

Worth 141

Chapter 141: Assemble, Inspector Main Team!

“Old Liu, are these people from the College Administrative Department?” Wang Baole asked with his eyebrows furrowed as he watched the group of disciples walking around like tyrants, ransacking the stores, with the store owners cowardly giving in to their atrocities.

“It’s precisely the despicable College Administrative Department!” Old Liu said through gritted teeth. The anger and sadness in his eyes were obvious, so Wang Baole, who was standing beside him, cleared his throat and awkwardly touched his nose.

“It’s already difficult for us less capable disciples to cultivate. Unwilling to accept this reality, we decided to start small businesses that not only fulfill the needs of the masses but also allows us to earn some Spirit Stones for our cultivation. Is there any wrong in that?” Old Liu asked pitifully and helplessly. “We pay the fees on time too, but this College Administrative Department still comes once every few days, wrecking everything, every time! That’s too much!”

Wang Baole lowered the hand on his nose and fell silent. According to the rules of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, selling food and drinks in the market clashed with the environment and style of the Upper Academy Island, so it was not allowed. However, looking at the issue logically, it was understandable that the disadvantaged disciples had resorted to it.

Wang Baole sighed in his heart and had wanted to offer some words of consolation when the group of disciples from the College Administrative Department arrived before the shop. Immediately, three of them stepped into the store that Wang Baole was in.

The moment that they stepped in, one long-faced youth kicked away the advertisement banner and overturned the table where the snacks were placed. In the chaos, a large number of snacks were scattered all over the floor.

Standing there and witnessing everything, Wang Baole grew solemn.

“Senior Brothers, I have already paid the fees. Please give me some leeway... I... I’ll pay the fees again! Will that do?” Old Liu asked cowardly, trying to salvage the situation, as he immediately grew anxious and stepped forward. However, he did not dare to stop them.

“Junior Brother Liu, we’ve told you before to not sell trash like this here! Everyone here is a cultivator, so which idiot do you think will buy snacks to eat? This is the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, and all that’s sold are Dharmic Artifacts and raw materials. Is it appropriate to be selling snacks? You’re severely tarnishing the image of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion!” The long-faced youth who kicked the advertising banner away spoke coldly after hearing Old Liu’s words, turning to look coldly at him.

Wang Baole’s eyebrows twitched, unhappiness filling his heart as he looked at the snacks beside him.

“I’ll put them away... I’ll put them away now... Senior Brothers...” Old Liu spoke anxiously as he bent down to pick the snacks up.

“Too late! They’ll all be confiscated!” As he spoke, the two College Administrative Department disciples behind him immediately went forward like tyrants to confiscate all the items in the store. At the same time, identical scenes were playing out in the other stores.

No matter how store owners like Old Liu pleaded, it was futile. Wang Baole turned even more solemn, and with his eyebrows furrowed, he began to speak, for he could no longer watch silently.

“The way you handle matters has gone overboard!”

The moment that he spoke, the trio in the store all turned to look at him. The long-faced youth sized up Wang Baole, and after noticing that he was just wearing a gray Daoist robe, he raised his eyebrows, stepped hard on a packet of snacks on the ground, and pointed overbearingly at the snacks in front of Wang Baole, which he had just bought.

“All these are to be confiscated as well!” he declared and turned to leave, directly dismissing whatever Wang Baole had said.

Wang Baole’s rage instantly grew as he witnessed the attitude of the College Administrative Department. He placed his right hand on his snacks and asked unhappily, “On what basis can you confiscate these snacks that I have bought?”

The long-faced youth and the two disciples from the College Administrative Department frowned. The long-faced youth appeared impatient and turned to stare at Wang Baole.

“Looking for trouble? Scram! Don’t bargain with me here. Don’t even think of leaving if you’re planning to create more trouble!”

A cold look flashed through Wang Baole’s eyes as he listened. However, his anger did not erupt. Rather, he stood there and spoke calmly.

“Since the store owners have already paid the fees, it is no issue for you to carry out inspections. However, wrecking everything the moment that you arrive is unreasonable. If they really did commit an offense, you can just punish them. What are you trying to do by confiscating their items?”

The long-faced youth’s face instantly turned awful as he listened to Wang Baole. After sizing Wang Baole up, he suddenly laughed, turning his head to shout outside.

“Senior Brother Sun, there’s someone here interrupting our investigation and obstructing the law. How should I handle this?”

Almost instantly after he spoke, cold laughter was heard from the store not far away.

“Obstructing the law?” As the sound of laughter spread, an Armament Disciple dressed in a blue Daoist robe emerged from the store. He looked like he was about twenty-eight years old, with some freckles on his face. He looked extremely authoritative, especially with the five disciples from the College Administrative Department behind him. As he walked out, other disciples from the College Administrative Department also joined his entourage.

It was obvious that he was quite a powerful individual in the College Administrative Department. Even though he was not a main team leader, he was likely to be the right-hand man working under one of the

main team leaders. Now, as he walked into the store that Wang Baole was in, he looked at Wang Baole coldly.

“What’s going on?”

“This...” Wang Baole was about to speak, but the youth named Sun waved him off.

“I’m not asking you!” He immediately interrupted Wang Baole and looked at the long-faced youth. The long-faced youth hurriedly stepped forward, He exaggerated what had happened before looking at Wang Baole with a sly smile.

Wang Baole had originally wanted to explain but aborted this thought. He simply stood there, wanting to see how the Armament Disciple surnamed Sun was planning to handle the situation.

After listening to what the long-faced youth said, Sun immediately understood that the fatty before him was being a busybody. Noticing the gray Daoist robe that Wang Baole was wearing, he remained expressionless. If Wang Baole was an Armament Disciple, he would at least have spared his dignity. However, since he was only an ordinary disciple that he did not recognize, especially as there was more than one fatty in the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, he immediately ignored him and spoke arrogantly.

“Apprehend him!”

The moment that he spoke, the disciples from the College Administrative Department standing beside him immediately stepped forward. Leading the others, the long-faced youth from before was even more scornful as he bellowed with a low voice, “Still full of yourself?”

Wang Baole shook his head and laughed. His laughter carried a chilly vibe, and the instant that the disciples stepped forward, he kicked fast and hard. No one had expected Wang Baole to react so quickly, and immediately, sounds of impact emerged.

The long-faced youth charging toward Wang Baole immediately screamed out in pain, his face turning pale as he was sent flying by the powerful kick. When he landed a distance away, his hands covered his crotch, and his painful screams were even more pitiful.

“You dare to retaliate?” The people surrounding Wang Baole roared angrily, and Sun immediately grew furious once he snapped out of his confusion. He leaped into the air, charging directly at Wang Baole.

“Retaliate? Not only am I planning to retaliate, I am planning to assault you!” Wang Baole’s eyes stared hard as he turned his body. His speed was shockingly fast as he appeared in front of Sun in a blink of an eye. As Sun reeled in shock at Wang Baole’s speed, Wang Baole had already launched his attack, punching him hard.

With a loud boom, blood immediately spewed out from the mouth of Sun. As he retreated while screaming painfully, Wang Baole picked up speed and punched someone else into the air. Then, he took several steps back and kicked another person into the air.

Soon, pitiful screams were heard everywhere. The tens of disciples from the College Administrative Department were all being kicked into the air. After landing everywhere, Wang Baole appeared in front of Sun and kicked him once again as he was struggling to stand up, pinning him on the ground while stepping on his chest, preventing him from rising.

The disciples from the College Administrative Department standing around were shaken. They stared at Wang Baole, their rage and shock indescribable.

At the same time, the masses within the market began creating a commotion as they took in the scene before their eyes. They all had a hunch that something serious was about to happen.

“It’s the College Administrative Department! That’s the most powerful department of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion! Who would dare offend them?”

“That fatty looks familiar... However, he’ll be in great trouble after assaulting those people from the College Administrative Department.”

Old Liu, who was in the shop, also grew nervous and anxious because of Wang Baole. However, he had no say in issues like this. He could only react with anxiety, and as the masses continued their discussions, Wang Baole lowered his head and looked at Sun under his feet.

“Now, can I speak?”

“Chap, you need not say anything. You’re bold, but I really want to know if you’ll still be so daring when our back up from the College Administrative Department arrives later on!” Sun wiped the crimson red blood from the corner of his lips and lay on the ground, beaten, as he looked viciously at Wang Baole, laughing coldly. The disciples from the College Administrative Department standing around were already activating their voice transmission rings and contacting the College Administrative Department.

Thereafter, as they all looked toward Wang Baole, their eyes carried a look of hostility and chilliness. When the experts from the College Administrative Department arrived later on, the fatty before them would be scared stiff and regret attacking them.

That was especially so for the long-faced youth, who gritted his teeth and looked at Wang Baole with intense anger.

Wang Baole raised his eyebrows and decided to retrieve his voice transmission ring as well. He was about to open it when Sun, who noticed the scene, laughed coldly instantly.

“Finding someone for help? Chap, it’s no use speaking to anyone regarding what’s happened today. If I can’t fix you, I, Sun Fang, will go by Fang Sun!”

“Fix me?” Wang Baole’s eyes carried an even chillier vibe as he opened the voice transmission ring to contact the main team leader who had led him to Chen Yutong previously.

“Senior Brother Zhou, I’m still not familiar with the Inspector main team. Please help me convey an order to the Inspector main team that I want all disciples from the team to assemble at the Southern Range Market within five minutes!”

Chapter 142: Breaking the Limits of the Sky!

“Senior Brother Wang, what happened?” Zhou Penghai, the blue-shirted cultivator, was in his cave abode thinking about how to build a rosy relationship with Wang Baole when he received Wang Baole’s voice transmission. He was surprised, and after listening clearly to what Wang Baole told him, he was

shocked and asked about the matter from Wang Baole immediately. He politely addressed him as Senior Brother Wang; it was apparent that he did not want to be careless.

Within the Southern Range Market, Wang Baole was stepping on Sun Fang as he spoke calmly into the voice transmission ring.

“Nothing serious happened. It’s just that some fellow named Sun Fang from the College Administrative Department is threatening me, claiming that he will get me fixed,” Wang Baole said and looked at Sun Fang, who was still on the floor, sneering.

Wang Baole did not turn on the broadcasting function, so Sun Fang was unable to hear the conversation between him and Zhou Penghai through the voice transmission.

When Zhou Penghai heard Wang Baole’s reply, he took a deep breath and did a quick search on who was the one carrying out the enforcement. After realizing that the person did not belong to his team, he heaved a sigh of relief. His eyes, however, suddenly lit up as he realized that it was an opportunity for him.

He wanted to make sure that the entire matter was handled properly and thus contacted the Inspector main team immediately. He sounded extremely stern since he held a high status within the College Administrative Department and was the right-hand-man of Chen Yutong. Furthermore, the Inspector main team had also heard about their newly appointed main team leader.

Now, after hearing Zhou Penghai’s words, the thirty-man strong Inspector main team started moving. Together with Zhou Penghai, they charged directly toward the Southern Range Market.

Along the way, he thought about the matter and contacted the main team leader in charge of the team carrying out the enforcement now to relay the information. That team leader seemed to be refining Dharmic Artifacts as Zhou Penghai heard the sounds resulting from refinement failure.

After explaining the situation, Zhou Penghai heard him take a breath—that person had apparently also heard from Chen Yutong that Wang Baole would likely be the person taking over the College Administrative Department.

“Thank you so much, Brother Zhou! That damned Sun Fang... I’ll go over right now!”

As the entire group charged straight toward Southern Range Market, Sun Fang, who was still under the feet of Wang Baole, looked at him sending out voice transmissions and grew a little nervous. However, he interpreted the situation and still felt that there would be no issues, so he began to laugh condescendingly.

“Chap, you sure are a good actor! What do you mean by you’re not familiar with the Inspector main team and need someone to relay your orders for you?”

“Who do you think you are?”

Sun Fang jeered at Wang Baole. He had left his residence early that day and was not aware that Wang Baole had been appointed as one of the main team leaders. If he was not aware of the news, it meant that the disciples surrounding him were even more clueless. After all, Wang Baole’s appointment had just recently happened.

As a result, the group of people started laughing, their laughter becoming even more derisive as they looked at Wang Baole.

“This person is interesting... He made it seem so real by the way he spoke just now and almost duped me!”

“So... the person provoking us is such a prominent character, huh? Haha!”

The disciples from the College Administrative Department were all laughing till their bellies ached. Of them, the long-faced youth's laughter was the loudest and most condescending.

When Wang Baole heard the words from the people around him, he looked calm as he raised his head, glancing at the sky.

Seeing how calm Wang Baole was, Sun Fang was a little suspicious and surprised. However, he still felt that he should not be frightened over such matters and began to speak with his teeth clenched.

“Chap, I'll wait and see if you can really assemble everyone from the Inspector main team today. If you...” He did not manage to complete his sentence as his voice transmission ring began vibrating vigorously.

Noticing that it was his main team leader that was sending him the voice transmission, Sun Fang was momentarily surprised. He suddenly had a hunch that something was amiss and a hint of disbelief rose in him as he hurriedly opened his voice transmission ring. Instantly, a torrent of angry roars erupted from the voice transmission ring, exploding into his ears like deafening thunder.

“Sun Fang, you rascal! Just you wait! I'll f**k your all your ancestors! Are you blind to provoke Wang Baole? Release him immediately, immediately!”

The main team leader's voice erupted, causing Sun Fang to tremble all over. His mind was buzzing as he had never heard the main team leader so furious throughout his years working there. His breathing became extremely rapid, and his eyes stared wide open as frightening waves crashed in his mind. He was dumbfounded.

Wang Baole pursed his lips and remained silent.

Even though the main team leader's voice was as loud as thunder, the disciples a distance away, who were still insulting Wang Baole with their words and laughter, did not hear them.

Seeing that their team leader had received a voice transmission, they immediately grew excited. That was especially so for the long-faced youth, who could not resist himself as he shouted, “Senior Brother Sun, are our men from the College Administrative Department arriving?”

“Haha, chap! I'll see if you can still be so arrogant later on!”

As the crowd surrounding him grew excited, Sun Fang's body trembled, and his neck turned red. “Shut up, all of you!”

As he roared, Sun Fang turned pale as he cautiously looked at Wang Baole. A look of shock and misfortune flashed across his eyes as he asked Wang Baole the following with a trembling voice, “You... are you Wang Baole?”

“You know who I am?” Wang Baole spoke calmly. However, as those words fell into Sun Fang’s ears, they were akin to innumerable claps of thunder exploding loudly, causing him to tremble like a sieve as he turned ghastly white instantly. He was on the brink of tears, and the crowd surrounding him also began to notice that something was amiss. Their breathing quickened, and they no longer dared to create any ruckus. As he prepared to speak, Sun Fang was about to break down.

However, right at that moment, a series of shuffling sounds emerged from afar. Cruisers arrived one by one, amounting to over fifteen of them. The cruisers neared in the blink of an eye and tens of disciples dressed in Daoist robes from the College Administrative Department immediately leaped from them. Among them, there were about nine Armament Disciples, all looking extremely stern and serious as they approached.

Four of them led the way. Other than Zhou Penghai and another burly youth wearing a fierce expression, the two other people looked extremely stern and were dressed in black Inspector robes. With a glance, one could see that they were the subordinate team leaders of the Inspector main team.

The moment those people appeared, the people standing around and the College Administrative Department disciples on the ground immediately gasped in shock. Sun Fang trembled even more vigorously as he began to see stars.

However, none of that was the most shocking. What really made their minds buzz with a torrent of activity was when the two subordinate team leaders from the Inspector main team and the thirty or so disciples behind him leaped over the others and rushed toward Wang Baole the moment they saw him, having recognized him instantly despite having only just meeting him in person.

When they neared, they all kneeled down and greeted Wang Baole respectfully with cupped fists. Their words were extremely formal and polite.

“Greetings, main team leader!”

As they spoke, Sun Fang began to see stars. He screamed pitifully and lost consciousness, and his subordinates surrounding him were all overwhelmed with surprise, their minds buzzing noisily with activity. They were dumbfounded and began gasping in immense shock.

“Main... main team leader?”

“He’s... is he really the main team leader of the Inspector main team?”

“Gosh... How... how is this possible?”

Of everyone, the long-faced youth was thrown into the biggest shock. His whole body trembled, and he was completely dazed as he reeled in fear and disbelief.

Wang Baole slowly inhaled. Everything that had happened made him slightly adrift. In reality, he was familiar with this feeling. It was exactly the same as when he was the Head Prefect on the Lower Academy Island. However, when he gained admission to Upper Academy Island, he had lost the power that he had held previously, despite having advanced upward.

It was not until now that he regained authority. Inevitably, he needed a moment to catch his breath but quickly recovered from the unfamiliarity. He raised his leg and spoke calmly.

“Take all of them away!”

The moment he spoke, the inspectors surrounding him immediately carried out the order. They instantly spread out, apprehending Sun Fang and all of his subordinates. All of the apprehended were drowned in fear with bitterness in their hearts, especially the long-faced youth who was trembling with terror. At the same time, Sun Fang also regained consciousness, but when he thought of what had happened, he fainted again.

When the inspectors from the inspector main team had taken Sun Fang and company away, Zhou Penghai and the youth beside him approached Wang Baole to greet him. After an introduction by Zhou Penghai, Wang Baole came to know that the youth was the main team leader in charge of the branch team that Sun Fang belonged to, and he slightly narrowed his eyes.

The youth laughed bitterly, and after a brief explanation, Wang Baole did not pursue the matter further. Soon, the trio were chatting heartily, which brought a wave of relief to the youth. Before long, as the sky darkened, the duo bade farewell and left Wang Baole.

After greeting the store owners in the market, Wang Baole picked up the snacks that he had bought. Old Liu, the store owner, seemed more reserved, but gratitude was evident from his eyes. That made Wang Baole extremely heartened, and he left without saying anything else.

Wang Baole left, and when he finally disappeared from sight, the entire market burst out in commotion. When Wang Baole was around, no one had dared make any comments, but with Wang Baole’s departure, the disciples, including Old Liu, began discussing with much fervor.

“Gosh, I never would have thought... I really wouldn’t have imagined... It’s difficult to tell that this unassuming looking fatty was actually the main team leader of the inspector main team! That’s the second most powerful individual of the College Administrative Department!”

“Wang Baole! I remember now... He is a True Breath expert with an eight-inch Spirit Root, the one who contributed tremendously to the Dao College during his experience in the Spirit Breath Village!”

“It’s him! It’s Wang Baole who was slandered on the Spirit Intranet a while ago! I heard that he was the one and only Head Prefect of the Dharmic Armament faculty of the Lower Academy Island, a position that has never been held before!”

Amid the people’s discussions, Wang Baole sat on the cruiser and charged toward his cave abode. He was full of thought as he recalled some words that his father had told him.

If you do not want to be bullied, you have to be at the top!

With that thought, Wang Baole’s determination to achieve his dream of becoming the President of the Federation grew stronger.

I will not let the time I have used to read the high officials’ autobiographies all these years go to waste. Sooner or later, the slimmest, most handsome Wang Baole from the Federation will definitely...

Wang Baole raised his head proudly and was about to make an oath when a wave of excited sound suddenly reverberated in his ears, growing louder as if it was nearing him.

This sounds familiar... Wang Baole was confused, but even before he could react, the loud boom reverberated in the skies. The cruiser that he was on was suddenly slapped heavily, hurling it directly onto the ground!

“What’s going on?” Wang Baole screamed pitifully. All he could feel was that his world was spinning round and round. As he screamed, he noticed that a gigantic Diamond Ape in the skies!

The Diamond Ape looked excited as it pounded its chest with both hands and gnashed its teeth. It made sounds as if to make fun of Wang Baole. The noises were extremely disturbing, at a level comparable to Wang Baole’s immense capabilities, as it spread out in all directions.

Chapter 143: There Will Soon Be Chaos!

“It’s you again!” Wang Baole grew frustrated again when he raised his head to take a look, after taking much effort to stabilize the cruiser again. He did not know if he had a ‘special’ affinity with this Diamond Ape, since it was the second time that he had bumped into him. It was obvious that it recognized Wang Baole’s cruiser, based on the Diamond Ape’s facial expression...

“I did not fly into the higher cloud layers, but this hairy monkey still attacked me. Is he bullying me because I’m nice!?” Wang Baole was furious, not wanting to brush off an issue like this. However, when he thought of the strong backing and the level of cultivation that the Diamond Ape had...

“I’ll bear with it!” Wang Baole gritted his teeth, planning to exit his cruiser before stowing it away. He thought about how he could not afford to provoke the Diamond Ape and that the Diamond Ape probably would not dare attack him further after he removed the cruiser from its sight.

However, even before he could step off the cruiser, the apparently experienced Diamond Ape with its glistening white teeth and a look of disdain suddenly charged toward Wang Baole’s cruiser, slapping it hard once again.

With a loud bang, Wang Baole screamed pitifully as his cruiser was hurled like a ball. Like before, the cruiser was thrown into the air, rotating several rounds midair before being stabilized forcefully. Wang Baole’s anger reached boiling point, but as he recalled the kind advice offered by others to never reprimand the monkey, he planned to swallow it down. However, he saw the ape continuing to contort its body into an offensive position, shaking its buttocks and baring its teeth at him.

That instantly tripped something in Wang Baole’s mind. He could no longer bear it and opened the cover of the cruiser, stood up, and shouted at the Diamond Ape while pointing at it.

“You hairy monkey! Annoying, sick monkey! You’re a bully! To hell with you! Do you dare wait and battle me after I breakthrough from the True Breath realm? If you dare not, you’re my son! You bear grudges? I’m someone who remembers grudges better than anyone else! There is no end to this matter between us!”

As Wang Baole was unleashing his wrath, he did not consider what it would mean if his son was really a monkey. Now, his loud voice began to spread.

On Upper Academy Island, disciples from the various pavilions noticed the exchange between the Diamond Ape and Wang Baole. They were originally just watching the show, but when they heard Wang Baole's voice, their facial expressions changed instantly.

"Is this a newbie? Gosh! He actually dared scold the Diamond Ape! We have to run!"

"Doesn't he know that once the Diamond Ape is offended, it will remember the gaffe, and the only way out of it is to be played by it three times. However, it would only be three times at most. It would pass if he bore with it. After that, the Beast Taming Pavilion will offer compensation!"

"Trouble's brewing!"

The disciples from the various pavilions standing around all carried shocked expressions. They immediately retreated as if they would be safer the further they were from this place.

The Diamond Ape was pounding its chest and baring its teeth in midair. After it heard Wang Baole scolding it, it trembled all over and eventually stopped showing its teeth and pounding its chest. Its breathing grew rapid, and its eyes turned red with anger, as it suddenly roared furiously at Wang Baole.

The roar was deafening, immediately spreading in all directions. As the sound spread, the disciples who were fleeing felt that their heads were about to explode. They picked up speed, and some of them even retrieved their cruisers.

"Chaos incoming! Run!"

"The Diamond Ape is going to unleash its wrath!"

As they scurried away in shock, gasps also emerged from the Levitating Mountain where the Beast Taming Pavilion was located. Numerous disciples from the Beast Taming Pavilion were thrown into a flurry. They instantly retrieved their masks and put them on at the fastest possible speed. Despite that, some were still worried as they hurriedly searched for a protective chamber...

At the same time, Wang Baole got a shock due to the Diamond Ape's angry, agitated howl. He felt strong gusts of wind blowing at him as the Diamond Ape turned extremely savage in the blink of an eye.

"Is there a need to be like this? I have only scolded you, not hit you! What a fragile ego you have!" Wang Baole facial expression revealed his surprise, and he was about to take action when suddenly, the Diamond Ape in the air turned around, its back facing Wang Baole after it threw an angry glance at him. It seemed like it was trying hard to control and restrain itself.

"That's what I'm saying! This fella is reasonable. After all..." Seeing what had happened, Wang Baole heaved a sigh of relief. He thought that he should not provoke the Diamond Ape any further since it had a more ferocious temper than him, so he controlled his cruiser and dashed in the direction of his cave abode while the Diamond Ape still had its back turned against him.

However, just as Wang Baole drove his cruiser away, the Diamond Ape that was back facing him suddenly inhaled deeply. The suction force from its breath was extremely strong, such that a whirlwind appeared in the skies before him. Vegetation and other plants grown on the Levitating Mountain were also being pulled at an angle. The Diamond Ape slowly raised its buttocks as it took a deep breath.

Wang Baole, who was speeding away, was momentarily frozen with shock when he noticed what was happening. Dumbfounded, he stared with his eyes wide open.

“What’s going on?”

The instant Wang Baole opened his mouth, the Diamond Ape raised its buttocks even higher as it inhaled sufficient air to fill its stomach completely. In the blink of an eye, it forcefully contracted its muscles, and a deafening boom immediately emerged. As the sound was produced, a cloud of translucent fog spread, directly tumbling toward Wang Baole like an invisible wave.

Wang Baole’s mind instantly buzzed with activity. He had never expected that this highly-revered Diamond Ape would actually direct its fart toward him after being scolded!

“This... This...” Wang Baole was immediately thrown over the edge as he tried to avoid it.

The entire series of events, from Wang Baole scolding the Diamond Ape to it unleashing its most formidable retaliation, happened in the blink of an eye. As Wang Baole trembled and went crazy with shock, the flatulence had already tumbled toward him, instantly enveloping Wang Baole and his cruiser in it.

The fog seemed to be encompassing a unique force. The cruiser momentarily malfunctioned the moment the fog entered, and there was no way to prevent the fog from entering. It spread throughout the cabin, and Wang Baole screamed tragically after taking a whiff of it.

“This is definitely not a fart! It’s poison!” The smell of the fart was indescribably pungent. Wang Baole had never smelled something like that in his entire life. He was about to throw up with the fart shrouding him, but he did not dare escape from the cruiser seeing how concentrated the fog was outside. Therefore, struggling to stay conscious, he unleashed all his Spirit Qi while screaming painfully. After much effort, the cruiser emerged from the fog at high speed. As it emerged, Wang Baole did not bother controlling the cruiser anymore. The first thing he did was to jump off the cruiser.

However, even though he had escaped from the cruiser, the surrounding air still carried the pungent smell. As the fog spread, almost all the pavilions on Upper Academy Island were shrouded in it. Instantly, painful and angry screams erupted all around from helpless and furious students...

Wang Baole took a whiff of it and vomited as he could no longer control himself. He felt like he had been poisoned, and he raised his head, staring angrily at the Diamond Ape in midair.

Now, the Diamond Ape was soaked in glee. It pounded its chest again, and as it howled, it bared its teeth at Wang Baole, its eyes ridiculing Wang Baole.

Its teeth were extremely white, beautiful, and extraordinary. The way that it bared its teeth was like it was trying to show off. Wang Baole’s hatred toward it grew even more deep-seated.

“Just you wait!” Wang Baole gritted his teeth and was about to leave when suddenly, at this instant, a deep-sounding roar emerged from the Beast Taming Pavilion on the Levitating Mountain.

“Blackie, you’re being unruly again! This time, your punishment is to be locked in for three months! Return right away!”

The voice was thunderous, spreading in all directions. The Diamond Ape, which was in midair, suddenly trembled all over, fearful and slightly indignant. It lowered its head and glanced fiercely at Wang Baole before carefully turning around, dashing directly toward the Beast Taming Pavilion.

Wang Baole's anger was still not appeased even though he saw that the Diamond Ape had been punished. He felt that the punishment was too lenient, but he had no control over it himself. Thus, he could only control his anger and look at his severely damaged cruiser that had been slammed onto the ground. He wanted to cry but could not produce any tears.

In his anger, Wang Baole took the cruiser back to his cave abode while gritting his teeth. He kept thinking about how to seek revenge, but even before he could think of a way, when his Armament Disciple Daoist robe arrived on the second day, an Armament Disciple from the Beast Taming Pavilion showed up as well, apologizing for the Diamond Ape's behavior and presenting Wang Baole with compensation.

"Senior Brother Baole, please do not take offense. The Diamond Ape is so unruly that we are also troubled by it."

Seeing the polite attitude exhibited by the disciple from the Beast Taming Pavilion, Wang Baole did not unleash his anger. He appeared to have forgiven the ape for what had happened on the surface, but he still silently held a grudge in his mind.

Sickening monkey! I, Wang Baole, will remember this! Wang Baole harrumphed coldly and buried the matter in his heart. After that, he continued his cultivation and studies on Upper Academy Island. His fame in the College Administrative Department also grew as news of what had happened in the market spread.

That was compounded by the fact that the Inspector main team that he was in charge of was extremely powerful. Therefore, in the days that followed, not only did the disciples from the Inspector main team report to him regularly, Wang Baole also had many visitors.

Gradually, Wang Baole's name became more familiar in the minds of the disciples from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion.

At the same time, Wang Baole did not neglect refining Dharmic Artifacts. After completing the refinement of a perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifact, Wang Baole thought about trying to refine a second-grade Dharmic Artifact, even though the assessment for disciples did not require one to refine a perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifact but a third-grade Numinous Treasure instead. However, Wang Baole felt that it was crucial for him to build the foundation and decided to take steady steps toward that. Therefore, he put in a lot of effort into refining a perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifact.

As for the scabbard that Little Missy from the mask had suggested, Wang Baole also began to study how to refine it in this time period.

Days passed just like that, until one day, the Combat Pavilion made an announcement to the whole of Upper Academy Island. Commotion arose in almost all the pavilions of Upper Academy Island, and people's eyes all lit up as they planned their next move.

That was especially so for the disciples from the Alchemy Pavilion and the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. After seeing the notice by the Combat Pavilion, they all grew exhilarated.

Chapter 144: The Day to Strike Gold

Even though Wang Baole was immersed in the process of refining a second-grade Dharmic Artifact, he was the main team leader of the inspector main team and did not have to personally seek out information for what was happening. His savvy subordinates from the Inspector main team would immediately convey the information to Wang Baole.

“Combat Pavilion’s tournament?” After receiving the voice transmission, Wang Baole, who was studying how to refine the scabbard, raised his head, slightly confused. Senior disciples from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion were familiar with the Combat Pavilion’s tournament, but as Wang Baole was still new to Upper Academy Island, he was curious and began inquiring further.

His subordinate from the Inspector main team immediately explained the situation to him. Gradually, Wang Baole gained a better understanding of the Combat Pavilion’s tournament.

In reality, the Combat Pavilion was the an extremely powerful force on Upper Academy Island. Even on ordinary days, their cultivation and missions were intense, and they handled top secret matters from the outside. It would not be an exaggeration to call them the blade of Ethereal Dao College.

At the same time, to the majority of people, in terms of combating power, the abilities of the Combat Pavilion’s disciples far exceeded that of other pavilions. Therefore, most of the time, disciples on Upper Academy Island from the Combat Pavilion were cultivators of combat.

As a result, the Combat Pavilion was usually given several times more resources compared to the other pavilions. That was especially so after they completed their missions, as their one-time gains were enough to make the disciples from other pavilions drool with envy.

Therefore, even though disciples from the Combat Pavilion faced high levels of danger when they are out, they were compensated richly in terms of monetary gains. However, since they were ferocious cultivators of combat, it was naturally expected of them to be cultivating hard all the time. This led to the emergence of the Combat Pavilion’s annual tournament that consisted of five rounds, with each round for each of the five levels of the True Breath realm competing on different terms.

The annual Combat Pavilion tournament was important to the other pavilions and the entire Ethereal Dao College. Everyone paid great attention to it.

It was such a significant event that every year, officials from the Federation as well as military personnel would spectate it in order to discover talents. This was so that they could recruit and confirm individuals to be appointed in advance. It was precisely because the event garnered so much attention from the outside world that disciples from the Combat Pavilion placed even greater importance on it. The outcome of the event, regardless of whether it was good or bad, would be recorded and rewarded accordingly.

As such, regardless of whether it was the Alchemy Pavilion, the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, or the Array Runes Pavilion, it meant that the time to strike it rich had arrived for their disciples who usually

played a supportive role. After all, the more importance that the disciples from the Combat Pavilion placed on the tournament, the more they needed to equip themselves. Therefore, their need for Dharmic Artifacts, pills, and array formations would exponentially grow.

The generic items handed out by Upper Academy Island were naturally insufficient to satisfy the Combat Pavilion disciple's needs for the tournament. They needed to purchase the items from the other pavilions on their own, and that led to the emergence of a popular saying among the disciples of the supporting pavilions.

"The day the Combat Pavilion tournament happens is the day we strike it rich!"

That was not all, for it would make the level of participation of the other pavilions too shallow. Furthermore, this would make the other pavilions segregated from the Combat Pavilion, and that was not in accordance to the plans made by Ethereal Dao College with regards to the disciples' cultivation.

After all, in the years that Ethereal Dao College spent planning and deciphering the Great Dao, they concluded that it was no mean feat. It required the disciples to advance forward while supporting each other. Even though they did not frown upon individualistic pursuits, they encouraged collaboration.

Therefore, the annual tournament held by the Combat Pavilion appeared to be a simple competition on the surface, but it was far from that in reality. There was a rule in the tournament that the participating disciples had to find a teammate and collaborate together for the tournament.

One could partner up with Alchemy cultivators from the Alchemy pavilion, Dharmic Armament cultivators from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, Array Runes cultivators from the Array Runes Pavilion, or those from the Beast Taming Pavilion and so on. Even if they could not find anyone from those pavilions, they could still partner up with someone from the Combat Pavilion. In the event that one failed to find a partner, the Dao College would even assign someone compatible to form a team.

This way, the Combat Pavilion's tournament would include everyone. It was also due to this that the officials from the Federation and the other military personnel would spectate it, making it one of the biggest events of Ethereal Dao College.

After understanding the details and rules of the Combat Pavilion's tournament, Wang Baole's eyes lit up as well. It cost him close to nothing to manufacture Spirit Stones, which allowed him to amass significant wealth, making him a rich tycoon on the Lower Academy Island.

However, when he reached Upper Academy Island, the task of refining a hundred perfect first-grade Dharmic Artifacts had already depleted much of his savings. Now that he was refining second-grade Dharmic Artifact, the costs were even more exorbitant. Even someone as wealthy as him found the process slightly unsustainable.

The only way would be to stop the refinement process and switch gears to manufacture Spirit Stones for the entire day instead. After a period of time, it was likely that his wealth would be replenished. However, time would be wasted if this method was adopted, which threw Wang Baole into a dilemma.

In addition, the sect did not seem to have concluded its tallying of Wang Baole's gains in the Spirit Breath Village for some reason, and his reward had not been given yet. Wang Baole was growing

impatient, and now that he heard about the Combat Pavilion's tournament from his subordinate, he immediately felt that this was an opportunity for him.

Other disciples from the Dharmic Armament usually first sell the Dharmic Artifacts that they have refined before using the Spirit Stones that they have earned in return to support their cultivation and research studies. This forms a positive feed-forward cycle and is something that I should follow!

Wang Baole seemed to gain a profound realization as he took out a portion of his Dharmic Artifacts to record their data before logging on to the Spirit Intranet to list them for sale.

At this time, there was a flurry of activity on Upper Academy Island's Spirit Intranet. Posts related to the sale of Dharmic Artifacts, pills, and array formations were aplenty, and there were also some disciples from the Combat Pavilion looking for teammates for the tournament.

With regards to the pricing of his Dharmic Artifacts, Wang Baole did some comparisons and decided that he should not be too unreasonable. Therefore, he listed them at ten times the cost price, which in reality could be considered cheap. He saw that there were many disciples from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion listing their Dharmic Artifacts at absurd prices, mostly over ten times the price of the cost price. The most exaggerated listing that he saw was fifty to a hundred times the base price.

That's too unreasonable! Wang Baole suddenly had the thought that such a kind-hearted soul like himself was a rare find in the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. At the same time, he was glad to have chosen to enter the Dharmic Armament faculty in his early days.

After selling these Dharmic Artifacts, I should be able to sustain myself until the sect dispenses the reward for my gains in the Spirit Breath Village. Wang Baole thought about it and felt that there should be no major issue. He then continued studying the method to refine the scabbard.

Slowly, three days went by. Wang Baole felt that he had already fully understood the first step required in the refinement of the scabbard. He wanted to try refining it when he realized that the Dharmic Artifacts that he had listed for sale on the Spirit Intranet did not garner any interest, and that made him troubled.

It would not have mattered if it was a simple issue of having no buyers. However, Wang Baole looked around the Spirit Intranet and found that many Dharmic Artifacts that were of poorer quality but of significantly higher price than what he had were being sold away, and that made him confused.

Are these people blind? Are foolish people too rich that they only buy expensive stuff?

Frowning, Wang Baole decided to increase the price of his listing. After setting them to be sold at seventeen times the cost price, he then continued manufacturing the Spirit Stones required for the scabbard. Soon, several days passed. It was difficult to refine the Spirit Stones for the scabbard, and Wang Baole had failed a few times but eventually still succeeded.

Looking at the scabbard-shaped Spirit Stones, Wang Baole was filled with satisfaction. His act of increasing the prices of the Dharmic Artifact that he had listed on the Spirit Intranet also seemed to have taken effect, as more people seemed to have viewed the items. Now, as Wang Baole checked the Spirit Intranet, he realized that some people had even sent him voice transmissions. However, just as Wang Baole excitedly opened up his voice transmission ring, his anger rose the instant he heard the message.

“Hey Junior Brother, how’s this deal? Two hundred Spirit Stones for the eleven Dharmic Artifacts that you listed, all in a bundle!”

“Two hundred Spirit Stones? You think this is daylight robbery? There are seven perfect first-grade and four perfect second-grade artifacts and you are only offering two hundred Spirit Stones?” Wang Baole was angry, thinking that the other party must have been crazy to suggest a price that could barely cover the cost price.

“No deal? Then forget it. There are so many Dharmic Armament cultivators in the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, including many who are reliable and well known. Who would believe you if you say that your perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifacts are most formidable? How about this? Give me one for free. Let me try it, and if it really works, I’ll make up the cost difference to you.”

“Get lost, I’m not selling it to you!” Wang Baole stared hard and immediately shut the voice transmission ring off before beginning to carve inscriptions on the Spirit Stones that he had just refined.

The only issue was that the difficulty of this step far exceeded that of the Spirit Stones’ refinement process. It required a thorough understanding of the structure of the inscriptions. Even though Wang Baole had learned about high level inscriptions on Upper Academy Island that, when coupled with his formula, were considered superior, he still faced multiple failures at this step.

Five days passed just like that. Due to the instability of the inscriptions, the scabbard lying in front of Wang Baole broke apart and was rendered useless. Wang Baole was so troubled that he furrowed his brow deeply.

This thing is too hard to refine. The Spirit Kernels required are already difficult to make, but this is compounded by the fact that in the forging stage of the refinement process to follow, a refinement material known as Armament Sand is required... What on Earth is this Armament Sand?

Frustrated, Wang Baole did a brief search that did not show any records about the Armament Sand. His refinement process had not reached the forging stage but had instead come to a halt at the inscription of Spirit Kernels.

I can’t carry on this way... Wang Baole pondered for a moment and did not continue refining the scabbard. Instead, he turned and restarted the process of refining perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifacts, planning to use the practice on making second-grade Dharmic Artifacts to hone his skills in carving inscriptions.

Days passed, and soon, there were only five days left before the tournament. While Wang Baole was refining perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifacts, he also refined all his Dharmic Artifacts once over, such that majority of them reached the level equivalent to that of a perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifact. He also added many inscriptions on them, especially on the bead of the Golden Bell Shield. Not only was it a perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifact, it also carried anti-tremor inscriptions that mimicked the force of the Spirit Qi tide.

It was at this moment that Wang Baole discovered disappointingly that his pockets were empty.

It was the first time that he had been completely broke since entering the Ethereal Dao College. This made Wang Baole slightly flustered, and as he logged onto the Spirit Intranet in frustration, he realized

that no one was interested in buying the Dharmic Artifacts that he had listed. In addition, even though there were some messages regarding price negotiations sent through the voice transmission ring, the prices offered did not meet Wang Baole's expectations at all.

Something's not right!

Interpreting the situation, Wang Baole inevitably began to analyze the situation. As he browsed the Spirit Intranet, he seemed to be deep in thought. Gradually, he began to see the difference between the objects that others sold and those that he was selling.

Most of the time, there was a branding effect. There were a few sellers whose products were instantly sold out the moment they list them, be it pills or Dharmic Artifacts. There were a few others whom, though not to such an exaggerated extent, were also relatively popular. Regardless of how ridiculous the prices demanded were, people willingly bought them.

Similarly, there were many new sellers without a stable reputation and branding like Wang Baole whose items did not garner much interest and were constantly being low-balled.

This is unbelievable... Wang Baole felt a headache developing. He began to think about the previous buyer who wanted to try his Dharmic Artifacts out. If everything went well, the other party would pay the remainder of the Spirit Stones once trying them out and would also increase the exposure of the Dharmic Artifacts to a greater crowd, who would then flock to buy the items from Wang Baole.

However, the power of initiative in matters like that still lay in the hands of the other party. If it did not go according to plan, it would be a tricky and troublesome matter. Wang Baole was extremely strong-headed, and he would never give others the power to determine the outcome, unless he was left without a choice.

After thinking about it, he scratched his head. He revealed a look of determination as he slapped his thigh hard.

I should not only limit the selling to before the tournament... Don't I just need a good reputation and branding? I'll raise the stakes this time so that I can reap the greatest gains!

Chapter 145: The Mysterious Man

No one cares about my Dharmic Artifacts now, but I will make them something that everyone will desire regardless of how high the price is after the tournament!

Wang Baole looked determined, but he had also been forced to behave this way. The feeling of being completely penniless was difficult for him to get used to, similar to when a wealthy individual was used to living lavishly but was suddenly turned into a pauper overnight.

This feeling forced Wang Baole to think of ways to sell off his Dharmic Artifacts. He slapped his thigh and stood up after taking a deep breath. After walking a few rounds around the cave abode, it became more obvious that he was deep in thought. He stopped in his tracks after analyzing and playing out his plan in his mind, concluding that there should be no major issue.

I'll do it this way! Wang Baole gritted his teeth and took out his voice transmission ring immediately to contact Zhuo Yifan.

“Hey Yifan, I heard about the tournament held by the Combat Pavilion. How’s your preparation been? Do you need me to facilitate you? With me around, hah, you’ll definitely... hmm? You already found someone to facilitate you in the match, huh?”

Zhuo Yifan was extremely embarrassed. He had originally wanted to team up with Wang Baole but was afraid that Wang Baole would reject him. After some hesitation, he did not reach out to Wang Baole and instead found someone else.

After Wang Baole made it known to Zhuo Yifan that he understood his reasoning, he put down the voice transmission ring. He did not give up, for he had decided to go all out this time around. Even though those Dharmic Artifacts of his had no reputation or branding, he would create them himself!

The best way to create branding and to build up a good reputation would be to astonish everyone with how powerful his Dharmic Artifacts were in front of all the spectators. The goal would be to throw everyone into disbelief that such an impossibly formidable set of Dharmic Artifacts actually existed in this world, such that it would make a lasting impression and simultaneously increase people’s desire to possess them.

To put it simply, this was advertising!

As for the place to advertise the Dharmic Artifacts, Wang Baole had long decided. The location would be where the Combat Pavilion’s tournament would be held. There was no other place that garnered as much attention as the tournament. Wang Baole was planning to make use of the tournament to create a strong branding effect for his Dharmic Artifacts!

After all, the Combat Pavilion’s tournament had become the focus of the entire Upper Academy Island. Numerous people would be spectating it, and as such, as long as the Dharmic Artifacts could shine in the tournament, it would definitely surprise everyone and, in the process, create a good reputation!

In reality, this method of advertising had been thought of not only by Wang Baole but also a number of people in the other pavilions. Even though they were not exceptionally talented, they were also relatively skilled in their own domains. To these people, immediate wealth did not matter as much as a good reputation. Therefore, the annual Combat Pavilion’s tournament was an opportunity for them to build a good reputation.

Their goal of sponsoring the disciples from the Combat Pavilion by giving them the Dharmic Artifacts, pills, or array runes that they had refined, as well as acceding to their requests, was to use the tournament to advertise and raise the worth of the objects that they had refined.

This win-win situation was naturally favored by the disciples from the Combat Pavilion. At the same time, the Dao College did not regulate against it. Therefore, new pills, Dharmic Artifacts, and array runes could be seen during the Combat Pavilion’s tournament every year.

However, Wang Baole’s plans were slightly different from theirs. To play it safe and to adjust to the ever-changing circumstances during the tournament, Wang Baole had decided to participate in the tournament, in order to ensure that his branding and advertising would succeed!

This way, he could make adjustments based on the actual situation. Even if something unexpected happened to his plan, he could immediately rectify it and publicize his Dharmic Artifacts to the fullest.

As he thought about this, Wang Baole grew alert. He held onto his voice transmission ring and thought about a suitable candidate.

Since Zhuo Yifan is unable to make it, then Chen Ziheng will be suitable!

With that thought, Wang Baole immediately sent a voice transmission to Chen Ziheng. However, he soon realized that Chen Ziheng had also found a supporting teammate.

That made Wang Baole frustrated.

In reality, like Zhuo Yifan, Chen Ziheng had thought about teaming up with Wang Baole. However, Wang Baole was thought to be far too superior in the minds of these people, and since Chen Ziheng was also a prideful person who was afraid of being rejected, he did not approach Wang Baole.

Wang Baole grew anxious and quickly began contacting all the Combat Pavilion disciples that he was familiar with. However, he was dumbfounded in the end as he had been a step too late. As it was merely days away from the tournament, almost everyone had already found a supporting teammate.

Wang Baole was indignant that this was happening. Therefore, he logged onto the Spirit Intranet as he recalled that he had once seen someone looking for a supporting teammate on it.

Finally, after searching hard, he found a Combat Pavilion disciple who was not only extremely stingy in the price that he offered but also sounded quite arrogant.

“I’m now cultivating for the tournament and do not have time to meet you. I do not want to know who you are, nor do you need to know who I am. Let’s just meet at the competition grounds when the time comes. You do not need to prepare anything since you’re just there to make up the numbers. In reality, if not for this darn regulation and my indignation for being embarrassingly paired up by the Dao College, I would not have needed this supporting teammate!”

This was what the other party sent after Wang Baole reached out to him. It seemed as though he was not even bothered to speak properly. After looking at the message, Wang Baole felt as if the other party had been kicked in the crotch, which made him sound so ridiculous. If it was not that he had no other choice, he would have chosen someone else.

However, since the tournament was about to commence, everyone who was normal had found a supporting teammate. Those who had not found one were either crazy as though they had been kicked in the crotch or had planned to be automatically allocated a partner by the Dao College.

“Who was so vicious to kick this fella so hard, such that he has become so rude?” Wang Baole muttered under his breath, but he had no choice but to pair up with this person.

He was thinking that since that person was so arrogant, he probably did not need his support. Therefore, he could focus all his attention on advertising the Dharmic Artifacts. The only issue that troubled him was that if the other party did not cooperate, it was likely that he would not use his Dharmic Artifacts.

“I need to prepare for all unexpected situations!” Wang Baole took a deep breath. The more he thought about it, the more he felt that there was something weird with this mysterious person from the Combat Pavilion. However, even so, the only thing he could do was retrieve all his Dharmic Artifacts from the storage bracelet and come up with a good plan.

Even though he did not have any more Spirit Stones, he still had a few materials remaining. Therefore, he made some adjustments to the Dharmic Artifacts on the basis of his own plan. For example, he felt that it was very possible for him to meet with a ferocious beast from the Beast Taming Pavilion, which prompted him to improvise the rope Dharmic Artifact into a muzzle. He even added a powder that could cause unconsciousness, which he had bought on the Spirit Intranet.

There were also other Dharmic Artifacts that he had improvised for specific situations. There was a Dharmic Artifact known as the Flying Frost Sword that Wang Baole thought would be a popular item.

Time passed quickly as Wang Baole made preparations, and there were only two days before the commencement of the tournament. The last island on Ethereal Dao College’s Green Forest Lake, the Sky Path Island, which was similarly covered with a foggy array formation, was now silently tumbling. One could see that there were several figures stepping out onto the clouds. As they exited the array formations surrounding the Sky Path Island, the array formations slowly transformed into a wide path.

Other than the middle-aged man at the center of this group of people, everyone else was an elder. They all looked extremely experienced, and their level of cultivation was sky high. However, compared to them, the middle-aged man dressed in a long red robe in the center was like a sharp sword. It was as if he could cut through a hurricane once he unleashed his prowess.

They stood there, looking up with the middle-aged man in the lead. In the firmament, three gigantic black cruisers could be seen approaching gradually!

As the cruisers landed, one could see that there were layers of dried blood stains on the cruisers’ exteriors. It seemed like the blood belonged to the people killed during the journey by those in the cruiser. On the deck of the cruiser stood hundreds of people wearing the same uniforms. They were all expressionless and carried strong, unusual killing intent. It was apparent that years spent battling with ferocious beasts in life-and-death scenarios had made them develop this toughness.

The three cruisers were from the Federation’s military!

The people on board were warriors stationed on the border of the Federation!

Now, at the tip of the middle cruiser stood a middle-aged, burly man wearing a black cape. Under the cape was a uniform filled with numerous badges. There was an obvious, unconcealable scar on his face that divided his face in two. He stood there like a tall mountain, and a ferocious aura was continuously emanating from him. He was as imposing as the red-robed, middle-aged man from Ethereal Dao College.

“Zhou Lu, is the fatty you’re referring to there?” The burly man shifted his gaze away from the red-robed middle-aged man on the Sky Path Island, toward Upper Academy Island, as he spoke calmly to the lady beside him, who appeared to be an orderly.

Beside him was a slender, beautiful woman who appeared to be filled with wildness that seemed difficult to subdue. She was Zhou Lu, the person who had once been kicked on the buttocks by Wang Baole, the person who could not wait to take revenge on him!

Chapter 146: Son?

The arrival of the Federation military was not known by many on Upper Academy Island. After all, they had landed on the Sky Path Island, which was shrouded by fog. Even if someone saw them from afar, they would merely be surprised and curious, but they would not know the details.

In the two days that followed, more cruisers arrived in Ethereal Dao College. Most of them were officials from the Federation who were there to spectate the Combat Pavilion's tournament. Similarly, they landed on the Sky Path Island.

The arrival of the guests signified that the Combat Pavilion's tournament commencement day was nearing. More discussions could be heard from each pavilion on Upper Academy Island. The anticipation and passion that everyone had toward the tournament also grew as the days passed.

During this period of time, disciples from each pavilion had been invited to facilitate in the tournament. For most of these disciples, transactions with the disciples from the Combat Pavilion made them extremely rich, and they managed to earn quite a substantial amount. Amid their delight and happiness, they were also curious toward the competition.

Some people had even set up bets in secret, which made the entire Upper Academy Island bustle with even more activity. All the discussions on the Spirit Intranet were also about the tournament.

On the evening before the tournament, Wang Baole finally managed to complete the final adjustments to the Dharmic Artifacts that he had wanted to advertise.

Most of these Dharmic Artifacts were perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifacts, while a small proportion of them were ordinary second-grade Dharmic Artifacts.

It's a pity that I am short of time. If not, it would have been possible for all of these to be perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifacts.

Wang Baole was pleased, looking at all the Dharmic Artifacts that he had refined, especially the tens of small wooden buckets, which he had specially created. They were his secret weapon to attract the attention of people.

Now, as he smiled to himself, Wang Baole felt that his advertising campaign would reach the maximum number of people. Even if that weirdo from the Combat Pavilion who had been suspected to be kicked in the crotch was uncooperative, Wang Baole still had a way to advertise. Therefore, with feelings of anticipation, he began meditating in order to condition himself.

It was an uneventful night.

On the morning of the second day, as the sound of the bell from Upper Academy Island reverberated, a gigantic, mirror-like array formation appeared in the middle of the Levitating Mountain, which glowed brightly!

The array formation was immensely majestic. Its glow shimmered, causing everyone's mood to perk up. At the same time, a person stood in midair outside the array formation.

That person was an elder, expressionless and dressed from head to toe in a black robe. However, his voice seemed to have the power to permeate through matter as it spread over the entire Upper Academy Island.

"All participants and supporting teammates are to step into the array formation and proceed to the assessment grounds! People who have no business in the tournament are not to step in!"

As the elder's words spread, numerous figures appeared quickly in the skies above each of the pavilions. Naturally, most of the people were from the Combat Pavilion, but there was also a substantial number of people from the other pavilions who were acting as supporting teammates.

There were about twenty thousand people; some of them standing on their cruisers, and some of them standing on Dharmic treasures such as flying swords. They were all heading toward the array formation, and if one looked from afar, the streams of rainbows from the people who were charging toward the array formation looked extremely breathtaking.

Everyone who witnessed it was shaken with emotions. Once again, they had a clear realization that it was already the Spirit Inception Era, no longer the Common Era!

Wang Baole had also stepped out of his cave abode. He noticed the imposing array formation in the sky and was similarly shaken as his eyes revealed a look of envy and excitement.

This was the first time that he had seen so many people in the air at the same time, with many of them having levels of cultivation exceeding that of a first level True Breath. The aura that they gave off was alarming.

There were also many of them who were individuals who had peaked at the fifth level of the True Breath realm. They were extremely calm and collected, and the suppressive force that they gave off easily exceeded that of the others beside them, as if they could destroy anything in their path.

After taking a few hurried breaths, Wang Baole, with a bright glow in his eyes and fresh, boiling blood pumping throughout his body, retrieved the cruiser that he had fixed and stood on it. He rose into the sky, transforming into one of the rainbows in midair and becoming one of the numerous cultivators flying in the clouds.

The cruiser was charging ahead, and Wang Baole neared the array formation quickly. Seeing that the other people did not stop but instead disappeared as they entered the array formation, Wang Baole did not hesitate as his heart beat furiously, dashing straight into the array formation like the others did. The moment that he came into contact with the array formation, all he could see was a blur in his eyes, like he had passed through a water's surface. When he emerged, he was in a place that he had never been to in his life!

The skies were still blue and filled with white clouds, with the Sword Sun still shining high up. However, the land was no longer Upper Academy Island but one that was covered with numerous gigantic mountains!

The mountains were peculiar as they had four faces, from front to back and left to right. There were over a hundred of them, and what was most shocking was that they all seemed to be carved from the same mold, looking perfectly identical. The distance between them was also identical, as if they had been replicated.

This bizarre scene instantly created a commotion among many people who had arrived for the first time. More people entered, and when everyone had entered the area after passing through the array formation, the sound of discussions grew even louder.

“These mountains... how were they made?”

“This is... an array formation?”

“This is such a big deal! I once heard that this was transformed from one of the ninth-grade Dharmic Armaments from our very own Ethereal Dao College!”

Amid the sounds of commotion, Wang Baole’s breathing also grew hurried. There were so many people surrounding him, and even after Wang Baole sent a voice transmission to that weirdo from the Combat Pavilion, he still could not locate him after a long while. As he listened to the discussions between those around him, he looked at the mountains in the area below. Vaguely, he could see that there were hundreds of mountains being divided into five different regions. However, even before he could take a closer look, a low voice reverberated from above.

“Quiet down! True Breath experts from the first to the fourth levels are to enter the East, West, South, and North regions respectively, while True Breaths from the fifth level are to enter the central region!”

The sound was like a clap of thunder, extremely deafening as it blasted in people’s ears. Instantly, everyone fell into silence, and as they raised their heads subconsciously, sounds of breathing could be heard once again, but this time, no one dared create a commotion.

That was because transformations had occurred in what was originally the sky above them. There were now four humongous stairwells floating in midair, all linked together to form a square!

Many people, over a few hundred of them, could be seen sitting on them, covering the stairwells entirely. At their height, they could see every competition that was happening on the mountains just by simply lowering their heads!

This was compounded by the fact that the suppressive force given from many of them was so strong that everyone who felt it was shaken.

Even though it was quite a distance away, such that ordinary men would not be able to get a clear look at the individuals seated on the stairwells, the cultivators were able to get a good look by focusing their spirit energy onto their eyes, despite not being able to see it in detail.

Wang Baole glanced at all the people on the stairwells as his heart was filled with a torrent of emotions. He noticed that those people were divided into groups of three, with one group appearing to be soldiers who were wearing the same uniform and giving off a strong killing intent, while the other two groups were officials from the Federation, as well as Ethereal Dao College, based on Wang Baole’s interpretation.

Of them, there were a few individuals whose existence made Wang Baole's eyes hurt just with a single glance. It was akin to an ordinary man looking into the bright sun in the skies. Wang Baole was taken aback as he quickly retracted his gaze. He did not look at everyone in detail, but instead, he clearly saw that other than a burly man from the military dressed in a black cloak, there was also a middle-aged man dressed in a long red robe who was extremely eye-catching, like the bright sun.

Just at the moment that Wang Baole retracted his gaze, he suddenly had the feeling that someone was looking at him. Wang Baole was shocked, and with the thought that he might be mistaken, he looked toward the same direction.

As he turned, he immediately noticed that among the military personnel was a woman sitting beside the burly man who was staring at him coldly, with a look of hatred and disgust in her eyes.

She looks familiar... Zhou Lu? Wang Baole was momentarily dumbfounded but quickly pretended that nothing was wrong as he slowly retracted his gaze.

That woman was Zhou Lu, the one who had used her authority to attack him in Ethereal City. However, she had instead been heavily beaten and kicked in the buttocks by him when he was on the Lower Academy Island back then.

I heard that she left for the military. From her looks, it seems like she recognized me. Could it be that cheap son of mine, Lu Zihao, who spread the news to her? Wang Baole did not think too much about it. Now that he was a disciple on Upper Academy Island, he thought that Zhou Lu would not be able to take revenge on him. Therefore, he merely sighed and did not pay further attention to it.

Soon, according to the announcement, everyone began to spread out and enter the respective regions. Wang Baole also stepped into the east region as if nothing had happened.

However, he could feel that Zhou Lu's gaze was still on him.

How irritating... Wang Baole mumbled in his heart. He did not care too much about it as he opened his voice transmission ring and sent another voice transmission to the mysterious person from the Combat Pavilion whom he was to support.

Even though they had exchanged voice transmission numbers on the Spirit Intranet, this would be the first time that Wang Baole was meeting him. After informing him of his coordinates, Wang Baole shut the voice transmission ring and stood up to wait for him.

However, after a long while, as he saw the people around him gathering in their pairs while he was still alone, Wang Baole began to grow anxious as he thought of possibility of the other party having pulled a prank on him.

As the thought lingered, Wang Baole suddenly noticed that someone in the crowd nearby was looking at him. He quickly looked in that direction and immediately saw a youth standing there, looking extremely terrible, as if he had just eaten poop.

"Son?" Wang Baole felt that the person looked familiar. He was Lu Zihao, the person whom he had kicked in the crotch and twisted his fingers, the person who had called him daddy. He did not enter the Spirit Breath Village, instead entering Upper Academy Island after receiving the Spirit Root during his journey.

Noticing that Wang Baole had seen him, Lu Zihao gritted his teeth as he slowly approached Wang Baole, his face solemn.

“It can’t be you, right?” Wang Baole blinked several times.

Lu Zihao grunted as he lifted his chin. He was extremely indignant as if he had been left without any other choice.

Wang Baole laughed. After sizing Lu Zihao up, he could not help but say, “Come, call me Daddy...”

Hearing the word ‘Daddy’ instantly caused blue veins to emerge on Lu Zihao’s forehead. He was about to explode, but he took a deep breath and stared angrily at Wang Baole.

“Listen up, Wang Baole, I do not need your help this time. You’re only here to make up the numbers. See that? Zhou Lu is up there, staring at you!”

“Darn it, so it was really you who spread the news to her! Son, you sure are daring, huh!?” Wang Baole exclaimed and was about to say more, but he noticed the silence all around him. Wang Baole grunted and no longer paid attention to Lu Zihao. However, he could not resist looking at the spectator area of the stairwell in the skies and realized that there were several people with their gazes on him. He was fairly taken aback as he blinked.

Why are they all looking at me? I understand why Zhou Lu is staring at me, but what about the others? Could it be that I’m that extraordinary? This must be the case... Wang Baole cleared his throat, consoling himself as doubts arose in his mind.

Chapter 147: Zihao, Charge Ahead! Don’t Be Afraid!

“That sneaky-looking fatty is Wang Baole, the one who did a great contribution?” On the spectator stand of the stairwell in the skies, the middle-aged man dressed in the red robe noticed Wang Baole secretly looking at them as his lips curled into a smile.

An elder sat beside the red-robed middle-aged man. Wang Baole did not take a close look at him, but that person was the Dharmic Armament Pavilion elder who had given him Dharmic Artifacts when he was on the Lower Academy Island because he had been impressed by him.

Now, a smile hung on his face as a look of admiration was obvious in his eyes. He replied to the middle-aged man beside him cheerfully after hearing his question, “Deputy Sect Lord, that’s him.”

The moment that the elder from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion finished his sentence, another elder beside him asked curiously, “I’ve heard that this fatty is extremely narcissistic and carries a mirror with him all the time, is that true?”

Very quickly, the Deputy Sect Lord from Ethereal Dao College sitting behind the red-robed middle-age man said happily, “I have also heard about this fatty from someone. It was said that he is a fan of being an official and dreams of being the President of the Federation!”

“This chap has a good personality!”

“Haha, I think the Grand Supreme Elder would like him.”

Laughter emerged from the crowd. The people worthy of a place there were all Elders from each pavilion of Upper Academy Island. Normally, they were rarely seen or heard, and they were known to be extremely stern. However, now that they were together, they appeared more cheerful. As they looked toward Wang Baole, they cheerfully exchanged banter, and their eyes all carried looks of admiration, like an older generation toward their younger generation.

At the same time, on the military’s spectator stand, the burly man dressed in a black cloak with a scar across his face and a complex expression retracted his gaze from Wang Baole.

“Zhou Lu, is that the person you mentioned?”

“General, that is him. According to what I have researched about him, he is more than suitable to complete the mission. He can definitely be assessed as a potential seed. You will know when you see his performance later on. He is not only good at refining Dharmic Artifacts, his physique is impressive as well, far exceeding that of his counterparts!” Zhou Lu, who was beside the burly man, appeared stern as she heard his words. Even though the person before her was her uncle, she was still extremely respectful when they were out.

“However, I’ve heard that you have some conflict with him.” General Zhou in the black cloak looked toward Zhou Lu.

Zhou Lu did not speak. She retrieved a jade slip and passed it to General Zhou. It contained detailed records of the research that she had done on Wang Baole. After taking a look at it, General Zhou gradually revealed a look of curiosity in his eyes.

“Then, let us see how he performs first.” General Zhou laughed as he pocketed the jade slip, turning his attention toward the Combat Pavilion tournament.

Right as the Combat Pavilion tournament was about to begin, a stern voice announced the rules.

The rules were simple. The east region was where the first level True Breath experts carried out the tournament while the south region was for the second level True Breath experts, and so forth. The central region was where the fifth level True Breath experts competed.

Five tournaments were held simultaneously. There were exactly thirty-two mountains in every region, like a small arena that formed the individual battle grounds. After rounds of elimination, one person would remain!

That way, thirty-two individuals would emerge from each region. Thereafter, those thirty-two people would move on to the second stage of the competition, until a ranking was formed. From the first to fifth level of the True Breath experts, the strongest person would then be revealed.

From the second stage onward, supporting teammates would no longer be allowed. In reality, the supporting teammates could only help in the first stage. After all, this was a tournament for the Combat Pavilion.

The first stage was a competition within the individual mountains. There were sixty-four entrances set up on each mountain, with sixteen entrances located on each of the four faces of the mountain. These sixteen entrances also had sixteen roads leading up to the mountain.

As the sixteen roads wound up the mountain, there would be eight crossings, where the two roads that crossed over would merge into one!

At these crossings, two teams would battle it out.

The loser would be disqualified, and the winner would continue moving forward along the road and go through another battle at the next crossing. This would continue until they reached a position near the peak. Of the sixteen teams, there would only be one team who could successfully ascend to the peak, where they would then compete with the winners from the other three mountain faces in the battle of the mountain peak.

In reality, when that stage was reached, the assisted match would have already ended. The participants would have to depend on themselves for the matches to follow. The one who eventually emerged victorious would be granted the eligibility to enter the second stage of the tournament!

After getting a clear understanding of the rules and regulations, the group of first level True Breath disciples stepped onto the different mountains according to the Combat Pavilion's arrangement. Lu Zihao did not pay any attention to Wang Baole as he turned around and charged forward in the lead.

Seeing how impatient Lu Zihao was, Wang Baole could not help but shake his head.

He's still just a child... With this thought, Wang Baole slowly made his way forward and quickly reached the mountain assigned to them. After choosing a road, the both of them ascended the mountain, one after another.

At the same time, in the external skies above Ethereal Dao College's Upper Academy Island, the array formation from before had already been transformed. Now, thousands of screens appeared, floating above it, broadcasting every competition taking place between all the teams on every mountain. The tens of thousands of Upper Academy Island disciples spectating the match all had their eyes glued to the screens.

According to the rules, as the teams were being eliminated one by one, their screens would disappear. In the end, there would only be five screens left, showing the final victors of the first to fifth level True Breath rounds!

"It has begun!"

"Haha, the outcome of the competition isn't important. What's most important is to see what new pills, Dharmic Artifacts, array formations, and beasts will be showcased this time!"

As the tens of thousands of disciples from Upper Academy Island focused all their attention on the mountainous roads shown on the screen, Lu Zihao, who was leading the way, was approaching a crossing. He gradually slowed down and frowned as he looked back at Wang Baole, who was enjoying the view along the way.

"Wang Baole, I don't need your help later on; this is my tournament!"

“Relax, I will not compete with you. Lu Zihao, can you not snort before speaking? That’s so rude!” Wang Baole looked askance at Lu Zihao, immediately raising his hands to retrieve five flying swords even before Lu Zihao could speak.

“Take them. Don’t complain that I did not help you. These five Flying Frost Swords are more than sufficient for you to win the first match. However, if you snort again later on, I’ll take them back,” Wang Baole said calmly as he tossed the five flying swords to Lu Zihao like throwing vegetables.

Lu Zihao was furious upon hearing Wang Baole’s words. He was about to reject him but noticed that the chilly force from the flying swords was so strong and so impressive that he was taken by surprise. He took a deep breath, and with a closer look, he realized that those five flying swords were all perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifacts!

The quality of the swords immediately made Lu Zihao swallow his intention to reject them. He rationalized that since Wang Baole was his supporting teammate, so it was not against his principles to take the flying swords given by him. Thus, he hurriedly accepted them. He wanted to snort once more to express his arrogance, but he recalled what Wang Baole said previously and the fact that he had given him the flying sword, so he kept quiet. Instead, he turned around and lifted his chin, looking at the crossing as he walked over.

Seeing how proud Lu Zihao was trying to appear, Wang Baole laughed silently to himself. He was delighted, thinking that the manner in which he had tossed out the five flying swords was impressive, allowing him to stress Lu Zihao constantly. Together with Lu Zihao, they reached the first crossing.

They were standing at the crossing of the two roads. The area was not huge, and before them was a translucent screen blocking further advancement up the road. It seemed like access would only be granted after one team was eliminated there.

The moment that the duo reached the crossing, two figures appeared extremely quickly on the other road. The aura of a True Breath expert’s cultivation was extremely strong as it neared.

“They are all senior disciples from the Combat Pavilion!” Lu Zihao was familiar with the two of them and instantly activated his hand seals to toss the five Flying Frost Swords out at high speed, preparing to go head on in the battle. Instantly, the chilly forces in the environment became overwhelming.

“Zihao, charge ahead! Don’t be afraid! I will help make you more famous. After this match, you will definitely be well known on Upper Academy Island!” Wang Baole immediately shouted loudly to increase Lu Zihao’s imposing manner. His eyes carried a look of anticipation. As he laughed heartily, he flailed his hand and quickly retrieved a small wooden bucket from his storage bracelet, tossing it toward the sky.

With a loud boom, the small wooden bucket exploded in midair, revealing a firework-like brilliance that was extremely colorful. Instantly, the attention of the spectators in the spectator stands was drawn toward it. On Upper Academy Island, as the fireworks were released, the screen that showed Wang Baole and Lu Zihao’s activity was immediately filled with brilliance, making it the most eye-catching out of the thousands of screens. This caused everyone on Upper Academy Island to be captivated by it.

“What’s the situation?”

“Someone’s actually releasing fireworks! My eyes are not playing tricks on me, are they?”

“What was he doing?”

Not only was everyone on Upper Academy Island shocked, the military and high officials from Ethereal Dao College who were in midair, as well as the Federation officials, were all taken aback. They had spectated Combat Pavilion tournaments year after year, but this was the first time that they had witnessed someone releasing fireworks.

As the masses all turned to look, it was obvious that the two senior disciples from the Combat Pavilion were all flabbergasted.

“What on Earth is he doing?”

“This is his most formidable trick?”

The two seniors were immediately shocked silly, their hearts pounding. As the Flying Frost Swords neared, they immediately activated their mystic techniques that caused their speed to be increased severalfold. In an instant, even though they suffered abrasions from the Flying Frost Swords, they dashed toward Wang Baole.

It was clear that they did not know who Wang Baole was, and coupled with the fact that they had noticed Wang Baole unleashing a powerful move, their only thought was to get rid of this fatty first before eliminating the tough-to-defeat Lu Zihao.

Seeing that things were not going according to plan, Wang Baole instantly grew anxious. There was a time limit to his fireworks, which could not last long. He purposely attracted people’s attention so that Lu Zihao would showcase his Flying Frost Swords. There was no time to waste, so he quickly stepped back and shouted, “Don’t be rash, the both of you! I’m from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion and am only in charge of refining Dharmic Artifacts. You should battle my son instead!”

Chapter 148: Interrupting with an Advertisement

As the two disciples from the Combat Pavilion interpreted the situation and made the decision to activate their mystic technique to charge toward Wang Baole, the attention from people on the spectator stand in the skies was immediately shifted from the various battle grounds of the five regions, focusing instead on Wang Baole’s location, where the fireworks were released.

“What is he trying to do? Releasing fireworks?” On the stairwell where the high officials of Ethereal Dao College were, the elders from each of the pavilions all stared with their eyes wide, incredulous.

Even the Deputy Sect Lord and the red-robed middle-aged men were also taken aback. The elder from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, who was fond of Wang Baole, also laughed bitterly, as he tried to explain the situation.

“I suppose... it’s some trump card of his?”

As the crowd looked at each other, General Zhou, who was on the spectator stage of the military stairwell opposite, was also shocked. Zhou Lu, who was beside him, looked similarly bewildered.

If even their reactions were as such, those of the tens of thousands of cultivators on Upper Academy Island were also predictable. Some of them had already started a rowdy discussion as they all stared at the screen showing Wang Baole.

On the battle arena shown on the screen, Wang Baole looked mildly troubled. Not only did his persuasion not work, the two disciples from the Combat Pavilion seemed even more determined. They did not pay attention to Lu Zihao's attempt at blocking them nor to the approaching Flying Frost Swords. Even though they had suffered some abrasions, they did not seem bothered as they unleashed their mystic technique once again, increasing their speed even more as they neared Wang Baole in the blink of an eye.

At the same time, they were also cursing under their breath as they realized that it was not a powerful move that Wang Baole had showcased. They were even more furious that they had to perform well, since Wang Baole's unexpected fireworks had caught everyone's attention, and they could not afford to be a disgrace.

It would have taken a long time to narrate the entire sequence of events, which, in actual fact, took place in a blink of an eye. One of the two Combat Pavilion disciples shouted angrily, growling as he released a punch.

Disregarding the force of the punch, its imposing manner was already impressive. It was a powerful punch that seemed to be able to shatter everything.

Noticing that, the other person also gave it his all, retrieving all his talismans and chanting spells to form numerous fireballs and wind blades directed toward Wang Baole.

"Why are both of you so unreasonable?" Wang Baole wanted to dodge, but the area that he was in was not wide enough. Seeing that the fireworks were about to dissipate and that there was no time to lose, he grew troubled as he retrieved a handful of Golden Bell Shield beads and tossed them at his feet.

"Retreat!" Wang Baole howled with a low voice. As the beads landed on the ground, they joined together with a loud boom in the background. Golden rays instantly appeared, blocking Wang Baole from the two Combat Pavilion disciples.

He had planned to block them in order to give Lu Zihao the chance to showcase his Flying Frost Sword. After all, according to his plans, the Flying Frost Sword was to be the number one hit among his Dharmic Artifacts. In fact, in his plans, many of the details of the Dharmic Artifact packages revolved around the Flying Frost Sword.

However, what happened next made Wang Baole troubled again.

His Golden Bell Shield glowed. The spells and fist of the two disciples from the Combat Pavilion directly hit the glow, and a deafening boom erupted.

As the sound reverberated, the minds of the two Combat Pavilion disciples buzzed with activity, their facial expressions changing wildly.

"What Dharmic Artifact was that?"

In their shock, all they could feel was that they had hit an extremely tough mountain wall. What made them even more shocked was that an extremely strong counter force was produced by this protective shield, directly reflecting their impactful attack back at them.

It would not have mattered much if there was merely reverberation. However, a hurricane made of Spirit Qi tides was produced from the reverberating counter force, sweeping in all directions. The duo were not elites to begin with. Even though they were senior disciples, their cultivation remained at the first level of the True Breath realm, not high caliber. Now, the Spirit Qi tide was directly charging toward them, about to land on their bodies at any moment.

As they screamed painfully, one of them tried to retreat in shock while the other was not quick enough to do so. His body was like a kite whose string had been severed, directly tumbling in the force, and after landing on the ground, fresh blood spewed out of his mouth. He looked at Wang Baole in shock and realized that he had met with a capable individual. If no one was watching him, he would not have cared. However, now that there were people watching him, he realized that he would only land in disgrace if he continued fighting on. Therefore, he chose to concede defeat.

The other disciple from the Combat Pavilion who had managed to dodge was merely a supporting teammate. Seeing that the participant had admitted defeat, he could only laugh bitterly and follow suit. When he looked at the golden glow in front of Wang Baole, shock was still evident from his eyes.

The sequence of events had happened too quickly, such that everything ended even before Lu Zihao, who was holding the Flying Frost Sword, could arrive.

Looking at the duo who had just conceded defeat, Lu Zihao suddenly grew angry as he stared at Wang Baole furiously.

“Wang Baole, didn’t we agree before? You promised to not do anything! This is my tournament!”

“I didn’t do anything. I was merely protecting myself. Can’t I even do that?” Wang Baole slapped his forehead as he really did not plan to attack. It was just that he did not expect the opponents to be so weak. In reality, even though those beads were quite powerful and were further enhanced with anti-shock inscriptions by Wang Baole, enabling them to stir up Spirit Qi tides, the effect was not that shocking against a strong opponent from the Combat Pavilion.

However, it was apparent that the two who conceded defeat were not elites but ordinary disciples.

Seeing what had happened, Wang Baole felt that his plans had been completely ruined. However, his reaction was also extremely fast. With the thought that there would be many people focusing their attention on him, Wang Baole immediately tried to salvage the situation. He looked toward the sky and forced a smile out on his face.

“Elders, teachers, Senior and Junior Brothers, how do you do? Er... my name is Wang Baole.

“Today, I’m here to introduce a Dharmic Artifact. It’s called the Golden Bell Shield. You’ve heard it right! It’s the legendary Golden Bell Shield!

“All of you have seen it just now as well. This Dharmic Artifact is extremely powerful. Rainbow Spirit Stones lie in its core, and it is covered with over thirty thousand inscriptions. It is made from precious

Star Era Sand and has gone through forty-nine days of refinement over slow fire before being completely formed!”

Wang Baole cleared his throat with a cough. His tone became much more natural as he described the Dharmic Artifact.

However, in reality, he had done so out of exasperation. He felt that he couldn't let the fireworks go to waste; and now that he had attracted everyone's attention, he felt that he had to say something no matter what happened. Since he could not advertise the Flying Frost Sword, he could only advertise the protective beads.

The moment that he spoke, everyone on the spectator stands in the skies trembled all over. That was especially so for the red-robed middle-aged man, who was frozen in shock.

“This fatty's actually advertising his products! Is that against the rules?”

The other elders were all dumbfounded. Only the Dharmic Armament Pavilion elder who was fond of Wang Baole cleared his throat.

“That can't be considered to have violated the rules. After all, he did not affect the other participants. This can also be considered a battle tactic. You can even see from this that this chap is rather smart...”

His words made the red-robed middle-aged man and the surrounding elders have odd expressions. Not only was the Dharmic Armament Pavilion elder openly siding with Wang Baole and finding a way out for him, he was also praising him. The fact that he explain it away as a battle tactic for whatever had just happened was truly impressive.

Over at the military side opposite, all the warriors were also flabbergasted. Even Zhou Lu was shocked, while General Zhou began laughing. He looked at Wang Baole, and his interest in him grew deeper with a glimmer of admiration appearing in his eyes.

At the same time, commotion torrented on the external Upper Academy Island. Disciples from all the pavilions around were dumbfounded as they shrieked in surprise.

“That's so shameless! People have made advertisements in the past, but none of them were ever so direct!”

“How daring of him! I have thought about this in the past, but I did not have the courage to execute it!”

“This Wang Baole... he's gonna be famous!”

The commotion spread. Everyone from the Dharmic Armament Pavilion took a deep breath. This forceful form of advertisement put them at a loss.

However, Wang Baole was not done advertising.

“Everyone must be tempted now. However, this perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifact has even more unique characteristics. Other than the anti-shock capabilities that I have specially included, it can form a Spirit Qi hurricane with a force that all of you have witnessed just now. Do you think that's its limit? No! Watch on!” Wang Baole took a deep breath and raised his right hand to point at the golden glow that still remained.

As he pointed, the glow instantly warped, directly exploding loudly under the gazes of tens of thousands of spectators. It created an air pressure wave that spread in all directions. That frightened the two Combat Pavilion disciples so much that they exhaled deeply.

Ethereal Dao College's high officials, the military, as well as the Federation officials who were on the spectator stand high up in the skies suddenly became serious. In their eyes, a perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifact was nothing to shout about. However, of the second-grade Dharmic Artifacts, the impressiveness of the bead was what caught their eyes!

The disciples from Upper Academy Island spectating from the outside suddenly quieted down from the commotion. Some even held their breath as they stared in shock, while some of them grew increasingly tempted.

Wang Baole swept his gaze toward the spectator stand in the skies. After noticing the facial expressions of the spectators, he grew excited and spoke again.

"This is the final great power of this Dharmic Artifact. Think about it, when using it for protection, your opponent will have difficulty destroying it. Furthermore, if it implodes suddenly, how unexpected and shocking will that be!

"Such a precious and versatile Dharmic Artifact that has unexpected powers... Lu Zihao, how much do you say it's worth?"

Wang Baole was excited, and he looked at Lu Zihao, trying to drop him hints.

Chapter 149: Lu Zihao's Moral Principles

"Ah?" Lu Zihao had no idea if others were shocked or surprised, but he was utterly stunned by Wang Baole's sudden outburst.

However, just that exclamation was enough, and Wang Baole smacked his thigh, his voice conveying immense excitement.

"Indeed! Such a Dharmic Artifact would cost three thousand Spirit Stones."

Lu Zihao was struck dumb with astonishment.

That forced advertisement was seriously too fake to the audience on Upper Academy Island. Although the bead was indeed of excellent quality, its price was ridiculously expensive. That was especially so because they were all attracted by Wang Baole. This caused the Combat Academy Pavilion to lose some of its glamour.

Nonetheless, the reputation of the Golden Bell Bead has been built up solidly. One could say that almost everyone on Upper Academy Island knew about it. Even the old disciples at the fifth stage of the True Breath realm had to know about it.

Under the weird expressions of the audience, Wang Baole was still very energetic. He slapped his thigh again, letting out a loud 'Pah!' sound, and looked very energetic.

“However... I have very good news for all of you today. The first one hundred Daoists to make an order will not need three thousand Spirit Stones—you will only need one thousand! You heard that right! Just one thousand Spirit Stones, and you can bring this treasure home!” Wang Baole shouted loudly, even sharing his voice transmission number with everyone. As he finished speaking, his voice transmission ring started vibrating profusely.

Message after message was immediately sent to Wang Baole’s voice transmission ring. Lu Zihao and the two Combat Pavilion disciples watched in shock as they saw Wang Baole’s voice transmission ring tremble as though it was about to explode.

In the blink of an eye, there were hundreds of messages sent to him. Wang Baole was very excited and surprised. Although he had expected his advertisement to not be in vain, he did not expect it to be so effective.

Actually, although the price of one thousand Spirit Stones was relatively expensive, it was still acceptable. That was especially so because it was a second-grade Dharmic Artifact and because of Wang Baole’s advertisement. Whether they wanted to buy it for research purposes or to use it, even if the customer base of tens of thousands of Upper Academy Island disciples found the advertisement fake, Wang Baole still received a few hundred orders.

Even the two Combat Pavilion disciples immediately asked to purchase the beads after coming to their senses. After all, they had personally experienced its power, and it was selling like hotcakes. For the two of them, Wang Baole was so happy that he gave them a discount.

“You have good taste!” Wang Baole laughed. Under the gazes of the audience, he completed the deal with the two Combat Pavilion disciples. After that, he pulled the still stunned Lu Zihao along and headed straight for the path that appeared following the disappearance of the light screen in front of him.

The fireworks had long since dissipated, and Wang Baole’s advertisement had already ended. However, many people among the audience on the sky platform and Upper Academy Island disciples still paid attention to Wang Baole, and the rowdy discussions were never-ending.

“This Wang Baole, he can’t possibly do an advertisement in every match, can he?”

“That being said, I’m actually looking forward to seeing the next Dharmic Artifact he advertises.”

While the audience was discussing, Ethereal Dao College and the Army all gazed with different expressions toward Wang Baole and Lu Zihao, who were traveling on the mountain road.

Wang Baole did not bother about the attention of others. He felt highly spirited and looked toward Lu Zihao. Standing beside Wang Baole, he seemed to have just come to his senses and had an extremely ugly expression. However, seeing Lu Zihao look like he was about to scream at him, Wang Baole patted Lu Zihao’s shoulder and spoke generously.

“Lu Zihao, we’re relatives. Don’t worry, we’ll split the profits seventy-thirty!”

Once he said that, the storm of fury about to erupt within Lu Zihao immediately paused for a moment. After that... it dissipated and extinguished without the control of Lu Zihao.

I'm not going against my moral principles; I'm just getting the remuneration I deserve! Lu Zihao thought secretly. However, his heart rate increased uncontrollably, and he started to calculate how much money he would get. Alas, as he calculated, he thought of how Wang Baole had attacked and stolen his limelight, and his anger arose once more.

"Wang Baole, I, Lu Zihao, am not a man who will do anything for money. I'm telling you, I'll let what you did previously slide, but the upcoming second battle is mine. Don't come steal my limelight; this is my tournament!"

"Got it! Come, equip this armor. Go forth and fight!" Wang Baole quickly said after seeing Lu Zihao look as though he was going to explode once more. He threw out a glittering suit of armor.

Lu Zihao's anger disappeared after he saw the suit of armor, but he harrumphed secretly. He felt that this was not against his moral principles... After that, he picked up the pace alongside Wang Baole, who was in high spirits, and eventually arrived at the second meeting point.

The first meeting point was the round of sixteen, and the second meeting point right now was the round of eight. The teams who could get into the round of eight were definitely not weak, and they had to have their own talents. Hence, neither Wang Baole nor Lu Zihao dared let down their guard.

That was especially so for Wang Baole. Learning from the experience of the previous battle, he retrieved a Golden Bell Bead and activated it at his feet the moment that he arrived at the second meeting point with Lu Zihao. As the golden light screen appeared, Wang Baole stood there and smacked his chest.

"Zihao, the rest is up to you. Good luck!"

Lu Zihao felt Wang Baole's sincerity. He took a deep breath and was about to speak.

"Here they come, Zihao, go!" Wang Baole immediately reminded him. Lu Zihao's expression changed, and a vicious glint appeared in his eyes. He turned his head to look toward another path and immediately noticed a man and a woman charging toward him.

The man was large and imposing, with a glint in his eyes. He wore a purple suit of armor, and three flying swords surrounded him. The woman behind him was petite and looked very sweet. She had a ring of bells on her snowy-white wrist, and they rang as she charged.

That was not all. Beside this woman were three vicious wolves who were more than half a man tall. These wolves had vicious glints in their eyes and growled as they ran. Their exposed fangs were unbelievably sharp, and they looked extremely vicious.

Beast Tamer! Lu Zihao furrowed his eyebrows, but a glint appeared in his eyes afterward. Although he was unwilling to meet a disciple from the Beast Taming Pavilion because it was troublesome to fight them, his will to fight rose since he knew that he had to fight one anyway.

As he shook his body and flicked his hands, the five Flying Frost Swords immediately flew out, and an icy aura surrounded him, making him seem like a war god. He charged directly at the Combat Pavilion disciple.

The Combat Pavilion disciple narrowed his eyes and noticed the protective screen surrounding Wang Baole's body. He did not bother about it and charged toward Lu Zihao, looking like a huge beast as he took his first step.

The two men immediately got into a brawl. As the sounds of battle spread, their flying swords also clashed at great speeds in midair, trying to break each other's seal. At the same time, talismans flew, and the physical power of the both of them was on full display at that point in time as they traded blows.

Lu Zihao's strength was also fully displayed at that time. His control of the Flying Frost Swords and the changes in his spells were all swift and ferocious. With a few hand seals, he made his right hand expand to twice its size. As it exuded a black glint, he threw a punch.

Although the Combat Pavilion disciple was remarkable, he was not quite in Lu Zihao's league. As his expression changed, a cold glint flashed in the woman's eyes, and she formed a hand seal. Immediately, the three wolves beside her growled and charged directly at Lu Zihao.

These three wolves were not slow, and their fangs had incredible biting power. It seemed like they could even break a Dharmic Artifact with one bite.

Seeing this scene, Wang Baole was furious and shouted within his protective screen, "Hey, that's not fair. You're bullying him!"

The woman tilted her head to throw a disdainful look at Wang Baole. She did not stop but instead rushed toward Lu Zihao with a leap forward.

Even under those circumstances, Lu Zihao was evenly matched with them. That was because Wang Baole had added magnetism within the Flying Frost Swords. Hence, he did not need to spend so much spirit energy to control them. The suit of armor on Lu Zihao had also been crafted by Wang Baole to become extremely sturdy. It even had a knockback effect.

Because of that, Lu Zihao got stronger as he fought.

Seeing that Lu Zihao was fine, Wang Baole stopped worrying and retrieved another small wooden pail from his storage bracelet. With a snicker, he threw it out, and it immediately exploded in the air.

Fireworks quickly spread, and the gazes of the audience on the sky platform and Upper Academy Island gathered upon Wang Baole once more after seeing the resplendent fireworks. Meanwhile, the expressions of the Combat Pavilion disciple and woman changed. They had already seen the fireworks previously but did not know what was going on. They were on high alert after seeing the fireworks again.

As they were on high alert and as Lu Zihao's expression changed to one of anger and sorrow, Wang Baole coughed within his protective screen and looked toward the sky with cupped fists.

"Dear Elders, teachers, and fellow disciples, look over here..."

"I'm sure all of you get a headache whenever you see a Beast Taming Pavilion disciple. After all, they have vicious beasts beside them, and we're at a disadvantage when fighting them. You see, my boy... hood friend, Lu Zihao, is facing this very situation now. Now then... what should we do?" Wang Baole's

voice became excited once more. Although he almost called Lu Zihao 'my boy', he was lucky to have quick reactions and gave a huge flick of his wrist.

"Today, I, Wang Baole royally introduce to you another type of Dharmic Artifact. Its name... Shut Up!

Chapter 150: It Also Works on Humans!

"Yes, you heard right! This type of Dharmic Artifact is called Shut Up!" Wang Baole exclaimed in high spirits, his voice booming.

After Wang Baole set off the second set of fireworks, everyone in the sky and on Upper Academy Island involuntarily fixed their gazes on Wang Baole once again.

"What, is he determined to advertise his artifacts time and time again!"

"What on earth is this, a Combat Pavilion Tournament or a new product release?"

"Shut Up? What is he up to?"

Everyone had different expressions. This particular Combat Pavilion Tournament was especially different from previous years.

In the sky, those from the Military and Federation officials, as well as the senior management of Ethereal Dao College, also had unusual expressions. Looking at Wang Baole, they felt as though they were not watching a tournament but rather an unprofessional host putting up an amateurish live broadcast for the advertisement segment.

But the most terrified of all were Lu Zihao's competitors, the man and the woman. The moment Wang Baole opened his mouth to speak, they had been shocked. But now, after watching his actions and hearing his words, they were dumbfounded once again. Were it not for the layer of protection that he had, they would have instinctively stopped him. Wang Baole's actions made them faintly uneasy.

In a moment of panic, the burly fellow could not help but ask Lu Zihao, "What is he doing?"

Lu Zihao was wallowing in misery. He felt like his spotlight was being stolen by Wang Baole yet again. He kept quiet. In a bad mood, he swung his fist.

"That darn Fatty is playing tricks and creating trouble! He's nothing to be afraid of! Big Black, Little Black, Little White, bite him!" exclaimed the female disciple from the Beast Taming Pavilion with a cold laugh, seeing that Lu Zihao kept quiet. Her eyes flashed, and with sharp movements, she manipulated her bloodthirsty wolves, making them run straight for Lu Zihao and bite him below his head.

While their battle ensued, Wang Baole's advertising continued.

"Don't belittle this object. This is a perfect second-grade Dharmic Artifact, its core being a Rainbow Spirit Stone. What more, this artifact is the sturdiest out there. I even carved over twenty thousand inscriptions on it! When you line this up with others, not only does it have an adjustable ability to lock onto target objects, it also produces fog..." As Wang Baole rattled on, his eyes grew ever brighter. With the wave of his right hand, three yellow masks instantly appeared!

These three masks looked like ducks' beaks, except their color was uneven. They looked ugly, but upon careful inspection, streams of light emanated from their interior, releasing a strong suppressive force.

As Wang Baole spoke, he observed Lu Zihao retreating upon hearing the explosive roar of the three wolves. Worry instantly gripped him.

"And now, let me demonstrate!" Wang Baole declared, violently flinging the three duck masks across the space.

Having witnessed this, the female disciple sneered.

"I hate fatties the most!" she exclaimed, feeling irritated by Wang Baole's pretentious air. With a wave of her hand, the three wolves were sent darting for Wang Baole!

But just as these three wolves were bounding for him, the three masks penetrated through the Golden Bell Shield, emanating a bright flash of light. In its resplendence, the masks released a suppressive force more shocking than previously. Furthermore, as they flew, the upper and lower lips of the mouths automatically came into contact, releasing weird, ear-piercing screams that instantly caught everyone's attention.

The three wolves also reeled in shock. As they stopped in their tracks momentarily, the three masks suddenly gained momentum. At a speed much higher than before, they locked onto the three ferocious wolves, flying straight for them. No matter how much the wolves struggled, attempted to hide, or even howled, it was of no use.

Two of the masks had already covered two wolves' mouths!

However, the last mask seemed to malfunction under the sudden surge of speed. It failed to lock onto its target. It did not fly toward the third wolf, circling midair instead, as though it was ineffective.

All this had happened too quickly. Before the female disciple could recover from her stupor, the two masks that had attached themselves onto the wolves' mouths let out cracking sounds. In a flash, clamps formed on the masks, sealing the wolves' mouths completely and permanently. The wolves were unable to completely open or close their mouths, and their howls stopped abruptly, as though they were strangled.

The wolves collapsed under the impact. When they got to their feet, their whimpers were stuck in their throats. In a panic, they clawed at the masks, to the extent that even scratch marks formed, but they could not get rid of the masks within that short period of time. With a puff, fog billowed from within the two masks, filling the wolves' mouths. However, the effect of the fog was unusual—those two wolves only swayed but were still conscious.

The other wolf, although not affected by the mask, was evidently frightened. Fear flashed through its eyes, and it hurriedly retreated.

"Little Black! Little White!" the female disciple exclaimed. Her expression instantly changed to one of worry, and she rushed forward to help them.

At the same time, the observers on the sky viewing gallery were uninterested. These masks had their merit, but they were still considered to be ordinary, unlike the golden bead that Wang Baole had

previously. Not to mention, one of the three masks had malfunctioned. This live demonstration was a failure in their eyes.

However, on Upper Academy Island, there were many boos from those who had witnessed the scene that unfolded. There was a heated discussion about what had happened.

“That was nothing. To think that one of them malfunctioned!”

“Seems like this Wang Baole is running out of tricks. What a failure!”

Wang Baole was also worried and started sweating. He knew that this must have been because he failed to consider many aspects when he manufactured the mask. Furthermore, he had some trouble with his inscriptions. In a panic, he hurriedly raised his right arm, and the mask that was circling the air returned to its master. He grabbed it.

“Ahem, that was just a small mistake. This Dharmic Artifact, Shut Up, which I have made, is adjustable. I have recorded a list of seven to eight types of ferocious beasts in it, which you can add on to. Look, all I have to do is readjust this a little, then all is well!”

Only, this time, when the mask flew off, it still did not lock onto the remaining wolf that was already stricken with fear. It flew into the sky. Wang Baole slapped his forehead and heaved a huge sigh. He knew that his advertisement had failed.

Seeing his disappointment, the boos from Upper Academy Island became louder. When observers on the sky grandstand retracted their gaze, all of a sudden... that malfunctioning mask—after circling the air once—flew straight for the female disciple, as though it had a new target sighted!

The uproar that followed was astonishing and ear-piercing. Immediately, those outside who had initially retracted their gazes looked over. One by one, they were greatly shocked.

The female disciple was full of anger. She had been helping to remove the masks from her wolves, but upon witnessing the remaining mask coming for her, her eyes widened. Instantly, images of herself wearing the mask filled her mind. It was too frightening for her; she felt like her brain would explode. With a high-pitched scream, she hurriedly backed away.

She was quick, but the duck mask was quicker. It whistled through the air and neared her in an instant. Just as it was about to cover the mouth of this petite, pretty girl, her face paled, and without thought, she took out many protective Dharmic Artifacts, blocking the mask immediately.

Among the roar of commotion, this exceptional mask stopped in its tracks despite cracking after penetrating a few layers of the female disciple’s protective Dharmic Artifacts. Before she could heave a sigh of relief, it suddenly exploded. A thick cloud of fog was released in the blink of an eye, which floated straight toward the female disciple.

Never mind the thick fog. To make matters worse, a thin rope, hidden in the fog, suddenly emerged from within the cracked mask. The female disciple’s expression changed once again. Although she could dispel the fog, she could not escape the rope. Soon, the rope had wrapped itself around her a few times, tying her hands behind her back.

“Wang Baole!” she screeched. She had heard his self-introduction earlier on. She was enraged, but she could only stand there struggling.

Wang Baole blinked, but he quickly came to his senses, immediately lifting his head toward the sky, coughing.

“Actually, I wasn’t finished. This Dharma treasure is not only adaptable but is also amazingly effective on humans...” he said but was instantly interrupted by the huge commotion in the voice transmission ring!

The number of voice transmissions skyrocketed, instantly hitting the roof.

Concurrently, on Upper Academy Island in the outside world, tens of thousands of people paid close attention to this battle, of which many cried out in alarm, their eyes shimmering with excitement. Even disciples of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion took a liking to this product.

Although there was an abundance of such adjustable Dharmic Artifacts in the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, the mask that Wang Baole had made—though not without flaws—evidently had unique characteristics. And sometimes, such characteristics could have unpredictable effects during actual combat.

“It can do that too! Absolutely wicked! Too crafty! Wang Baole, I despise you! I want to get three!”

“This Dharmic Artifact is amazing! To think it has three usages! First the face mask, followed by the fog, and lastly the rope! Simply impossible to guard against! It is worthy of being a formidable tool for bondage!”

“All of you have a screw loose! So what if it can tie someone up? This artifact is prepared for our Alchemy Pavilion! Though that fog was rubbish, once we replace it, this baby will be awesome! Whoever smells it will faint!”

“I want ten of them!”