

Versatile 1801

Chapter 1801: Order Manipulation

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Mo Fan could feel his heart pounding heavily after leaving Canton Tower.

Should he figure out a way to secure the rest of the Receiver Crystals from Apas? He might be able to make a fortune from them!

“I would have taken all of them if I knew they were so valuable. Why do I bother to be a democratic master? A master should act like an exploitative tyrant!” Mo Fan mumbled to himself.

Little Flame Belle was lying on Mo Fan’s shoulder. She nodded in agreement, like she greatly supported Mo Fan behaving like an exploitative master.

“If only Apas was as obedient as you. Seriously, she has been causing me so much trouble!” Mo Fan fondled Little Flame Belle’s head. Little Flame Belle complained how the strange man had taken her portion of the grilled chicken wings. She wanted another helping!

Mo Fan had no choice but to buy Little Flame Belle another portion of grilled chicken wings. He said, “Let’s go to the training ground. I would like to practice my Chaos Magic.”

“Ling!~” Little Flame Belle was overjoyed. She enjoyed training with Mo Fan. For some reason, she would always celebrate whenever Mo Fan brought her along.

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Mo Fan was still preoccupied by Feng Zhoulong’s words when he reached the training ground.

“Little Flame Belle, should we trust Feng Zhoulong for once and go all in and secure many additional effects for my Earth Element, so we’ll be able to show it off in the future?” Mo Fan asked her.

“Ling~” Little Flame Belle nodded. She liked the idea of having more additional effects.

“But, if we sell the Receiver Crystals, we might be able to get ourselves a Heaven-grade Seed of the Earth Element, or maybe we can buy a Heaven-grade Seed of the Lightning or Fire Element, or we can also buy a Summoning Element material that can help with your growth. We could still overpower our enemy!” Mo Fan went on.

“Ling~” Little Flame Belle nodded. She liked the sound of that idea, too!

Mo Fan flicked Little Flame Belle on the forehead and grunted, “It’s useless asking for your opinion if you simply agree with everything! Go, stand over there and toss a fireball or something at me.”

Little Flame Belle obediently followed her master’s instructions, flying to a spot around a hundred meters away from Mo Fan.

Little Flame Belle could easily make something as basic as a fireball quite huge, and toss it with a single finger-flick. As Mo Fan thought, Little Flame Belle had serious trouble understanding his intentions. Mo

Fan had only asked her to toss a single fireball at him, but she simply whipped up a whole row of them and fired them at Mo Fan like multiple cannons going off!

“Order Manipulation!”

Mo Fan suddenly spread his fingers. A faint glow flickered at the tip of his fingers.

The fireballs flew parallel to the ground, heading straight at Mo Fan. Little Flame Belle knew her spell was not going to hurt Mo Fan due to his Fire Resistance, so she did not go easy on him. Each of the thirteen fireballs was as big as a rice jar. They were a spectacular sight!

The fireballs began to fall as they approached Mo Fan. They landed on a spot around ten meters to his right.

The sandy floor of the training ground was blasted into the air. A portion of it splattered at Mo Fan, who casually raised a hand to stop the dirt from reaching him.

“Ling?” Little Flame Belle was puzzled when she saw her fireballs missing.

“Look at you, you’ve been eating so much that you can’t even land a basic attack. I’ll give you one more chance. If you fail to hit me again, I’ll be taking away your chicken wings!” Mo Fan mocked Little Flame Belle.

“Ling!” Little Flame Belle was nervous when she heard she was going to lose her chicken wings. The flames engulfing her grew rapidly as the Calamity Fire and the Ardent Sunset merged into one.

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The flames gradually grew stronger, as Little Flame Belle’s appearance shifted from a porcelain doll to the alluring figure of a Flame Belle. Her skin was made of lava, while the tongues of the flames served as her clothing.

“You’re being serious?” Mo Fan asked alertly.

Little Flame Belle nodded. Her chicken wings were at stake! How could she not give her best?

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The Flame Belle let out a pleasant-sounding yet imperious cry. She lifted her hands and Summoned a huge Hellish Flame meteorite above Mo Fan!

The meteorite was scorching. If Mo Fan had not warned Little Flame Belle not to overdo it in the first place, the entire training ground would have been lit up by the meteorite.

Mo Fan looked up, but did not move his feet. He spread his fingers once again, and they emitted the same glow.

BANG!

The meteorite landed on the training ground with a huge blast. Terrifying fiery waves surged in all directions.

Mo Fan was unmoved. He had used the Space Element to shield himself from the flames. The fiery waves split in half when they reached twenty centimeters away from him. It looked like a force field protecting him!

“Tsk tsk tsk, Little Flame Belle, hand over the chicken wings at once. You should start practicing diligently. How did you even miss when I was standing still!?” Mo Fan had not suffered a direct hit from the meteorite.

The flames that had reached him were produced from the impact. The landing spot of the meteorite was where most of the damage was inflicted. Unfortunately, Little Flame Belle had missed again!

“Ling!~”

The Flame Belle stomped the ground angrily, but she was willing to admit defeat. She obediently gave the chicken wings back to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan took the chicken wings and started munching on one in front of Little Flame Belle...

“Are you going to train diligently from now on?” Mo Fan asked when he saw Little Flame Belle drooling.

Little Flame Belle nodded, implying that she would focus on her training after eating the chicken wings.

“Fine, go enjoy them at the side. I’ll practice a little more,” Mo Fan told her generously.

Little Flame Belle happily flew around Mo Fan in circles after reclaiming her chicken wings, rubbing her little cheeks against Mo Fan’s chest.

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Mo Fan glanced at the spot where the meteorite had landed after Little Flame Belle left to enjoy her chicken wings.

“It changed the flight path by about twenty degrees. The Chaos Element is indeed insane,” Mo Fan mumbled to himself.

Only an innocent child like Little Flame Belle would believe Mo Fan’s nonsense. Little Flame Belle was very close to achieving the Ruler-level. How could she possibly miss a target who was standing still? Little Flame Belle did not make any mistakes. The angles and paths of her fireballs were supposed to hit Mo Fan, but Little Flame Belle was unaware that Mo Fan had learned a strange spell: Order Manipulation!

It was the Basic Spell of the Chaos Element!

Order Manipulation was capable of manipulating the proper functions of magic, such as the path of a spell!

Chapter 1802: The Unavoidable Magic

Order Manipulation was applicable to energy and magic, especially projectiles that were fired in a certain direction.

However, Order Manipulation had some technical difficulty. Users had to predict the enemy's spell beforehand.

Order Manipulation might only be a Basic Spell, but many spells had extremely quick projectiles, such as the common Fire Burst. An adept Mage could fire one off at a hundred meters per second, and Order Manipulation had to manipulate its path during its flight. If the Chaos Mage was not able to react in time, the spell would hit the Chaos Mage in the face before they could cast Order Manipulation!

Therefore, the spell seriously tested Mo Fan's reaction speed and decision-making skills. He had to prepare to cast Order Manipulation while the enemy was Channeling their spells. He would then have to manipulate the path of the enemy's spell as soon as they cast it to nullify their attacks.

Mo Fan believed the Chaos Element was an outstanding defensive element if he could use it properly. It was more special than the ordinary defensive spells of the Light, Earth, and Water Elements.

Many people assumed that defensive methods only consisted of blocking, absorbing, and shielding, but certain Advanced Spells and Super Spells were simply too destructive; it was almost impossible to set up a defense that could endure those spells. However, if Mo Fan could use the Chaos Element to alter the trajectories of those spells, he would be able to nullify the attacks regardless. The Chaos Element was more like a magician capable of manipulating strength. Its Basic Spell, Order Manipulation, and the Intermediate Spell, Chaotic Vortex, were unique in their own ways. They did not produce any energy, but were carrying energy instead!

When it came to utilizing the Chaos Element efficiently, Mo Fan could not help but recall Zorro, a strong opponent during the World College Tournament. His Chaos Magic had completely overturned Mo Fan's view of the Chaos Element. Mo Fan believed he had only managed to defeat Zorro out of luck. The man was ridiculously strong, able to take on a group of enemies on his own. However, Mo Fan only realized the truth after he had Awakened the Chaos Element.

Zorro might be strong, but it did not necessarily mean he could fend off ten opponents at once. He was able to dominate the scene because he was turning his opponents' spells against them. The Chaos Element had turned his enemy's power into his own, thus when more people were attacking him, his counterattacks would be even fiercer. It was the reason why he seemed unbeatable.

That being said, Mo Fan was nowhere close to Zorro's level of skill when turning the enemy's attacks against themselves. He could only manipulate the path of some spells for now. It would be a long time before he was able to reach Zorro's level!

"My Lightning Element should become stronger after I've learned the Intermediate Chaos Spell, Chaotic Vortex!" Mo Fan wriggled his fingers. Mo Fan felt like he was finally going to become a cunning magician after mastering the Chaos Element. He would be able to manipulate a lot of things just by moving his fingers!

"Let's try a few other approaches, and see if I can make them work." Mo Fan was full of strange ideas. Most Elements strictly followed a table of contents which humans had come up with thousands of years ago. The Mages could only alter the form of their magic when they had a certain level of control over

their Elements. However, Mo Fan had noticed that he could use the Chaos Element to further manipulate his other Elements, too!

For example, he could think of another way of using Order Manipulation: Path Slicing!

“Fire Burst!”

Mo Fan flipped his hand. The Meteor Scarlet burst into flames on his palm.

“Go!” Mo Fan tossed the Fire Burst in his hand forward at a target casually.

The dummy was around a hundred meters away in front of him, but Mo Fan had purposely altered the angle by aiming at eleven o’clock. The deviation was not too obvious at first, but it slowly became clearer as the Fire Burst traveled further.

“Ling!~” Little Flame Belle cried gloatingly when she saw Mo Fan’s poor aim. She was basically saying, “Dad, you are slacking off in your practice too!”

Mo Fan grinned when he heard Little Flame Belle’s cry.

“Order Manipulation: Path Slice!”

Mo Fan moved his finger slightly, like an experienced artisan controlling a puppet. The Fire Burst started to deviate from its original path, as if a string was pulling it!

The Fire Burst formed an arcing trail after its angle was modified. It unexpectedly landed on the dummy despite the poor aim when it was launched!

Little Flame Belle dropped her chicken wing onto the floor. However, she quickly picked it up and put it back into her mouth without breaking the Five Seconds Rule. She could not help but rub her eyes. She was wondering how Mo Fan had done it!

Mo Fan turned around and burst out laughing when he saw Little Flame Belle’s blank face.

“What do you think?” asked Mo Fan.

Little Flame Belle finally realized why her attacks had missed previously. She was pouting her lips while biting the chicken wing to express her discontent to Mo Fan.

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Mo Fan felt like it was meaningless to practice with a dummy. He Summoned a Moon-Devouring White Wolf.

It was Third Wolf that showed up. Third Wolf was one of the more aggressive Moon-Devouring White Wolves. It was the first time that Mo Fan had Summoned just him from the Summoned Beast Plane. He seemed extremely cautious.

The Moon-Devouring White Wolves withheld his urge to move around restlessly and sat down like an obedient dog in front of Mo Fan. He seemed a little nervous, as he was unsure what his master would be asking him, or perhaps he had done something wrong, so his master was going to lecture him about it.

Third Wolf quickly turned around, trying to get some hint from Little Flame Belle, but she completely ignored him.

“You will run around freely. I’ll be attacking you with my spells, and you just need to dodge them as best as you can,” Mo Fan told the Moon-Devouring White Wolf.

Third Wolf shrieked and placed his head on the ground, begging for mercy.

“Don’t be afraid, it’s just training. Your leader is too quick, so my Basic and Intermediate Spells are too slow to hit him, which is why I’ve Summoned you to train with me instead,” Mo Fan explained casually.

Third Wolf let out a relieved sigh.

Old Wolf was usually Mo Fan’s training buddy. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf had experienced almost every destructive spell that Mo Fan had learned. If Old Wolf learned Third Wolf was experiencing the same thing as he did in the past, he would be gloating right now!

Chapter 1803: Blink Levitate

BANG!

A Fiery Fist landed on the ground with an explosion, setting some of Third Wolf’s fur on fire.

Third Wolf jumped around in pain from the burn. He quickly rolled on the ground to put out the flames. He saw a lightning bolt coming at him as soon as he lifted his head.

Third Wolf quickly jumped to the side to dodge the Thunderbolt. To his surprise, the Thunderbolt suddenly changed its angle as it was coming in. It went right where Third Wolf was dodging to. It looked like Third Wolf was jumping right at the Thunderbolt. He might have been fine if he remained in his previous spot!

Third Wolf almost burst into tears. He was a Commander-level creature known for his agility and speed, yet why was he struggling to dodge these simple spells?

Did these spells have their own eyes? How were they following where he was going?

“That’s enough, you may return now.” Mo Fan had enough practice. He contentedly sent the Moon-Devouring White Wolves back to the Summoned Beast Plane.

Third Wolf was utterly relieved, and quickly went back to his den.

It was simply too terrifying. His master was just too powerful. Why did he choose him, when there were ten other Moon-Devouring White Wolves!?

“If even the Moon-Devouring White Wolves can’t dodge the spells, many Wind Mages will struggle to dodge them too!” Mo Fan mumbled to himself.

Mo Fan was very pleased with the outcome of the training. Not only did he discover how magical the Chaos Element was, he had even learned a little trick when practicing it on the White Wolf.

The Chaos Element was similar to the Shadow Element. He was able to tag his target with a Seal of Order!

A Shadow Element Seal was normally used to track down a target, while the Seal of Order was like adding a magnet to the enemy. Mo Fan was casting his Elemental Spells and enchanting them with magnetism; his spells would lock onto the target, even if the target had changed its position or tried to dodge the spells. The Seal of Order would still attract the spells to the target!

This ability was very important. If Mo Fan was purposely modifying a spell's path, he would have to focus and figure out where the target might be dodging to before controlling the spell to chase down the target. However, with this ability, Mo Fan only needed two simple Seals to get his spells to chase the target on their own...

It was similar to the difference between automatic and manual transmission. The situation of a battle would change rapidly. A single mistake might end up costing him the fight. Therefore, Mo Fan did not necessarily have the time and energy to improve the accuracy of his spells. After all, he was unable to mind three things at once, unlike Heidi.

However, with the Seal of Order, Mo Fan believed he could instantly raise the accuracy of his spells to the maximum level. He no longer had to be wary of an enemy with outstanding agility.

"If it can manipulate the path of the spells, I wonder if it can manipulate them, too?" Mo Fan suddenly had a brilliant idea.

Mo Fan closed his eyes. His body began to emit the same strange glow.

Little Flame Belle was done eating her chicken wings, and feeling a little sleepy. She flew toward Mo Fan and was planning to take a nap on his shoulders. She had completely forgotten about how Mo Fan had asked her to practice diligently.

Little Flame Belle had the Space Element too, and her control of it was quite outstanding. She was very good at flying around.

When she flew over to Mo Fan, she happened to pass the zone of darkness around him, which resembled an eclipse. Little Flame Belle suddenly floated higher as she was flying toward him. She reached a height more than ten meters above Mo Fan before she realized it.

Little Flame Belle was puzzled. She only realized something was not right after reaching her current height. She tried to look for Mo Fan, and saw Mo Fan was right below her.

Little Flame Belle tried her best to descend, but ended up flying higher instead. Little Flame Belle was absolutely mad. The flames engulfing her were on the verge of exploding!

"You can come down now; I was doing an experiment!" Mo Fan was amused by Little Flame Belle's reaction again.

Mo Fan reverted his manipulation on the order of space around Little Flame Belle. She quickly landed on Mo Fan's shoulder after gravity was reapplied to her. Meanwhile, the dark ring of sand floating in the air around Mo Fan fell to the ground.

Little Flame Belle seemed extremely puzzled, and waited for Mo Fan's explanation.

"I just reversed the order of gravity," Mo Fan explained.

Little Flame Belle nodded like she only understood half of that.

Mo Fan did not think Little Flame Belle could understand it. It was no different from mumbling to himself.

Mo Fan had indeed reversed the force of gravity. There were many ways to manipulate the natural order, and Mo Fan would need time to slowly figure it out. As for practicality, when compared to the Projectile Slice and Projectile Seal, Gravity Reverse was quite powerful, too!

He now had two Elements to alter gravity. One was the Earth Element, which was able to accumulate the Earth Magic in its surroundings to modify the soil and strengthen gravity. The other was the Space Element: accumulating the force of gravity on a certain point through compression. It could strengthen gravity, too.

The Chaos Magic did not produce any energy. It could only manipulate the natural order of things.

For example, gravity was meant to be downward, but it could be reversed under the influence of the Chaos Magic and became upward instead. Everything under the influence of Order Manipulation: Gravity Reverse would be floating instead!

"Old wolf, come out here!"

Mo Fan finally Summoned the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf thought he had dodged a bullet, but Mo Fan still ended up Summoning him to be his sandbag. Luckily, he had asked Third Wolf beforehand and learned the experiment was mostly about some Basic and Intermediate Spells that would not inflict too much damage on him.

"Ask some White-Marked Wolves to come out here too," Mo Fan told the Flying Creek Snow Wolf. He proceeded to open the Summoning Gate.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf did as he was told. He Summoned around ten White-Marked Wolves to him. These White-Marked Wolves were very obedient. They would strictly do as they were told when their leader was around.

"Ask them to stand still in a circle around me," Mo Fan commanded.

"Awoo!!"

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf howled and ordered the thirteen White-Marked Wolves to stand in their positions like a military instructor.

Mo Fan grinned when he saw them in position.

“Blink!”

Mo Fan cast the Advanced Space Spell, and was covered in a silver light.

As the silver Star Constellation drifted away like dust, Mo Fan vanished into thin air, too!

The White-Marked Wolves suddenly noticed Mo Fan’s outline appearing in a different spot between them before they could react. However, the area that Mo Fan had arrived in underwent some unexpected changes!

“Levitate!”

The White-Marked Wolves were lifted off the ground after losing their footing.

When someone lost their stability, they were supposed to fall to the ground, yet they were rising into the air instead. Mo Fan had brought a new order upon the area!

It felt like they were being pulled into the air by an enormous force. The White-Marked Wolves cried in alarm as they rose into the sky!

Chapter 1804: Young Adult Contest

The White-Marked Wolves opened their mouths and stuck their tongues out. They were spreading their limbs, struggling to recover their balance like dogs that could not swim after falling into a deep lake.

Mo Fan looked up with a grin and studied the White-Marked Wolves floating in the air.

“Come down,” Mo Fan swiped his finger, reverting the order of the area.

The White-Marked Wolves were still getting used to the change in gravity. Their fur immediately stood on end as they fell rapidly when everything returned to normal.

The White-Marked Wolves poured down like a rain, slamming heavily into the ground with their legs facing upward. They were all groaning in pain.

Old Wolf’s eyes widened as he looked on from a distance away. What the heck are they up to? The Mega Drop!?

“Alright, you can send them back and reward them accordingly,” Mo Fan told the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

The energy of the Summoning Element could be used to feed the Summoned Beasts, which Mo Fan was referring to as the reward. The White-Marked Wolves could use the energy to strengthen their claws and become stronger. The White-Marked Wolves were delighted, despite the suffering they had gone through. They stuck their tongues out as if they were telling their master to Summon them whenever he needed a sandbag for practice. They had no dignity whatsoever!

Mo Fan was very pleased with the outcome of the experiment. He was able to understand the practicality of the Chaos Element better. Unfortunately, his Chaos Element was making slow progress. It would be perfect if he could learn the Chaotic Vortex!

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Mo Fan left the training ground. He was planning to go back to his place to take a nap, yet something had gotten his attention instead. He looked up at the Canton Tower and its glorious lights.

“Damn it, I’ve seriously fallen for his tricks. I swear I’m going to drag him out of that place and butcher him in front of the people of Canton!” Mo Fan cursed. He immediately turned around and went back to the Canton Tower.

Little Flame Belle was confused. She thought Mo Fan was going to buy more chicken wings. She happily flew over to Mo Fan’s head and hummed pleasantly.

Some people were destined to be poor forever, since they were always investing their money in themselves. Mo Fan was a great example: as long as he had yet to fulfill his ambition, all the money he had was only going to end up as a cobblestone along the journey of his cultivation, no matter how much money he had!

He initially thought he could get rid of Feng Zhoulong’s blatant marketing after leaving the Canton Tower. He would eventually calm down and think Feng Zhoulong was merely uttering nonsense, yet after he calmed down, he could not stop thinking about an Earth Element with four additional effects!

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Feinia City...

A selection contest for young adults was occurring in the city center. The participants came from different cities and provinces and gathered in the headquarters cities. Almost every year, the contest would attract a lot of great talents. Barring the World College Tournament, it usually got the most attention in the country.

The contest was more like an influential selection to give capable Mages a stage to make a name for themselves. The contest became even more important after the crisis along the coastline arose. The Mages that came out on top in the contest would most likely be appointed to an important position in Feinia City.

Feinia City was considered a new and developing city compared to other headquarters cities. The city had gone from a tier-three city to an important keep, port, and fortress on the southeast ocean. It obviously needed a lot of fresh bodies.

Mu Ningxue was invited to be the judge for the finals of the contest, since Fanxue City was included in the northern district of Feinia City. She could not find any excuse to turn it down since it was the finals, and Feinia City had sincerely invited her to be the judge.

The term ‘young adult’ was quite ambiguous.

The World College Tournament was very straightforward. The participants had to be students, and those who purposely did not want to graduate were not allowed to take part, either.

Meanwhile, the Young Adults Contest was open to anyone below the age of forty!

“Didn’t Fanxue Mountain send any representatives to take part in the contest? Many reputable people and organizations will be taking root in Feiniaio City soon. If your Fanxue Mountain doesn’t get an impressive result in such an influential contest, it might be difficult for you to have any say in some important meetings in the future,” Li Kuang of the Dali Clan, who had also been invited as a judge, spoke mockingly to Mu Ningxue.

The Dali Clan and Fanxue Mountain were known rivals in Feiniaio City.

Feiniaio City was developing quickly, and the two factions had suddenly gotten a lot of attention in the country. Fanxue Mountain had secured the best location in the northern district as the port and the traffic hub, not to mention the ore veins nearby. Many renowned clans, even the government and Magic Association, were envious of it. It was not Mu Ningxue’s first time being picked on by multiple organizations while she was constructing Fanxue City. However, she managed to help Fanxue Mountain secure a foothold even as everyone was trying to trip her up. She had joined hands with the Dongfang Clan in Hangzhou and the Mui Clan in the Magic City to finally stand out and rise as a faction.

On the other hand, the Dali Clan was a subsidiary clan under the Mu Clan. The Mu Clan had dominated the country and secured the leading position among the renowned clans. They obviously would not give up on a prosperous area like Feiniaio City. Their main influence was in the capital, thus Feiniaio City was beyond their reach. Therefore, they were giving great support to the Dali Clan that was based in Feiniaio City.

They wanted the Dali Clan to get rid of Fanxue Mountain and take over Fanxue City. Unfortunately, Fanxue Mountain was no longer the little faction it used to be. Fanxue Mountain’s vote was as powerful as a Councilman’s during the meetings held by Feiniaio City!

The people of the Dali Clan had secured three spots among the top ten participants in the contest, but not a single person from Fanxue Mountain had made it to the top ten. The people in Feiniaio City were already discussing it.

“The rounds before the top ten haven’t ended yet,” Mu Ningxue said calmly.

“I believe it’s only possible if you, the master of Fanxue Mountain, were participating in the contest. Otherwise, it’s unlikely that anyone from Fanxue Mountain is going to secure a spot in the top ten. You have to do everything on your own, despite being the leader. You’re no different from those ignorant leaders of small factions. A person’s capabilities are limited. You won’t be able to do everything on your own.” Li Kuang smiled like he was having a casual chat with Mu Ningxue, but they were already giving one another tit for tat!

Chapter 1805: Confronting in Person!

“Bai Hongfei has won on the seventh stage. He’s now in the top ten!”

Li Kuang heard the rather annoying announcement while he was mocking Mu Ningxue. His expression sank.

Who was this Bai Hongfei? Since when did Fanxue Mountain have someone with that name? How did he defeat someone whose every Element was at the peak Advanced Level!?

“Well, it looks like we do have one member in the top ten,” Mu Ningxue observed calmly. She did not seem surprised at all.

“I didn’t expect Fanxue Mountain to have such a great talent, but the name Bai Hongfei does sound a little familiar to me. Don’t tell me he’s from the Bai Clan in the Magic City? When did he become a member of Fanxue Mountain?” Li Kuang belatedly identified Bai Hongfei.

“Shao Yu has won on the fifteenth stage. She’s in the top ten too!”

The same voice declared once again. Li Kuang’s brow immediately furrowed anxiously. He quickly turned around and inquired for more from the young man, Li Jianmo, behind him.

Li Jianmo said softly, “This Shao Yu used to be a Hunter. She’s quite famous in the Hunter Alliance in Shandong Province. She has defeated many disciples of the renowned clans. Rumors mention that she was comparable to Mu Ningxue when the World College Tournament was going on, but she wasn’t a student...”

“Shao Yu... I think I heard her name before. Both the Mu Clan and the Zhao Clan tried to recruit her, but she turned down their offers even though they were willing to pay her a huge sum. How did she end up joining Fanxue Mountain?” Li Kuang was puzzled.

“Apparently, Shao Yu challenged Mu Ningxue to a duel and lost. She has been staying at Fanxue Mountain since then,” Li Jianmo informed him.

Li Jianmo was quite young, so he had paid a lot of attention to the people of his generation. It was now the Information Age. People across the country would list out those that were impressive, and even compare them or rank them.

Shao Yu was quite outstanding in the Hunter Union. She was even referred to as a heroine, given her fiery temper, alluring physique, and attractive face. Young men like Li Jianmo were bound to keep an eye on her. The truth was, Li Jianmo had long admired this heroine, but he could not make it too obvious, since he was from the Dali Clan!

A person like Shao Yu who made a name for herself with her strength might not be so impressive in other areas, but she was a strong duelist without a doubt. It was unlikely that anyone of the same cultivation level would stand a chance against her without some extraordinary capabilities!

“Uncle, wasn’t Fanxue Mountain constantly challenged by competitive people? Mo Fan won the World College Tournament, making him the strongest Mage in the younger generation, and Mu Ningxue was tied with him. People that are planning to challenge Fanxue Mountain even have to queue up for it. Mu Ningxue will only agree to a duel at certain times, so Shao Yu handled most of the duels. However, I

have never heard of her losing a duel, even after so long..." Li Jianmo was very interested in these things. He quickly explained all this to Li Kuang, as he knew the man might not be familiar with news related to the younger generation.

"Is she really that impressive?" Li Kuang blurted out in surprise.

"Isn't it obvious? I'm not surprised that she has made it to the top ten!" Li Jianmo replied.

"That sounds like trouble for us, now that Fanxue Mountain has secured two spots in the top ten too!" Li Kuang clenched his teeth.

The outcome of this contest was closely tied to the ownership of a commercial street, which happened to be located in Fanxue Mountain's territory. According to the agreed terms, since half of the street was within Fanxue Mountain's territory, the street was meant to be Fanxue Mountain's, but the chief of Feiniaoyang City's North District and the Dali Clan were unwilling to give it to them.

The Young Adult Contest happened to be taking place, and those who were in the top ten would be given an honorable title and appointed as a member of the South Wing Platoon that had been recently established.

The headquarters of the South Wing Platoon was located at the end of the commercial street, thus whoever had the highest authority in the South Wing Platoon would decide if Fanxue Mountain or the North District was in charge of the street!

"A one-sided victory again! He Yao on the first stage has defeated another participant who is also in the top ten with ease. Anyone can easily tell that he has the highest hope of winning the contest!" the emcee announced with a loud voice to liven up the crowd.

A huge uproar grew among the crowd, mainly because the Mage with the name He Yao had defeated every opponent with a single move since the beginning of the contest. Even after reaching the finals with only ten participants remaining, he still crushed his opponent in a one-sided victory. The crowd could not help but marvel at his strength!

"He Yao, is there anything you want to say after winning the match?" the emcee quickly went over to He Yao after the cloud of dust dissipated, handing the microphone to He Yao.

The emcee thought He Yao would leave the stage indifferently as usual, but the man glanced at the judges and took the microphone from the emcee, "May I ask the judges something?"

"Of course, every participant is allowed to ask the judges questions. Even those who lost can ask the judges to comment on their performance," the emcee told him.

"May I ask Judge Mu Ningxue, did you see the challenge I sent to Fanxue Mountain before this contest?" He Yao said.

Mu Ningxue did not respond. She did not remember anything about it, especially when there were so many challenges addressed to her...

"You wouldn't expect me to be standing here and confronting you when you tossed my invitation to a duel into a bin. What a joke, it's the Young Adult Contest, yet you are sitting with the judges instead of taking part in it! What right do you have to judge us? Is it because you are over the age of forty, or you

have convincing strength to be a judge? Please stop using the World College Tournament, which is only a petty tournament among students, to back yourself. You should win this contest first, and prove you have the right to be sitting with the judges. I don't need anyone to comment on my performance, I'm only here to compete!" He Yao yelled into the microphone.

The crowd was surprised by his aggression. The Young Adult Contest was a competition between Mages. The World College Tournament, despite being at the international level, was not really that convincing to grown-ups. Many of them were not treating Mu Ningxue's achievements in the World College Tournament too seriously!

This He Yao was indeed very strong, having defeated peak Advanced Mages with ease. He did not take part in the contest to win it. He just wanted to duel Mu Ningxue, to defeat the so-called strongest Mage of the younger generation. To his surprise, Mu Ningxue was not even a participant, and was invited to be a judge instead. He Yao was venting his discontent on Mu Ningxue, and against the decision of Feinia City's government!

Only the strong had the right to speak!

He Yao did not forfeit the contest. He came all the way to deliver his speech in front of the crowd!

Chapter 1806: Challenging Mu Ningxue

The crowd burst into an uproar. A participant was confronting a judge, using strong provocation!

Mu Ningxue was a young adult, below the age of thirty. Many people were indeed doubtful of the decision to invite her as a judge.

It was like a student in the same grade as others. Even though everyone knew she was a bright student with impressive grades, no one would be convinced that she was worthy to be their teacher!

He Yao's claims were not unreasonable. Since he was not purposely stirring up trouble, the people were looking forward to what the intense situation was going to develop into!

Someone had finally challenged Mu Ningxue!

As a matter of fact, everyone wanted to know how strong Mu Ningxue was. Was she really stronger than He Yao?

The World College Tournament had been over for quite some time. Mu Ningxue had only reached the Advanced Level back then, but most participants in the top ten of this contest were peak Advanced Mages. They had mastered the Advanced Level of all three of their Elements, and were very close to achieving the Super Level. Mu Ningxue might be the strongest student during the World College Tournament, but that did not necessarily make her the strongest young adult. They were on two different levels!

The brightest student at college and the most talented young man in open society were completely different!

“You could disregard my challenge before I made my way here. It’s true that my reputation is incomparable to people like you, but if I win this contest and challenge you to a duel again, I’ll assume you are too scared to accept the challenge if you ignore it again. You should stop referring to yourself as the strongest. I had enough of the idiots around me. I will teach them that no one can ever claim themselves as the strongest. I might not be the strongest, but I believe you are overrated. That is all!” He Yao declared pompously.

The emcee was dumbfounded, unable to find any words after some time. This He Yao had never spoken a single word after winning the previous matches. Everyone assumed he was a quiet guy, but he had completely spilled the beans once Mu Ningxue was around. Not many people had the courage that he had displayed.

“Well... Judge Mu, do you have anything to say to the participant?” the emcee said awkwardly after he saw He Yao was done with his speech.

“Fanxue Mountain has never issued any challenges, and I’ve never claimed myself to be the strongest, either, yet the requests for duels still piled up like a mountain. I don’t mind having a friendly duel with a worthy opponent, but may I ask everyone who wants to challenge Fanxue Mountain to first make a name for themselves, like He Yao is doing here, before sending in their requests? Otherwise, there’s a great chance that I’ll just toss the letter into the bin,” Mu Ningxue answered.

The emcee could not help but gasp.

Many people were waiting to see how Mu Ningxue was going to handle the situation. After all, many were not convinced she had the strength to be a judge, yet her response to the confrontation could not be more overbearing!

He Yao was challenging Mu Ningxue in front of the crowd, but Mu Ningxue was challenging everyone that was stronger than He Yao in the entire country!

Only through battles would a person improve. Mu Ningxue might have spent most of her time on Fanxue Mountain, but it did not necessarily mean she had given up pursuing the higher levels of her cultivation. Mo Fan was constantly fighting demon creatures, while Mu Ningxue was dueling strong Mages!

“Can I take that as a yes to my request for a duel?” He Yao asked.

“Fanxue Mountain accepts your challenge,” Mu Ningxue agreed.

“Very well!” He Yao exclaimed eagerly.

Wasn’t Mu Ningxue the strongest person in Fanxue Mountain? Was there any difference whether it was Fanxue Mountain or Mu Ningxue accepting his challenge?

“I was going to challenge Mo Fan to a duel, but I heard the man had been slacking and going on vacation around the world after winning the World College Tournament. A man like him doesn’t deserve my challenge, I can still achieve my goal by defeating you!” He Yao said.

Mu Ningxue giggled after hearing those words.

Was Mo Fan’s reputation that badly ruined already?

People across the world wanted to challenge Mo Fan, let alone those in China, but no one could find him. Almost half the challenges Fanxue Mountain received were addressed to Mo Fan, but when they realized Mo Fan never showed up to the challenges, the people had decided to challenge Mu Ningxue instead!

It was true that Mo Fan had never been around for the past few years. The things he did were mostly listed as confidential, thus somehow the rumors began saying that he had been traveling to different places while doing nothing instead!

Mu Ningxue was too lazy to clarify the truth to those people who believed in rumors so easily. Besides, Mo Fan was never interested in their challenges, either. He could not care less about how they were describing him.

Li Kuang was certainly right that Fanxue Mountain lacked credit with the people.

She could definitely use this challenge to warn those who were not treating Fanxue Mountain seriously. She had agreed to He Yao’s invitation to a duel!

Three days later...

The outcome of the Young Adults Contest did not exceed anyone’s expectation. He Yao was the winner, as everyone expected.

Bai Hongfei lost to He Yao in the semi-finals. The fight lasted for quite some time, but Bai Hongfei was still inexperienced due to his younger age, and eventually lost to He Yao.

He Yao then defeated Li Ting of the Dali Clan with ease in the grand final to win the contest.

He Yao was indeed very strong. The crowd had witnessed his strength, so they were not too surprised by the final outcome. Even those who watched the grand final felt like they already knew the result. They were actually looking forward to the duel between He Yao and Mu Ningxue more!

The winner of the Young Adults Contest in Feinia City, against Mu Ningxue, who was publicly known as the strongest young adult. How could anyone not feel excited about it?

In the past few years, many Mages had taken of hiding in the cities and finding themselves a comfortable job like doing some insignificant research or abusing their authority. They would still earn respect from the people, but since the crisis along the coastline had closed in on the cities, the Battlemages were now the guarantors of people’s lives and wealth, so they were respected more than others!

Mu Ningxue was known for her strength, and the Young Adults Contest mainly focused on the participants’ strength, too. Even the Magic Associations would turn a blind eye to private duels as long

as no lives were lost or no public property was vandalized. The people were hoping to see a straightforward magic duel, and gain a sense of security from witnessing the impressive strength of the Mages that were protecting them.

When the people heard He Yao was going to Fanxue Mountain, countless people visited Fanxue City to watch the ultimate battle of the young adults!

He Yao did not expend too much of his energy in the match against Li Ting. He went to Fanxue Mountain after resting for only one night. He was determined to have a showdown with Mu Ningxue!

Chapter 1807: Carry You Down

Fanxue Mountain was not open to the public, thus the huge crowd had to gather below the mountain like a riot.

Being unable to watch the duel was torture for those people, who were keen to learn its outcome. Fortunately, people were not to be underestimated when they were united. They finally found a few people who had permission to enter Fanxue Mountain and were willing to broadcast the duel live!

Mu Ningxue was not purposely trying to hide anything. She was simply not fond of having too many unauthorized personnel in her territory. Therefore, she did not mind those who had permission to enter Fanxue Mountain broadcasting the duel.

A video recorder was unable to capture magic spells; the spells would only end up as white flashes on the screen. However, most people were satisfied with the blurry broadcast. It was not like they understood the complicated spells. They just wanted to know the rough situation, who had the upper hand, who was injured, and who had lost the duel!

Humans could behave very strangely at times. If they were unable to watch a duel, they would be extremely anxious and impatient, and would easily spread rumors and exaggerate the situation. As a result, both Fanxue Mountain and Fanxue City were crowded now. They were all waiting for the result.

—

“A duel of this level is already getting so much attention? The duel between Mo Fan and Zu Xiangtian is going to be even crazier!” Mu Ningxue pulled the curtain to the side. She was able to see the tiny figures gathered on the mountain path from her room. The crowd of people was densely scattered outside Fanxue Mountain.

“Ningxue, are you ready?” Shao Yu asked, standing beside Mu Ningxue. “That He Yao is pretty strong. Both Bai Hongfei and I couldn’t beat him.”

“I’ll need to change first. I didn’t expect him to come today,” Mu Ningxue replied.

“Mm, should we let him wait for an hour or two first? I can’t stand his arrogance,” Shao Yu said.

“Just give me ten minutes,” Mu Ningxue said before going into her changing room. She had initially planned to meditate in her room today, so she was wearing simple clothes that were not suitable for a duel.

Mu Ningxue believed it was unnecessary to give the man the cold shoulder. There was no point wasting one another’s time after she had accepted the challenge. It was rare to find an opponent like him, too. It was definitely a worthy duel!

—

Fanxue Mountain had a huge dueling area. It was initially designed for the master of demolition, Mo Fan. Only the high-level duels between Advanced Mages would be held here. After all, activating the defensive barrier cost a fortune.

There were only two ways to the dueling ground. One was from the area designated for Fanxue Mountain’s core members, and the other was from Mo Fan’s house. Mu Ningxue was currently living in Mo Fan’s house. Meanwhile, He Yao was brought to the dueling ground from the other path. Bai Hongfei led him to the venue.

“Why are there only a few people? Are you guys planning to make it private to preserve your reputation?” He Yao looked around and did not see any spectators around, not even the people of Fanxue Mountain.

“It was the same for every other challenger who came to us,” Bai Hongfei answered calmly.

Bai Hongfei still held a grudge against He Yao after losing to him during the Young Adults Contest. He was annoyed by the smug look on He Yao’s face. He brought his hands together after bringing He Yao to the venue. “Make yourself at home!”

Bai Hongfei could not be bothered serving the guy. He simply turned around and left.

He Yao was not too bothered by it all. It was normal for him to wait, since he was currently in someone else’s territory. He did not even mind waiting until sunset, as long as Mu Ningxue did not call off the duel.

Everyone would soon know that Mu Ningxue of Fanxue Mountain was not as impressive as the rumors described!

—

He Yao waited patiently at the dueling ground, not bothering to wander around.

He was hoping that there would be some spectators doing a live broadcast, but Fanxue Mountain completely forbade anyone from entering their private land.

Every person enjoyed getting some attention, but he did not mind if the duel took place behind closed doors. It was not like Fanxue Mountain was going to deny their defeat after losing the duel. If they seriously tried to do that, they would no longer have a place in Feiniao City!

A duel behind closed doors. It basically meant they were afraid to let people watch if they somehow lost the duel.

“Huh? Why is someone here?” a voice suddenly came from the entrance.

He Yao collected his thoughts and glanced in the direction of the voice. He saw a well-groomed man with an icy air about him.

“Hurry up and bring Mu Ningxue here,” He Yao said.

“You’re looking for Mu Ningxue? Who are you? What do you want from her?” The man was just about to leave, but he turned around when he heard He Yao’s words.

“Humph, is this how Fanxue Mountain is going to treat me? Or perhaps you guys realize you are going to lose the duel after witnessing my strength, so you’re making fun of me, instead? I thought Fanxue Mountain was better than doing something so absurd!” He Yao was enraged.

Didn’t one of you bring me here and ask me to wait for Mu Ningxue here?! But now, someone has come and asked me why I was here instead! No wonder they do not want any spectators to witness the duel!

“You’re not a core member of Fanxue Mountain. I didn’t ask you why you’re here in this private dueling ground in the first place. Are you trying to stir up trouble here?” the young man shot back after seeing how arrogant He Yao was.

“I’m here to challenge Mu Ningxue! I’m having a duel with her! You piece of trash, hurry up and get Mu Ningxue down here! I’m starting to lose my patience on this trashy mountain of yours!” He Yao was even madder when he realized the man was wasting his time on purpose!

Mu Ningxue had put up a great act by boldly accepting his challenge to a duel in front of the public, yet she had arranged for the duel to be held behind closed doors and did not show herself. She even sent a retard to utter nonsense to him and waste his time. She was not even treating him seriously!

The young man’s face darkened at He Yao’s yell.

The young man was standing at the entrance in the first place. However, he slowly entered the dueling ground and unzipped his jacket, revealing the training shirt under it.

He had just left the Room of Seclusion. He was planning to practice his spells, but to his surprise, he had stumbled into such an unreasonable man!

“First of all, Mu Ningxue is the leader of Fanxue Mountain, so not every nobody has the right to challenge her to a duel. I don’t know how you got here in the first place, but I’ll ask someone to carry you down the mountain very soon!”

“Second, the pain you are going to suffer will seriously remind you that someone like you will never have the right to dishonor Fanxue Mountain’s name!”

“Last, I’m not a piece of trash, my name is Mu Bai!”

Mu Bai was already standing opposite He Yao after he was done with his speech. His eyes were filled with an angry and disgusted light!

Chapter 1808: Why Are They Carrying A Stretcher?

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Mu Ningxue was done changing. She preferred to wear darker outfits when she was fighting. Shao Yu followed her down to the dueling ground. Despite her attractive face, she could not help but think of her beauty was just average whenever she was with Mu Ningxue, especially when Mu Ningxue was dressed up. Mu Ningxue was able to perfect every style with her goddess-like temperament, be it a luxuriously dressed little princess, or a charming woman in a sporty outfit. Even women would be dazzled by her beauty, but most women would be envious of her too...

“Why am I sensing magic?” Mu Ningxue suddenly noticed energy ripples coming from the dueling ground.

“Maybe the guy is practicing,” Shao Yu said.

“It doesn’t look like it. The energy level is unusually high,” Mu Ningxue observed.

The two continued on their way to the dueling ground. They happened to bump into Bai Hongfei at the entrance.

The huge blasts had gotten Bai Hongfei’s attention too. Mu Ningxue did not ask him what was going on when she noticed he was also wearing a puzzled look.

A few young servants of Fanxue Mountain were already at the dueling ground before they went inside. The servants were lifting a heavily injured man from the ground, covered in a cloud of dust that had yet to dissipate.

“That arrogant He Yao dares to hurt a member of Fanxue Mountain? I only asked him to wait here for a moment. How bold of him!” Bai Hongfei cursed.

Frost particles were lingering in the air before falling to the ground. Everyone eventually noticed another figure standing in the cloud of dust. He was wearing a white-blue sporty outfit, and his temperament resembled a firm glacier.

“Carry this piece of trash down the mountain and tell those who want to challenge us that this is the lightest punishment for those who dare to trespass into Fanxue Mountain without permission!” Mu Bai harrumphed coldly. He withdrew his Ice Magic without bothering to take another glance at He Yao.

Many of He Yao’s joints were damaged. His eyes were wide and bloodshot. His face was filled with disbelief on top of anger!

He had lost. He had lost the fight!

He Yao had never treated Fanxue Mountain seriously. He had believed only Mu Ningxue would stand a chance against him, and did not expect a random person who was sent to waste his time to possess such terrifying strength!

He Yao felt like he was under great pressure throughout the fight. He was severely injured after just a few exchanges. There were only a few young adults across the country who he considered worthy opponents, but the young man seemed to be a few years younger than him...

“Mu...Mu Bai!” He Yao could not help recalling the name when he was being carried out of the dueling ground. Why had he never heard the name before?

Shao Yu, Bai Hongfei, Mu Ningxue, and both Mu Linsheng and Mu Zhuoyun, who had just arrived, were standing there on the dueling ground with blank faces.

Mu Bai turned around and realized a lot of people were behind him. He told Mu Linsheng, “Uncle Linsheng, it seems like our security has been a little loose. Even though that guy might be a little impressive, he shouldn’t be able to trespass into our territory so easily.”

“A...a little impressive,” Mu Linsheng smacked his lips. He began to wonder if the man being carried away was actually He Yao.

“Mu Bai, are you done with your seclusion?” Mu Ningxue asked calmly.

“Yes. I was thinking of practicing a little here, but I somehow stumbled into that idiot here,” Mu Bai spat.

“Mu Bai, do you know who the person you just beat the crap out of is?” Bai Hongfei said.

“Is he someone special?” Mu Bai glimpsed at the man who was being carried away on a stretcher.

“A little, I guess, since he just won the Young Adults Contest of Feinia City yesterday,” Bai Hongfei informed him.

“Oh, no wonder he was a little capable,” Mu Bai replied coolly.

“...”

The others were immediately speechless. However, they were very shocked, too.

Everyone was pleased to welcome Mu Bai to Fanxue Mountain at first, since he was a member of their family.

However, they did not expect Mu Bai to possess such terrifying strength. Mu Ningxue took a little more than ten minutes to change, but Mu Bai had already arranged for the servants to carry He Yao away on a stretcher.

“Mu Bai, that was very unwise of you. The man was supposed to have a duel with Mu Ningxue. He even challenged Mu Ningxue in front of the crowd during the grand final of the contest...” Bai Hongfei said.

“So he wasn’t lying? Did you bring him here?” Mu Bai was surprised.

“I did,” Bai Hongfei said.

“Oh, I only took care of him because he was talking crap about Fanxue Mountain,” Mu Bai sniffed.

“Forget it, let it be. I did say that Fanxue Mountain would accept the challenge, instead of myself. It won’t be a problem if Mu Bai was the one that beat him,” Mu Ningxue intervened.

There was nothing else Mu Ningxue could do under the circumstances.

She was familiar with Mu Bai's strength. The two had even had a friendly duel before Mu Bai went into seclusion. She could also roughly estimate He Yao's strength.

"Then... what should we tell the people that are waiting for the result?" Mu Linsheng asked anxiously.

"Just tell them the truth," Mu Ningxue said.

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More people had gathered under Fanxue Mountain. Some had even brought drinks and alcohol and set up picnics, seeing the perfect weather and the elegant scenery.

"The duel should be starting soon. Were there any updates from the people on the mountain?" Zhong Li said.

There was a sigh. "If I knew Mo Fan was the owner of Fanxue Mountain, I would have asked him to let us join him. I heard a lot of rumors about how strict Fanxue Mountain was when recruiting new members when it was still a shithole back then. No one even bothered to apply, but Fanxue Mountain has grown to its current level in just a few years. It's currently one of the most prosperous places in the country. It's almost impossible to even squeeze our heads into it. Say, Gu Ying, you should have been more decisive by presenting yourself to the man's bed. That way, our Foehn Hunter Squad might be able to earn a more significant role instead of sleeping outdoors now," Xie Hao grumbled.

"Do you really think I'm as cheap as a cabbage? Why don't you go sell yourself instead? Even if I wanted to sell myself, it only works if he's interested in me. Didn't you watch the Young Adults Contest? That Mu Ningxue was as pretty as an angel! I'm like a pile of mud compared to her!" Gu Ying snarled at him.

"That's enough, let's just keep being busybodies. Speaking of which, who do you think is stronger? He Yao or Mu Ningxue? Either way, I still think that He Yao is a whole level weaker than Mo Fan," Xie Hao said.

"It's starting, look, someone from Fanxue Mountain is bringing us an update," Zhong Li weaved through the crowd and saw some people coming down the mountain.

"Strange, why are they carrying a stretcher?"

Chapter 1809: Utterly Impressed

"Isn't... isn't that man He Yao?" Zhong Li was quite short, but he kept jumping up in the crowd.

Many people had gone up to the stretcher. Fanxue Mountain's security had to step in to maintain order.

He Yao had bruises all over him inflicted by Ice Magic. He seemed quite miserable, mainly because Mu Bai had broken the joints of his limbs, preventing him from walking on his own.

The injuries were quite painful, but it would not take long for him to recover. He would be able to move freely again in a week after being treated by a Healer who was a specialist in orthopedics.

“What happened? Didn’t you only go up there a moment ago? How did you end up like this? Did the people of Fanxue Mountain all attack you at once?” Li Ting stepped forward and asked.

“No... it wasn’t Mu Ningxue that I fought,” He Yao answered in an ugly voice.

“Humph, as I thought!” Li Ting harrumphed coldly. He pointed at Fanxue Mountain’s servants and snarled, “I knew you guys would cheat! You have set up the duel behind closed doors because you didn’t want everyone to witness your shameless acts. He Yao properly challenged Mu Ningxue to a duel, yet you’ve beaten him up like this before the duel even started. So this is how Fanxue Mountain handles it? Aren’t you ashamed of yourself!?”

“How shameless, she’s acting so full of herself when she isn’t even that strong, that Mu Ningxue shouldn’t be trusted!”

“This is insane, to think that Fanxue Mountain will do this just to preserve their reputation...”

The crowd’s emotions were easily manipulated by Li Ting. The people were so angry that they were on the verge of rioting!

“What’s with the fuss here!?” Shao Yu showed up.

Shao Yu was a reputable member of Fanxue Mountain. The people immediately gathered around her, demanding an explanation.

“Let’s go and take a look too,” Zhong Li told the rest of the Foehn Hunter Squad.

“So she’s Shao Ru, she’s a celebrity among Hunters!” Gu Ying quickly went closer when she saw Shao Ru, but there were just too many busybodies around her. She ended up being squeezed to the back.

Li Ting scoffed at Shao Yu, “What now? Fanxue Mountain has done such a shameless act, yet it won’t let people scold it?”

“He Yao was being disrespectful to Fanxue Mountain, so Mu Bai accepted his challenge on behalf of Mu Ningxue. His current condition is the outcome of the duel you’ve been waiting for. If you don’t believe it, you can ask the man himself,” Shao Yu replied serenely.

“Who the hell is Mu Bai?” Li Ting snapped.

Shao Yu did not answer. Li Ting turned to He Yao on the stretcher instead, “He Yao, did they send someone to take care of you before you even saw Mu Ningxue, so you wouldn’t be able to fight anymore?”

He Yao nodded strenuously.

Li Ting grinned. He continued to ask, “Is the guy called Mu Bai responsible for it?”

“Ye...yes,” He Yao replied.

“How many people did they send?” Li Ting asked.

“Just...just him,” He Yao replied.

A huge crowd had gathered around them, thus the people could clearly hear Li Ting’s questions. They completely lost their mind after the news spread among them!

Zhong Li, Gu Ying, Xie Hao, and the others were in the middle of the crowd. They received the news fairly quickly too.

“Who’s Mu Bai?” Zhong Li asked.

“I never heard the name before, but how is that possible? He Yao is the winner of the contest, yet how long has it been since he went up the mountain and lost to the man named Mu Bai?” Gu Ying was in disbelief.

“Speaking of which, Mu Ningxue didn’t really say she’s going to be fighting the duel herself when she accepted the challenge,” Xie Hao mentioned.

—

He Yao was just laying there on the stretcher. He did not expect everything to end up like this.

That Mu Bai was younger than he was, around Mu Ningxue’s age. If Mu Ningxue was indeed the strongest young adult of Fanxue Mountain, wouldn’t that imply he had no right to challenge her?

He Yao broke down mentally after losing to Mu Bai. He was ashamed to see so many people had gathered around him.

“He Yao, don’t be scared, Fanxue Mountain must have set you up. There’s no such person with the name Mu Bai. Mu Ningxue must have used a dirty trick to injure you so she could preserve her reputation. You can just tell us the truth, we’ll serve justice for you,” Li Ting said.

“I...I indeed lost to the man named Mu Bai. Let’s call it a day... it was I who was too full of myself. Mr. Li, I promised to join the Dali Clan after I was done with the duel, but I feel like I must train harder to become stronger. I’m nowhere close to their level,” He Yao said dispiritedly.

He was so confident when he went up the mountain. He would be acknowledged as the strongest young adult Mage in their country after defeating Mu Ningxue! However, his heart had almost burned to ashes after being carried down the mountain in such a humiliating manner...

A man who did not have any reputation, calling himself a mere member of Fanxue Mountain, and was only in his twenties, had defeated him so easily. What right did he have to call himself the strongest young adult of Fanxue Mountain!?

“Brother He Yao, don’t be like that, you must have fallen for their trick! Fanxue Mountain purposely set up the duel behind closed doors because they didn’t want us to watch the duel. They have lured you to a place with no eyewitnesses. They must have done something inhumane to you,” Li Ting tried to prod him.

“That’s not true, I’m willing to admit my defeat. That Mu Bai defeated me fair and square...” He Yao turned his head to Shao Yu, “I believe Fanxue Mountain is only setting up the duels behind closed doors because they didn’t want to let others see how bad the challengers lost against them, right?”

“Mm,” Shao Yu nodded.

That had always been Mu Ningxue’s intention. After all, those who dared to challenge Fanxue Mountain usually had a certain reputation. Since it was just a friendly duel, there was no reason to treat the outcome of the duels so seriously.

He Yao endured the pain he was under and asked, “May...may I ask, who’s stronger between that Mu Bai and Mu Ningxue?”

“Mu Bai dueled Mu Ningxue before he went into seclusion. He did mention that just now. It sounds like he lost that duel,” Shao Yu said.

He Yao gasped. He almost choked himself when taking a deep breath.

The crowd burst into an uproar!

He Yao had lost to Mu Bai, who was no match for Mu Ningxue. Wouldn’t that mean Mu Ningxue was at least two levels stronger than he was!?

He Yao had already won the Young Adults Contest in a one-sided manner, apart from the prolonged match between him and Bai Hongfei...

It turned out that the organizer had made the right call by not letting Mu Ningxue take part in the contest. Was there any point to hold the contest if Mu Ningxue was a participant?

Chapter 1810: South Wing Chief

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“What? He Yao was defeated by someone with the name Mu Bai before he even saw Mu Ningxue?” Li Kuang bounced up from his seat when he heard the news.

Li Kuang was not at the scene, but he was very concerned about the outcome of the duel. He was fervently hoping that Mu Ningxue would lose the duel. Not only did she win the World College Tournament, she had been considered the strongest young adult lately too, not to mention the immense potential of Fanxue Mountain. Many young talents were keen on joining Fanxue Mountain because of her reputation.

Young talents were extremely important for a faction, especially since it was difficult for anyone to improve their cultivation further after reaching the age of forty. A person’s mind and stamina would start to deteriorate in their forties. Cultivation was mostly about exceeding a person’s limits. If a person’s attributes were already deteriorating as they were aging, how could they possibly surpass their limits again?

Therefore, most factions were eager to recruit young and talented Mages. In addition, most powerful Mages that had reached older ages would either belong to a faction, or ask for an insane price!

Many young talents would be gathering to Fanxue Mountain due to Mu Ningxue's reputation. Wasn't the Huntress named Shao Yu a perfect example?

Even someone like He Yao, if he had not offended Fanxue Mountain in the first place for being too arrogant; wouldn't he want to join Fanxue Mountain after losing his duel?

The Dali Clan desperately wanted someone to ruin Mu Ningxue's reputation in order to suppress Fanxue Mountain's growth a little. However, not only did He Yao fail to accomplish his mission, he even brought a lot of free publicity to some man named Mu Bai!

"I know that Mu Bai... but I didn't expect his strength to improve so much in such a short period. Even He Yao was no match for him," a woman in a red silk qipao behind Li Kuang spoke up.

"Mu Xumian, why didn't you take part in the contest? Things would definitely have been a lot simpler if you did. That He Yao says he's going to cultivate in seclusion now," Li Kuang sighed.

"I can't show myself in front of the public. My superiors paid a huge price to redeem me from the Dongfang Clan. I can only pull the strings behind the scenes for at least for a year or two. That Mu Bai has ruined my plans once again. If I knew he was so capable, I should have drugged him when he was still naive and taken him down in bed!" Mu Xumian sounded like an aroused vixen.

Li Kuang was already an old man, but his crotch still began to rise when he heard Mu Xumian's voice.

Unfortunately, even though Li Kuang might be the second-in-command of the Dali Clan, he would not dare to touch this Mu Xumian. The woman was a core member of the Mu Clan. She was like a secretary the central government had sent to inspect a rural area!

"We'll just treat it like we are giving half of South Wing Street to Fanxue Mountain. It's not really a big deal. Besides, we will have a lot of chances to get back at them as long as the street is still around. But if He Yao decides to cultivate in seclusion, we have no idea who's going to be appointed as the chief of the South Wing Platoon," Mu Xumian mentioned.

Every district would establish a local company like the South Wing Platoon, which was judicially independent, even though it was still considered a subsidiary of the Magic Association. They were the local heroes tapped whenever a city was facing great danger. For example, the Imperial Mages in the Ancient Capital, the Royal Guards in the capital, and the Brown Rock Mages in Dingcheng were such forces. They could be considered the most honorable positions for a local Mage, having a direct influence on the military, Magic Association, government, renowned clans, and other organizations.

Feiniao Headquarters City had been established close to the southeastern oceanfront. It was necessary to establish a reliable company of Mages. The city was planning to recruit fresh blood for the South Wing Platoon through the Young Adults Contest. It might be a newly established force, but it was tightly bound to the city's fate. The South Wing Platoon clearly held great responsibility and potential!

The Dali Clan wanted to establish their influence over the South Wing Platoon as quickly as possible in order to have more say in the city. It would help them to gradually secure the leading position among the renowned clans of Feiniao City.

“The city council has given out some news.” Li Kuang suddenly frowned.

“What do you mean?” Mu Xumian asked quickly.

“That goddamned He Yao! Not only did he decide to go into seclusion, he even recommended that Mu Bai who defeated him to be the chief of the South Wing Platoon!” Li Kuang swore loudly.

The South Wing Platoon was purely focused on its members’ strength. It was unlikely that anyone could fake their way in.

He Yao was supposed to be appointed as the South Wing Chief after winning the contest, but the man decided to give up on the offer and focus on his cultivation!

He Yao was obviously interested in earning a name for himself. Otherwise, he would not have challenged Mu Ningxue to a duel in front of the public. He knew everyone in the Southeast Region would soon know he had lost to a man named Mu Bai. He was only going to bring shame on himself if he became the Chief of the South Wing Platoon, so he had humbly turned the offer down.

Since He Yao had decided to turn down the offer, Feiniaoy City had respected his decision and asked him to recommend someone else.

He Yao was not snobbish. He believed whoever was stronger was more worthy to be appointed for the role. Therefore, he recommended Mu Bai, who had defeated him. He believed Mu Bai was a true expert of the younger generation. If Mu Bai was only slightly stronger than him, he would have hesitated to recommend him, but Mu Bai was significantly stronger than him. If he was not appointed the South Wing Chief, who else was worthy to take the role?

“It’s fine, it’s only a recommendation. The city council won’t appoint someone as the Chief so easily,” Mu Xumian reassured him.

“They already did!” Li Kuang responded, his face dark.

“What?” Mu Xumian went closer to read the information. The city council had officially announced the appointment. She could not help but curse, “Is there something wrong with the people in the city council? How could they give out such an important role to a mere kid!?”

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Fanxue Mountain...

A celebration was taking place in Fanxue Villa’s main hall that night.

The core members of Fanxue Mountain were seated around a round table. They were raising glasses of red wine while cheering.

Mu Bai retained an awkward smile from his seat. He was returning the favors of those who were congratulating him.

“Congratulations, Mu Bai, you are now the South Wing Chief of Feinia City! You’re basically the captain of the South Wing Platoon now! You finally have a say in Feinia City, too!” Mu Linsheng emptied his glass after finishing his sentence.

“Err... I still don’t know what’s going on...” Mu Bai was completely dumbfounded.

He had just come out of seclusion. He was totally unaware of what was going on in the outside world, nor had he known about the Young Adults Contest or the South Wing Platoon. He only knew he had taught an arrogant man named He Yao a lesson, but somehow, it got so much attention in the city that he had ended up receiving an appointment letter afterwards!