

Worth 131

Chapter 131: A Vicious Object from the Heavens

“So, the rumors were true!” Chen Yutong’s breathing hastened. He stepped back and blinked several times as he looked at the burly puppets making disturbing sounds at Lin Tianhao.

“Senior Brother Chen, what do you mean by that?” Hearing the words from Chen Yutong’s mouth, Lin Tianhao’s mood instantly changed. He immediately had the impression that the visit from Chen Yutong was purely to watch him make a fool of himself.

However, Chen Yutong seemed to not have heard Lin Tianhao’s question. He continued looking at the three puppets, flipping his right hand and retrieving a jade slip, as if to record data about the three puppets.

The anger that Lin Tianhao had suppressed for the past two weeks rose to its highest point and erupted, seeing how Chen Yutong had shown up from nowhere to watch him make a joke of himself. That was compounded by the unending disturbing sounds made by the three puppets and the fact that one of them was currently taking a few steps forward toward him, arms wide open and lips perked up, wanting to receive hugs and kisses from him.

He did not want to express his anger toward Chen Yutong. He shouted angrily as he turned his body and stepped right in front of the burly puppet, which was asking for a hug with its arms wide open. With immense anger, and indescribable hatred toward Wang Baole, he slapped the puppet hard.

“Shut up!”

That slap harnessed all the power of the first level of his True Breath cultivation. Coupled with the boost by his anger, the force was compounded. As the loud slap reverberated, Chen Yutong was taken aback, as the puppet was hit directly in the head by Lin Tianhao.

The puppet’s skull immediately broke apart. Its body was also unable to withstand the impact, and it immediately collapsed. As it fell, an alarm was immediately released from its body.

As the alarm reverberated, the door to Wang Baole’s cave abode instantly opened. His rotund body rushed out immediately, and he looked extremely upset as he rushed in front of the collapsed puppet.

“Xiao Qiang ¹ ! What happened to you, Xiao Qiang? I have raised you like my very own all this time, don’t die, Xiao Qiang!” Wang Baole grabbed and shook the puppet’s broken body, looking extremely pained.

Lin Tianhao laughed coldly, and just as he was about to speak, the natural talent Chen Yutong who was standing beside him suddenly howled fiercely.

“Lin Tianhao, what did you do?”

Lin Tianhao was shocked frozen the moment he heard the words. When he turned, he saw Chen Yutong looking extremely angry, the look of coldness in his eyes obvious.

Chen Yutong was indeed truly furious. He had been in seclusion for a period of time, and when he finally emerged, his subordinate, knowing his preferences, mentioned a joke regarding Lin Tianhao to him, highlighting the presence of the three puppets.

Therefore, Chen Yutong was tempted as he thought of a trade with the Lower Academy Island through a merchant some time in the past, where he received a very special puppet. After researching it, he felt that the puppet was impressive, which made him want to pay a visit to see it with his own eyes.

Even though it was easy for him to find out who refined the puppet, the moment he saw the gestures that the three puppets were displaying toward Lin Tianhao, Chen Yutong instantly confirmed that the one who made the puppet was doubtlessly Wang Baole!

What made him most delighted was that Wang Baole's skills in puppet refinement had improved by leaps and bounds. He was delighted by them the moment he saw them, which made him think that Lin Tianhao's vicious attack on the puppet was cruel and extremely sinful, resulting in his rage toward Lin Tianhao.

"Lin Tianhao, how dare you hurt and damage such a valuable treasure? You've wrecked a gem!"

Lin Tianhao was dumbfounded and froze with shock as he was stared at and berated by Chen Yutong. Hearing Chen Yutong addressing the puppet as a gem made Lin Tianhao unconsciously look at the puppet that he had ruined, bewildered.

Even Wang Baole trembled. He forgot about the sadness that he was portraying and raised his head, staring at Chen Yutong in a daze, who was more furious than he was. He was incredulous as he suddenly thought of the prominent character on the Upper Academy Island whom Xie Haiyang had mentioned a while back.

This... could it be him? Wang Baole took a deep breath, his face displaying a look of confusion.

As Wang Baole and Lin Tianhao were reeling in surprise, Chen Yutong took a few quick steps forward toward Wang Baole. He first looked at the decommissioned puppet with a pained expression before sighing and patting Wang Baole on his shoulders.

"Junior Brother Wang, I am Chen Yutong. Ah, truth be told, I bought the puppet you made back then. I bear witness to whatever has happened today. Don't worry, I will stand up for you! Destroying the beloved Dharmic Artifact belonging to a fellow disciple is an unforgivable sin!" Chen Yutong spoke as he retrieved his jade slip and sent some voice transmission instructions before looking coldly at Lin Tianhao.

Wang Baole blinked several times. He felt that something interesting was happening, so he aborted his original plan and looked at Lin Tianhao as well.

Lin Tianhao's pupils constricted. He wanted to speak, but his facial expressions changed immediately as he took out his voice transmission jade slip from his storage bag. With a quick sweep, messages from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion's disciplinary department regarding his punishment immediately appeared in his mind.

The punishment meted out was severe. Other than compensation to be paid, he was also to receive disciplinary action. Despite being wealthy, Lin Tianhao was also taken aback by the hefty compensation sum, which made his heart ache. He was angry, and at the same time, the disciplinary action was

announced. If he were to reoffend, not only would the punishment be a hundred times more severe, his actions would also be recorded in the files of the Dao College, becoming a lasting mark on his profile!

That would be serious. Even though it was something that his father could resolve, he did not want his father to know that he was at loggerheads with Wang Baole. Therefore, he bore with it and thought about how turbulent his life had been ever since he met Wang Baole. That was especially so on Upper Academy Island, where he had been in disadvantaged situations continuously. Every single time, he was unable to release his anger, and now, Chen Yutong unexpectedly became Wang Baole's ally.

Lin Tianhao breathed rapidly as he looked deeply at Wang Baole without saying a word. He suppressed his anger and turned to return to his cave abode. The moment he entered, he uncontrollably threw all the objects he had in the cave abode on the ground. He roared angrily as blue veins popped out on his forehead.

"Wang Baole!"

Now, outside the cave abode, Wang Baole's eyes were filled with passion. That was the first time he had seen authority in action on Upper Academy Island. Chen Yutong's words also instantly forced Lin Tianhao to bear with his anger despite being on the brink of eruption.

Whatever had happened carried great meaning. Now, Wang Baole looked around and immediately rose to greet Chen Yutong with cupped fists.

"Thank you, Senior Brother Chen!"

As he spoke, Wang Baole invited Chen Yutong into his cave abode. Chen Yutong accepted the invitation as he wanted to take the chance to interact with Wang Baole so as to understand more about the puppets. With the desire to be acquainted with each other, they began chatting heartily.

The duo exchanged experiences regarding the manufacturing of the puppets. Wang Baole realized that Chen Yutong's puppet manufacturing process was impressive, and his techniques were superior, perfect down to the finest details.

"My goal is to refine a Divine Armament puppet. I believe a puppet like that will possess an item spirit and become a real human!" Chen Yutong spoke with excitement in his eyes. He had gained valuable insights from his first interaction with Wang Baole. Even though Wang Baole was not as proficient as he was in refining, his unique knowledge and thought process with regards to inscriptions moved him.

However, it was still the first interaction between the both of them after all. Unknowingly, it was dusk, and Chen Yutong had to bid Wang Baole farewell. Before he left, Wang Baole generously gifted Chen Yutong a few puppets.

He knew about Chen Yutong's preferences and thoughtfully gifted him hairy and burly puppets. However, he did not give Zhu Gangqiang away, as he could not bear to. After all, it was the very first puppet that he made after incorporating his creativity and knowledge about puppets.

Even so, Chen Yutong was still surprised. After gracefully accepting the puppets, he waved his right hand and gifted Wang Baole the Numinous Treasure that he had borrowed years ago to deceive one's mind.

Though unable to fight an enemy head on, it was still a Numinous Treasure. Chen Yutong's gesture of gifting it without much thought allowed Wang Baole to realize the generosity displayed by the Dharmic Armament Pavilion that far exceeded that of the Dharmic Armament faculty.

After sending Chen Yutong off, Wang Baole returned to his cave abode and logged on to the Spirit Intranet. He searched for information regarding Chen Yutong's background and was instantly jolted awake.

This Senior Brother Chen is a top Armament Soldier, wielding large amounts of power. He is in charge of the College Administrative Department of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. Every single illegal construction is under the jurisdiction of his department!

There are also rumors that he would become the next deputy Pavilion Head! Wang Baole was impressed—he had never imagined that Chen Yutong would be such a prominent figure. Thoughts and emotions flew around his heart and mind.

Even though he has an unusual liking toward researching puppets, he is still a nice person. After a disciple of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion reaches the ranks of an Armament Disciple, they can apply to the department where they wish to carry out their duty. If only I could enter the College Administrative Department that he is in charge of... Wang Baole's eyes lit up as he grew decisive after pondering for a short moment.

Therefore, in the days that followed, other than practicing and refining Dharmic Artifacts, Wang Baole also spent time deepening his relationship with Chen Yutong, without making it too purposeful and too frequent. He did go to the disciplinary department and show off on the basis of this incident. He did not mention a single word about wanting to work for the urban planning department. Even Chen Yutong's subordinates were unaware of the budding friendship between the both of them.

Chen Yutong was impressed by how Wang Baole handled matters. Furthermore, as Wang Baole's personality was pleasant, their relationship gradually grew chummy.

After a period of time, Wang Baole felt that he has established some footing on Upper Academy Island. At the same time, he was becoming more proficient in his knowledge of the refinement materials. The next step would be to refine actual treasures.

However, before this, I need to research further into psychology. Wang Baole turned his head to look at his neighbor. A flash appeared in his eyes, and with a wave of his arm, over thirty hunky puppets appeared instantly, and they marched out of the cave abode in a neat formation.

Chapter 132: The Rules of Dharmic Armaments

The following morning, Lin Tianhao emerged from his cave abode, his face as black as charcoal. He immediately saw the thirty over burly puppets, which made his anger skyrocket. He shut his eyes before turning to return to his cave abode a while later. He packed up his belongings, and when he emerged again, he stepped away in a steadfast manner without turning his head once.

He no longer wished to fight Wang Baole there, having recognized that it was a waste of time. If the status quo was maintained, Wang Baole would not be the least affected. Rather, his own cultivation would be hampered, and his progress in making Dharmic Artifacts would be slowed.

Realizing that Lin Tianhao had packed up and left, Wang Baole suddenly grew anxious. He ran out and waved to him, intending to persuade him to return, but Lin Tianhao sped up upon seeing Wang Baole.

Ah, what a perfect test subject. What a pity that he left just like that...

Seeing Lin Tianhao disappear into the distance, Wang Baole felt troubled. In the end, he shook his head, sighing, as he turned to return to the cave abode.

Lin Tianhao, who was leaving the area with break neck speed, carried an awful facial expression. If this was his home city, he would not have lacked ideas to deal with of Wang Baole. However, in this Dao College, all his methods had failed completely.

Wang Baole, I'll teach you the meaning of regret the day I become an Armament Soldier!

The news of Lin Tianhao moving out was shocking to some who had been keeping tabs on him. However, few people actually bothered about it, for the Dharmic Armament Pavilion was vast like a palace, and there were so many disciples each with their own matters to focus on. Even though there were many messages posted previously on the Spirit Intranet insulting and maligning Wang Baole, the most it did was make his name less foreign. People who had not interacted with him previously would not care much about his looks to identify him.

At the same time, seeing that the neighboring cave abode was vacant, Wang Baole tried many means and bribed his Senior Brother from the Pavilion Administrative Department to unlock the array formation in secret. He made a passageway into the neighboring cave abode, instantly doubling his space into a large suite. Wang Baole's troubled mood due to Lin Tianhao leaving without a word was instantly lifted.

It was also at this point in time that he began preparing himself for his advancement to become an Armament Disciple. He was determined to make a hundred first-grade Dharmic Artifacts in one go in order to be promoted to an Armament Disciple.

However, before this, he took out his Hallucination Pillow and entered the hallucination realm. He had already rented the Hallucination Pillow for five years, and since it was not due yet, he did not return it.

Now, in the hallucination realm, Wang Baole retrieved his black mask again. He wanted to ask Little Missy if a suitable cultivation technique similar to the Qi Devouring Art was available for the True Breath realm.

After all, to Wang Baole, the Qi Devouring Art complemented the Qi Fostering Art. Therefore, it could be possible that there existed more profound cultivation techniques for refining artifacts than the Technique of Infinite Armament Transformation.

However, when he vocalized his thoughts, the mask remained unresponsive. Wang Baole was unfazed by Little Missy's stubbornness and continued asking the mask questions sweetly, using a voice he deemed as gentle.

“The gorgeous, unbelievably adorable Little Missy, your Baole is here to see you.

“Little Missy, the Golden Body that you’ve introduced to me was extremely useful. The moment I stepped into the mystic realm, every single Spirit Root that saw me immediately fell in love with me, making me embarrassed.”

Wang Baole pretended to be demure while speaking as he stole glances at the mask. After experiencing the incident that occurred after he returned from the Spirit Breath Village, he did not attempt to test the water with his questions again.

Finally, when he mentioned the phrase ‘Golden Body’, the mask reacted, flashing several times quickly. The impression that it gave Wang Baole was that Little Missy was feeling emotional. He immediately grew alert as he thought about whether it would be better for him to pay a visit another day since Little Missy seemed to be in a bad mood.

Suddenly, a flash of lightning immediately shot out from the mask.

“Little Missy, what are you doing?” Wang Baole’s eyes were wide open, and he swiftly retreated.

However, the speed of the lightning was so fast that Wang Baole could not avoid it. The lightning struck his body, and as the soreness and numbness spread within his body, Wang Baole was thrown into shock. The lightning circulated near his dantian, where the devouring seed was, and after sensing Wang Baole’s complete spirit meridians and the Spirit Root within his devouring seed, it immediately burrowed out. When it returned to the mask, it lingered within the hallucination realm and mumbled, “What luck this irritating fatty has...”

“Who?” The mumble was very soft, and Wang Baole did not manage to hear it completely. He only heard the phrase ‘irritating fatty’, which made his hair stand on end. After realizing that it was the mask who was speaking, he took a deep breath. He had long mentally prepared himself for this, and even though he was surprised that the mask could speak, he was able to accept it.

However, the ‘irritating fatty’ mentioned by the mask stirred Wang Baole’s emotions. He looked around, and his eyes landed on the mask eventually, looking doubtful.

“Little Missy, was it you who was speaking? There’s no fatty here.”

Already oblivious to Wang Baole’s act of feigning ignorance, the Little Missy within the mask did not continue speaking. However, words began appearing on the mask.

Wang Baole became alert as he began reading the words. However, disappointment soon filled him, as the words on the mask were not regarding the cultivation techniques that he desired. Instead, it was a formula for a Dharmic Artifact.

After studying the formula described for a moment, Wang Baole realized that it was for a scabbard!

“You want me to refine a scabbard? What so great about refining a scabbard? It’s not a flying sword. Besides, a scabbard is not required for a flying sword.” Wang Baole sounded unwilling.

Sensing the unwillingness in Wang Baole’s tone, the mask flashed again, and a new message appeared on it.

“If the scabbard refined is top notch, it can surpass that of a Divine Armament to become a supreme object, it could absorb the ancient greenish-bronze sword on the sun...”

After reading those words, Wang Baole laughed.

“Don’t joke around, Little Missy. You think I’m ignorant? I’ve used this method since I was six to cheat people of their money as my allowance. Have some credibility to your words!”

The mask remained silent for a long while before flashing once again. The words on it changed again, telling Wang Baole that the scabbard was only the first step. After refining it successfully, there were cultivation techniques that were further associated with it. At the same time, the scabbard belonged to the growth category. The scabbard would give rise to the Spirit Needle, and if further refined, there would be a day when the Spirit Needle could be transformed into the Spirit Sword to sever everything in the universe!

“This sounds more believable.” Wang Baole took a closer look again. Even though he was still doubtful, after reading that cultivation techniques would follow, he did not say anything further. When he left the hallucination realm, he sat and thought about the formula. Previously, he had only taken a quick glance, but after seriously thinking about it now, he grew excited.

“It’s just a first-grade Dharmic Artifact, but it’s already so complicated. The first step is already unconventional, and the Spirit Stones that have inscriptions must not only be Rainbow Spirit Stones, it must also be a uniform set. It’s not acceptable for the Rainbow Spirit Stone to be separately assembled into the shape of the scabbard.”

Wang Baole was confused yet excited. He further thought about it, and as he raised his head after a period of time, his eyes carried a look of shock.

Other than its requirements for specific Spirit Stones, it was also particular in its requirements for inscriptions. The number of inscriptions required indicated to Wang Baole that it far exceeded the number needed for normal third-grade Numinous Treasures. Furthermore, even though Wang Baole could solve the arrangement of the inscriptions using formulas, he did not understand their meanings.

The requirements involving the Spirit Kernel were extremely complicated as well. The requirements for the refinement materials were stringent, and Wang Baole could not figure out how everything required fit into the simple picture of being a first-grade item.

However, it was indeed a first-grade Dharmic Artifact!

Could it be that when the scabbard reaches its top level, it could really attract the ancient greenish-bronze sword? Wang Baole thought about it, but he still felt incredulous about it. He was immensely intrigued by the scabbard but could see that it was not as mighty as what Little Missy described, even though it was obviously a treasure as well.

Maybe I can incorporate the bead from the blue long spear in the refinement process. That way, I could perhaps combine these two Dharmic treasures together, making them more powerful!

When Wang Baole researched the bead previously, this thought had already appeared in his mind. Since the bead was derived from a Dharmic treasure, if it were combined with another Dharmic treasure, an effect might be seen.

However, there was only one bead, so Wang Baole did not dare test it just like that. However, seeing that the scabbard seemed to have potential, he was tempted.

He knew that it would be challenging to refine the scabbard and did not rush into things. Instead, he began refining perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifacts that were needed for his advancement to become an Armament Disciple. Wang Baole chose a few of them off the list from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion and began refining.

Time passed quickly, and three days flew by. After failing several times, Wang Baole finally managed to refine a perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifact flying sword. It was jade green in color, glowing brightly and giving off a cold, subtle aura. It seemed superior to all the other flying swords that Wang Baole had ever refined.

Condensed Jadeite Sword! Wang Baole's eyes lit up. After comparing it to the requirements listed by the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, he understood that his sword had met all the requirements. Delighted, he began carving his name on it and felt emotional as he recognized that this unassuming sword could not only be used to fight others if it landed in the hands of outsiders. If it was used to attack him, he could instantly cause it to shatter into pieces.

"Dharmic Armament cultivators are all sly," Wang Baole said snidely. That was what Chen Yutong had told him regarding unspoken rules followed by all Dharmic Armament cultivators in the Federation.

That was... to take a back door via connections!

Every Dharmic Armament cultivator would leave a catch known only to themselves in the Dharmic Artifacts that they produced. This tacit rule was to prevent the Dharmic Artifact that one had manufactured from becoming one that would ultimately kill its manufacturer!

Even though this caused unhappiness, and occasionally resulted in murders to keep the information a secret, it was a rule of the trade. The more it seemed this way, the more difficult it was to stop it.

Chapter 133: It Is Very Fragile

With a wave of emotions, Wang Baole put down the Condensed Jadeite Sword and began refining the second perfect Dharmic Artifact. In the refinement process, he did not halt his cultivation of the Cloud Ethereal technique. He would meditate and practice the technique every day, which allowed him to build up Spirit Qi and rest as well.

Every circulation that he finished would allow him to rejuvenate his mind. He also felt that the Spirit thread within his body was growing stronger by the day, especially when he was refining the required Spirit Stones. As the devouring seed churned, it was obvious that his speed of absorbing Spirit Qi had increased significantly. The appearance of mist around him, coupled with the fact that he had activated a hundred percent of his spirit meridians, caused his cultivation speed to far exceed that of others.

He understood that neither cultivation nor the refinement of Dharmic Artifacts should be ignored, especially as it was specifically mentioned in the Technique of Infinite Armament Transformation that as the grade of the Dharmic Artifacts being refined increased, the required support from one's cultivation would increase.

Furthermore, there were nine grades of Dharmic Artifacts listed by the Federation. The first two grades were known as Dharmic Artifacts, those from the third grade were known as Numinous Treasures, and the seventh grade was known as Dharmic Armaments. If it was beyond the ninth level, it would be known as a Divine Armament!

That put a huge demand on the Dharmic Armament cultivator's cultivation!

As he thought about the Technique of Infinite Armament Transformation, a passage from the preface surfaced on Wang Baole's mind.

"As armament cultivators, everything is viewed as Spirit Stones. Endless inscriptions are made, condensing them into... supreme Spirit Kernels!

"Viewing the laws as forging materials, and the cosmos as an incubator, refinement is done... to produce a Divine Armament capable of eliminating the gods!"

Wang Baole was shaken, thinking about those words. He wondered when the time would come for him to reach the level where he could refine every single object in the world.

Then, I will be able to refine Divine Armaments and become the President of the Federation! This is not something that can be accomplished in a matter of minutes or days. Who would dare say 'no'? Wang Baole was filled with anticipation as he thought about this.

With this feeling of anticipation, days passed. The number of perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifacts that Wang Baole had made increased in number. In the two weeks that passed, Wang Baole stayed in near-complete seclusion, endlessly refining first-grade Dharmic Artifacts. With each Dharmic Artifact refined, he was a step closer to becoming an Armament Disciple.

This was not an easy feat to the other disciples who had just gained admission to the Upper Academy Island. To Wang Baole, however, it was just a matter of time. At the same time, in the two weeks that passed, the second batch of disciples entered the Upper Academy Island.

The second batch of disciples consisted of senior students who did not enter the Spirit Breath Village previously and the small proportion of people who had failed in the Spirit Breath Village. They had passed the mystic realm of their respective Dao Colleges to achieve breakthroughs and were allowed to advance into the Upper Academy.

Their arrival made the Upper Academy Island livelier. At the same time, the cruiser gifted by the Dharmic Armament Pavilion to Wang Baole for being an eight-inch Spirit Root True Breath expert was finally completed and was sent personally to him by the blue-shirted cultivator from the Pavilion Administrative Department.

He was one of the few who had paid particular attention to the battle between Wang Baole and Lin Tianhao. From that, the blue-shirted cultivator could already see that Wang Baole was extraordinary. He even looked up information about the brutal incidents involving Wang Baole in the Lower Academy Island, which strengthened his desire to befriend Wang Baole.

Wang Baole was fond of making friends. He was in the process of refining Dharmic Artifacts, but he was not at all irritated that he was interrupted by the blue-shirted cultivator's visit. Instead, he was

extremely welcoming, and after exchanging greetings before sending the blue-shirted cultivator away, Wang Baole looked at the small cruiser parked outside his cave abode, his eyes filled with excitement.

It's a cruiser. Wang Baole stepped ahead to get a feel of it. The green cruiser was wingless and not very large. It was about thirty feet wide, oval in shape, with a dent in the middle, as if a mystic force was circulating within it.

Due to the presence of the protective shield, it was convenient regardless of whether one was standing up or sitting down when the cruiser was used for short-haul flights. If it was used for long-haul flights, one could even lie in it. There were also many flight mode options, from the autopilot mode that could be enabled after keying in the destination to the self-driving mode after the spirit energy was completely integrated into one's body.

It's a pity that it's not equipped with a combat function. However, I can incorporate some Dharmic Artifacts on it. This way, it would be ready for combat! Wang Baole circled the cruiser. The more he looked at it, the fonder of it he was. It could be considered his first personal cruiser, and as cruisers of this sort were like Dharmic Artifacts, Wang Baole did not face many challenges controlling it.

After a brief look at the cruiser, Wang Baole sat on it, his excitement overflowing. Instantly, spirit energy within his body was unleashed and integrated with the cruiser, causing it to vibrate slightly and rise slowly into the air.

Wang Baole looked exhilarated. Controlling the spirit energy with his mind, the cruiser that was in midair began to speed forward into the skies.

He yelled happily. Wang Baole flew the cruiser within the skies above the Upper Academy Island. He was initially unfamiliar with it, but he gradually grew more skilled, especially as disciples from the other pavilions were also flying their cruisers in the skies. After some observation, he no longer sat down on the cruiser, instead standing up on the cruiser and roaring with the wind in his hair.

This is what a cultivator should be equipped with. Stepping into the skies, making everywhere between the heavens and earth a place that can be explored! Wang Baole laughed heartily and recalled that it was written in the Cloud Ethereal technique that if a True Breath expert reached the fifth level, they could fly into the skies while standing on a sword.

Till then, cruisers were mostly used for long distance travel. Even if danger was met midair, one could still leave while stepping on a sword and battle the opponent.

I need to buck up and level up to the peak of a True Breath! The exhilaration of flying in the skies while controlling his own cruiser made Wang Baole extremely excited for his own future, and the speed of his cruiser increased.

The strong winds that were coming at him were blocked due to the protective shield. Therefore, Wang Baole did not feel the strong winds striking his face. The cruiser's design also minimized air resistance. Amid his joy, Wang Baole laughed as the cruiser tore through the clouds and flew at a high altitude.

At this position, no other cruisers can be seen in the vicinity.

Everything below seemed to have shrunk in Wang Baole's eyes. Looking into the distance, the surrounding layers of clouds were like an ocean, wide and limitless. When he looked up, the sun at the edge of the skies was glowing hot, and the ancient greenish-bronze sword was especially prominent.

Ah, the Sword Sun. The sun is huge, many times larger than the Earth. Naturally, the ancient greenish-bronze sword is also astonishing and similarly many times larger than the Earth.

Such a huge sword body is akin to the great land and akin to the huge world!

After reaching the True Breath realm, Wang Baole had become acquainted with and gained greater clarity about information that he had not been as familiar with when he was in the Ancient Martial Arts realm through the Spirit Intranet.

For example, landing on the Great Sword World of the sun was a feat that all forces within the Federation were trying to achieve. As early as thirty years ago, the Five Generation Sky Clan had used an undisclosed method and become the first to land a batch of people on it, successfully obtaining some form of inheritance.

It was a pity that the details of the incident remained a top secret that could not be made known to outsiders.

There is also the moon... Wang Baole refocused his thoughts. It was evening, and the faint figure of the moon could be seen in the skies together with the sun. There had been many legends and mysterious elements regarding the moon that had been passed down since the ancient times.

Some of these legends had been proven, while some of them still remain myths that even the current Federation could not garner proof to verify. Regardless of this, it was known that many fragments of the ancient greenish-bronze sword had landed on the moon.

This made the moon, which had long been under the governance of the Federation, a treasure trove!

Some have mentioned on the Spirit Intranet that for a person who has broken through to the True Breath realm, the opportunity to advance into greater levels lies on the moon!

A look of anticipation was apparent in Wang Baole's eyes. He felt a wave of emotions, but suddenly, he widened his eyes when he noticed that a black spot had appeared on the moon.

The black spot was moving at an incredible speed and seemed to be charging toward him.

"What on Earth is that?" Wang Baole was taken aback. Under his control, he immediately landed the cruiser. As he ran toward the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, he turned and saw that in the clouds behind him, it appeared as if a massive object had appeared from beneath the sea.

With a loud boom, the wave-like clouds began churning outward into the surroundings. Thereafter, a gigantic figure of a creature covered entirely in black hair that was two hundred feet wide emerged from the clouds. Baring its teeth, it charged directly toward Wang Baole.

The beast was a gigantic ape that had wings. The suppressive force emanating from it far suppressed that of a True Breath. Wang Baole had only looked briefly at it before he experienced breathing difficulties. His heart palpitated vigorously, and it became obvious that the force was one that he was unable to withstand.

The force from the ape was not only immense, but it also looked extremely savage. Its speed far exceeded that of Wang Baole, and now, a ferocious look was obvious in its eyes. It seemed to have locked onto Wang Baole, and as its wings flapped, its speed was boosted several times, instantly closing in on Wang Baole and appearing beside his cruiser. It raised its right hand and directly threw a forceful slap toward the cruiser.

Compared to its humongous body, the cruiser was akin to a toy. Wang Baole, who was sitting in the cruiser, was so frightened that he gasped in shock. It was too late for him to hide, and as the ape's hand landed on the cruiser, the cruiser was instantly thrown off balance and crashed forcefully to the ground in the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, accompanied by a loud boom.

"What's going on? There are actually beasts on the Upper Academy Island, and no one keeps them under control?"

Wang Baole trembled and screamed immediately. However, even before the cruiser struck the ground, the ape picked up speed and caught up with the cruiser. Gnashing its teeth, it appeared delighted as it forcefully and loudly slapped the cruiser again, causing it to tumble again and again.

Inside the cruiser, Wang Baole was shocked frozen, and his screams grew even more pathetic. All he could feel was that the buzzing in his head had become stronger than ever, as the unbelievable speed that he had no means of controlling caused his heart to jump out of his chest.

"This is ridiculous! I didn't even provoke it!"

In his grief and indignation, the ape suddenly leaped into the air again, arriving beside the cruiser and slapping it with great force. Seeing the cruiser crash once again, the ape looked excited as it thumped its chest, roaring with delight.

Just like that, the ape jumped around, treating the cruiser like a toy as it continuously threw it again and again. It was obvious that it was playing a game and had good control of its strength as it did not damage the cruiser further.

Even so, inside the cruiser, Wang Baole was suffering. His painful screams were endless, and he was extremely confused as his world tumbled in all directions.

Several people on Upper Academy Island witnessed what was going on, but they were not too surprised—they merely shook their heads as thoughts filled it.

"Whose cruiser is that? He must be a newbie..."

"Only newbies would daringly fly into the clouds. That is the Diamond Ape's territory; it strikes anyone it sees."

Just like that, after being thrown into the skies and crashing over ten times, the ape seemed to have grown bored. It no longer cared about the cruiser as it landed heavily and loudly on the Dharmic Armament Pavilion's ground. Luckily, the cruiser was sturdy, and Wang Baole did not sustain many injuries despite the cruiser being significantly damaged with green smoke billowing out from it. As it landed on the ground, Wang Baole scrambled out of the cruiser, struggling as his head was in a whirl. The moment he emerged, he vomited all over the ground.

His body trembled. Wang Baole raised his head weakly, filled with indignation as he stared angrily at the ape in the skies. He pointed at it with his right hand and was about to begin hurling insults at it when a kind-hearted disciple beside him who had turned pale from shock immediately spoke.

“Junior Brother, quiet down! Don’t scold it, as it is extremely fragile. The moment it is scolded, it will unleash its fiercest side, and that is extremely scary!”

Chapter 134: The Alchemy Faculty Reward!

“Its fiercest move? I don’t care about its fiercest move!” Wang Baole’s rage erupted. The thought of being played around by the ape drove him crazy, especially as it had occurred not just once but over ten times.

“Calm down, Junior Brother. Calm down... I would advise you not to provoke this ape, for it is the favorite pet of the Beast Taming Pavilion Elder. Its cultivation far exceeds that of us True Breath plebs, making it immensely strong. The area above the clouds is its territory, and if it sees something appearing there, it loves to slap it away...” The kind-hearted disciple beside Wang Baole shook his head. He did not know Wang Baole, given that there were so many disciples in the Dharmic Armament Pavilion.

“It has such a strong backer?” Listening to the words of the fellow disciple and gaining a brief understanding of the ape, Wang Baole sighed as he realized that he could not afford to offend it. He grew even more grievous and indignant, and he had wanted to ask about the fiercest antics of the Diamond Ape that had leaped into the air when it seemed to have heard Wang Baole. It stopped instantly, shaking its buttocks at Wang Baole as it turned and snarled, revealing a condescending look in its eyes.

“You’re insulting me?” Wang Baole’s eyes stared wide open as he almost lost control of his temper. It was the first time in his life that he had been insulted by an ape.

The Diamond Ape that was in midair started to make sounds as it proudly thumped its chest. It shifted its attention from Wang Baole and turned to charge directly toward the Beast Taming Pavilion.

Wang Baole was extremely furious. Not only had he been treated as a toy by the ape, he had even been insulted. The feeling of indignation almost caused him to explode with rage. It took him a while to keep his anger under control. Painfully, he looked at the broken cruiser and sighed. After thanking his fellow disciple, he took the cruiser back to his cave abode with feelings of grief and indignation.

Thankfully, the damage to the cruiser was superficial and not too severe. It could easily be fixed with Wang Baole’s current abilities. It was just that it was difficult to suppress his indignation as his rage grew thinking about the facial expression of the ape as it insulted him.

Just you wait, rascal! You’ll see what me, your Grandpa Wang will do if you provoke him!

Gritting his teeth and suppressing his indignation, Wang Baole did not feel like heading out after fixing the cruiser. Thus, he decided to continue refining Dharmic Artifacts in seclusion.

Days passed, and Wang Baole grew increasingly familiar with the process of refining first-grade Dharmic Artifacts. The number of Dharmic Artifacts grew in number, even though there were failures in the process that cost him a significant portion of his savings.

However, he gradually refined over eighty Dharmic Artifacts that he had specially selected in the catalog from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. Every single Dharmic Artifact was symbolic, and they all belonged to the category of being moderately challenging to refine. If he had chosen to refine those of lower difficulty, he would not have needed to spend so much time, energy, and money.

This was because Chen Yutong had once mentioned to Wang Baole that even though the assessment requirement for an Armament Disciple was to perfectly refine a hundred first-grade Dharmic Artifacts, there were actually points allocated to each of them. It did not matter if it was a high or low score, as one could advance to become an Armament Disciple once the minimum requirement was reached.

However, the score would become significant when one advanced further to become an Armament Soldier in the future. It could act as bonus points for the assessment of an Armament Soldier. Therefore, Chen Yutong told Wang Baole that if it was possible, it would be advantageous for him if he refined the most challenging first-grade Dharmic Artifacts from the catalog.

Even though it would entail a great expense, and the Dao College would only reward the Armament Disciples with a few symbolic Spirit Stones for the hundred Dharmic Artifacts that they refined for the assessment, making the cost disproportionate to the gains, this provided an easier path to success in the future by building a solid foundation.

After considering all these factors, Wang Baole decided to challenge himself. He had to fork out so much more, but the gains that he had received in the Spirit Breath Village previously were also significant. He only needed to wait for the Dao College to complete its process of recording the gains before he received his bountiful reward.

However, if everything went according to his plan, it would be inevitable for him to use a refinement material known as the Star Era Sand for the next ten or so Dharmic Artifacts. The Star Era Sand was available within the sect, but it could only be bought if one completed a specific mission, one which also required time to complete.

After calculating the time needed, Wang Baole grew impatient. After thinking about it, he decided to contact Xie Haiyang, whom he thought would have a way to get his hands on the Star Era Sand since he was so influential on the Lower Academy Island. If Xie Haiyang was not able to do it, Wang Baole planned to seek help from Chen Yutong.

However, even though he had built a friendship with Chen Yutong, they were not close as they had not known each other for long. Therefore, unless there was no other choice, Wang Baole did not want to trouble Chen Yutong.

Right now, Xie Haiyang was introducing himself to a new student from the Lower Academy Island passionately.

“Junior Sister, I am Xie Haiyang. Within Ethereal Dao College, regardless of whether you are the Chancellor or an ordinary student, there is no request that I am unable to fulfil.”

As he spoke, Xie Haiyang received Wang Baole's voice transmission. His eyes lit up as he picked up the message and smiled at the female student, who appeared apprehensive.

"See that? Do you know who Wang Baole is? He is my biggest client. Alright, take your time to consider. I have to help with Senior Brother Wang's matter now." Xie Haiyang turned and left delightfully as he spoke. He immediately retrieved his voice transmission ring to communicate with Wang Baole. He was extremely respectful and polite, a vast difference from when Wang Baole was on the Lower Academy Island.

Eventually, he promised that he would hand over the amount required by Wang Baole within three days.

Xie Haiyang's not bad. I'm on Upper Academy Island now, and he can still help me. He is no doubt a businessman. He will probably also want to gain admission to Upper Academy Island soon. Wang Baole was surprised as he thought highly of Xie Haiyang. He waited patiently for three days, and that was when he received Xie Haiyang's voice transmission.

"Senior Brother Wang, I can't enter Upper Academy Island. How about we trade outside?"

After receiving Xie Haiyang's voice transmission, Wang Baole immediately left his cave abode and arrived at the foggy border of Upper Academy Island's platform, where he saw an extremely respectful Xie Haiyang standing.

"Greetings, Senior Brother Wang!" The moment he saw Wang Baole, Xie Haiyang stood at attention. He stepped forward quickly and bowed deeply. Even before Wang Baole could speak, he had immediately retrieved a bag and passed it to Wang Baole politely.

Noticing the change in Xie Haiyang's attitude toward him, Wang Baole laughed silently as he knew that a large part of it was due to his admission to Upper Academy Island. He received the bag with a pleased look and was delighted when he saw its contents.

He handed over the Spirit Stones, and the duo exchanged formalities after the transaction. Xie Haiyang remained respectful throughout the conversation. Wang Baole laughed and wanted to leave before Xie Haiyang seemed to have thought of something as he suddenly rushed forward and whispered, "Senior Brother Wang, you have bought so many things from me, and we can be considered old friends. I will let you in on a piece of news!"

"Hmm?" Wang Baole turned to look at Xie Haiyang.

"Senior Brother Wang, through my special connections, I have come to know of a piece of information that few, other than the people involved, know. In three days, the Alchemy Pavilion on Upper Academy Island will give out a reward for a specially-recruited individual."

As Xie Haiyang spoke, he paid attention to Wang Baole's facial expression.

"A reward from the Alchemy Pavilion for a specially-recruited?" Wang Baole was confused.

"The rules on the Upper Academy Island state that every pavilion can bestow an outstanding contributor who directly gained admission to Upper Academy Island as a disciple without having to pass through the

assessment a reward. However, this is a rare occurrence. This time, the Alchemy Pavilion will reward someone who became a True Breath disciple by giving out a seven-inch Spirit Root!”

Wang Baole was shocked to hear the news. He knew how precious the seven-inch Spirit Root was, and the fact that the Alchemy Pavilion could afford to give a reward like that made him curious.

“However, there are some issues with the reward. Therefore, when the news is announced in three days, they will request for that person to successfully refine a Cloud Breath Pill before the deadline in order to be eligible...” Xie Haiyang stopped his sentence midway as he looked at Wang Baole.

“I have done some research on this Cloud Breath Pill. It is said that it is a pill that will be immensely advantageous to a True Breath cultivator. Most importantly, there are no prior records regarding this pill, and it could be considered a new formula. After the assessment, the Alchemy Pavilion of the Upper Academy Island began to regard it as a significant contribution, which is when the specially-recruited reward began. However, some issues seemed to have arisen—there were two students who submitted the formula for the Cloud Breath Pill, but there is only one reward!

“Therefore, an assessment is required in order to hand out the reward. The deadline is set for a month. The winner of the two students is whoever refines a Cloud Breath Pill with a higher purity. However, in order to refine the Cloud Breath Pill, many materials are required, and the total cost will be hefty...”

Listening to the message, Wang Baole’s eyes lit up, and he looked sharply at Xie Haiyang.

Xie Haiyang took a deep breath and spoke quietly as Wang Baole’s gaze was focused on him.

“The two who submitted the formula were Zhou Xiaoya and her best friend, Chen Fei, whom she came to know in the Alchemy Faculty. The Alchemy Pavilion of Upper Academy Island already has information regarding the one who created the formulation, but they have yet to announce it. This matter is one of life-and-death. I have heard that news has begun to spread within Upper Academy Island’s Alchemy Pavilion that Chen Fei was likely the one who created the formula. After all, Chen Fei is an impressive fourth year senior student. It is unlikely that she would risk the possibility of being expelled from the Dao College by stealing someone else’s formula...”

“At the same time, based on what I’ve understood so far, Chen Fei has connections with Lin Tianhao. It is highly possible that Lin Tianhao would sponsor Chen Fei in refining the Cloud Breath Pill. This way, even if Chen Fei fails in the refinement process, she will be able to try again. On the other hand, Zhou Xiaoya does not have this advantage. If nothing unexpected happens, in a month’s time, after the announcement is made, the likelihood of Zhou Xiaoya losing will be extremely high. Most importantly, the Alchemy Pavilion’s stance toward this is something unknown.

“Senior Brother Wang, since the Alchemy Pavilion has yet to announce the matter regarding the reward, and if the formula was really not created by Zhou Xiaoya, you’d better talk some sense into her. Otherwise...” Xie Haiyang paused and fell silent. He took a few steps back, allowing Wang Baole some time to digest the information.

Wang Baole’s facial expression had long turned awful. His gaze was even sharper than before, and a ferocious vibe has accumulated and emanated directly from his body.

Chapter 135: Aggressive

Exuding that ferocious aura, Wang Baole raised his head and looked in the direction of the Lower Academy Island in the distance. In the time that he had spent on Upper Academy Island, he had been occupied with the battle with Lin Tianhao as well as his advancement to become an Armament Disciple. Thus, he had neglected the happenings on the Lower Academy Island.

He did not know that such an incident involving Zhou Xiaoya had happened. Furthermore, Zhou Xiaoya did not mention anything to him either. Such information that was little known to others could only be more easily accessible to people like Xie Haiyang, after all.

After a few moments of silence, Wang Baole promptly retrieved his voice transmission ring to send a voice transmission to Zhou Xiaoya. Zhou Xiaoya was in the alchemical lab with her eyes red as she tried hard to prevent herself from bursting into tears. She did not speak much after receiving Wang Baole's voice transmission, but when Wang Baole asked about the Cloud Breath Pill, she could no longer control herself as she burst into tears pitifully.

"Brother Baole, I did not create the formula for the Cloud Breath Pill. It was originally an incomplete formula that my grandfather, who was versed in the Pulse Enrichment Ancient Martial Arts, received unexpectedly over twenty years ago.

"When I joined the Alchemy faculty, I researched on the formula as I learned the coursework, which allowed me to more or less complete it. Do you remember the pill I showed you when you came to the Alchemy faculty the other time? Actually, that was the prototype of the Cloud Breath Pill. I had originally wanted to present the formula to the Dao College to gain admission to Upper Academy Island.

"I did not guard myself against Chen Fei. In the process of patching up the formula, I discussed many details with her."

Listening to Zhou Xiaoya's words, Wang Baole chose to believe her. He knew that Zhou Xiaoya was still young and had yet to experience the realities of society. She also did not possess the life-and-death experiences that he had gained over the past year, making it inevitable that she would place her trust in her friends lightly. Therefore, he consoled Zhou Xiaoya and reassured her.

"Don't cry, I am here!"

Thereafter, he ended the voice transmission. He narrowed his eyes as he roughly assessed the matter.

Regardless of the origins of the incomplete formula for the Cloud Breath Pill, it was obvious that it was related to the debris from the ancient greenish-bronze sword. There was no need to think too much about this matter, and it was likely that the Alchemy Pavilion had realized that there was no true creator for the formula.

Therefore, even though a reward was to be given, it was difficult to determine the person to be rewarded. After all, both students had submitted the formula, so even if the submitted formula was stolen, it was not something disadvantageous to the Alchemy Pavilion. Regardless of the truth, the formula was to be submitted to the Alchemy Pavilion.

From the stance of an onlooker, the Alchemy Pavilion was unreasonable. However, from the viewpoint of the Alchemy Pavilion, this was merely a transaction. Giving out the reward of a seven-inch Spirit Root

would be the conclusion of the transaction. It was not wise to diminish the enthusiasm of the students by punishing them for the origins of the formula.

In this situation, the final decision of the Alchemy Pavilion to reward the one who could refine a Cloud Breath Pill of the highest purity could be considered fair to a certain extent.

However, if the formula was created by the student, the matter would be entirely different. For formulas that were of one's original creation, the Alchemy Pavilion would definitely give an eight-inch Spirit Root as a reward and would have to investigate the truth behind it. It would have to severely punish the student if they had attained the formula through theft, and there was no room for mistakes in the process, making it a matter that kept everyone on high alert!

The possible death threat that Xie Haiyang had mentioned was precisely regarding this. However, his information was incomplete, and he did not completely understand the situation mentioned by Zhou Xiaoya, resulting in some mistakes in his interpretation.

On the other hand, matters involving Lin Tianhao were not as complicated as Xie Haiyang thought. Wang Baole immediately realized that Lin Tianhao could not make things difficult for him, causing him to seize the chance to bully Zhou Xiaoya in order to hurt him.

After attaining a basic understanding of the matter, the hatred that Wang Baole harbored toward the woman named Chen Fei was immense. He sighed coldly, raising his hand, and took out a jade slip to pass to Xie Haiyang.

"This is an empty jade slip, which you can take as a blank check!

"Look for Zhou Xiaoya when you return. Purchase every herb that she requires for the refinement of the Cloud Breath Pill in large amounts and ensure that she has no lack of them so that she can earn the reward in a month with the Cloud Breath Pill that she has refined!

"As for the costs, I have nothing but Spirit Stones. Even I cannot put a number on the amount I can make!" Wang Baole spoke calmly but revealed his wealth in his words, which made Xie Haiyang take a deep breath as his eyes lit up.

At the same time, his heart trembled as he knew how significant it was that Wang Baole was able to hand him an empty check. It meant that he was confident that Xie Haiyang would not dare to lie and go against him, and it showed his trust in Xie Haiyang! It also showed the importance of Zhou Xiaoya to Wang Baole, and the most important thing was that he had sold the intelligence to the right person.

Xie Haiyang took a deep breath and looked at Wang Baole deeply before replying with cupped fists.

"Rest assured, Senior Brother Wang! Since you have given me this blank check, I will also prove to you that I, Xie Haiyang, am a trustworthy businessman with principles and would not cheat you of even one Spirit Stone!"

Wang Baole nodded. In reality, as per Xie Haiyang's interpretation, Wang Baole's trust and confidence made him unafraid of the possibility that Xie Haiyang would go against him. Between the two of them, they were from the Upper and Lower Academy respectively, and were separately a True Breath expert and an Ancient Martial Arts practitioner. If Xie Haiyang really had the guts and was crazy enough to take

him for a ride, Wang Baole would have no shortage of means to make Xie Haiyang pay back several times more of what he had greedily taken.

Very quickly, Xie Haiyang left. After seeing him disappear into the distance, Wang Baole took a deep breath and returned to his Dharmic Armament Pavilion cave abode to resume his seclusion.

Three days later, with the announcement of the reward by the Alchemy Pavilion, commotion filled the entire Lower Academy Island. Even the people on Upper Academy Island were in heated debates regarding the matter. At the same time, Wang Baole also received anxious voice transmissions from numerous people, including Liu Daobin.

After thanking them personally for the information, Wang Baole sent another voice transmission to console Zhou Xiaoya before he could calm his heart and continue refining the Dharmic Artifacts.

Zhou Xiaoya was touched beyond words, as warmth filled her heart when she heard from Xie Haiyang that Wang Baole had given him a blank check. At the same time, her petite face revealed a never-before-seen look of seriousness and determination.

“I cannot let Brother Baole’s Spirit Stones go to waste. I must get the reward and enter Upper Academy Island to refine pills for Brother Baole in the future!”

With a flash of determination in her eyes, Zhou Xiaoya began the process of researching and refining the Cloud Breath Pill.

Time flew by, and a month passed very quickly. At dawn of the fateful day, the sound of the bell reverberated in the Alchemy faculty of the Lower Academy Island.

As the sound of the bell spread, commotion grew in the entire Alchemy faculty. Looking at the students dashing toward the peak of the mountain, Zheng Liang stood outside the cave abode, his eyes filled with emotion and anticipation.

“Who will the reward belong to in the end?” Even though he had lost to Zhao Yameng in the previous assessment and missed the advancement assessment to the mystic realm held by the Dao College after that due to personal reasons, he had not given up as he planned to reapply for the Dao College’s major assessment once again this year.

Numerous others, even students from the other faculties, were also thinking about the same thing as Zheng Liang. After all, this was an extremely significant matter to the Lower Academy Island.

Students from each faculty rushed as they assembled at the Alchemy faculty peak with the sound of the bell ringing in the background. They had all wanted to see with their own eyes who the winner would be. A very high proportion of the students were from the Dharmic Armament faculty—even though Wang Baole had entered Upper Academy Island, his influence on the Lower Academy Island had not diminished a single bit. Therefore, many students were hoping that Zhou Xiaoya would emerge victorious.

However, Chen Fei was not one to be belittled either, and thus, her supporters were also aplenty.

As the crowd gathered on the Alchemy faculty peak, the ant-like scores of people were discussing endlessly, spreading furiously in all directions.

Everyone's gaze was fixed on the Public Square in the middle, which was now empty except for two girls, each sitting cross legged beside an alchemical cauldron.

Both girls looked extraordinary, despite being a little young. Zhou Xiaoya was now staring at Chen Fei with anger in her eyes. Chen Fei was tall, and even though she was meditating with her legs crossed, her slender, hourglass figure could be seen, which attracted a lot of attention from pairs of eyes filled with passion. However, she was distant and proud, and the more she appeared cold and unapproachable, the more charming she was to the others.

"Zhou Xiaoya will definitely win! The formula belonged to Zhou Xiaoya in the first place!"

"That's difficult to say. I think that it is more likely that the formula belonged to Chen Fei. After all, as a fourth-year senior student, she will have plenty of experience. What's more, she has such a good figure and a beautiful face!"

Amid the discussion, the Chancellors, Vice-Chancellor, and an elder from the Alchemy Pavilion arrived and took their seats in the front row. Instantly, the noise from the crowd simmered down.

The Chancellor and the elder from the Alchemy Pavilion exchanged glances and nodded to each other. Gao Quan, the Vice-Chancellor, then took a deep breath before stepping up to look at Zhou Xiaoya and Chen Fei. When his gaze fell on Zhou Xiaoya, he paused slightly before speaking sternly.

"The refinement assessment of the Cloud Breath Pill begins now!"

Zhou Xiaoya and Chen Fei stood up immediately and began refining the Cloud Breath Pill with all eyes on them!

Instantly, both herbal alchemical cauldrons glowed.

Time crawled, and after half an hour, when the both of them had crossed the half-way mark of the refinement process, Wang Baole, who was in his cave abode on Upper Academy Island, finally produced his hundredth perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifact at this crucial juncture, based on his previous estimation of the time needed.

Wang Baole was agitated as he looked at the palm-sized shield that he had just refined in front of him that was glowing brightly. He stood up, filled with exhilaration.

I have finally succeeded! The timing is just right; Bunny's assessment should still be going on!

Excited, Wang Baole took a deep breath and opened up the voice transmission jade slip to take a look. After confirming that the assessment was still in progress, he immediately walked out of the cave abode and entered the cruiser, dashing straight toward the Lower Academy Island.

It will be fine if Bunny lost on fair grounds. However, if someone creates trouble after she has won, I would love to see for myself who that daring fella is!

Wang Baole stood on the cruiser in midair, a look of ferocity prominent in his eyes as he increased his speed.

Chapter 136: Could I Have Wronged Him?

There were many people within the Alchemy faculty's Public Square, and all of them were gazing at the Chen Fei and Zhou Xiaoya, who were refining a pill. The two girls were very beautiful, and they gave off a different vibe to the people watching them refine pills. That was especially so when seeing the many types of herbs fly about in their hands. They seemed to accentuate their figures, making them look dazzling.

This test in refining the Cloud Breath Pill was nearing its end. Zhou Xiaoya and Chen Fei were both obviously very familiar with the refining process before this test. At that moment, they moved like flowing water, without any hesitation. Following the Cloud Breath Pill's formula, they quickly threw the herbs into the alchemical cauldron according to the formula. As flames arose in the alchemical cauldron, they began the final segment of the test.

"They have reached the pill formation stage! Chen Fei is definitely a senior student who has immersed herself in studying Alchemy for many years. Her technique is flawless! Watching her refine a pill is like watching the creation of a masterpiece!"

"It's really unexpected. This Zhou Xiaoya was previously a seemingly ordinary student in the Alchemy faculty, but her technique is actually comparable to that of Chen Fei!"

"There are many steps involved in the refining process of pills. They cannot make a single mistake in any step. If they do, the mistakes will be magnified in the pill formation stage, resulting in failure!"

The sounds of discussion slowly spread from the surroundings. Zhou Xiaoya was sweating profusely from her forehead and was panting slightly at that moment. However, she clenched her teeth and persevered. When she stared at Chen Fei periodically, one could see the anger in her eyes.

Chen Fei also noticed Zhou Xiaoya's stare, but she was unaffected by it. To her, it seemed like she did not think that she had done anything wrong. Since it was not Zhou Xiaoya's original formula, then it could be considered her own doing and fate when she handed the Cloud Breath Pill formula to her.

You should blame yourself for not taking care of the formula properly; it's not my fault!

Chen Fei had a slight smile at the corner of her lips and a confident gaze. She ignored Zhou Xiaoya and concentrated on refining her Cloud Breath Pill.

Seemingly able to sense Chen Fei's thoughts, Zhou Xiaoya felt indignation in her heart. However, she knew that she could not afford to get distracted, so she took a deep breath and stared intently at the alchemical cauldron. As time passed, both of their pills were at the stage where they could open their cauldrons.

Even the Chancellor and the Alchemy Pavilion elder were staring intently. At that moment, Zhou Xiaoya hesitated for a moment, but she still raised her right hand. Before the time came to open her cauldron, she opened it. As the surrounding people were stunned and exclaimed in shock, Zhou Xiaoya quickly threw an object into her cauldron with a flick of her right hand.

This scene invoked the shock of the surrounding people, and that was especially so for Chen Fei, but she had no time to think about it. As the flames in both of their Alchemical Cauldrons died down, with a

tremendous shake of the cauldrons, a herbal fragrance spread toward the surrounding from their alchemical cauldrons' ventilation pores.

Looking toward it, a large amount of white smoke spread toward the surroundings from the small pores surrounding the two alchemical cauldrons. The herbal fragrance was even more concentrated as it spread everywhere, and everyone who smelt it was moved.

"This pill actually caused my body to absorb Spirit Qi! I didn't circulate my cultivation technique, but my body automatically absorbed Spirit Qi!"

"Gosh, this Cloud Breath Pill is amazing! I feel like all the meridians within my body are tingling. There's actually Spirit Qi entering and infusing with my meridians!"

As the people exclaimed in shock, Zhou Xiaoya and Chen Fei almost simultaneously pressed on their alchemical cauldrons. Immediately, their cauldrons opened, and as the fragrance spread into a larger area, they revealed the respective pills refined within each alchemical cauldron.

"Both of you, stand back!" Vice-Chancellor Gao Quan spoke calmly and strode forward to retrieve both pills personally, holding both of them in his hands. However, compared to Chen Fei's crimson Cloud Breath Pill, Zhou Xiaoya's Cloud Breath Pill seemed to have black impurities. Judging by appearance, Zhou Xiaoya's pill seemed inferior.

Looking at her pill, then looking at the one refined by Chen Fei, Zhou Xiaoya had a complex look. Meanwhile, a contemptuous smile appeared at the corner of Chen Fei's lips.

Gao Quan's expression remained the same. Holding the two pills, he released his internal Spirit Qi and infused it into the pills as though he was feeling for something. Very quickly, he retrieved his Spirit Qi. Not caring about the nervous Zhou Xiaoya and Chen Fei, he turned toward the Chancellor and the Alchemy Pavilion elder and bowed with cupped fists.

"Chancellor, Elder, I have done a preliminary assessment of both pills. Chen Fei's pill is at fifty percent purity while Zhou Xiaoya's pill is only at thirty percent purity. Chancellor, Elder, please do a second round of assessment!"

As Gao Quan spoke, the commotion in the surroundings that had already died down erupted once again.

"One at fifty percent and the other at thirty percent!"

"This gap is just too huge. Could the formula really have been Chen Fei's creation?"

As the crowd discussed, a smile appeared on Chen Fei's face, and she looked toward Zhou Xiaoya, reveling in delight. Meanwhile, Zhou Xiaoya's expression darkened, and tears formed in her eyes. She ignored Chen Fei, instead gazing at the Alchemy Pavilion elder as though she was seeking final confirmation.

At the same time, the Chancellor raised an eyebrow and looked a little surprised. He looked toward the Alchemy Pavilion elder beside him. This Elder had a head full of white hair and looked affable. His gaze had a slight curiosity, but just as he was about to speak, he seemed to notice something and looked toward the sky.

Almost simultaneously, the Chancellor raised his head and immediately saw a cruiser in the sky whistling over at an extremely fast speed. It approached the Alchemy faculty mountain peak in the blink of an eye!

The appearance of the cruiser immediately caught the attention of the surrounding crowd, but before they could see the person inside the cruiser clearly, a familiar voice exploded forth within the central Public Square with anger.

“Gao Quan, you’re really itching for a beating. You still dare to cause trouble?” As the angry growl sounded, Wang Baole leaped off his cruiser and shot directly toward Gao Quan.

Gao Quan’s expression changed, and Wang Baole had already appeared in front of him before he could speak. He threw a punch directly at Gao Quan, releasing his spirit energy and spreading out his suppressive force. In coordination with Wang Baole’s physical strength and his control of Spirit Qi within and outside his body, this punch immediately conjured up a storm. Gao Quan was completely unable to defend against this and fell backward like a kite whose string had been severed. He crashed into the ground far away, blood bursting from his mouth.

“Wang Baole!” Gao Quan’s expression warped, and he let out an aggrieved growl. He was in an extremely bad mood, but just as he spoke, Wang Baole approached with an angry growl yet again and kicked him.

Gao Quan wanted to resist, but Wang Baole could already put up a fight against him when he was in the Ancient Martial Arts realm. Now that Wang Baole was at the True Breath realm, he stood no chance and had no time to even try casting spells. With a boom, his body was sent flying with a kick from Wang Baole, and with a successive punch, he crashed toward the crowd at the side.

At that moment, the spectators finally understood what was going on, and they gasped in response.

“Head Prefect Wang!”

“Head Prefect Wang is back!”

“So strong, he’s completely thrashing the Vice-Chancellor!”

“As expected of Head Prefect!”

Not only was the surrounding crowd shocked, Chen Fei’s breathing also hastened, and she shuddered in her heart. Wang Baole had a huge reputation in the Lower Academy Island, and his return today was too vicious. Even the Chancellor had a headache trying to deal with him. But just as he was about to stop Wang Baole, he was blocked by the Alchemy Pavilion elder beside him.

Puzzled, the Chancellor looked toward the Alchemy Pavilion elder beside him. He found that the elder did not look disgusted and was in fact gazing at Wang Baole with interest. Hence, he did not stop Wang Baole.

In the crowd, Liu Daobin and many of Wang Baole’s juniors also felt excited, much less Zhou Xiaoya. The moment Wang Baole appeared, she no longer felt uneasy, as though she suddenly had an emotional support.

This had all happened too fast. Wang Baole's arrival and his thrashing of Gao Quan all happened in a flash. Without even waiting for Gao Quan to get up, Wang Baole appeared in front of him once again with a shake of his body. He grabbed Gao Quan's hair, and as Gao Quan let out tragic cries, he was dragged by Wang Baole directly toward where the Chancellor was.

When they walked past Chen Fei, she retreated subconsciously while shuddering. Wang Baole took one look at her and did not bother with her any more. He grabbed the crying Gao Quan and looked toward the Chancellor. First, he took a deep bow, then he spoke loudly.

"Chancellor, this Gao Quan caused trouble and affected the fairness of this test. He obviously meddled with the pill refinement test this time!"

Gao Quan's scalp was hurting. After hearing Wang Baole's words in his wretched state, he felt extremely wronged and immediately exclaimed, "I didn't. I..."

"Shut up! It must have been you. I know you too well!" Wang Baole stared and kicked Gao Quan viciously. Gao Quan cried out once more, and he felt like he was about to explode from anger. This feeling of being wronged made him go into a frenzy. He had indeed plotted against Wang Baole many times, whether it was trying to expel him at the very beginning, cooperating with Lin Tianhao's assassination attempt in the Pond Cloud Rainforest, or canceling Wang Baole's candidacy later on.

But this time, he really did not do anything. For one, the Chancellor and Elder were watching. Plus, he really was scared of Wang Baole and did not want to mess with him anymore.

Never would he have expected that the first time he was fair in his entire working career, he would be so misunderstood and beaten up so viciously. At that moment, he felt extremely angry, as though the whole world had gone dark, and could not help but scream angrily at Wang Baole.

"Wang Baole, this time, it really wasn't me. I really didn't do anything!"

His voice was filled with the emotions that he was being wronged, and Wang Baole was stunned for a moment after hearing it. Actually, Wang Baole did not have any evidence, but when he saw Gao Quan, he instinctively felt that he was not a good guy and that it must have been him who caused trouble.

Could I have wronged him? Never mind, if I was wrong then so be it. He's done too many bad things anyway!

Wang Baole coughed, ignoring Gao Quan and spoke loudly to the Chancellor.

"Chancellor, this evil man affected the test just now. It's not fair. I suggest holding the test again."

Chapter 137: A Kind Pill

Gao Quan was sad and angry. After hearing Wang Baole's words, he felt that the one affecting the fairness of the test was Wang Baole. He felt extremely depressed, and as his aggrieved feelings grew until he was about to explode, he tried to speak.

But Wang Baole glared, and the viciousness in his gaze made Gao Quan's body shudder, sorrow filling his heart.

Who's the evil one here? This Wang Baole is the evil one!

When the surrounding Lower Academy Island students saw this scene, all of them stared with their mouths agape. They all looked at Wang Baole like they were staring at a man of god, and some of them even bowed in reverence. As they saw Gao Quan getting thrashed, their anger had slowly diminished. Gao Quan was really not liked in the Dao College.

This was especially so because a part of the people in the crowd were freshmen, and their understanding of Wang Baole was built up from what people told them. As they saw Wang Baole in person, all of them were in awe. Even though Wang Baole had already been promoted to Upper Academy Island, stories about his past endeavors were still spread around the Lower Academy Island. One could imagine how deeply the stories of his endeavors would get rooted in the Lower Academy Island in the future. Because of that day's events, Wang Baole would be seen as a legend in every faculty.

It could even be said that the future freshmen accepted into the Dao College would grow up hearing about the legends of Wang Baole, starting from the moment they stepped onto the Lower Academy Island. As they slowly got promoted to Upper Academy Island, they might even seek more information about Wang Baole as soon as they could.

In the hearts of the students in the Lower Academy Island, Wang Baole was already considered a peerless legend among the students.

The Chancellor, standing at the left side of the square, was having a huge headache at the moment. Although Wang Baole was excellent, his ability to stir trouble was equally excellent. Wang Baole and Gao Quan's conflict was extremely deep, and Wang Baole had already left the Lower Academy Island. Yet, he had come back to beat Gao Quan up. This made the Chancellor not know whether to laugh or to cry.

As he was thinking about how to resolve the issue, Zhou Xiaoya's gentle voice sounded in the central Public Square.

"Brother Baole... there's no need for a retest. The result will still be like this."

As she spoke, Zhou Xiaoya went to Wang Baole's side, held his hand, and shook her head gently.

"How could that be!" Wang Baole was about to continue speaking when the Alchemy Pavilion elder sitting beside the Chancellor suddenly laughed.

"Lad, are you sure you want a retest?"

Wang Baole had been paying attention to the elder the whole time. When he heard the elder's words, he felt that something was amiss. So, he looked at Zhou Xiaoya, then he looked at the elder. Actually, when the elder did not stop him when he was beating up Gao Quan previously, Wang Baole had already begun contemplating in his mind.

Looking at Wang Baole's expression, the Alchemy Pavilion elder smiled. He shifted his gaze, and it landed on Zhou Xiaoya. With a slightly stern expression, he asked, "Zhou Xiaoya, tell me, why did you throw in the Afterglow Grass at the final moment?"

Hearing the elder's words, Zhou Xiaoya took a deep breath. Not releasing her grip on Wang Baole's hand, she spoke softly.

"That's because, according to the Cloud Breath Pill formula, the toxicity of the pill increases the purer it gets. The Afterglow Grass can negate the pill's toxicity. That's why... I threw in the Afterglow Grass."

As Zhou Xiaoya spoke, the surroundings went silent, and even Chen Fei paused for a moment and stared at Zhou Xiaoya. As for Wang Baole, he blinked, lowered his head to look at the wretched Vice-Chancellor Gao Quan, and did not speak.

"Did you know that, although the Afterglow Grass can negate the pill's toxicity after you throw it in, it will also affect the pill's purity?" The elder's gaze became sharper, as though he was trying to examine Zhou Xiaoya's true character.

Zhou Xiaoya was a little scared, and she tightened her grip on Wang Baole's hand, answering softly, "I knew that."

"You knew that? Then you must know that the assessment criterion of this test is the purity of the Cloud Breath Pill. Why did you still do that? Do you not want the reward of becoming a specially-recruited disciple?" The Alchemy Pavilion elder spoke slowly, but his gaze turned sharper, and a suppressive force even spread from his body. This suppressive force was so strong that even Wang Baole felt frightened.

Zhou Xiaoya's breathing hastened, and her body was shivering. But after she felt Wang Baole gripping her hand a little more tightly, she raised her head to look at the Alchemy Pavilion elder. Her gaze was clear, and with a strong conviction, she spoke softly.

"That's because the path of Alchemy is people-oriented. If I only care about the purity of a pill and pay no attention to its toxicity, then the pill I refine in the end will not be a kind pill used to heal and aid in one's cultivation but an evil pill used to hurt people.

"Even if I improvise and receive the reward by winning through refining a pill with a higher purity, I can fool others, but I can't fool myself. For some things, you will do it again after you do it the first time. I don't want to hurt people. I want to be accountable for the pills I refine, I want to be accountable to my own conscience, and I want to be accountable to anyone who consumes the pills I refine!

"My pill is not pure enough, but... it's not toxic." When Zhou Xiaoya first spoke, her voice had been soft, but it gradually grew louder.

She had always been timid, but that day, while everyone was watching and Wang Baole stood beside her, she expressed her conviction toward Alchemy, her principles regarding Alchemy, and what she hoped to achieve through Alchemy.

And deep in her heart, she told herself, *I want to keep refining pills for Brother Baole...*

As these words spread from her mouth and entered the ears of the surrounding crowd, everyone was stunned. That was especially so for the students in the Alchemy faculty, who fell silent.

Chen Fei's body shuddered. Looking at the Alchemy Pavilion elder's stern face, she slowly anticipated her reward. She started worrying about her personal gains and losses and was extremely nervous.

Wang Baole was also stunned. He tilted his head to look at Zhou Xiaoya, and it was as though he had just met her.

The surroundings went quiet, and even Vice-Chancellor Gao Quan seemed to forget his pain. He had a complicated expression when he looked toward Zhou Xiaoya. The Chancellor also went silent, but a slight smile appeared at the corner of his lips, and he gazed at Zhou Xiaoya with strong admiration.

The Alchemy Pavilion elder was silent for a long time. It was as though Zhou Xiaoya's words made him think of a certain person. After a while, he let out a soft sigh, and his stern expression became kindly. As he gazed at Zhou Xiaoya, he suddenly spoke.

"You believe in kind pills—that is very rare and commendable... Zhou Xiaoya, you no longer need to address yourself as student. If you are willing, you may address yourself as disciple, in front of me!"

As he spoke, the surrounding crowd were all extremely surprised. Wang Baole was also surprised. Meanwhile, Chen Fei only felt her world getting darker; she staggered, and her face went extremely pale.

"Ah?" Zhou Xiaoya was rooted to the spot and seemed a little flustered. She looked at Wang Baole subconsciously.

Right at that moment, the Alchemy Pavilion elder stood up while laughing and smiled at the Chancellor beside him.

"Old Lu, I'm going to take this girl away and accept her as my final disciple. Will you let me?"

The Chancellor chuckled and got up as well. He was happy for Zhou Xiaoya and even more excited. He knew the status of the elder standing in front of him. That elder was one of the four elders of the Alchemy Pavilion. In the path of Alchemy, he had a huge reputation throughout the entire Federation.

With that thought, the Chancellor looked toward Zhou Xiaoya with encouragement. "Xiaoya, greet your master!"

Wang Baole was also extremely happy and quickly nudged Zhou Xiaoya. It was then that Zhou Xiaoya reacted. Although she was still a little dazed, she was not a fool and quickly stepped forward to bow to the elder.

"Master, accept my greetings as your humble disciple, Zhou Xiaoya!"

The Alchemy Pavilion elder chuckled, and with a swish of his sleeve, he actually brought Zhou Xiaoya along and stepped on air, heading directly toward Upper Academy Island. From start to finish, he never looked at Chen Fei, nor did he ever bring up the reward.

What cultivation realm is he at to be able to step on air like that? This scene made Wang Baole narrow his eyes.

The shocked crowd all looked toward Zhou Xiaoya in the sky. That was especially so for the Alchemy faculty students, who looked on with envy. As for Chen Fei, she went pale and collapsed to the ground.

At that moment, Zhou Xiaoya's shouts and the elder's laughing voice sounded from the sky.

“Wang Baole, please don’t disturb Xiaoya for a period of time. She needs to train in seclusion. I will get her an eight-inch Spirit Root. If you don’t train hard, she might even surpass you.”

“Brother Baole, wait for me to come out of seclusion. I’ll go look for you...”

Gazing at the pair, who were getting further away, Wang Baole smiled. He was happy for Zhou Xiaoya, and just as he was about to leave, he noticed the Chancellor glaring at him. So, he scratched his head and released his grip on Gao Quan’s hair.

“You’ve already been promoted into Upper Academy Island. Why are you still so rash!” The Chancellor glared at Wang Baole.

Wang Baole was slightly awkward. He lowered his head to look at the indignant Gao Quan, coughed, and patted the shoulder of the shivering Gao Quan.

“Old Gao, keep doing fewer bad things and more good things in the future. Understood?”

“Chancellor, I just remembered about the Dharmic Artifact that I’m halfway through refining. I’ll take my leave first...”

With that, Wang Baole quickly shook his body and jumped into his cruiser. He left the Alchemy faculty rapidly and headed straight for Upper Academy Island.

Sending Wang Baole off with their gazes, the surrounding crowd looked at one another, and the Chancellor was also helpless. Knowing it was a misunderstanding, he finally looked at the indignant Gao Quan and sighed.

“Gao Quan, you...” He wanted to console Gao Quan but did not know where to start. Finally, he gave Gao Quan a bottle of pills and left while contemplating about changing his Vice-Chancellor.

Only Gao Quan was standing there in anger and sorrow. He wanted to cry, but no tears fell, and the indignation that he felt in his heart spread toward the heavens.

I was wronged!

Chapter 138: Newbie, You’re Still Too Inexperienced

Wang Baole was standing on the cruiser, swishing through the skies, riding in the wind as he dashed directly to Upper Academy Island. He was extremely delighted—not only did Zhou Xiaoya gain admission to Upper Academy Island, she was also formally the disciple of the Alchemy Pavilion Elder. The entire matter could be considered to have concluded well.

Clearing his throat, Wang Baole thought, *In this whole incident, I played a significant role. Thanks to my courage and fearlessness toward the evil forces that allowed me to create chaos by using the opportunity to hit Gao Quan, victory was attained in the process. This allowed Bunny to have an unobstructed path to success.*

This irritating fatty would never admit that even if he did not appear this time round, the outcome would like have been the same for Bunny. Now, he was in high spirits as he took up a bag of snacks while on the cruiser, munching on them loudly while controlling the cruiser.

The ability to fly the cruiser and eat snacks at the same time... This capability is not something that everyone has! Wang Baole laughed heartily. Soon, the cruiser has passed through the clouds and arrived at Upper Academy Island.

Du Min is in the Alchemy Pavilion as well. Even though I haven't seen her much since coming to Upper Academy Island, it's not surprising if she is doing well, since she has always excelled academically. There's also Chen Ziheng, who is in the Combat Pavilion with Zhuo Yifan... I have to work hard and not let them surpass me.

Thinking of this, Wang Baole inhaled deeply. He did not return to the cave abode. Instead, his gaze was on the middle peak, looking in the northern direction toward the mountains that housed the Dharmic Armament Pavilion.

Wang Baole had already read up on the details of the Armament Disciple assessment on the Spirit Intranet and understood that the assessment of Dharmic Armament Pavilion disciples took place on the Northern Mountain Range, where a Military Administrative Department oversaw the advancement assessment of disciples to Armament Disciples. However, if a disciple successfully refined a hundred perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifacts, they could also send the Dharmic Artifacts for assessment in order to receive their Armament Disciple status.

I will advance to become an Armament Disciple, then choose a department to perform my duties! Wang Baole's eyes was fueled with passion as he controlled the cruiser straight toward the Northern Mountain Range. On his way, as he passed the middle peak, he noticed that on the parade square lay a huge military drum standing tall. It was dull red in color and was eye-catching because of its rustic look.

That is probably the drum that people on the Spirit Intranet have mentioned, huh?

Wang Baole was tempted as his eyes fell momentarily on the huge military drum. He had read entries introducing the drum on the Spirit Intranet. It was said that it was a military drum that could only be struck by an Armament Soldier, and it had only one purpose—invite an Elder!

Whatever difficult problems arose regarding Dharmic Armaments, so long as the Armament Soldier was capable, they could strike the military drum, using its sound to invite an Elder for advice on the solution.

However, even though the drum has been installed for many years, it had not been struck often. If there were no real challenging problems that were difficult to solve, no one would dare haphazardly strike it to disturb the Elders. On the other hand, there was no drumstick for the drum. Anyone who wished to strike it had to make use of the materials given by the military drum and refine a drumstick, which could only be used once, right there and then in front of the drum.

Only when an Armament Soldier held a drumstick that they had personally refined could they strike the military drum to invite an Elder.

Even though the method of refining the drumstick was stated right beside the military drum, it was an extremely difficult feat. To a certain extent, it was not considered a Numinous Treasure. Furthermore,

every Armament Soldier only had one chance in their entire lifetime. If they failed, they lost their eligibility, and thus, no one dared to squander the opportunity willy-nilly.

Wang Baole had read on the Spirit Intranet that the student who had managed to strike the drum the greatest number of times had done it five times using the drumstick that he had refined. That far exceeded that of other people, and as a result, the Elder that he had invited to grant assistance on his problem was no ordinary Elder but the Grand Elder of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion!

Every Grand Elder possesses incredibly high status within their respective pavilions. Only the Deputy Sect Lord and Sect Lord are ranked above the Grand Elder, with the Grand Supreme Elder being at the top of the hierarchy!

Even though Wang Baole had spent most of his time in seclusion after entering Upper Academy Island, his understanding of the structure of Ethereal Dao College had grown significantly from the times when he was on the Lower Academy Island.

He already understood that the one with the highest authority in Ethereal Dao College was the mysterious Grand Supreme Elder. He was never seen in Ethereal Dao College, but his existence was akin to an anchor, the assurance of everyone in Ethereal Dao College and the status of the Federation!

The Grand Supreme Elder's subordinates included Ethereal Dao College's sect lord and the three deputy sect lords. Below them were ten pavilions and a college. The ten pavilions were referring to the island pavilions on Upper Academy Island, which included the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, and the college was referring to the Lower Academy Island!

Within every pavilion, the Pavilion Head was obviously the person-in-command. However, in reality, there were still numerous elders above the Pavilion Head as well as the one and only Grand Elder of each pavilion.

These people were not involved in the management of the pavilion. However, they formed the Group of Elders, which had the authority to determine the employment of the Deputy Pavilion Head and the Pavilion Head.

This systematic hierarchy was precisely the structure of power of the internal affairs of Ethereal Dao College. When Wang Baole gained a good understanding of all this, he realized that he needed time to assume the great responsibility, and at the same time, his desire to become an Armament Soldier grew even stronger.

As he shifted his gaze away from the drum, Wang Baole suppressed his thoughts as he controlled the cruiser directly toward the Northern Mountain Range. Soon, he arrived within the clouds above the Military Administrative Department. He began his descent to enter the compound.

There were only a few disciples within the Military Administrative Department. Those who were capable of becoming Armament Disciples were only of a small proportion of the large number of ordinary disciples. Therefore, after completing the administrative process, Wang Baole arrived at the specially demarcated assessment ground, a parade square where tens of gigantic stone stele stood. Apart from himself, there was a tall and thin youth who was sitting on a stone stele in preparation with his eyes closed and legs crossed. He looked serious and mysterious.

Sensing that someone had arrived, the youth raised his head and opened his eyes but remained silent as he took a look at Wang Baole. However, seeing that Wang Baole was about to begin his assessment without any preparation, he raised his eyebrows and laughed.

“A new disciple?”

Wang Baole heard his words and turned to look at him.

“The Armament Disciple assessment is the most important milestone for a disciple. Junior Brother, it’s fine that you did not even bother to clean yourself up, but your lack of preparation shows your disrespect toward the Armament Disciple advancement assessment. I advise you to attempt the assessment again after preparing yourself. Otherwise, you will definitely fail!” The youth spoke calmly, as if from experience.

“Is it really so difficult?” Wang Baole had originally been very laid-back. However, after hearing the youth’s words, with his gut feeling telling him that the youth was not lying to him, he inevitably grew concerned.

“Every year, there are only slightly more than ten people who successfully advance to become Armament Disciples in the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. In addition, many of the disciples have spent at least two years doing so after entering Upper Academy Island. So, don’t you think it’s hard?”

“Refining a hundred perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifacts becomes simple in comparison, for it can be achieved with time. However, in the assessment mystic realm, ten random Dharmic Artifacts will be chosen. One has to present the refinement process again within the stipulated time without making any mistakes. Should one mistake be made, one fails! Isn’t that difficult?”

“Of those who gained admission to Upper Academy Island, who doesn’t have talent? People like you, who think that it’s easy to pass the assessment, are plentiful. I have tried nine times and seen many, but I have not seen one that succeeded.” The youth did not know who Wang Baole was and was speaking in a conceited tone.

Wang Baole looked at the youth with a weird expression. He was thinking about how it made sense that the youth sounded so full of experience, for he had done the assessment so many times. Therefore, with both trust and suspicion, he became uneasy, as he mimicked the youth and began preparing by sitting down cross-legged.

Realizing that Wang Baole was an individual who would listen to advice, the youth laughed as he felt heartened. It was as if he saw a past shadow of his failure in Wang Baole. After a moment, when he had completed his preparation, he raised his right hand and retrieved a Dharmic Artifact, sending it into the stone stele.

Wang Baole noticed and immediately retrieved a Dharmic Artifact, sending it into the stone stele just like the youth.

“Cloud Frost Sword?” After noticing the Dharmic Artifact that Wang Baole retrieved, the youth was momentarily shocked as he threw several more glances at Wang Baole before retrieving yet another Dharmic Artifact and sending it into the stone stele. Wang Baole followed suit and retrieved another Dharmic Artifact.

“Spirit Fog Shield?” The youth stared with his eyes wide open. The Cloud Frost Sword was one of the most challenging items to refine of the first-grade Dharmic Artifacts. He had been surprised after seeing the first artifact but did not think much of it. However, now that Wang Baole retrieved yet another Dharmic Artifact that was extremely difficult to refine, he inevitable became bewildered. Despite that, he was indignant and sighed in his heart.

Is he trying to show off? Is he planning to compete with me? Newbie, you're still too inexperienced. Even though I have failed so many times, in reality, every failure can be considered a strong driving force and improvement for me. Without those failures, I wouldn't be who I am today!

The youth narrowed his eyes, and with a wave of arrogance, he flung his sleeves and retrieved the remaining ninety-eight Dharmic Artifacts. Of those, there were nine around the same difficulty as the Spirit Fog Shield. Delightedly, he looked askance at Wang Baole, but that was when his mind instantly buzzed with activity.

Wang Baole, who was beside him, followed the youth in retrieving his remaining ninety-eight Dharmic Artifacts, all of them of the same grade as the Spirit Fog Shield. Now, the glow from the Dharmic Artifact was extremely bright, and the glitz almost made the youth's eyes fall out of their sockets. In his surprise, he began cursing angrily and indignantly in his heart.

Did this fella come for the assessment or to show that he's rich? Gosh, what's the point of bringing so many difficult to refine Dharmic Artifacts for just an Armament Disciple assessment?

Chapter 139: Main Team Leader of the Inspectors!

It was no wonder the youth's mind was buzzing with activity and his heart thrown into shock. As a disciple who had already spent two years on Upper Academy Island, regardless of whether it was through his own experience of going through nine assessments or from hearsay, he had never heard or seen someone like Wang Baole, who was planning to go through the assessment with a hundred perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifacts that were extremely difficult to refine.

It was unfathomable for the youth that someone would make the whole process more challenging for themselves. After all, it was too costly to refine Dharmic Artifacts this way. Furthermore, with this difficulty, the test that followed, which requires the individual to refine ten randomly selected Dharmic Artifacts within the stipulated time, would be even more difficult.

In addition, the youth absolutely did not believe that all those Dharmic Artifacts had been refined by a newly admitted disciple. No matter how he looked at it, there did not seem to be enough time. If someone had really managed to achieve the feat, the youth would think that he would be an extremely talented individual who would become an Armament Soldier in the future.

However, in his eyes, Wang Baole was not talented. Now, he focused his attention and tried with all his effort to shift his gaze away from the Dharmic Artifacts that Wang Baole was gradually feeding to the stone stele. He suppressed the wave of emotions in his heart, having judged that the newbie was definitely just trying his luck after engaging someone else's help with refining the Dharmic Artifacts.

It did not matter if it was reasonable. In addition, if one failed in the assessment, the Dharmic Artifacts that were submitted would not be returned. However, to those who were rich, such losses were still acceptable.

“Senior Brother, what do I do next? Is the assessment about to begin?” As the youth’s thoughts crashed like waves, Wang Baole had already fed all the Dharmic Artifacts into the stone stele and was inquiring about the next step nervously with his head turned. He noticed the change in the youth’s facial expressions and understood the reason behind it, but as the assessment was of greater importance now, he could not afford to be distracted and did not have the time to explain.

“Humph, people who think that they can play against the rules because they are rich are just the people I hate the most!”

After hearing Wang Baole’s words, the youth sighed deeply in his heart and spoke in a cold, distant manner.

“Put your hand on the stone stele, and the assessment will commence!”

After he spoke, he saw Wang Baole raising his hand and pressing it on the stone stele. He laughed coldly as he saw Wang Baole’s body giggle.

“Newbie, you have to experience failure first. So what if you’re rich? You’ll still fail!” The youth decided to pause his own assessment as he wanted to see Wang Baole fail the assessment with his own eyes. Based on his interpretation, Wang Baole would give up within half an hour.

However, time flew by, and half an hour passed quickly. Not only did Wang Baole not end the assessment, the stone stele in front of him even began to glow, which rose one inch up the stele!

The youth was taken aback and slightly shocked as he thought in his heart, *Has the first item passed?*

That’s just because you have good luck. Let’s see how long you can last...

As he groused in his heart, the stone stele suddenly glowed again and rose to two inches!

What’s going on? The youth’s breathing quickened.

Soon, when the glow grew to three inches, the youth was unable to sit still. He stood up, looking incredulous as he witnessed the glow rising continuously from four to five to six inches... When it reached nine inches, the youth’s mind was buzzing with activity, and he gasped in surprise.

Impossible! That’s too fast!

A torrent of emotions filled his heart. If it was someone else that succeeded, he would not have reacted in this way. However, he had seen that every Dharmic Artifact that Wang Baole had sent out was extremely difficult to refine and was of a level that was far from ordinary. Despite this, he was close to achieving success!

Not long after the glow grew to nine inches in length, the stone stele glowed and grew once again, reaching a height of ten inches. That signified the success of the disciple in becoming an Armament Disciple. As disciples from the Military Administrative Department realized what was happening, they all gathered around.

“Someone has succeeded!”

“A new Armament Disciple has emerged!”

The Military Administrative Department disciples rushed into the area. The youth was in a daze due to shock, and Wang Baole, who was sitting under the stone stele, opened his eyes and ended the assessment.

It didn't seem that difficult...

Wang Baole was confused as the difficulty of the assessment was not what the youth had described. However, seeing that he had succeeded, he was still exhilarated. He stood up and thanked the dazed youth with cupped fists. As he turned, the disciples from the Military Administrative Department all came up to him to offer their congratulations.

Laughing heartily, Wang Baole left delightedly with the disciples from the Military Administrative Department to register officially as an Armament Disciple. The specially made Armament Disciple Daoist robe and identity token would be sent by the Military Administrative Department the next day. Therefore, after taking some measurements of his figure, Wang Baole left with the wind in his hair.

It was only after he had left that the youth standing at the Military Administrative Department assessment ground exhaled deeply and returned to reality. He turned abruptly to look at Wang Baole's assessment stone stele.

Could it be easier to pass the assessment with this stone stele?

With that thought, the youth's eyes lit up as he made a mental note of the position of the stone stele. A fire grew in his heart as he made plans to do his assessment with that stone stele should he fail this time around!

Wang Baole did not care about what the youth thought. Now, he was filled with delight as he sat on his cruiser, thinking about how he could finally change into the blue Daoist robe, which made him even happier. He also thought about how he could apply to perform his duties at any department and retrieved his voice transmission ring to contact Chen Yutong. After explaining the situation to him tactfully, Chen Yutong agreed wholeheartedly and invited Wang Baole to complete the administrative process at the College Administrative Department.

Seeing how everything seemed to have gone successfully, the exhilarated Wang Baole adjusted the direction that he was heading in and sped toward the College Administrative Department.

Now, Chen Yutong was in the mansion housing the College Administrative Department. He was originally listening to the four main team leaders under his leadership reporting carefully about their work with a stoic expression, but after receiving Wang Baole's voice transmission, his lips curled into a smile, and he was pleasantly surprised.

The four main team leaders before him looked to each other, confused. Based on their understanding of Chen Yutong, their superior would treat others amiably when he was not in the College Administrative Department but would put on a stern front there.

Interesting. I thought he would still need some time before advancing. He's fast. From the looks of it, what Master said is true. This person is certainly full of potential, and it's beneficial to become acquainted with him.

Chen Yutong smiled slightly before retrieving his voice transmission ring to inquire about some issues from the staff at the Military Administrative Department. After that, he revealed a look of surprise as his eyes lit up even brighter.

He actually received Grade A results! It appears that he took what I told him previously to heart. If this is the case, I can't treat him like a subordinate any more, for he will very likely become my comrade in the future!

Matters involving the assessment results were considered top secret, but Chen Yutong was able to catch wind of it due to his high status.

With that thought, Chen Yutong grew determined and immediately sent out orders.

Meanwhile, as Wang Baole charged toward the College Administrative Department, he soon noticed that the status of an Armament Disciple was extraordinary. Along the way, he saw that when several Armament Disciples dressed in blue Daoist robes went past, almost all the ordinary disciples along the way would greet them with cupped fists. Looking at how suave the Armament Disciples were, Wang Baole's anticipation toward himself donning the Daoist robe grew.

Being an Armament Disciple is certainly different.

Looking from afar, the area occupied by the College Administrative Department was huge. There was a four-story-high pavilion in it, which was surrounded by several two to three story high buildings, which made it seem like it was specifically segregated from the other buildings.

There were also different flowers and plants grown around it. Many cruisers were parked on the plaza of the main foyer, which was busy with activity as ordinary disciples milled about the area. The Armament Disciples also appeared to hold significant authority, as people were extremely respectful as they passed them.

So, this is the College Administrative Department...

This was the first time that Wang Baole had been there. As he neared, a teen dressed in a blue Daoist robe immediately noticed him and approached him quickly, cupping his fists while smiling at him.

"Is this Junior Brother Wang Baole?"

Hearing the other party call out his name, Wang Baole made sense of the situation and returned the greeting with a smile on his face.

"Junior Brother Wang, I am Zhou Penghai. Please enter, Senior Brother Chen is waiting for you inside. He had already announced that you'll become one of us in the future." The blue-shirted teen was one of the four team leaders of the College Administrative Department. Now, as he led Wang Baole in, he sized him up secretly, knowing that the person before him would very likely become a team leader like him in the future. Therefore, he planned to get chummy with Wang Baole.

Along the way, they were chatting heartily. Wang Baole entered the backyard of the College Administrative Department and into one of the three story high pavilions, where he saw Chen Yutong, who was enjoying his tea.

“Greetings, Senior Brother Chen!” Unlike how it was usually, Wang Baole stepped forward quickly this time around, greeting Chen Yutong with cupped fists and with a serious expression on his face.

Even before he could kneel down, Chen Yutong had approached and helped Wang Baole up with a smile.

“Junior Brother Baole, there is no need for formalities. Come, sit here.” As he spoke, Chen Yutong led Wang Baole to a seat. Soon, the team leader who had led the way made Spirit tea and placed it before the both of them. He then stood behind Chen Yutong, keeping a respectful silence.

Chen Yutong first congratulated Wang Baole for becoming an Armament Disciple. After some brief catching up, Chen Yutong happily retrieved an identity token and passed it to Wang Baole.

“Junior Brother Baole, with your caliber, it will not be long before you become an Armament Soldier. At the same time, I know that you were the Head Prefect during your time at the Lower Academy Island and were in charge of the College Discipline Department. You have experience in this field, and since the College Administrative Department is lacking a leader for the Inspector main team, I was wondering if you would assume the responsibility temporarily and help me with it.” Chen Yutong looked at Wang Baole with a smile on his face.

Wang Baole was jolted alert. Even though he had not been to the College Administrative Department previously, he had read much about it on the Spirit Intranet and understood that other than Chen Yutong, the one with the greatest authority was the Inspector main team, who would inspect others with their power.

Unfortunately, it had always been under the control of Chen Yutong, who did not relinquish the power. Next in line would be the four judiciary main teams, which each comprised of the main team leader, a subordinate team leader, and numerous other ordinary disciples of the College Administrative Department.

Right now, however, what Chen Yutong meant was that he wanted to pass the duty of the main team leader of the inspector team to Wang Baole!

Not only was Wang Baole taken aback, Zhou Penghai, the blue-robed teen who was standing behind Chen Yutong, was also shocked. He had thought that the most Wang Baole would achieve would be a similar rank as himself and had never imagined that Wang Baole would be bestowed such power. His breathing hastened, and as he looked at Wang Baole, he was even more stringent and curious, carrying a tinge of indignation in his heart.

Chapter 140: Lineage

Suppressing his agitation, Wang Baole immediately stood up and thanked Chen Yutong, who smiled and pulled him down to sit. After a brief conversation, Wang Baole took his leave, with Chen Yutong personally sending him out of the pavilion, before speaking cheerfully.

“Junior Brother Baole, as your Senior Brother, I look forward to the day you become an Armament Soldier. In order to qualify as an Armament Soldier, you’ll have to refine a third-grade Numinous Treasure!

“Every year, there is a tournament held by the Dharmic Armament Pavilion specially for one to advance to become an Armament Soldier. I look forward to seeing you put in your best effort!”

After seeing that Wang Baole had left, Chen Yutong sipped on his Spirit tea, his lips curling into a smile. He seemed happy, and before long, the main team leader who had returned after sending Wang Baole off stood in front of Chen Yutong. He seemed to have something to say but stopped himself.

Chen Yutong took a glance at him and spoke emotionlessly.

“Zhou Penghai, are you thinking about how I seem to be biased toward Wang Baole, who has just arrived, by immediately giving him the authority to oversee all main team leaders, allowing him to be seated in a position just inferior to mine?”

The blue-shirted teen felt a tremble in his heart and immediately lowered his head. “I wouldn’t dare think of that.”

Listening to the blue-shirted teen’s tone, Chen Yutong appeared calm. He then stood up and looked out of the window before speaking calmly.

“Wang Baole is an eight-inch True Breath expert and has contributed significantly to Ethereal Dao College. Even though he has just gained admission to Upper Academy Island, many major figures have already noticed him and are placing a lot of attention on him.

“Someone like him will not be an Armament Disciple forever. Whatever I said was not out of courtesy—it is a fact that it would not be long before he advances to become an Armament Soldier!

“As for me, I cannot be an Armament Soldier forever. Therefore, you must treat him like you treat me!” Chen Yutong looked at the blue-shirted teen after he had finished his words.

The youth’s breathing hastened, and his heart palpitated at an even faster rate. He understood what Chen Yutong was implying with his words. The meaning behind what Chen Yutong said was that Wang Baole would be Chen Yutong’s successor, a person who would be in charge of the College Administrative Department!

Therefore, he quickly pledged compliance, making the decision silently in his heart to interact more with Wang Baole in the future, bearing in mind to not offend him in any way.

“The others from the College Administrative Department do not know much about Junior Brother Baole. Since it’s late now, you must remember to inform everyone tomorrow.” As Chen Yutong spoke, he raised his tea cup.

The blue-shirted teen immediately nodded. As he left respectfully, he thought about what Chen Yutong had said, and a fire grew in his heart.

Chen Yutong looked at the back view of the blue-shirted teen who was going away and smiled slightly. Even though there were some truth to what he had said just now, it was not the complete picture.

If it wasn't that there were many people who have their eyes on Junior Brother Baole, Master would have long taken him in as a personal disciple. In addition, even though I haven't known him for long and am not in a good position to comment, it isn't a big problem as I can still do some favors for him first.

Junior Brother Baole is someone who is partial on favors and grudges, and he will not forget how well Uncle-Master Lu, Master, and I have treated him. Considering him as one of my real Junior Brothers cannot be considered an exaggeration. If I am not biased toward him, who will look after him?

Chen Yutong narrowed his eyes as he thought about what his master had told him. His eyes also glowed as he thought about his understanding of Ethereal Dao College.

Uncle-Master Lu already has a firm position as the Chancellor of the Lower Academy Island, which no one can overthrow. This is the foundation of our clan. What's next will be the advancement of Grandmaster as the Deputy Sect Lord. Once this elder succeeds, it will be time for Master to become the Grand Elder of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. Till then, within this generation of our clan, only Junior Brother Baole and I will be left to support each other and move forward.

Junior Brother Baole, you must work hard and become an Armament Soldier soon!

Chen Yutong smiled, a look of anticipation evident in his eyes.

His master was the one who looked highly upon Wang Baole and had given him the storage bracelet when he was on the Lower Academy Island. His Uncle-Master was naturally the old physician of the Lower Academy Island.

At the same time, Wang Baole, who was walking out from the College Administrative Department, was still recovering from the confusion in his head. Even though he had accepted the appointment and was agitated and excited, the entire incident seemed weird. There was no way he believed that the brief personal friendship that he had just built with Chen Yutong would make Chen Yutong bestow the rank of the main team leader of the Inspector main team upon him just like that.

Wang Baole was extremely aware of the significance of holding that position.

This puts me as the deputy chief of the College Administrative Department...

Wang Baole took a deep breath, a look of deep thought obvious from his eyes. He also did not believe that he had such privileges just because he had achieved a breakthrough at the eight-inch Spirit Root stage. He did not have any explanation for it after thinking of a long time, but he suddenly stopped after taking a few steps.

There is a possibility... If Chen Yutong's master was the Elder who gave me the storage bracelet and jade slip when I was on the Lower Academy Island, then it means that a lineage is formed between this master and apprentice duo, as well as the Chancellor. At the same time, the Chancellor treats me quite well.

Thinking of this, stories from the high officials' autobiographies immediately appeared in Wang Baole's mind. He seemed to have realized something after a while.

Lineage? Wang Baole's heart trembled. That word had always been a mysterious term in his mind. Now, as he slowly deciphered its meaning, he was agitated, despite still being skeptical.

However, he was also worried that he had made a mistake. He struggled with the thoughts for a while and gritted his teeth.

I can't care much anymore, since I am now the main team leader of the Inspector main team!

With this thought, Wang Baole no longer focused on why Chen Yutong was particularly good to him. However, Wang Baole had a life principle—he would always remember the favors that others have given him. This was a point that had been drilled into him by his father since he was a young child.

At the same time, it was also mentioned several times in the high officials' autobiographies. Therefore, this view point of Wang Baole was as deeply ingrained in his mind as the grudges that he held and could be considered his life principle.

Now, Wang Baole was in a cheery mood as he thought about how he had not only advanced to become an Armament Disciple but had also become one of the leaders of the College Administrative Department. He was joyous but also conscious that the majority of those working in the College Administrative Department, especially those from his Inspector main team, were still unaware of his identity. However, the news would spread, and it would only take a few days before the entire College Administrative Department heard of it.

I need to treasure this period of peace where my abilities are not known to others... Wang Baole thought as he planned to remain humble and low-key. On his way back to the cave abode, he stopped momentarily when he passed the market in the valley, which was also where the attic that he had once lived in was located.

It was now evening, the time when the market was busiest. Amid the sounds of activity, there were also waves of fragrant scents spreading. Wang Baole took a whiff, and his appetite was whetted, but he struggled with his desires.

Forget it. Since something joyous has happened today, I'll treat it as giving myself a reward!

With that thought, Wang Baole instantly felt that his stress was relieved. A light flashed across his eyes as he dashed straight toward the market.

Before long, in the busy market, Wang Baole was hugging a pot of braised eggs while munching happily on fried potatoes as he explored the market with lightness in his steps. He looked at all the stores around and noticed that there were several disciples who were of similar body shapes as him, and he began to think that the market was a good place.

Besides food, there were also many other miscellaneous items, including daily necessities, being sold there. Not only that, they all came in many varieties, so even though they were on the pricier side, it was still acceptable as it helped save some traveling time to Ethereal City for many disciples.

Wang Baole enjoyed himself fully as he picked up a braised egg and put it into his mouth. He had wanted to leave but noticed a snack store, the very one that he would visit time and time again when he lived nearby.

What caught his attention most was that it was advertised on the banner outside the store that a new product had been launched. Wang Baole's eyes lit up, and he immediately walked over. The owner of the store was a middle-aged man who had been on Upper Academy Island for seven years. However, he

was still an ordinary disciple as a first level True Breath expert. When he noticed Wang Baole, he immediately greeted him enthusiastically.

As soon as Wang Baole stepped into the store, he waved his hand and spoke forthrightly. "Old Liu, how has business been so far? Give me a hundred packets of this new snack!"

The middle-aged store owner was also delighted. Wang Baole was generous with his purchases every time he visited his store, which made him extremely happy. Now, as he prepared the snacks for Wang Baole, he spoke with a big smile.

"Senior Brother Wang, long time no see! I'll give you three additional packets on the house!"

Wang Baole nodded happily as he heard the offer. Even though he had not been out since he was admitted to Upper Academy Island, he was aware through the Spirit Intranet that majority of the disciples who were setting up stores there did not have a high caliber and made it onto Upper Academy Island purely due to sheer luck. They were real True Breath experts, but most had achieved breakthroughs at only the one- or two-inch Spirit Root stage.

These people were still considered exceptional to ordinary folks, but on Upper Academy Island, where geniuses were in abundance, they were considered low ranked. Every type of cultivation there required expensive materials that they could not afford, which explained the emergence of markets like that. Such markets allowed them to earn some income to offset the costs of their cultivation.

The only issue was that the market was formed by the disciples of their own accord and were not considered legitimate. Even if they had registered with the College Administrative Department, the items that were permitted for sale comprised mostly of raw materials and other equipment for refinement.

In the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, there were numerous people selling raw materials and other items. The cost was exorbitant, and there was also competition as there were direct sales made by the Dharmic Armament Pavilion for the disciples. Therefore, it was more profitable to sell snacks and other food items in the market, and eventually, the poor disciples started selling food and beverages in the market.

The College Administrative Department turned a blind eye toward this, but occasionally, it would raid the area in order to control the law and order of the area where the market was located. This was unavoidable due to the regulations set by the College Administrative Department and their disapproval toward it.

Thinking of that, Wang Baole empathized with the difficulties faced by the store owners as he smiled.

"Old Liu, you sure know how to run a business. Hmm, give me three boxes of those Ice Spirit Water as well!" Wang Baole spoke and looked around, trying to see if there were any snacks that he had not tried before.

The middle-aged store owner was even more delighted, hearing Wang Baole's additional purchase. He hurriedly packed everything for Wang Baole, and before long, he placed the hundred and three packs of snacks as well as the three boxes of Ice Spirit Water in front of Wang Baole.

Wang Baole was satisfied. He was about to retrieve his Spirit Stones when suddenly messy sounds of footsteps and sounds of shock spread from outside.

“The College Administrative Department is here!”

“Damn it, didn’t they just come yesterday? Why are they here again today?”

In the chaos, the middle-aged store owner standing beside Wang Baole instantly turned pale. Wang Baole also turned to look outside bewilderedly, and immediately, he saw tens of disciples donned in robes from the College Administrative Department entering the market following the lead of several Armament Disciples. It was chaotic, and the entire area was thrown into a tizzy everywhere they passed.

The disciples from the College Administrative Department looked extremely fierce. As they passed, they ruthlessly wrecked the stores. The store owners were extremely upset but did not dare prevent them from doing so and could only suppress their anxiety as they spoke urgently in gentle tones.

This very scene made Wang Baole frown.