and sisters, you have shown us the determination and worth of a United Element sect member! Now, anyone with at least a 100 merit points is allowed to walk through this door."

Zhang Liu pointed to another gate, it was similar to the first jade one but looked slightly bigger.

"The sect emblems that you have been given will allow you to access some parts of the sect. If you have enough then follow me inside, if you don't then please leave the sect premises."

Zhang Liu performed another short speech before moving before the last gate and demonstrating how everything worked. He just stood in front of the gate and a similar scanner like ray hit the emblem on his shoulder. The gate then slid open, it was apparently a giant jade sliding door and would open each time someone from the sect stepped forward.

After Zhang Liu vanished inside the tired people started walking up slowly. The first person that stepped forward was a handsome young man. His robe looked tidy and neat if you compared it to the ones the two youths were wearing from the Tatar tribe. The moment he arrived the gate slid open and he just walked in without stopping.

This handsome young man was the person with the highest number of merit points from this batch. He was soon followed by a ravishing beauty, the woman caught every man's eye as she also headed inside. She was second on the merit list and was followed by a large burly youth with a bare chest that finished at the third spot. The others just looked on flabbergasted by the looks of these people, everyone could tell that their cultivation was quite high for their age.

"Everyone please line up in an orderly fashion."

A person from the sect finally walked up and started organizing everything. The youths had stopped before the last hurdle and not everyone was willing to step forward. Everything moved slowly and some of the trial takers weren't allowed in as the door remained shut before them. They were excused to the side with a pat on the back, maybe they could try again in a couple of years if they weren't too old.

Cheng Yun and Yang Rong were the only two people to successfully make it through the door from the Tatar tribe. To their dismay the other clan they were feuding with had three people make it over to the other side. The only good part about this was that it was forbidden for sect disciples to fight with each other outside the sect.

It took some time for everyone to get past that gate, the logistics of moving all of these people inside and outside the sect were tremendous. The way they performed the trials might have to be evaluated in the future as most of it was just people waiting in lines.

On the other side the new trial disciples were greeted with quite the sight. There were various massive buildings standing everywhere but the most eye-catching was the giant castle right in the middle and then a smaller one floating right above it, radiating power. Before anything could happen further Zhang Dong had to do his speech.

The youths that had gone through the week-long trials were all tired so he wanted to do this fast. He was looking at the statistics, close to fifty thousand people had made it through the trials. This might have sounded like a large number but there were over a million candidates at the start. Huge sects tended to have millions of members spread throughout the lands that they owned, so when they added fifty thousand they still were much smaller than the other superpowers.

Those fifty thousand were all now in the square while being surrounded by some official sect members. Before they could ask what was happening everyone felt a massive spike in spiritual energy in the area. The Qi in the air started vibrating as if something big was coming. Everyone here started getting goosebumps before they looked into the air and there they finally saw him.

Zhang Dong was floating in the air and looking down at them. He was wearing a long gold and violet ceremonial robe. His sleeves were long and they along with the bottom of his robe gently floated in the wind. Not everyone recognized this man as the sect leader but some noticed that he had a striking resemblance to the statue that was in the city.

"Greeting to my United Element's Sect, you have managed to take your first step towards greatness. Keep this in mind though, this isn't the end of your struggles, it's just the beginning."

The man smirked a bit after completing that sentence, the potential disciples flinched as they didn't like the sound of that. Most of them barely scraped by to get those merit points and supposedly this wasn't the end.

“For now rest, you did well.”

Something strange happened as the floating person reached out forward with his hand. The space around became distorted and he started shining. The whole square where the young cultivators were standing in became bathed in rays of golden light. They were surprised, what was this powerful master doing? Soon they realized as the fatigue and wounds that they had suffered during the trials faded away.

Somehow this elder used his power to heal so many of them at once. For a powerful nascent soul cultivator restoring Qi to lower Qi condensation cultivators wasn't that difficult. Still, there were fifty thousand people here so he had to get the aid of the sect formations in the area to boost his power.

“You three did well !”

Zhang Dong waved his hand and three disciples that were the top of this class floated up. It was the handsome youths along with the icy beauty and the macho. The three that looked composed earlier were amazed by the display of power. They were all young masters from their own clans but they could do nothing about this powerful senior.

They found themselves up in the air about two hundred meters above everyone else. The white-haired man was directly in front of them. They all dropped their heads down as they bowed, directly looking into a powerful master's eyes was considered rood.

“Raise your heads, you did well young ones.”

“Fang Shu, 546 merit points you did well.”

The handsome youth with long black hair moved his head up. He saw the white-haired master wave his hand around and some kind of necklace appeared around his neck. It was golden and had the characters for the sect's name on it.

“Take this small gift, it will protect you from harm in the future.”

He noticed instantly that what he got was a mortal treasure of the highest quality. He dropped his head down and clasped his hands while thanking.

“Fang Shu thanks the honorable master for this gift.”

Zhang Dong just nodded and looked to the other two. The girl and muscular man had anticipation in their eyes after seeing what the person next to them got.

“Zhao Zhiruo 498 points...”

“Wen Xiufeng, 486 points...”

The two received silver pendants instead of a golden one that were of slightly lesser quality than what Fang Shu got. Matt at first wanted to make a bronze one but then decided to have two silver medals and a golden one instead. He gave the trio a little pep talk before sending them back to the ground. He started concluding everything, his speech was coming to an end.

“Follow the instructions of the elders, you will be guided to your new homes. Study hard young ones, show me that you are worthy of the resources the sect provides. If you are diligent our paths may intertwine again. For now, farewell my disciples. Live long, prosper, and may the Qi be with you.”

Zhang Dong finished up with his speech while the young disciples kept their eyes on him. Some were even unwilling to blink, this was the first time they laid their eyes on someone as mighty as this master. Everyone interpreted his words differently but a lot felt that the intertwining part meant that he might accept them as disciples if they proved themselves.

This gave everyone here another boost in confidence. They knew how ferocious this sect leader was, he even managed to go against five nascent soul cultivators at once and came out on top. The United Element sect members were sure to brag about their ‘Lightning Emperor’ whenever they had the chance.

Zhang Dong vanished from the spot he was standing and his aura that was giving everyone here goosebumps was also gone. The Qi condensation cultivators weren’t able to follow his movements at all as he just sped away back to his home. His pregnant wife was waiting for him and he left the busywork to his sect members. In times like these, they were the ones to shine.

He picked up the pace and even a sonic boom was heard in the distance as he left a couple of after images. His part in all of this had ended for the moment. He was still listed as the new school’s special teacher. If the students gathered enough points they could even receive some pointers from him. The number required was quite staggering though. The leftover youths were left waiting but soon their new life as trial disciples was going to start, a bright future ahead of them.

Chapter 217

The people left in the square started looking at each other while murmuring. Most of them were still stunned after getting healed by the nascent soul cultivator who was the sect leader. Their chatting got interrupted by a loud voice and the appearance of more people. These people were all wearing gray robes and were wearing emblems fit for the elder generation.

“Quiet down! You are all trial disciples now, you are not yet fit to be considered true disciples of the sect! You will now follow us to the dorms, this is where you will spend the next four years of your life.”

The man was an old-looking cultivator with an eyepatch that wasn’t able to cover the giant scar on his face. There were other members from the seniors with him and they were mostly composed of the three clan’s side family members. Those occupied the spots of the outer sect members while the main family branch was all composed of the inner sect members. Of course, everyone from them could be promoted to an inner sect elder if they worked hard. The reverse would also be possible and everyone could be demoted.

“Listen up, we don’t have the whole day. Your emblems are the most important item you could have in this sect. It stores all the information about you, your merit points, and also allows you to freely move through select parts of the sect...”

The man explained how the emblem they were carrying worked as a sort of key. It stored their data that was then saved in the sects database. The trial disciples had free access to some training facilities as well as the new dorms where they lived.

“Remember the 100 merit points you needed to pass the trials? Those points can be spent on cultivation resources.”

He gave them an explanation about the merit point system. The points weren't just for show, everyone was going to keep those 100 merit points. They would be able to spend them on various things as it was considered money around the sect. They would be provided basic living and food but if they wanted more they would need to use them.

There were various ways of earning merit points. The easiest one was attending classes and passing the tasks that were given by the teachers. Rising your cultivation level gave you points, getting through challenges or performing tasks for the current sect members was another one.

The biggest reason for gathering more points was pointed out here. If your points dropped to 0 you would be thrown out of the sect. If they ever fell so low you had a month's time to gather more in any way possible. You could even battle other disciples and get their merit points. This was the easiest way of getting them and the sect allowed friendly competition. This was also the best way to take care of the disputes between disciples.

The explanation was cut short as the elders needed to segregate the people into five schools. Each camp would start out with trial disciples of similar strengths all calculated through the scanners and the tests the participants went through. All of the academies would be mixed as their Patriarch didn't feel like splitting the male and female population of the sect would be a good idea. This was in opposition to the Feng side of the sect that liked keeping their Matriarchal ways.

“Listen well, the emblem you have received has a number on it.”

The elder said while people looked to the emblems that they were previously assigned. He also explained that they were required to never lose them. They all already knew that this little treasure would allow them to walk around the sect.

“You will be assigned to an academy by your number, look here.”

The man said while pointing to the side. The moment he did a large flat contraption started rising out from the ground. The youths had never seen anything like this before so they were quite curious.

It was about twenty meters wide and fifteen meters high and attached to some thick columns. Soon they figured out what this was for as the treasure flickered on with light and showed many numbers.

This was a giant screen that Zhang Dong had based on his old world's flat-screen TVs. It had brackets that split into five academies, each one had a name.

“Find your number on the list and then follow the path to your academy, the seniors there will guide you to the dorms. You will be spending at least four years there. You have two days to look through the academy before the lessons start.”

The introduction soon ended and the new disciples moved forward, curious what this 'academy' that they would be living was. The two youths from the Tatar tribe pushed forward to look as well, luck was on their side as they ended up in the same academy.

“The Primal Dragon academy? What a ferocious name, it must be the very best one!”

Yang Rong proclaimed while Cheng Yun nodded, the two youths were very excited. They were just itching to get their hands on the sects cultivation techniques. Their moment of happiness was interrupted by the three tribe members from the enemy village.

“Heh, Primal Dragon academy? My Regal Phoenix academy will crush your smelly Dragon academy!”

Enemies were already forming as these five people glared at each other. Fighting was forbidden for now though so they would have to wait. Slowly people started clearing the square and moving towards the academy grounds. These ‘academies’ were more akin to small cities as each one of them had to contain at least ten thousand disciples along with the teachers and other staff.

The two youths were guided into the dorm district of the academy. These buildings were quite plain to look at and were just built with simplicity in mind. They were rectangular in shape and were many stories high. Each floor could fit hundreds of disciples in small rooms meant for two people.

At the reception area, the new trial disciples had the choice of finding their own roommate or having the sect choose a random one for them. The sect leader was all for mixing people up but even he knew that it was better to keep the girl’s dorms and boy dorm rooms separate. He knew how the youths were and it would probably cause less of a headache if they didn’t live so close to each other.

The two Tatar tribe members decided to live together. The new room they received was quite small. There were two beds on each side with two dressers and two desks by a window through which they could see outside.

They were used to straw and wooden huts, so this building that was made from stone and bricks was already an upgrade. The beds that they received were also a lot softer. Both of them felt tired after all of those trials. The moment they sat down on their new beds to test them out, they both fell asleep instantly.

The

Announcement

that the new sect’s recruitment drive had ended reached outside. From the million or so people only about fifty thousand remained. This wasn’t actually such a lower number as some other sects accepted far fewer disciples. This was due to them already having millions of disciples and thousands of elders in their camp.

Some of the people thought that the new powerhouse would accept more people under their umbrella. They clearly needed more people below the nascent soul level. Apparently, this sect was going for both quantity and quality.

While the youths were resting the sect leader was back at his home. His beautiful wife and his child were both fast asleep so he had time to ponder the next big event. This was him leaving the sect to attend some kind of gathering of the more powerful sects.

He already knew the structure of this empire by this point. Even though sects like the Dragon Gate Sect seemed like real powerhouses, they weren’t. They were only considered middle-sized sects when pitted against the real titans.

There weren't really that many that were considered 'large' though. You could divide them into three camps. The first one was the Long Clan with the Azure Emperor at the helm of it. It might have been a clan and not a sect but they were gigantic with many branching side families. They were considered the strongest power in this empire.

Next were the two giant sects that kept them in line, the first one was called the Soaring Dragon Sect and the other the Blood Sabre sect. These factions were similar in power to each other and slightly lagging behind the Long Clan.

This trinity of giants were keeping each other in check. None of them could act against the other in fear of getting wiped out. If one of them was seen to be weak the other two factions would swiftly finish them off.

The trust between the three was paper-thin. Neither of the three powers was willing to risk making a deal with the others. They knew that they could get backstabbed in the middle of the fight. They were all greedy and wanted to be the sole ruler of the whole empire but had to divide it between each other. The Azure Emperor was deemed the strongest cultivator but even he didn't have control over the whole empire.

There was also another reason why these three weren't willing to fight. This wasn't the only country on this giant planet. There were other kingdoms and similar empires bordering with them. If one of the giants was slain and their cultivators vanished then the other superpowers could try their luck and invade.

So a shaky period of peace was now in place. Everyone could be attacked at any moment and no one knew when war would break out. The battles mostly happened at the core formation level with the nascent soul powerhouses rarely making an appearance. At least not the ones that were part of the big three.

Battles between the middle-sized sects were still ongoing but unless you were someone at the very top of the nascent soul, you weren't a problem in those giants' eyes. Matt didn't know if there existed anyone at the immortal realm of power.

His own cultivation method would bring him to the very top, but there were no upgrades before he reached the great circle. He felt like it was a bit odd that no one had gotten to this level yet. If he managed to do it, then he would probably be considered this king of this giant planet but that was something quite distant.

He had also studied some of the texts that Feng Liena gave him. The ancestor that lived in that clan had long left this place and there were some records. He believed that they had ascended to that fabled immortal realm. The problem was that there wasn't any information about that, it was as if they just vanished.

This made him think about them moving on to another realm like in some of the works of fiction that he read. If he reached the immortal realm, would he also get ejected from this world and forced to live in another one?

This was something he feared, he didn't really want to leave his place. He had his sect here as well as his wife and kids. He wasn't a person born here and he didn't really care about being the strongest person

in the world. He also didn't mind staying here while not reaching the pinnacle of cultivation like most of the other cultivators that lived here. He already had a hard time believing the fact that he would live for a thousand years with his current cultivation level.

'I should stop worrying about those things. I need to look at the current problem first. Who should I bring together with me...'

Zhang Dong thought about the gathering that he would be supposed to attend to. He needed to take some people with him as he couldn't just show up alone. This was an event where sects were supposed to show off their power. Normally he would go there with his most powerful members and disciples. This was something he was afraid of.

'I'll need to change the scenario a bit here...'

He smiled a bit as he was going to try not to stand out, he knew how gatherings like those always ended. Someone always got offended and fights broke out, he just needed to take the right people with him so that they didn't stand out too much...

Chapter 218

Zhang Kuo looked into the communication jade. The sect leader had sent him an order to gather up people for the next event. They were to go to the sect gathering with the largest battleship that they had. This was the normal part, the odd one was the characteristics of the members that he should gather for it.

There was a list of the attributes that these people from the sect should have. One was that they were supposed to be old, the Patriarch even added that if they were ugly it would be a big boon. None of his disciples were to come with him or from the junior generation. They were all supposed to be composed of the senior generation elders. Even the people doing chores were supposed to all be old and not good on the eye.

Zhang Jin was banned from going and Feng Liena's grandmother would be coming with him instead. There were actually a lot of elders from the Feng Clan, Zhang Dong even mentioned that it would be best if they had a lot of makeup on and really dark skin. He even added that the people coming should be good at etiquette and not standing out.

Zhang Kuo scratched his head and just shrugged. He was already used to his sect leader's quirky ways so he wouldn't even ask about an explanation. He was already a core formation senior as well so he knew that if he continued working hard that maybe he would make it into the next realm. There were already other people that did it before him, so this wasn't just a pipe dream.

While Kuo was working hard on his future, Zhang Dong was sitting in his own room and cultivating. He was thinking about the sect get together and how he could evade it going wrong. He already knew that things tended to go astray where they could.

'Okay, what else... I eliminated all the good looking people from the equation so I shouldn't run into any horny young masters...'

The first thing he did was forbid people like Zhang Xue to even set foot in the flying ship. He knew that her beauty would get the young lords all riled up. They would probably start fighting over her hand in marriage almost instantly.

He also couldn't bring her brother along, that fool had a knack for getting in trouble as well. He would jump to defend anyone he could, if he saw someone in distress he would try to protect them. Fights were sure to break out with other disciples due to this. He would also be the first one to defend his master, Matt feared that if his name was tarnished there Liu would want to face the opposition with a sword in hand.

His plan of action was to bring only old farts that were nice and docile. They would be the types that would drop their head and apologize if there was a chance of avoiding a fight. They would be far too old and crafty to engage in combat with another sect. He needed people experienced in diplomacy instead of warriors even though this would make his sect seem weaker.

'Well, they are only there to accompany me, the whole thing should only take a couple of days anyway.'

He certainly couldn't take his wife or daughter with him. Feng Liena was the biggest problem, when she would be giving birth was a big unknown. Pregnancies at the nascent soul level mostly took longer than regular births. His daughter only came out after a full year and he had to support both of them with his golden healing aura during the whole process.

If he didn't have to go he would stay but he was afraid to send Huo Qiang or any of the other masters instead. He could tell that they were all itching for a fight after achieving a breakthrough. This was something he needed to do on his own as he at least wanted to keep this fake peace until his son was born.

The city was well protected and with the spirit vein as a power source, it would last for quite some time against a middle sized sect. The number of defensive cannons was also increased as well as a whole legion of beasts and beast tamers to aid. He didn't need to fear about his city falling unless the sects made another pact and attacked altogether.

'Maybe I can strike a deal with that Dragon Gate sect master, he seemed a bit more sensible than the other two.'

He paced through his room, he had gotten a bit older and was even past his mid-thirties. The first few years were the most hectic but after establishing the sect everything had somehow settled down.

Thanks to his system he was able to identify any spies that tried sneaking in here, even through these five years the sects had never really given up. There were even several people from their camp during the trials. They were promptly apprehended and sent down to the mines along with the others. He would not refuse free labor if it was offered, maybe in the future, they could be set free.

The time of the departure was in a couple of days and his people were already packing up. He was a guest at that banquet but he was still required to bring a gift or two. He didn't want to reach far into his pockets but he still needed to bring something with him. This something would mostly be pills that aided cultivation. He also had some other goodies packed if he felt that it was worthwhile to share them.

He gave out a sigh after finishing up with all the plans. He was worried, this life as a leader and a family man wasn't the easiest. Still, he couldn't grab his wife and kids and fly away or give the sect over to another person. This whole enterprise was his creation, without the system backing it up it might crumble into dust within a couple of years.

He soon went to bed while worrying. Time flew by fast as the sect members got the large flying ship ready. This was something that took over a year to build and was the sect's crown achievement.

It wasn't made from wood as all the other ships, no it was entirely made of spirit metals. It also didn't have the usual galleon design as the old Zhang Clan ships that Zhang Dong had used before. This one looked more like a modern capital ship, an aircraft carrier in particular.

Zhang Dong had designed it while having a certain mobile command center in mind. It didn't have any sails to pick up wind but it had two giant engines on each side, enclosed in more metal. It looked like a giant flying drone with many cannons plastered on top of its flight deck.

There were even some flying artifacts that could be operated by the crew inside that had the power of core formation masters. The whole giant mobile fortress was a heaven graded treasure and could even go against multiple nascent soul cultivators at once. It even possessed a hidden giant cannon that, if charged, could even harm a cultivator at the great circle level.

Matt decided on bringing this oversized flying fortress with him into enemy territory. He mostly did it as a backup plan if something went wrong. When he was in the captain's chair he could infuse his own spiritual energy into it and improve on its power. He could even dump his system points into it to repair some of the parts like the engines as they were made in his crafting abode and worked on the system's rules.

The only downside of bringing it with him was that the other sects would see some of his true strength. That could also be a good opportunity to show off though, he didn't want to start any conflicts but he wasn't afraid. If they came asking for trouble he would be sure to act accordingly. He hoped that masking the ship as a low heaven grade treasure would be enough for the other sects to only see it as a large toy instead of a risk.

The day of departure finally arrived and Zhang Dong had to kiss his daughter and wife goodbye. Just as he had planned beside the trained ship crewmembers the rest of the delegation was composed of grandpas and grandmas that weren't very pleasing to the eye.

Zhang Dong nodded at Zhang Kuo who did a great job in picking these ugly cultivators, some of them were even overweight. There was also another reason he wanted them to be old. He wouldn't feel as bad if one of them offended a powerful sect member and got smacked. If it was one of his disciples he would need to defend them but if it was some random old guy that he didn't know, he could just let him bow a couple of times instead. The loss to face if he didn't intervene would be much lower then.

'Didn't think I'd be thinking about 'face' this much...'

His point of view had slightly shifted to fit the people in this world. Still, he mostly felt like his core values were there. He wouldn't actually let any of these old fogies get hurt too much and he believed that they were all smart enough to not get into trouble. He sure hoped that a weirdo like that guy from

the Dark Palm sect wouldn't appear this time around. He really didn't want to defend Feng Maling from soul hungry demonic cultivators again.

"Greetings Patriarch, it's an honor to make this journey with you."

"Granny Ling, you can just call me by my name."

Zhang Dong waved his hand as the old woman was still very formal around him. He had married her granddaughter and now treated her as his own grandmother. She on the other hand didn't want to drop the act only doing it when his wife or his daughter was close. "I mustn't sect leader, what will the other sect members think!"

She looked at the other old men and women that were coming along. They were mostly here for their linguistic skills as all were crafty with politics. Their job was to try to weasel in some connections, maybe get a good deal on some crafting resources. The sect was in a spot with a lot of spiritual energy but they didn't really have many resources. They had to mostly plant their own spirit herbs which took time and space. Opening trade routes with the middle-sized sects would be profitable for all people involved.

"Well, the trip shouldn't take that long but we will have to go slower once we are in their territory to keep up appearance."

Feng Maling nodded as she knew what Zhang Dong meant. This ship was massive but it was also very fast, a lot faster than what a low grade heavenly artifact should be. To keep appearances they needed to slow down while in enemy territory.

"Okay everyone, get to your stations and move out!"

Zhang Dong gave the order for departure after everything was in place. The trip to the border wouldn't take more than a day but after that, he wasn't sure. They were supposed to meet someone there that would escort them to the meeting place. Even if they were ambushed with the firepower this ship had they should be able to make an escape. He could also summon his grand elders to aid him if the need arose.

While the sect leader was leaving for the banquet the new trial disciples were getting ready to take their first lessons. They had switched to gray robes and were now all in the same color scheme. Their life would consist of attending theoretical lessons as well as practical lessons. Depending on their skills they could sign up for more classes like alchemy or crafting. Everything was slowly moving forward as the sect continued to grow but would things remain peaceful now one knew.

Chapter 219

Zhang Dong was standing above the command deck just looking out into the distance. The giant flying vessel produced a loud buzzing noise as it sped through the United Element sect's territory. Any spiritual beast that noticed the enormous flying object took off running or buried itself deep underground out of fear.

The people that witnessed the hovering behemoths just stood there with mouths agape. They vaguely saw a huge shape pushing through the clouds. They could barely make out giant letters that read 'Argonaut 1' on the side of it. The only thing snapping them back into reality was the booming noise of the sound barrier being broken.

The marvel of engineering luckily didn't produce many hurricane-like winds even though it was going this fast. The artifact possessed the function to absorb the wind energies before they got too far outside. This allowed the ship to fly without causing much residual destruction to the scenery outside. Without this safeguard, the ship when going at full speed would cause massive destruction to the environment around it. With this in place, it was just uncomfortably loud.

The behemoth of a flying vessel split the sky apart as it pushed onwards. The destination was a gathering spot that was between the borders of two sects. The same two sects that worked to take over this land. It was in a city that he had visited before its name Jade Grass City.

The city was luckily spared from most of the fighting as it was only a teleportation hub for that sect. It was still surrounded by green herbs like before and was used for trade. The United Element sect didn't really have its eyes on something trifling like this anymore.

When they were separate clans herbs like this would make their mouth water. Now on the other hand they had superior greenery in their own secret ground. They could even plant better ones outside and with the help of the spirit vein, they grew large and bountiful.

"We will be arriving at the meeting place soon, lower the engine's power. Activate the stabilizers and prepare for the arrival."

One of the people in the command center of the ship announced. The inside of this area looked similar to something out of a sci-fi show. The captain was seated in the middle and there was a giant monitor in front through which he could see various indicators and shapes.

There were six other people in there with him, some were responsible for directly flying the ship. Some were keeping watch over the engines and making sure that everything was in the green. Others were responsible for the defense and attack modules of this high tech ship. With a couple of button clicks, they could activate shields and even fire off the cannons.

Zhang Dong was outside and standing at the front of the ship. During his life as a cultivator, he had learned to live through long waiting times. Cultivation was all about just sitting down and going into a trance to progress. He was now able to successfully tune out the outside world and be one with nature. This allowed him to focus on other things during this journey, mostly about how he should avoid getting into trouble.

Some people might wonder why he was bringing over a giant flying fortress of a ship here. He would be sticking out as a sore thumb. This wasn't true as the other sects would be arriving in a similar fashion. This was the time to show off and not hide. If he arrived with less firepower the other sects would see it as a weakness.

He couldn't overdo it though and arrived with ten of those and all of his grand elders. That would be seen as a blatant declaration of war. He also needed the ship as a backup plan if something went wrong. Mostly to defend his own people who would be able to use it to defend themselves. He wasn't that worried about himself as he was confident in his skills.

He had gone through years of training, he sparred against Huo Qiang and his father two on one quite often. He had improved on his old techniques and trained them to the pinnacle of power. His swordsmanship had also improved and he had crafted himself a nice high grade heaven sword to go with

it. He had many contingencies and could even escape with the help of his teleportation treasures or his system that was impossible to block out.

Zhang Dong gave out a small sigh while scanning the city for other nascent soul masters. He could feel three people that fit that realm, they weren't all that strong but one of them seemed familiar. This person was in a different location than the other two and wasn't part of the welcoming committee.

It was two nascent soul masters hovering in the air. They weren't just there alone, they had six flying ships around them. Core formation experts were also further back on their flying swords. He could also feel many other people looking at the small group of elites waiting for someone. The people were probably curious why so many powerful cultivators here and soon they would find out.

The United Element flying ship started slowing down and descended from the clouds. The people that were welcoming this new sect were surprised at the way this flying vessel looked. The fluctuations this strange looking artifact was giving off made them rank it as a heaven grade at the lower end of the spectrum.

The two nascent soul masters that were waiting here were from the two sects that bordered Zhang Dong's faction. One was from the Demon Subduing Sect and the other one from the Limitless Sword Society. The United Element sect's Patriarch memory was impeccable at this point so he remembered these two. They were part of the ones that he scared away all those years ago but the person from the third sect was missing.

They were on the weaker spectrum of a nascent soul cultivator. This told Matt that he wasn't taken that seriously as always. A member from the Dragon Gate sect was missing as that sect didn't own any land here anymore. They had decided to let the other two fight over it while they took their share of treasures and spirit stones from the defeated Dark Palm sect.

The ship finally came to a stop, its giant engines that were humming loudly while exuding energy started to quiet down. The hunk of metal floated in front of the city while dwarfing the six ships opposite it. The cultivators looked at it with interest as they had never seen one quite like it. The four engines that made it hover were quite novel and interesting to some of these masters.

Before they could examine it further Zhang Dong decided to move out. The sooner he did it the faster this farce would be over with. He just wanted to go there, shake some hands and return home to his family. He didn't really care about making a good impression that much he wanted to remain neutral for now.

The other two nascent soul elders spotted him descending and flinched. They still remembered this young man from all those years before. He was already strong and overbearing then but he seemed to have become even stronger. The relationship between the sects here was shaky on all fronts.

The Limitless Sword Society and the United Element Sect's relationship was the worst from them all. After the disgraceful thing that one of the young masters did during Zhang Dong's wedding, it sunk really low. Even though he himself didn't care about it anymore this wasn't the same for his people.

Everyone took things like honor, pride, and face very seriously. This sect had directly disrespected their mighty Patriarch. They wouldn't let it slide even less as they considered Zhang Dong to be their hero that they cherished and looked up to. The situation was slowly becoming a powder keg, fighting had been avoided for now but the two sects didn't see eye to eye.

The Demon Subduing Sect on the other hand was still neutral. There wasn't really much to say about them. They didn't interfere much but they didn't show any sign of wanting to work together either. They were considered less of a threat than the overzealous sword nuts from the society.

The last faction that was the Dragon Gate Sect was the most friendly one. Probably if they didn't invite Zhang Dong directly he wouldn't have come here. They vouched for him which meant that they wanted to be friendly. It was a nice gesture from their side but due to this, he had to come here to mingle.

"The Demon Subduing Sect sends its greetings."

The elder clasped his hands as a greeting and Zhang Dong returned the gesture.

"Yes, welcome."

The man from the Limitless Sword Society just nodded with a less than stellar greeting and Zhang Dong just emulated the response. The three looked at each other without saying anything for a moment. It was clear that they were feeling each other out while scanning with their spiritual senses. The two older men realized that the younger man in front of them was still above them. They couldn't get a read on his true power at all, he was like a piece of unknown metal just floating there.

"Shouldn't we be going?"

Zhang Dong asked after he noticed the two men looking slightly apprehensive about meeting him.

"Ah, yes we should go, there is still a long way ahead of us..."

The two nodded, they were only here to escort the United Element's Patriarch to the banquet location. They weren't there to debate or even invite him for tea. Soon everyone flew back to their ships before leaving yet again. The third nascent soul master didn't appear as he remained in the city as he always did.

The two sects moved their ships around the one from the United Element sect and they continued forward. They would be escorting them in name but in reality, they just wanted to make sure that Zhang Dong and his people don't wander off on their own in their territory.

Each sect had three flying ships of each own, they all had their unique designs. The ships were clearly manufactured by various shipwrights and had various sails and color schemes. The only thing that showed where they originated from was the flag on the mast.

Matt didn't care that much he just wanted to get this over with. The sooner they got there the sooner he could return home and pinch his daughter's chubby cheeks. The six smaller ships looked like flies buzzing around the massive iron behemoth of an aircraft carrier. The people from the other sects looked at the huge artifact with envy as they continued with their journey.

The city gathering place where all of these massive sects would be gathering was neutral ground. It was a place that Matt knew off and he even met one of its members a few years ago. One of those members was the person residing in Jade Grass City but it wasn't the same person as before. This faction was called the Yinglong Pavilion.

They were a small elite group of merchants that weren't actually part of any sect. Though trading they had amassed a fortune and were even close in strength to the big three. They kept out of politics as making a profit was their religion.

The banquet that was going to take place in a few days would be in their main city. It was called Rain Dragon City and was situated in a nice spot where lots of spiritual energy could be found. It was similar to New Spirit Spring City as it was a closed fortress, no one could get in or out without the Yinglong Pavilion's approval.

The speed that they were traveling towards this destination was a lot slower now as Zhang Dong and his people needed to keep up appearances. Even an act of going faster than the escort could be seen as a declaration of war and that they were up to no good. Soon the meeting with the powerhouses would commence, what it had in store for the new sect would have to be seen.

Chapter 220

A gong resounded throughout the area signaling that it was 7 am. The sun was slowly rising and some spirit beasts howled out along with the loud gong sound. From two beds two people rose up to attention, they were two youths just in their underwear.

The two looked at each other with quivering eyes. They had been unable to sleep during the night as it was finally happening. The time to begin their new life as United Element Sect's trial disciples.

The loud sound that sounded like a huge gong was there to help the youths wake up in the morning. They still had an hour to get ready so there was supposedly enough time. The two rolled out of their beds and landed on the floor and shook themselves awake.

"Brother Rong... it's finally time!"

"Yes brother Yun, we will finally become elite cultivators!"

The two had sparkles in their eyes. They were already seeing themselves flying on large swords just like the one their senior brother Zhang Liu had. They quickly put on their gray robes and made sure that their emblems were in place. The robes had the name of the sect written down in a larger circle on their backs.

To the side of it, there was a smaller circle with a drawing of a dragon which indicated the academy they were from. There were five of them and these two belonged to the Primal Dragon academy. Each one had about ten thousand disciples in it, which made things a bit hectic.

After inspecting their clothes they charged out of their dorm room to go outside. They weren't the only people going out as the moment they left their room they could see many people in the halls. Due to the sheer number of them, they even had to wait before they could squeeze out through one of the exit doors.

"Next time we should go out of the window..."

Cheng Yun commented after he saw some other disciples using that method instead. Everyone was rushing to the first assembly. This would be their first lesson as new disciples and no one wanted to be late. Even though it was only a couple minutes after 7 am the young people swarmed the meeting place.

There were far too many people to teach in small classrooms here. Zhang Dong decided to go with the open-air option and place a large stage in one area of the academy ground. The teacher would do his lectures there with the aid of some large screens and a sound system. The disciples would have to either stand or sit while listening.

This was a free lecture, everyone was able to participate here at no cost. If the youths wanted more help from a senior member they would have to use their merit points. This wasn't limited to the teachers, even disciples could teach other disciples while trading merit points. There were just some basic lessons that everyone had to get through.

The two youths from the Tatar tribe arrived with everyone else and they were somewhere in the middle of the crowd. There was enough space for everyone to stand and not have to be shoulder to shoulder. The two looked around and Yang Rong gave Cheng Yun a nudge with his elbow to get his attention.

"What is it, brother?"

"There look, isn't that the senior sister that was second?"

Cheng Yun narrowed his eyes and looked in the direction that Yang Rong was pointing at. There she was, an icy beauty with jade-like skin and long black hair. The two didn't see her that well as everyone was bowing as the sect leader was doing his speech.

"Such beauty... "

The two just continued to stare. The girls in their village weren't ugly or anything but compared to this young woman they were like frogs. They were smitten by Zhang Xue's hologram already but after seeing a real jade beauty from close up they were even more excited.

"She has to be my Daoist partner, I have decided!"

Yang Rong drooled slightly before mustering up some courage to walk forward. Cheng Yun was flabbergasted by his brother's attitude. How could he just approach such a beauty, did this man know no fear?

He saw him in a new light and just watched as he strutted over with big strides. There was a small problem though, before he could approach her someone moved to block his path. Cheng Yun noticed something, the beauty seemed to be standing alone but that wasn't really the case. She was surrounded by many other people that were forming a shield and keeping everyone away.

Cheng Yun continued watching and just saw his brother shouting at one of the youths that blocked his way. In no time two more appeared to block his approach, Yang Rong seemed resolute as he tried forcing his way through. To his surprise, the group of people were all above his realm and easily pushed him back.

Fighting was forbidden by the sect and this was probably the only reason why the group of bodyguards didn't give Yang Rong a good thrashing. After a few well-chosen words he returned to where Cheng Yun was standing. The youth just chuckled while Yang Rong's whole face scrunched up.

"Did you make her your Daoist partner, brother Rong?"

Cheng Yun sniggered while some other people did the same. The young woman was an eye-pleaser so quite a bit of the other disciples saw the whole exchange.

“What do you mean! This is just a small setback, this Yang Rong will never give up!”

The young man smacked his chest with a lot of force before announcing his convictions. The other people who heard this didn’t know if they should cheer or laugh. The woman he was after looked like a lot of trouble. She was clearly some young missy from a stronger clan, the youth that was from a low tribe had no chance with someone like that.

At least that was what the smirking onlookers were thinking, the young tribe member was pumped up. Love was never easy, he just needed to impress the lady enough to catch her attention and then her adoration!

While the people were looking at the silly encounter another loud gong echoed through the whole area. Everyone looked to the stage and they soon saw a person walking out. The man was wearing a blue robe which indicated that he was an inner sect elder.

The person was really big, at least two meters tall with arms thick as tree trunks. He was even wider than the youth that was third place and could give the Huo Patriarch a run for biggest macho. The trial disciples stopped chatting and looked with wide-open eyes as they waited for the first lesson to start.

The large man moved to the front but he didn’t speak. Soon another person walked forward, it was a woman. In comparison to the large strong-looking man, this woman was quite curvaceous and alluring. Yang Rong was even reevaluating if he should go for this older sister instead of the other one he just swore his love towards.

“My name is Zhang Peng and this is Sister Ai, you will refer to us as Elder Peng and Elder Ai from now on.”

After the two took the center stage they started talking. They welcomed the disciples and gave a little talk about how much of an honor it is to be in this sect. They didn’t take long to finally get to the point, which was body refinement.

“I see that your bodies are unrefined and weak, we will be focusing on that for the first few months. All of you will be picking one of the basic body refining techniques from the library and practicing it. Only with a strong body, you may start cultivating Qi once more!”

The man continued to talk while walking around the stage. Finally, the lovely lady had time to chime in. She walked forward causing the younger men in the area to gulp hard.

“This is one of the rules of this sect, we are all practicing dual cultivation. Only people that can both cultivate their body and spirit will be allowed in as a true disciple.”

The youths gasped and started murmuring amongst each other. This was something unprecedented, most sects didn’t operate like this. You’d find them focusing on one or the other. Only elite individuals could hope to advance in both Qi cultivation and body refining. They were now worried that they wouldn’t make it as training in both was considered spreading yourself too thin. Their worries would be soon dispelled by this female teacher.

“Are you doubting yourself or are you doubting the sect?”

She asked while smirking.

“Dual cultivation in normal circumstances is very difficult but only when the techniques you are practicing are of low quality. Don’t worry my juniors, the sect will provide the right resources for you, I assure you that if you practice diligently you will achieve progress!”

The woman smiled while the trial disciples eyes shone. They didn’t think that these people were lying to them. They knew that if they got a really good technique and maybe some resources that anything was possible. They had all made it through the rigorous trials so they were in good spirits. This library that the seniors mentioned also piqued their interest.

“You will be given your first body refining manual and Qi refining manual free of charge. You will need to spend merit points for improved tomes and new techniques”

The large man and woman continued to talk. They gave the kids some advice on spending their merit points and which manuals were the best ones for newbies like them. They also explained that the school year was divided into two semesters and there would be a test each semester.

There would be mandatory lessons and some basic techniques that everyone would need to learn. They would be then tested by teachers and they would be graded on their mastery and progress in the future.

For now, they needed to go to the library to pick their body refining technique. There were some people that already had somebody refining techniques of their own. They were assured by the teachers that the sects manuals were superior to their own techniques.

The lecture took some time and more teachers came over to introduce themselves. Most of them were wearing gray robes and not the blue ones that the first two had. The blue-robed elders were the heads of their own departments while the gray robes were the assistants. They also would give pointers if you spent merit points on the lessons. The gray-robed teachers were cheaper and some even gave lessons for free.

The assembly ended and everyone was allowed to go to the library. The youths had already visited most of the places they were allowed in during the first few days. There were a couple like the large cafeteria that served them basic spirit rice for free. If they wanted something more nutritious they needed to use up merit points.

There was a gym where the disciples could lift weights and train their muscles. It had other facilities that you also could spend merit points on. One of those was the gravity room, that increased the gravity and was good for full-body exercises. There were various other specialized chambers that aided in growth as well.

The most popular one was the library though. It was closed before this

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but now the trial disciples would be allowed to visit the first floor. In it, they would be able to pick out their first technique which would be used to refine their body. This along with a basic Qi refining manual would form the basis of their cultivation for the coming months and maybe even years.

Thanks to the in-depth tests that every one of the disciples went through. The sect knew which techniques would fit each individual and would limit the choices accordingly. This would lower the chances of the youths picking an unfitting manual and in term ruin their future prospects. The time of learning had finally arrived and everyone was eager to start.