

Worth 611

Chapter 611: Adopted Disciple!

Wang Baole assessed his cultivation, then began to fantasize about his future. That lifted his spirits. Even though he was still confused and doubtful about what his senior brother had said at the very end, Wang Baole's character meant that he wouldn't drive himself into a corner obsessing over things he didn't understand. Enjoying the present was more important to him.

He licked his lips and stared at the grand halls of the seventh palace. Just as he was wondering if he should continue advancing, the energy waves of a teleportation erupted in front of the third palace behind him. Kong Dao appeared. He spat out a mouthful of blood, then sat down and began meditation.

He had clearly failed the trial to become an inner sect disciple in the third palace and ended up with the rank of an outer sect disciple. He had performed slightly worse than Zhao Yameng. After witnessing Kong Dao's actions, Wang Baole turned his head back towards the seventh palace and eyed it.

Wang Baole was tempted. He sighed after a while though. He knew very well that the sixth palace was as far as he could go. Without his senior brother, even if he had been given some other mission, the chances of him dying would have been immensely high. He had little hope of completing the mission.

If that were the case for the sixth palace, it would be worse for the seventh palace. Wang Baole wasn't willing to just give up though. After a long bout of silence, he took a step forward and started towards the grand halls.

Wang Baole stepped out of the halls after a span of fifty breaths. He had a look of resignation on his face as he shook his head.

It's impossible for me to complete the mission given by the seventh palace at the moment. Even if I'm able to hold my own against an early-stage Nascent Soul realm cultivator now, the mission... requires me to assassinate a powerful cultivator at the Planet realm...

It was beyond madness. Wang Baole didn't think anyone could've completed it. Unless one used certain means that he was unaware of, it was impossible trying to complete the mission through ordinary means.

"I'll give up being a Dao disciple and just settle for being an adopted disciple!" Wang Baole muttered to himself as he ended his trials at the Worship Palace Pavilion. He had no idea how the Worship Palace Pavilion was able to discern his thoughts, but just as he mentally raised the white flag, he vanished.

When he reappeared again, he was at the beginning of the Road of Brilliance. Boiling oceans of fire burned several hundred feet beyond either side of the road as well as at the end of the Worship Palace Pavilion. No matter how the waves rose and ebbed, they couldn't reach where he was.

Kong Dao and Zhao Yameng appeared shortly. The three of them stared at one another. Even though they had no idea what missions the others had to face, they could guess how challenging those missions must have been.

Joy flickered in the hidden depths of Zhao Yameng's and Kong Dao's eyes. They had gotten quite a few treasures from their missions and realized that they could bring these items out with them.

"Do you guys know what I found in the trial at the second palace?" Kong Dao couldn't contain his excitement. He spoke proudly as he raised his right hand in a wave. A stalk of spirit herb, heavy with Spirit Qi, appeared in his hand with a flash of bright light.

"How's that? Recognize it? The Vast Expanse Dao Palace records call this a Cloud Brew Fruit. A single fruit can help to open up any one of the seven orifices in our bodies. That'll ease our cultivation in the future!" Kong Dao grew increasingly excited as he spoke. Even though both Zhao Yameng and Wang Baole had entered more palaces, that didn't mean that they had brought back greater treasures than he had. After all, he had paid an unimaginable price to get his hands on this fruit during the trial.

Wang Baole blinked, then glanced at the pleased Kong Dao. He coughed, then pulled out a fist-sized Supreme Fire Stone from his storage bracelet.

Kong Dao knew nothing about Supreme Fire Stones. However, an immense heat erupted from the stone as soon as it was whipped out. The temperatures surrounding them shot up immediately. Even if Kong Dao had no idea what this stone was, he could tell that it was something quite extraordinary!

"A Supreme Fire Stone?" Zhao Yameng suddenly asked. There was a slight hesitation and incredulity in her voice.

Wang Baole smiled faintly. He played around with the stone in his hand, then nodded carefully. When he looked at Zhao Yameng, it was with eyes bright with approval. After all, if no one else knew about this stone, he would have to introduce it himself. That might make him seem like he was trying to show off.

"What's a Supreme Fire Stone?" Kong Dao asked hurriedly.

"It's a legendary material used for refining artifacts. It is only formed when a planet dies. As for its value... one piece like that could probably buy ten of your fruit." Zhao Yameng sucked in a deep breath and tried to calm herself down as she explained.

Kong Dao sucked in a deep breath as he listened to Zhao Yameng's explanation. He wasn't completely sold though. He was about to pull out the other treasures he had acquired when Wang Baole coughed and took out another Supreme Fire Stone...

That wasn't the end of it. He pulled out stone after stone. At first, Kong Dao kept gulping in mouthfuls of air. After Wang Baole got to his tenth stone though, Kong Dao stopped breathing entirely. Then... Wang Baole pulled open his storage bracelet and poured everything out. The Supreme Fire Stones piled into a small mountain. Kong Dao was completely stunned at that point.

Even Zhao Yameng was extremely shocked. Her lips parted, but no words presented themselves.

"There isn't enough space for me to show you everything. In any case... I have another seven to eight mountains of these Supreme Fire Stones in my storage bracelet." Wang Baole patted his tummy while pretending to be nonchalant about it all. He waved his hand casually and stored the stones.

A long moment later, Kong Dao stared at the fruit in his hand and quietly put it in his storage bag. He stared skyward. Then, after another long bout of silence, he sighed.

“Baole, you’re not going to have any friends if you keep this up...”

Wang Baole burst out into laughter. He patted Kong Dao’s shoulder, then pulled out several dozen Supreme Fire Stones and handed them over to Kong Dao. Kong Dao seemed to hesitate for a moment. Amidst his quick breathing, he finally decided to compromise. He kept the stones hurriedly and gave Wang Baole a heated look.

Wang Baole gave Zhao Yameng more than a hundred stones. He told them to approach him should they need more in the future. In the face of Wang Baole’s generosity, Kong Dao quickly pulled out two Cloud Brew Fruits and gave one each to Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng as well.

Zhao Yameng did the same and distributed a portion of her gains as well. Their spirits soared after the exchange. Even the typically calm and reserved Zhao Yameng couldn’t control her racing heart. She was about to say something when the Road of Brilliance and the Worship Palace Pavilion began to shake.

The ground rumbled as they shook. Intense light gathered above the second, third, and sixth palaces. The light erupted and raced towards the skies, gathering in the heavens and transforming into three jade slips!

One was green, one was red, and the last—purple!

The green represented the outer sect, the red, the inner sect, while the purple... was for adopted disciples!

The three sparkling jade slips rushed towards the three, who caught them. As soon as they came into contact with the jade slips, they could feel a strange sensation surface inside them.

Kong Dao felt a change over the ancient greenish-bronze sword. It was as if the previous ancient greenish-bronze sword had been filled with countless thin threads. These threads clustered together like a thick mass. They might not have a discernible presence or pose a challenge to one’s movements, but they were bindings that restricted one to a certain extent.

Now, with the green jade slip in his hand, it was as if the space separating these threads had grown wider. He experienced a sudden sense of relief and weightlessness.

Kong Dao’s eyes brightened. He realized the importance of gaining his disciple rank then. Zhao Yameng experienced the same thing, but more intensely. It was as if the space between the threads had grown even wider for her. With a slight mental nudge, she could avoid those threads entirely.

Because of her understanding of array formations, she knew what that feeling meant... She was now immune to a great number of hexes on the ancient greenish-bronze sword!

“So that’s the benefit... of gaining a true disciple’s status and having one’s name listed on the Dao Plate!” Joy flashed across Zhao Yameng’s eyes. She and Kong Dao both stared at Wang Baole.

There was a strange look on Wang Baole’s face. He lifted his head and stared at Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao after a long moment. It seemed like he wanted to say something but was at a loss for words.

“Baole, you got the adopted disciple rank at the sixth palace. How do you feel right this moment?” Kong Dao asked curiously.

“Well... I feel as if the entire world is cheering at me...” Wang Baole thought, then replied with a strange look on his face. He hadn’t lied. As soon as he came into contact with the jade slip, he had felt an intense welcoming sensation erupting from the world around him. It felt as if the world was telling him that there were few places in this world that he couldn’t enter.

At that thought, Wang Baole took a sudden step forward, not towards the Worship Palace Pavilion but into the ocean of fire. He walked steadily towards the latter, leaving the safety of the Worship Palace Pavilion. Just as his foot was about to step into the ocean of fire, a slab of stone appeared out of thin air beneath his foot...

“That’s how I feel.” Wang Baole raised his eyebrow. He stood on the stone and shrugged his shoulders, then turned towards Kong Dao, whose jaw had dropped and eyes were popping out, and Zhao Yameng, whose eyes had widened at the sight.

Chapter 612: A Tomb!

Such expressions of shock made multiple reappearances soon after. That was because Wang Baole suggested that since they had all become true disciples of the Dao Palace, they shouldn’t rush to return.

It was, after all, a truly rare opportunity for them. Why not search around for hexed places that hadn’t yet been discovered by others and hunt around for treasures?

Both materials and identity tokens could be exchanged for more battle credits.

The shocked Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao agreed to his plan in a daze. They followed Wang Baole on a road of continual surprises and shock.

The reality was... after they had left the Worship Palace Pavilion, the fact that they were in the body of the sword meant that they had plunged themselves into great danger. There were numerous spatial rifts and numerous hexed grounds scattered across the land as far as they could see.

There were two reasons that so many hexed grounds had remained untouched by cultivators who had gained their disciple ranks in the past. The first was that the disciple ranks those cultivators had gotten weren’t high enough. The second was because the lands on this world shifted from time to time.

As a result, other disciples would have found this area challenging to explore. Such difficulties were non-existent to Wang Baole. He had treaded carefully at first, but that was only before he approached a hexed area and the hexes deactivated themselves as soon as he got near. A shining entrance even appeared before him...

Everything had changed.

Hexes stopped working before him. Even the frequent tornado would disappear as soon as Wang Baole was in the area. It was as if they were afraid of coming into contact with him.

These were small matters compared to the spatial rift that Kong Dao had witnessed appearing suddenly next to Wang Baole. It had been a gaping mouth that had been about to swallow Wang Baole whole. However, before they could touch, it was as if a strange power had suddenly seized the spatial rift. The spatial rift had its mouth shut tight. It had struggled as Wang Baole had strolled past it safely.

An indescribable feeling unfurled inside Kong Dao. It was a certain sense of injustice that exasperated him and made him feel the strong difference between him and Wang Baole.

It was the same with the Sea of Fire and other fire beasts. It was as if the entire place had become Wang Baole's home. Kong Dao had a feeling that even if Wang Baole were to shut his eyes and walk all the way from the south to the north, he wouldn't come to any danger along the way.

The three of them entered one hexed area after the next as they continued their search...

Burning alchemical cauldrons, piles of jade slips, pagodas where pills were stored—past battlefields and other areas revealed their treasures before the three of them for the taking. Most of the time, they had only needed to pick those treasures up.

They accumulated a growing pile of identity tokens, herbs that still contained a wisp of vitality, and materials for refinement. These things were everywhere... There were also some strange and bizarre treasures, like the Dimensional Lock Beads, which could seal a space temporarily and prevent someone from teleporting away. They found a dozen of those. As they continued scavenging for treasures, the three of them felt as if they were caught in a dream. Everything felt so surreal.

This was reality, though. They had started out with racing hearts, but near the end of it, their eyes had grown sore as they searched through one place after the other and gathered more and more treasures. They had forgotten all about returning.

They finally found themselves in a dilemma when both Kong Dao's and Zhao Yameng's storage bags had been filled to the brim. Treasures surrounded them, but there was no way of them bringing it all back with them.

"All these should be worth hundreds of thousands, even millions of battle credits! That's at least a hundred to two hundred thousand battle credits after splitting everything amongst us. I'm going to get myself that ninth-grade Dharmic Armament, Shadow Walker's Cloak, with those credits!" Kong Dao muttered to himself. He gave himself a fierce slap, to make sure that he wasn't dreaming, then started laughing uncontrollably like an idiot.

Zhao Yameng had a look of bewilderment on her face as well. She eyed her storage bag, then stared at Wang Baole. Her confusion didn't fade away. It intensified instead...

Their treasure hunt found them with brimming storage artifacts that could no longer contain more items. They had even begun discarding items of lower value until they were left with items of extreme value. That was when they had no choice but to stop.

"Let's move everything out from this place before we leave. We'll make preparations for a second trip!" Wang Baole's eyes shone with a crazy light. Having made up his mind, he stared at the final hexed area before him, said his piece, then marched forward.

Kong Dao followed him excitedly. Zhao Yameng's heart was racing just as quickly as his. However, she managed to maintain her composure. She took a few steps forward, then suddenly eyed the hexed area they were headed towards. Her brow creased slightly, and she suddenly said, "Baole, wait!"

Wang Baole stopped in his tracks almost as soon as Zhao Yameng spoke. The relief that he had been feeling the entire time because everything had gone so smoothly vanished that instant. It was replaced with wariness and solemnity.

Kong Dao adjusted his mental state quickly too. He activated his cultivation and scanned his surroundings instinctively. The three of them glanced at one another, then turned and stared ahead, looking at the hexed area that was to be their last.

The area didn't look any different from the rest, with hexes scattered around the mountain ruins. What was different was the burial mound in front of the mountain!

Atop the burial mound was half a slab of tombstone. It was missing a huge chunk, and the words on it were unclear. Cracks lined the sides of the burial mound. The smallest cracks were the width of fingers, and the biggest wide enough for a full-grown man to slip through.

Waves of green mist seeped out from the cracks gradually. They didn't travel far. Instead, they surrounded the burial mound, spreading outward before they were sucked back into the cracks. It was as if the cracks were huge mouths, breathing in and out!

The hexes weren't what gave off dangerous vibes to Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng... it was the green mist escaping from the burial mound!

"Something's not right with this place..." Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He tried taking a few steps forward. The hexes instantly stopped working, and a door appeared before him. Wang Baole stood outside the door and didn't take a single step forward. This had happened in other hexed areas as well. This time though, there was a strange aura that hadn't been present in the other hexed areas. It was infused in the air around Wang Baole, and he could sense it clearly. His proficiency in Dharmic Armaments told him that this aura was similar to that of a Divine Armament!

Wang Baole's breathing quickened. He lifted his right hand suddenly, and a seventh-grade flying sword dashed out and charged at the burial mound surrounded by green mist.

The flying sword's speed fell as it approached the burial mound and gradually slowed to a standstill in mid-air. It began to transform right before their eyes. It turned green rapidly. Patterns like that of a tree's growth rings appeared on it. The entire process took less than the span of ten breaths. What had initially been a flying sword made of metal fell to the ground with a thud.

Wang Baole's connection with the sword broke at that instant. It was as if the link between them had been wiped out. The god within the sword had vanished as well. The power imbued in the sword had disappeared as if it had transformed into an ordinary sword!

The most important thing was the sound the sword made as it fell to the ground!

"Its structure has been changed!" Kong Dao sucked in his breath and said suddenly. Zhao Yameng realized what had happened as well. The sound that the sword had made when falling to the ground wasn't of something made from metal, but of something made from wood!

Wang Baole's face was dark. He felt that even more clearly than the others. He was having second thoughts about this place, but he was having a hard time giving up as well.

Perhaps the sound of the wooden sword falling to the ground stirred something awake. Heavy breathing began to rise from the burial mound.

"Phew... phew... phew..."

It didn't resemble the breathing of an ordinary human but that of a wild beast. A strong sense of danger erupted inside the trio's heads instantly. There was no hesitation. They fell back immediately.

Countless howls echoed in their heads as they retreated. It felt like the crazed and pained cries of countless people. They sounded extremely real. The aural shock wave forced the three to retreat further. Blood spilled from their lips, and Wang Baole especially spat out at least seven mouthfuls of blood. They struggled to escape and only managed to catch their breath after retreating a distance away.

"The greater one's cultivation, the stronger the impact!" Zhao Yameng wiped the blood from her lips. She eyed the distant burial mound as she recovered from her fright, then turned towards the pale-faced Wang Baole.

Chapter 613: A Terrible Fate Befalls Scram!

Terrifying breathing that seems human and inhuman at the same time, and an aura that resembles a Divine Armament's aura... This tomb is quite interesting! Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He stared at the bright door that had been conjured by the hexes and that had now disappeared with their rapid departure, as well as the tomb, that seemed to have resumed normalcy. After a long silence, he sighed deeply.

"There's something very strange about this tomb. It's going to be a challenge for us to uncover its secrets with our current level of cultivation. Perhaps when we reach the Soul Conduit realm... we'd be able to try our hand at it." Zhao Yameng stared at the tomb behind the hexes. She recalled the breathing from the tomb and the terrible impact it had on her before speaking gravely.

Kong Dao was similarly cowed. The three of them stared at one another and decided to give up. They raced towards the Worship Palace Pavilion with the intention of teleporting back from the pavilion. Due to certain special reasons, they couldn't teleport directly to the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. The teleportation would only send them to the borders of the sword body. They would then need to pass through the borders and enter the region of the sword handle.

Even so, this would save them a lot of time. They were silent as they traveled back to the Worship Palace Pavilion. Thoughts of the tomb and what had happened to them filled their minds. Wang Baole sensed that he might have missed something. He wasn't sure what it was until they entered the Worship Palace Pavilion, chose to activate the teleportation spell, and Zhao Yameng suddenly spoke.

"There might be another way we can try to uncover the secrets behind the tomb... something to do with wood. If we can find ourselves a wood-based cultivator, we might be able to fight against the green mist and enter the burial mound... but such cultivators are extremely rare. There's also an element of risk

involved. The cultivator has to be formed entirely of pure wood for there to be any chance of success,” Zhao Yameng said, then sighed. She had thought of this idea after arriving at the pavilion.

Pure wood? Upon hearing what Zhao Yameng had said, Wang Baole lifted his head abruptly. His mind cleared. It was like the sudden parting of stormy clouds. His thoughts became clear to him, and he realized what he had been missing earlier. A strange light shone in his eyes.

Right, that’s what I overlooked. A pure wood-based cultivator... Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. As he remained deep in thought, the teleportation spell flared to life around them. They gradually vanished from inside the Worship Palace Pavilion.

The spell’s glow dimmed following their departure, and everything resumed normalcy. Nothing seemed to have changed, save the burial mound, from which the sounds of breathing could occasionally be heard amidst the rising and falling of green mist.

In the area bordering the sword body, a short distance away from the region of the sword handle, energy waves of a teleportation spell rippled in the air and were followed by the appearance of Wang Baole and his friends. They verified their location and immediately started running. It didn’t take them long to leave the region of the sword body and step into the Sea of Fire beyond the region of the sword handle.

The clearly scorching heat blew into their faces. However, due to the difference in temperatures in the sword body and the sword handle, the hot winds felt cool instead. Wang Baole took a deep breath in and pat his storage bracelet. It contained not only vast quantities of materials but also a purple identity token.

This was his most priceless gain during the entire trip!

An adopted disciple! Anticipation shone in Wang Baole’s eyes. He looked at Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao, and they seemed to share similar thoughts. Be it an inner sect disciple or an outer sect disciple, both were considered the cream of the crop in the present Vast Expanse Dao Palace. All of them would be valued greatly by the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

One could imagine the drastic transformation to their status upon their return.

“Let’s go back. Next time, let’s get Yifan to join us too. We can get a few more storage bags and do another round of scavenging!” Wang Baole pushed aside his greed for what lay inside the burial mound and said. His spirits soared as he spoke. Kong Dao too seemed to have released himself from the pent up emotions he had about the burial mound. He thought about his loot and the bright future ahead of him and was overcome with excitement.

Zhao Yameng smiled faintly. She pushed a lock of hair, stirred astray by the wind, behind her ear. Her eyes were clear and filled with hope for the future. The three of them transformed into rainbows, crossing the skies and heading in the direction of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

The distance of their journey necessitated multiple teleportations. They needed two weeks to make the trip back. They weren’t in a hurry, though. They laughed and talked during the journey back. It was relaxing. They teleported a few times and were three days away from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace when something drastic descended upon them in an unexpected manner!

They hadn't come across any danger. Instead... Wang Baole heard cries of agony and fear inside his head!

The cries weren't that of a human, but a donkey!

"Son! Son, son! Son!"

The donkey didn't have a voice transmission ring. However, he had a certain connection with Wang Baole. Wang Baole might not be able to sense the donkey clearly if the distance separating them was too great, but across a short distance, the connection binding them was clear and strong.

At this moment, the donkey was relying on its mental connection with Wang Baole to call for help!

No one else would be able to hear this cry. Even if they did, they wouldn't understand what the donkey was trying to say. They would only be able to sense the extreme anxiety as well as fear in its voice. Wang Baole was very familiar with the donkey though. He instantly knew what it was trying to convey when he heard its cries. The series of cries could be translated into a single word.

"Help!"

Wang Baole froze in his steps. His breathing quickened, and the look on his face darkened. He was about to find out what was going on with the donkey when the connection between him and the donkey was suddenly cut off!

There seemed to be some power standing between him and the donkey, disrupting their connection!

Wang Baole secretly trembled. Anxiety rose inside him. He might treat the donkey harshly, with regular punishments and beatings, but he still considered it his son. He was the only one who could beat it. He wouldn't allow anyone else to bully it.

The donkey's cries for help sounded tragic. It was like a slight yank at Wang Baole's heart. Face grim, he sped up and raced forward.

Even though their connection had been severed, Wang Baole was able to pin down the donkey's location based on what he had sensed earlier. It was in... the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

What happened... Wang Baole could barely hide the icy glint in his eyes. As he raced ahead, Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao, while unaware of what had transpired, sensed the icy aura exuding from Wang Baole. They shivered and sped up as well.

"Baole, what happened?" After a few moments, Zhao Yameng couldn't help but ask.

"Scram just called for help!" Wang Baole forced the words from his mouth. Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao knew the donkey's name. Shock flashed across their faces when they heard what had happened. Wang Baole pulled out his voice transmission ring then and immediately contacted Sect Lord Xu of the Galactic Dusk Sect, who was currently in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

Sect Lord Xu knew nothing about this. He had been caught by surprise when he received the voice transmission. He told Wang Baole not to panic and that he was going to find out what was going on. Wang Baole maintained his speed as he raced towards the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, sending voice transmissions to others and making inquiries.

It didn't take long before everyone reported to him, and he finally realized the cause of the donkey's distress. The donkey had eaten a huge chunk of a Nascent Soul realm Elder's alchemical cauldron. The Elder was called Sun Hai, and he belonged to Mie Liezi's faction. The alchemical cauldron had been crafted from numerous rare and priceless materials. It had almost been destroyed by the donkey's single bite.

Sun Hai had discovered the donkey's misdeed and captured it in his fury. He intended to kill it!

"Baole, I've mapped out his relations. It won't be useful. Sun Hai said that he won't listen to anyone. He plans to use the donkey to refine a Blood Flesh Pill!"

Wang Baole's head started throbbing when he heard that. He knew the donkey. This was something it was capable of doing. Its greed had landed it in trouble. But this was still his son. Upon hearing everything, he turned and looked at Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao.

"I need to go!" Having said that, he let loose a sudden burst of speed, unleashing his full speed, which approximated that of a teleportation. He transformed into a rainbow and dashed across the skies. The burst of speed reduced his traveling to a third of the time required. He would be able to reach the Vast Expanse Dao Palace within a day.

"Sect Lord Xu, no matter what you do, please, help me delay the event for another day!"

"Baole, I'll do my best. Don't act rashly though. I believe paying compensation would resolve this matter. Besides, you've just returned from the Worship Palace Pavilion. Your status is of a sensitive nature. We cannot eliminate the possibility that they are doing this intentionally. Be careful!"

Chapter 614: Choosing Humiliation Over Dignity!

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes, and an icy glint glimmered in his eyes. As he raced forward, he contemplated the possibility of any ulterior motives hidden behind this matter.

There's no loss in being more careful. If this is something that can be resolved with compensation, I don't mind losing a few battle credits. Wang Baole's most recent trip would likely gain him a few hundred thousand battle credits. He wasn't bothered about having to offer compensation.

They can't blame me for what I'm going to do if this turns out to be a setup! An icy glint flashed across Wang Baole's eyes. He activated his voice transmission ring and contacted Xie Haiyang. This time, he didn't ask about what the donkey had done but about the extent of damages Elder Sun Hai had suffered!

Xie Haiyang made use of his connections and was able to find out all the details about the damages very quickly.

"The alchemical cauldron isn't cheap at all, Baole. It's worth fifty thousand battle credits!" Xie Haiyang clearly had no idea how filthy rich Wang Baole was. He sighed when he mentioned the amount.

Fifty thousand credits... Wang Baole nodded, gave his thanks, and ended the voice transmission. Fifty thousand battle credits might not be a small sum to him, but it wasn't that huge a figure either. Mentally

prepared, Wang Baole increased his speed and charged ahead, dashing across the heavens. He finally saw the Vast Expanse Dao Palace appear in the distance on the dawn of the next day!

He had exchanged multiple voice transmissions with Xie Haiyang and Sect Lord Xu and received assurance of the donkey's safety. Everything contributed to his growing suspicion, that the entire matter... was a setup targeting him!

Interesting. A violent aura oozed out from Wang Baole's person but was quickly concealed. His face remained expressionless as he raced through the skies and approached the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. The first person he saw upon his approach was Sect Lord Xu, who had arrived earlier and had been waiting for him.

"Follow me!" Sect Lord Xu said immediately when he saw Wang Baole. He walked ahead. Wang Baole nodded and silently followed Sect Lord Xu as they raced towards an outer island not far away.

In the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, Every Nascent Soul realm cultivator had his own island. Their islands were typically large and infused with strong Spirit Qi. The islands were their personal property. Many of their disciples and followers resided on these islands.

That was true of Sun Hai's island. It might not be one of the better islands owned by a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, but it still trumped Wang Baole's Green Fire Island. It was leagues above in terms of location, Spirit Qi, and price.

"That is Sun Hai's Holy Air Island. Baole, listen to me, don't act rashly. Follow the plan. It's best if we can resolve this with battle credits. I managed to gather some credits myself. It should be enough!" As they approached the island, Sect Lord Xu reminded Wang Baole again. There was anxiety hidden deep in his eyes.

They could see trails of black smoke rising from Sun Hai's island. Thunderous booms erupted from the public square in the middle of the island and echoed in the air.

That would have been fine if that were the end of that. As they approached, Wang Baole could hear faint cries coming from the same place where the black smoke was rising.

The screams belonged to his donkey!

His eyes turned cold. With a sudden burst of speed, he raced ahead. Sect Lord Xu sighed and followed behind. Both of them entered the Holy Air Island!

The island shook as soon as they approached. A wall of light appeared around the island, forming an array formation that prevented outsiders from stepping inside. However, just as the array formation came into contact with Wang Baole, Wang Baole activated his cultivation and took a violent step forward. There was a loud explosion. He had forced his way into the array formation.

The forced entry distorted the array formation. Numerous bright lights appeared and surrounded them. It also caught the attention of every cultivator on the island. They lifted their heads skyward and saw Wang Baole hovering in mid-air above the public square!

He lowered his head. There was an alchemical cauldron hundreds of feet tall in the middle of the public square. Dozens of Core Formation realm cultivators sat around the cauldron. They were using their

cultivation to summon flames for the cauldron. The flames heated the alchemical cauldron while the donkey's faint cries rang out from inside the cauldron.

They were clearly trying to use the donkey for refinement. An elder stood before the Core Formation realm cultivators. He had an ethereal air to him—save his eyes, which were sunken in and had an extraordinary color. They glowed red. The elder lifted his head as soon as Wang Baole arrived and stared at Wang Baole icily.

Fury rose inside Wang Baole when he saw the refinement his donkey was being subjected to. He noticed that the refinement would require a long time to complete. As long as help came in time, the donkey would suffer only a bit of pain. There would not be any lasting damage. That was why he pushed down his anger and looked the elder in the eyes.

“Wang Baole greets Elder Sun.”

“This humble old man can hardly accept the greetings of the esteemed personal disciple from the Federation,” Sun Hai said coolly, with a superficial smile on his face and an extremely hostile tone.

Wang Baole frowned slightly. He almost lost his temper. It was then that Sect Lord Xu smiled beside him and led Wang Baole to land before Sun Hai. The Sect Lord cupped his fists in greeting. He tried to ease the tension with his friendliness.

“Elder Sun, it's all been a terrible misunderstanding. We've come bearing tokens of our sincerity.”

Sun Hai recalled the monthly gifts he had been receiving from Sect Lord Xu and looked slightly less hostile. He glanced sideways at Wang Baole with disdain. He had witnessed Wang Baole's battle during the trial and knew how strong the latter was, but he was confident that he could beat Wang Baole.

That was why he wasn't really bothered about the fact that Wang Baole had just returned from the Worship Palace Pavilion. This was the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, not the Federation. Sun Hai snorted and asked, “Tokens of sincerity?”

Wang Baole had quite a temper, but he also had to consider the possibility of Sect Lord Xu being right in saying that there was something wrong going on here. The Sect Lord was doing his best to help. It wouldn't be appropriate for Wang Baole to hijack his efforts. He took a deep breath, shoved down his annoyance, stared at Sun Hai, and said slowly, “I'm willing to fork out sixty thousand battle credits as compensation for your losses. The first fifty thousand is for the damages to the alchemical cauldron, and the remaining ten thousand for the inconvenience caused!”

“Sixty thousand?” Even though Sun Hai was a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, he was shaken by the figure. Sixty thousand was no mere sum to anyone in the Dao Palace.

However, there were times when one's evil character determined their approach to handling matters. When faced with such a person, the more you compromised and showed weakness, the higher the chance of you not achieving any resolution and instead encountering increased bullying!

Sun Hai was one such person. His resolve was shaken, allowing greed to overtake his thoughts. Sect Lord Xu had thought too much about this matter. There weren't any ulterior motives or plans, it had been purely a coincidence. However, Sun Hai saw weakness in his opponents. He narrowed his eyes, studied Wang Baole for a moment, then laughed.

“The fifty thousand battle credits must be paid, of course, but this wretched beast was too brazen. I have to teach it a lesson and make sure it knows that the Vast Expanse Dao Palace is no place for it to run wild!” Sun Hai repeatedly talked about beasts, seemingly referring to the donkey. It was clear he was referring to Wang Baole.

Wang Baole could hardly keep a lid on his temper. His eyes began to glimmer with a cold light. He glared at Sun Hai and asked slowly, “Oh? What do you plan to do?”

Next to him, Sect Lord Xu’s brow started to crease as well. From the way he saw it, Sun Hai was either receiving instructions from someone or was one really stupid man.

“I’m going to turn this beast into a Blood Pill. If you want the pill, I can consider selling it to you at fifty thousand battle credits.” Sun Hai narrowed his eyes as he tried to hide the greed in them. Wang Baole would likely raise the figure next, and he would continue to hold his ground. Perhaps Sect Lord Xu would talk them both down, and they’d finally agree to settle the matter with a hundred and fifty thousand credits.

Sun Hai had everything all planned out in his head. However, reality didn’t unfold in the same way... Wang Baole laughed after hearing what Sun Hai had said.

It was laughter devoid of warmth, cold to the extreme. Wang Baole gave Sect Lord Xu a look. The latter had a dark expression on his face.

“Fellow Daoist Xu, I’ve tried it your way, but it didn’t work. Since that’s the case... I have no choice but to do it my way,” Wang Baole said. His cultivation erupted suddenly. The clouds shifted in the skies, fierce winds rolled in suddenly, and a terrifying aura rose to the heavens!

Wang Baole didn’t speak another word. As his aura erupted, he left his avatar in his original spot as a precautionary measure, then charged towards the shocked Sun Hai!

Chapter 615: Weak!

Sun Hai didn’t expect Wang Baole would dare attack him. He was a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. Even though Wang Baole might have unleashed power that could rival someone at the Nascent Soul realm during his trial, a Core Formation realm cultivator... was still a Core Formation realm cultivator. Regardless of how much he had advanced in cultivation, he wouldn’t be a match for Sun Hai as long as he wasn’t at the Nascent Soul realm!

“Wang Baole, you’re tempting fate!” Sun Hai laughed furiously. He formed a series of hand seals with his right hand then flung it forward. A black octopus appeared. It spat a cloud of black mist in Wang Baole’s face as its tentacles shot out towards Wang Baole.

This was no mere octopus. It might be an illusion, but the power that it exuded could rival a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. Even though it might not be the match of a true Nascent Soul realm cultivator, it still surpassed a typical perfected Core Formation realm cultivator. If its opponent had been any other ordinary Core Formation realm cultivator, this single attack would have ended the fight!

There was also the force of Sun Hai's cultivation distorting the surrounding space. It was as if a mysterious power had descended. Anyone whose cultivation wasn't as powerful as Sun Hai's would tremble under the weight of his cultivation!

Everything happened within the blink of an eye. The attack was unleashed as soon as Wang Baole approached. That wasn't the end of Sun Hai's attack. He had every intention of letting Wang Baole know the unbearable price of lashing out at a Nascent Soul realm cultivator!

Destroying your cultivation is punishment enough! A murderous glint flashed across Sun Hai's eyes. His cultivation began to churn, and cultivation belonging to someone at the Nascent Soul realm rumbled as it erupted. His hands came together to form a series of hand seals, then flung apart and swept all around him!

Vast amounts of seawater appeared out of thin air and surrounded them. They covered the skies and the lands, forming gigantic waves that rushed towards Wang Baole, threatening to pull him under!

"A mere Core Formation realm cultivator. See this? This is the power of someone at the Nascent Soul realm!" Sun Hai's voice thundered. It filled the emptiness. It was as if Sun Hai had become a god. He had transformed into a furious ocean and was about to crush Wang Baole.

The Core Formation realm cultivators around them watched on excitedly. They stared unblinkingly at the scene before them, regret shining in the eyes of most of them. It was clear that to them, Wang Baole... was a dead man walking.

Sect Lord Xu was frantic. He wanted to help, but the force of a Nascent Soul realm cultivation slowed down his own cultivation. His help would arrive late.

It appeared as if nothing could stop Sun Hai. It was then that shock flashed across Sun Hai's face. Wang Baole, who had been trapped by the octopus and the sea of fury, unleashed an incredible aura!

Blood-colored meridians and slivers of white extended outwards. It took but the blink of an eye for the Thearch Armor to encase Wang Baole. The red meridians and white slivers of bone gave him a fearsome appearance that shocked everyone. Wang Baole disregarded the octopus' approaching black mist and tentacles. Raising his right hand, he grabbed the octopus!

Wang Baole paid no heed to the desperate whipping of tentacles. There was no expression on his face as he tightened his fist. The octopus wailed and was instantly crushed. It burst into mist, then dissipated.

The entire fight seemed like a cakewalk. The octopus appeared weak, like paper that Wang Baole easily crushed. He lifted his head and stared at the stunned Sun Hai as an aura rivaling Sun Hai's erupted from his Thearch Armor!

It clashed with the suppressive force from Sun Hai's cultivation in an invisible battle.

The battle sparked a series of thunderous explosions. It was as if two invisible giants were battling it out. As Wang Baole unleashed his power, Sun Hai's breathing quickened. The latter tried to recover from his shock. Murder flashed in his eyes. His hands formed a flurry of hand seals. The seawater around them gathered rapidly and surrounded them, forming a statue that towered hundreds of feet tall!

The statue was the likeness of Sun Hai. Once again, it tried to exert force over Wang Baole.

Wang Baole shook his head slightly. The expression on his Thearch Armor was that of slight disappointment. As the statue approached, he took a step forward, lifted his right fist, and sent a punch flying!

His power was augmented threefold, and further amplified by the Thearch Armor. In addition, the increased strength from his breakthrough in cultivation meant that the punch Wang Baole had just thrown out had vastly surpassed the one he had made during the trial. The air trembled as his fist shot forward. Thunder boomed in the air as his fist landed, and the sounds of cracking rang out.

Numerous cracks began to appear on Sun Hai's statue. It took but two counts for it to break apart. Sun Hai's face turned pale. He retreated hastily, with incredulity in his eyes. But he wasn't done here yet. Hovering in mid-air, he smacked his forehead heavily with his right hand. A beam of bright light shot out from his forehead and formed a mirror before him.

The mirror faced Wang Baole, and his reflection appeared in the mirror. Sun Hai yelled and slammed his palm on the mirror. As it shattered, Wang Baole shook. A strange light appeared in his eyes before he charged at Sun Hai.

It didn't work? That's impossible! Shock flashed across Sun Hai's face. He retreated again with the intention of summoning another mirror. He was about to unleash the mirror's attack once again when Wang Baole charged forward before the mirror could steal his reflection. With a raise of his right hand, he pulled out a black pike. Bolts of lightning swarmed the air, and thunder crashed as he lashed out with his pike.

Thunderous booms rang out in the air. It was the sound of the pike splitting the sky apart. It raced towards the mirror in a blur, intent on destroying everything in its path. Sun Hai's pupils contracted. He tried to pull his mirror back, but he was too late. With a loud explosion, the black pike pierced through the mirror and caused the latter to explode into countless shards. Sun Hai shifted away in a blur, dodging the blow at the very last moment. When he reappeared, it was at the other end of the public square. He stared at Wang Baole with incredulity as well as shock in his eyes.

"Is this what a Nascent Soul realm cultivator is capable of?" Wang Baole turned and stared at Sun Hai. He shook his head and couldn't be bothered anymore. He wasn't in the mood to fight a weak Nascent Soul realm cultivator. Wang Baole walked towards the cauldron, where his donkey was imprisoned.

Sun Hai hovered in mid-air, the look on his face dark and furious. There was no denying it, however. Wang Baole was freakishly powerful.

His fighting abilities and Dharmic treasures had both reached the level of a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. He was no different from one. In fact, his defense might surpass a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. He was able to overcome the pressure exerted by Sun Hai's cultivation and inflict greater damage than Sun Hai!

However, if he were to simply let Wang Baole take his donkey away, Sun Hai imagined the news of that would spread throughout the entire sect in no time. He would be utterly humiliated. He regretted not staying his hand while he could. Just as he troubled over his current predicament, something flashed in his eyes.

That's not right. He still has a fatal weakness... he can't teleport!

At that thought, Sun Hai narrowed his eyes. He lifted his right hand and formed a series of hand seals. Vast quantities of seawater suddenly appeared, transformed into a pike, and charged at Wang Baole.

He took a step forward and vanished, reappearing next to Wang Baole. He jabbed his finger, then teleported away again without checking if he had succeeded in his attack.

“How annoying.” Wang Baole had no intentions of continuing the fight, but Sun Hai’s continued attacks made him frown. He pulled out a handful of beads... they were the Dimensional Lock Beads that could temporarily create a dimensional seal!

A single bead was sufficient to create a dimensional seal. Wang Baole had a generous nature, so he pulled out a dozen beads. As a result... the space around him immediately froze. Sun Hai, who had been able to teleport far away, froze instantly. He was locked in place!

Everything happened too quickly. Sun Hai had no time to react. Fear flashed across his eyes as Wang Baole raised his right hand and grabbed Sun Hai’s head!

Just as Wang Baole was about to unleash an attack, two auras came rushing from the direction of the main island. They surpassed that of the Nascent Soul realm and belonged to one at the Soul Conduit realm!

Mie Liezi’s voice rang out in the skies, an aural shockwave exploding between Wang Baole and Sun Hai.

“Stop!”

Chapter 616: A Reply That Transformed the Dao Palace!

His voice contained the power of a Soul Conduit realm cultivator. Even a cultivator at the perfected stage of the Core Formation realm would have been shaken to the core upon hearing that voice. It was akin to being struck by lightning and suffering the dazed aftershocks.

If he had been intent on killing them, a single shout from him would have flattened a Core Formation realm cultivator. A Nascent Soul might not die on the spot, but his movements would be affected as well. He would feel as if a seal had been placed on his spirit.

Such spiritual attacks were what made a Soul Conduit realm cultivator so powerful. It was impossible for one to withstand such attacks. Even Wang Baole suffered an aural explosion in his head that instant. His spirit was almost ripped from his body. He wanted to continue attacking, but he couldn’t. He tried to retreat and couldn’t do that either.

Just as Wang Baole’s spirit trembled and shook, and he lost the ability to move, two sources of energy flared to life inside him. One came from Little Missy and the other... from his scabbard!

Perhaps Little Missy sensed the energy from the scabbard, but she immediately quieted down. In that instant, the scabbard unleashed an energy that didn’t spread beyond Wang Baole’s body but stirred inside him. The pressure from a Soul Conduit realm cultivator’s cultivation was instantly dispelled!

His state of mind immediately stabilized, and his thoughts cleared. Everything happened in a flash. As Mie Liezi's voice echoed in the air, and his mind cleared, Wang Baole didn't hesitate. He immediately switched places with the avatar he had released earlier!

His true form and his Lightning Avatar switched places swiftly. It was almost as if they had teleported. The Lightning Avatar didn't hesitate and made another grab for Sun Hai's head. Wang Baole, who had teleported to a distant location, showed no hesitation as well as he waved his hand and summoned his tri-colored flying sword. It dashed towards the same target... Sun Hai!

Everything happened too quickly. As Wang Baole and his avatar attacked simultaneously, Mie Liezi, who had been rushing towards them, let loose a furious howl in mid-air.

It rang out in the air, and a gigantic illusory hand appeared in the sky and smashed downwards. A loud explosion erupted. Wang Baole's avatar stood no chance. Before it could land a hit on Sun Hai, it was crushed by the gigantic hand!

Mie Liezi was still a step too late. The flying sword that Wang Baole had unleashed pierced through Sun Hai's chest. Another sword sliced his head right off!

Blood splattered everywhere. Sun Hai's screams of agony echoed in the air. He had abandoned his physical body at the very last moment and escaped. The heavens and earth shifted, and the clouds rolled back, as Mie Liezi appeared in the sky. He walked towards the island and landed next to Sun Hai's Nascent Soul. His right hand lifted and with a grab, he picked up Sun Hai's Nascent Soul and stored it in his sleeve. With a dark look on his face, Mie Liezi inspected Sun Hai's body. Its chest was pierced through with three flying swords, and its internal organs had been shredded to pieces. Then, he turned and looked at Wang Baole.

"Wang Baole, are you trying to revolt against the sect?"

Wang Baole's breathing quickened slightly. He didn't get overly flustered though. Instead, he stared skyward, at the second Soul Conduit realm aura that was rapidly approaching. Mie Liezi also sensed Feng Qiuran's arrival. If this had happened prior to Wang Baole's trial, he might have taken this opportunity to kill Wang Baole.

But he had witnessed Wang Baole's performance in the trial with his own eyes and knew that Wang Baole had inherited the legacy from the Eye of Infinite Techniques. To a certain degree, he had been acknowledged as a true disciple of the sect. Even though he didn't descend from the Dao Palace but had come from the Federation, Mie Liezi was still hesitant to make a move.

Amidst his hesitation, Feng Qiuran finally arrived. She saw Sun Hai's corpse and froze. In the end, she still decided to side with Wang Baole. She turned towards Mie Liezi and said slowly, "Mie Liezi, you should be careful when invoking the word 'revolt'!"

"I should be careful? I've already commanded him to stop, but he still went ahead and did as he pleased. He acted violently and mercilessly and killed his own fellow disciple. If this is not a revolt, what is it?" There was a resolute look in Mie Liezi's eyes. He stared icily at Wang Baole as he spoke.

Feng Qiuran hesitated. She had arrived late to the scene and knew little of what had transpired. She turned towards Sect Lord Xu. The Sect Lord was about to speak when Wang Baole lifted his hand and interrupted him. Wang Baole smiled.

“Elder Mie Liezi, you only saw me trying to kill Sun Hai. Aren’t you going to question Sun Hai about what he had done to me?” Wang Baole said, then pointed to the alchemical cauldron.

“At this very moment, my intrinsic sacred beast is being cooked alive inside that cauldron. I came here to negotiate and make peace. I even proposed compensation of nearly a hundred thousand battle credits. Nevertheless, Sun Hai continued to make things difficult for me. He lusted over my battle credits, that’s fine. He repeatedly called me a beast, I took that without complaint too. I was pushed to the limits of my patience, yet he still wanted to turn my sacred beast into a Blood Pill!” Fury colored Wang Baole’s words as his voice rang out. Mie Liezi frowned.

He didn’t know the details of what had happened. However, he saw the lowered heads of the Core Formation realm cultivators around them and sensed the living presence in the alchemical cauldron. Everything seemed to add up. Even if Wang Baole had spiced up the details, it was clear he was speaking the truth.

But Mie Liezi wasn’t here to speak reason or mete out justice. He didn’t care that Wang Baole had just returned from the Worship Palace Pavilion. He believed that the most that Wang Baole had gained was a core disciple rank. Even should his rank be higher than Mie Liezi’s, his cultivation was not. In fact, there was a greater likelihood that Wang Baole hadn’t acquired a core disciple’s rank but only that of an inner sect disciple.

Unless he was able to attain the status of a personal disciple, otherwise... At that thought, Mie Liezi snorted and said coolly, “I care only for the results, not the cause. Wang Baole has offended his elders. Feng Qiuran, you cannot defend him. Either we abide by the rules of the sect or we expel him. Regardless, I must have an answer by the end of the day!”

Mie Liezi’s forceful personality was on full display as he said that. Feng Qiuran frowned. Her mind began thinking rapidly about the way to resolve this. Beside her, Sect Lord Xu stole a glance at Wang Baole. There was a considering look in his eyes. He was different from Feng Qiuran. He believed that Wang Baole wasn’t the sort of person who was ignorant of propriety. Someone who had worked his way up the Federation’s hierarchy, climbing from the position of an ordinary student to that of a noble at the Primary Rank Two and Secondary Rank Two, wasn’t going to commit such a juvenile mistake.

Reality didn’t deviate much from his expectations. Wang Baole was well supported for his actions. After hearing what Mie Liezi had said, he narrowed his eyes and raised his chin slightly. Then, he said coolly, “You care only for the results and not the cause? I’m fine with that...” Having said that, Wang Baole swiped across his storage bracelet. A purple identity token appeared in his hand. He activated his cultivation and sent his cultivation flowing into the identity token.

As soon as he did that, the token began to shine with a blinding purple light. The light shot upwards, into the sky, and flooded the air. The heavens transformed into a sea of purple light. As it spread outwards, the skies changed color and clouds rolled back. The ancient Hyacinthus Tree on the main island started to shake violently!

Everyone was shocked at the sight. A myriad of emotions flashed across Mie Liezi's and Feng Qiuran's faces. The changes summoned by Wang Baole's token didn't stop there. The Vast Expanse Dao Palace's array formation appeared that instant, a vast web made visible to the naked eye, spread across the sky and land, rumbling. It appeared to achieve resonance with Wang Baole's identity token!

The Hyacinthus Tree, the sect's array formation, everything that was happening drew all eyes to Wang Baole at that very instant. It was as if... with a single thought, he could seize control over the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's array formation. To a certain extent, Wang Baole had just seized the access rights belonging to Feng Qiuran and the other two elders and become the most powerful person in the sect!

Even the ancient greenish-bronze sword was affected. The seas of fire erupted around them, roaring and frightening every disciple. The heavens themselves seemed to be quivering. The presence that had descended upon them was incredible!

"This..."

"What is going on?"

On Holy Air Island and the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island, stunned shouts rose to the skies simultaneously. Numerous figures dashed out from the main island. These Nascent Soul realm cultivators had a disbelieving look on their faces as they raced towards the source of the purple light, Holy Air Island.

The expressions on Mie Liezi's and Feng Qiuran's faces were that of unprecedented shock and awe. Emotions threatened to pull them under. Their eyes could contain nothing else except... the purple identity token!

"An adopted... adopted disciple!" Mie Liezi trembled. He seemed to have fallen into a daze as he muttered to himself.

Chapter 617: Establishing Authority!

Mie Liezi trembled. As a Soul Conduit realm cultivator, it had been a long time since he had been so shaken. There was no way he could have expected this, that Wang Baole had attained the rank of an adopted disciple!

He had previously predicted the immense challenge Wang Baole was going to face just to attain the core disciple rank. However, Wang Baole had now attained the rank of an adopted disciple—two ranks higher than a core disciple and a rank secondary only to a Dao Disciple!

He still found the entire thing incredulous. As a disciple who had lived through the glorious days of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, he knew that a core disciple enjoyed an immensely elevated status in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. A personal disciple, who was ranked higher than a core disciple, was granted an even greater status. There had only ever been three to five personal disciples at any single time.

Adopted disciples... were the stuff of legends in the sect. Each held extreme power and authority. They weren't people he had the privilege to come into contact with. He remembered how he had been a

follower of a personal disciple and how they had prostrated themselves before an adopted disciple. They had been like ordinary people in the face of a cultivator!

His preconceptions were the cause of Mie Liezi's current shock. It was as if he had been struck by lightning. He stood there, dazed.

Feng Qiuran had a similar reaction. Compared to Mie Liezi, at least she had seen the purple identity token quite a few times. This was because one of the elders in her family clan had been an adopted disciple!

That had also contributed to her current state of shock. In fact, the extent of her surprise and shock far exceeded that of Mie Liezi. She almost gave in to instinct and extended a greeting to Wang Baole—one normally reserved for elders.

Even Wang Baole was shocked by what he had caused. He knew that an adopted disciple's rank was extremely high, but he was still recovering from his regret of not passing the final palace and obtaining a Dao Disciple's rank. He had pulled out the token only to have the final word on the dispute with Sun Hai.

He hadn't imagined that the mere appearance of the purple identity token would send the Hyacinthus Tree swaying and the array formation resonating with the token. Even the ancient greenish-bronze sword had shaken. From the looks on Mie Liezi's and Feng Qiuran's faces, they looked like they were about to fall to their knees and prostrate themselves before him.

Wang Baole sucked in a breath of cold air. He quickly calmed himself down. Then, he blinked, raised his token in the air, and said casually, "Elder Mie Liezi, I would like to know, is Sun Hai an inner sect disciple? Or a core disciple? Or perhaps even an outer sect disciple?"

Wang Baole's voice was calm. In the past, he didn't have sufficient authority. Now, with his position as an adopted disciple, there was authority and power behind every word he said!

Mie Liezi opened his mouth and tried to speak, but he had only bitterness in his mouth. There was nothing he could say to that. Feng Qiuran was the one who replied Wang Baole.

Feng Qiuran had barely recovered from her shock. She instinctively cupped her fists and saluted Wang Baole. Then, she said softly, "Sun Hai isn't considered a true disciple of the Dao Palace. He has not acquired a Dao Palace disciple's rank..."

"He hasn't?" Wang Baole nodded. An icy glint flickered in his eyes.

"If that's the case, it means he's just a mere random servant. To think that a mere servant would dare challenge me and try to use an adopted disciple's intrinsic sacred beast for refinement? That is what I call a revolt! That is what I call offending one's superiors! Elder Mie Liezi, what do you think? How should punishment be meted out?" Wang Baole said forcefully. He had both reason and authority on his side, and he had turned the tables on the other side with mere words. Everyone began to sweat.

This was the case especially for the Nascent Soul realm cultivators who had sensed something amiss and had rushed over. Surprise flashed across their faces when they heard what Wang Baole just said. When they looked at Wang Baole, it was with a different set of eyes.

This was all because... of the extreme prestige and elevated status of an adopted disciple!

Even Sun Hai, who had been saved by Mie Liezi, began to quake in his boots despite his being a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. An alarming sense of danger began to drive him mad with anxiety. He hadn't expected his moment of greed to cost him his physical body, or that he might be accused of committing a grave crime because of it.

How could he be an adopted disciple? Damn it, it's impossible!

Sun Hai trembled and cried for Mie Liezi's help. A myriad of emotions flashed across Mie Liezi's face. He was both shocked and bewildered. There was also slight hesitation on his part. Wang Baole's new status had sent him spiraling into confusion.

Even though Wang Baole was only at the Core Formation realm, the Vast Expanse Dao Palace placed great importance on one's status and rank. Mie Liezi knew very well whom it was who held the greater authority in this situation. It might be that the true Dao Palace had already perished, but the old elders still lived. They might be deep in slumber at the region of the sword tip, but they would one day awake from their sleep.

Caught in a confusing mix of feelings, Mie Liezi fell silent.

Wang Baole didn't rush him. He coughed, then walked towards the alchemical cauldron. The surrounding cultivators dared not stop his approach. They stepped back and allowed Wang Baole to make his way to the front of the cauldron. He raised and waved his right hand, and the cauldron split open in a deafening thunder, then exploded.

The donkey leaped out from the cauldron. It looked haggard and miserable, and a great portion of its fur was singed. Its spirit seemed drained as well. However, Wang Baole could sense that those were only superficial injuries and that it was going to be fine.

The donkey was clearly excited to see Wang Baole. It was about to start braying again when Wang Baole glared at it. It immediately drooped its head and looked sheepish. It nuzzled Wang Baole's leg as if it was trying to gain Wang Baole's favor.

How did I manage to rear such a glutton! Wang Baole was furious. He was an adopted disciple, the most good-looking man in the whole of the Federation. To think that he was being followed around by this glutton. The odd match they must make in other people's eyes. He was about to send a kick flying in the donkey's direction when Mie Liezi, having noticed the relatively unharmed donkey, spoke with his raspy voice.

"Wang..." He was stumped after saying the first word. He wasn't sure how he was to address Wang Baole. He froze, then decided not to think too much about this.

"Wang Baole, Sun Hai is indeed the one at fault here. I'll have him apologize to you right now." Having said that, Mie Liezi raised his right hand in a wave. Sun Hai's Nascent Soul flew out. Hovering in mid-air, he began to bow profusely at Wang Baole, his pleading eyes shining as he apologized repeatedly.

"Please be merciful, Elder Wang. Your humble disciple was unaware of your esteemed status. I beg your forgiveness for the offense that I have committed towards you..."

Mie Liezi felt slightly comfortable as he listened to Sun Hai's apologies. However, Wang Baole not only had rank on his side, but he also had reason. Getting Sun Hai to apologize was the only way to resolve the matter peaceably.

After a moment of silence, Feng Qiuran turned and looked at Wang Baole as well. She and Mie Liezi might be of separate factions, but Sun Hai was still a Nascent Soul of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Feng Qiuran would have her reservations if Wang Baole decided to punish Sun Hai.

Wang Baole knew what she was thinking. He also knew that it wasn't impossible for him to kill Sun Hai, though it would require some effort. It wasn't as simple as finding an opportunity to assassinate him secretly.

He wasn't going to just let him off the hook like that, though. After some thought, he said slowly, "My intrinsic sacred beast has suffered an immense and unjustified tragedy. This will cause it great..." Sun Hai immediately knew what Wang Baole was trying to do before the latter was even done speaking. He shouted hastily, "Elder Wang, this humble disciple is willing to compensate... fifty thousand battle credits!" Sun Hai's heart ached as he shouted out the figure. However, it was clear he wasn't going to get away with paying nothing.

Wang Baole rolled his eyes and continued speaking.

"...emotional harm, from all the fright it has experienced. It'll result in its failure to attain future breakthroughs in cultivation!"

Wang Baole cued the donkey secretly after saying that. The donkey blinked, then suddenly screamed and fell to the ground. Foam started to bubble around its lips, and its limbs twitched. The donkey looked like it might drop dead at any moment. It looked exactly like the performance it was.

Feng Qiuran smiled wryly, while Mie Liezi turned his head away. He couldn't be bothered with the sight. The Nascent Soul realm cultivators around them all had odd looks on their faces. Sun Hai was dumbfounded. His heart had progressed from a mere ache to a full-blown bleeding out. There was a moment of silence. Then, he clenched his teeth and said, "A hundred thousand credits. I'll compensate you a hundred thousand battle credits!"

As he said that, the donkey cried out and spat out a large mouthful of blood...

"A hundred and fifty thousand..." Sun Hai was on the verge of tears. His voice trembled. That was the entirety of his fortunes.

"A hundred and fifty thousand credits to be delivered within the next three days. Do take note, though... Sun Hai, I'm not pursuing this matter further because it's your first offense. But if you do this again..." Wang Baole left his sentence hanging. He leveled a meaningful look at Sun Hai, and murder flashed across his eyes. Then, he cupped his fists and saluted Feng Qiuran, put away his identity token, turned around, and left—leaving behind a group of silent cultivators with unfathomable looks in their eyes.

The donkey leaped into the air and hurried after Wang Baole. It was no longer throwing up blood. It trotted after Wang Baole and left with its master. Cries of joy punctuated the air now and then. The cultivators listened to the donkey's jubilant cries as they watched Wang Baole disappear into the distance. They shared a single thought.

In the near future, the Vast Expanse Dao Palace... might receive its fourth Grand Supreme Elder, one even if he were only be at the Core Formation realm!

Chapter 618: The Fourth Grand Supreme Elder!

That was indeed the case. News of Wang Baole's return as an adopted disciple began to spread, and it shocked everyone in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Those who had no idea what was going on at first went through the records and discovered the prestige that had been associated with the adopted disciple rank in the past.

This newfound identity meant Wang Baole could easily call the shots in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. After all, his rank had been bestowed upon him by the true Vast Expanse Dao Palace. His current cultivation was the only thing preventing him from seizing control of the Dao Palace at the moment.

In fact, it no longer mattered that he wasn't a native from the Dao Palace.

Wang Baole wasn't the only one who had shocked them all. There was also Zhao Yameng. Both Zhao Yameng and Kong Dao had returned as an inner sect disciple and an outer sect disciple respectively. Kong Dao's rank wasn't that great a shock, but Zhao Yameng's rank had inspired similar disbelief. If not for the mind-blowing news of Wang Baole's adopted disciple rank overshadowing Zhao Yameng's achievements, she would have been placed in the limelight.

The Federation... had finally, truly assimilated with the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. It would be almost impossible to separate the two entities now. After all, there was Wang Baole—irreplaceable and incomparable.

What the Vast Expanse Dao Palace had to decide now was the role and position Wang Baole was to be given. There were plenty of views on that matter. The ones suffering massive headaches over this were Mie Liezi and Feng Qiuran, as well as Daoist You Ran, who had just come out from his seclusion and had maintained mostly silence over the matter.

While Mie Liezi was nursing a headache, Feng Qiuran was still swimming in faint bewilderment. She didn't know what to do with Wang Baole. The three elders didn't comment on the matter at all, and the whole fiasco dragged on.

The three of them knew that they had to come up with something soon though, or there would be problems. An adopted disciple could influence both the Hyacinthus Tree and the sect's array formation. If this were the Vast Expanse Dao Palace of the past, not a single one of them would be qualified to become one of Wang Baole's followers.

The three elders fought against a growing headache while the remaining cultivators in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace continued debating heatedly over this matter. Wang Baole had returned to Green Fire Island and settled his affairs. He had issued a stern warning to the donkey before contacting Kong Dao and Zhao Yameng. The three of them gathered on the main island, prepared to exchange their loot for battle credits.

Their gains had been spectacular, which meant that everyone avoided them with a strange look on their faces when they approached the mission stone stele. As the exchange was initiated and they began to pull out item after item, the stone stele began to shake and give off a blinding light.

It wasn't a mere flash but a persistent bright light that shone unceasingly as the gang pulled out one item after another, as if their storage bags contained an endless stash of treasures!

The Dao Palace disciples around them were initially shocked, then gradually became stunned speechless. Finally, thirty minutes passed. Wang Baole and his friends finally left. It was then that an uproar erupted at the mission stone stele!

The commotion persisted for a long while, and the sounds of the commotion traveled far into the distance. Wang Baole and his friends were overcome with excitement as well. The battle credits they had earned reached almost a million credits. They had created a miracle!

They went their separate ways soon after. Wang Baole had contributed the most during the search, which was why both Kong Dao and Zhao Yameng had insisted on him having five hundred thousand battle credits. Kong Dao had claimed forty percent of the remaining four hundred thousand credits, leaving the remaining sixty percent to Zhao Yameng.

The distribution seemed reasonable. Kong Dao had thought it a fair allocation. He bade farewell to Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng, then left excitedly to exchange the credits for a Dharmic treasure. He intended to get his hands on the combat cloak with the ability to turn its wearer invisible.

Zhao Yameng had things she wanted to buy as well. She blushed as she eyed Wang Baole with a meaningful look, then left. Wang Baole himself rushed towards the Vast Expanse Techniques Chamber with his token containing the enormous wealth of battle credits he now had.

This time, I'm going to get Little Duanmu to call me daddy! Wang Baole thought proudly. As long as he had battle credits, he would be able to rule the world. He reached the Vast Expanse Techniques Chamber. With a wave of his hand, he exchanged for two hundred sets of cultivation techniques without batting a single eyelash, even though many of those cultivation techniques required more than a thousand battle credits!

He spent almost three hundred thousand battle credits on the cultivation techniques. He didn't care though, there were still a hundred and fifty thousand credits that Sun Hai was going to pay him today. Besides, he had been away for quite some time. He should have accumulated quite a bit of income from the game. He hadn't asked Xie Haiyang about it, but Wang Baole was confident that he was reaping massive profits.

He wasn't stressed by his expenditure at all. He took all two hundred cultivation techniques to the teleportation array formation and sent them back to the Federation in a single go. He could imagine the shock the Federation was experiencing at this moment, having just received two hundred cultivation techniques. He wondered if Duan Muque's jaw dropped to the floor. The thought pleased him immensely, causing his spirits to soar.

Little Duanmu, there's no way you can get out of admitting defeat. You shouldn't have tried such cheap tricks in the first place! Wang Baole patted his tummy proudly. He believed in being relentless. He had

sent more than three hundred cultivation techniques back to the Federation. Perhaps he should round the figure up and make it five hundred instead!

It's decided then!

With that thought in mind, Wang Baole ended the teleportation and happily returned to Green Fire Island. As he had expected, the Federation was indeed in an uproar over the two hundred sets of cultivation techniques that he had just sent over.

The commotion on Mercury and the sudden increase on the Federation Seedlings Contributions Ranking immediately incited heated discussions across the entire Federation. All manner of news articles were published and shared. The citizens of the Federation all began to talk about it. Duan Muque was at a loss for words. He had a strong gut feeling that his presidency... was going to be short-lived.

Many media agencies had begun to mention the promise that Duan Muque had made. This meant that anyone following the news knew that Wang Baole was going to be receiving a great promotion when he returned!

People all across the Federation began discussing this. The residents of Ethereal City participated as well. Wang Baole's parents had now established their circle of friends in the city, and they began following the news as well. The two older folks watched with racing hearts, unable to imagine their son becoming the Federation President.

This was their reality now. They had realized that from the security they were getting. They were clearly being guarded very tightly. Their new friends had all become increasingly friendlier to them as well...

As the Federation continued to be in an uproar, Wang Baole's life on the ancient sword had slowly calmed down. He began his cultivation again.

He had to stabilize his cultivation at the perfected Core Formation realm as well as make plans for his advancement to the Nascent Soul realm. There was also the matter of advancing to the second level of the Flame Snatch Thearch Armor inheritance. He also planned to master the final level of the Lightning Immortal Transformation.

His progress with the Flame Snatch Thearch Armor remained slow, but he saw better results with the Lightning Immortal Transformation. Regardless, progress with the latter had also slowed down. This was the final stage, after all. The power he would gain upon its mastery would be greater than the other techniques of the Lightning Immortal Transformation. In fact, it would be considered one of the most powerful techniques of the Lightning Immortal Transformation at the Core Formation realm.

Its name was the Lightning Immortal Point!

The heavens and earth would be transformed when the Lightning Immortal Point was unleashed! This fourth level of the Lightning Immortal Transformation emphasized gathering the power of lightning in one's body to form a powerful and lethal finger of lightning. It would contain the power to destroy everything in its path!

Wang Baole's first few attempts had allowed him to experience the incredible power contained within this Lightning Immortal Point. That motivated him to study and practice it more diligently.

Sun Hai had finally managed to gather a hundred and fifty thousand credits after some begging, stealing, and groveling. At the same time, Xie Haiyang had also transferred over two hundred thousand battle credits—earnings from the game—to him.

Wang Baole's wealth had just increased and now exceeded four hundred thousand battle credits. He might not be the richest man in the Dao Palace, but he definitely ranked in the top ten.

Wang Baole continued with his cultivation. During this period, the problem regarding his status was also resolved. Feng Qiuran finally proposed to provide Wang Baole the status of a Grand Supreme Elder—equal to the three elders. He would become the fourth Grand Supreme Elder in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. He would be able to form his own faction!

If it were any other occasion, Mie Liezi would have opposed the proposal vehemently. The position granted to Wang Baole had exceeded what he was prepared to accept. Now, however... in the face of such tremendous stress brought about by Wang Baole's rank as an adopted disciple, Mie Liezi could only grimace and accept what was being proposed. The reality was, that if this had been the Dao Palace of the past, Mie Liezi himself wouldn't even be qualified to become a follower of an adopted disciple...

Daoist You Ran seemed to have his own views regarding the matter, but he kept them to himself. Both Feng Qiuran and Mie Liezi had agreed to the proposal. It wouldn't be appropriate for him to comment further. He kept silent while an icy glint flickered in his eyes.

The three elders reached a consensus, and the announcement sent the entire Vast Expanse Dao Palace spiraling into a greater uproar!

There was no one in the sect who wasn't shocked by the news. Everyone knew that things were about to change in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

Chapter 619: The Hyacinthus Tree's Memories

The news regarding the fourth Grand Supreme Elder stirred the entire Dao Palace, and commotion continued to spread. Feng Qiuran announced that a ceremony would be held in three days' time, under the Hyacinthus Tree!

The news excited every Federation disciple in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Li Yi had fallen silent, sighed, and gotten herself under control. She might despise Wang Baole, but she couldn't deny the difference in capability separating the two of them. It had reached a point where she was no longer in the position to despise him.

She also understood one thing perfectly. After the ceremony, Wang Baole would be conferred the position of the fourth Grand Supreme Elder. He would naturally take on the position as leader of the Federation disciples!

Every Federation cultivator, including those who would join their ranks in the future, would all fall under Wang Baole's command. They would form the fourth faction in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace—the Federation faction!

The reality was indeed so. If Li Yi could guess it, many others could as well. During the next three days, Sect Lord Xu spent most of his time on Wang Baole's Green Fire Island. He had taken up the post of the main person in charge of running the island for Wang Baole.

He had readily accepted and acknowledged Wang Baole's superior role. His position as both the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's adopted disciple and Grand Supreme Elder ensured that the Federation President and the leaders of the other political forces would have to treat him with the utmost respect.

"Duan Muque's probably going to be shocked when he finds out about this..." the Sect Lord muttered to himself. He felt secretly pleased about that. Wang Baole might have inadvertently ruined his plans when they had been on the moon, but Duan Muque's meddling had been why his plans had been foiled.

That was why Sect Lord Xu quite looked forward to Duan Muque's impending misfortunes. He made sure he adjusted his behavior when in Wang Baole's presence as well, avoiding ever trying to pull rank or age on the latter. He was deferential to Wang Baole and helped the latter in receiving all guests who came to visit during the three days.

Wang Baole was both touched and grateful for his support. The thought of becoming a Grand Supreme Elder excited him. He shared the Sect Lord's thoughts. He wondered how the Federation would receive him when he returned as Grand Supreme Elder.

His spirits soared at the thought. He continued to see guests for the next three days. Three days later, the day of the ceremony finally arrived!

The entirety of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, comprising one million cultivators, gathered. It was impossible for the main island to accommodate all of them, so plenty of them hovered in mid-air around the island. All eyes gathered on the enormous Hyacinthus Tree!

There were only three people under the tree at the moment—Feng Qiuran, Daoist You Ran, and Mie Liezi. They stood solemnly under the tree, under everyone's gaze. Feng Qiuran took a deep breath and spoke slowly. Her voice was like thunder, booming with authority.

"Grand Supreme Elder Wang, please step forward!"

Feng Qiuran's voice rang in the air. Regardless of their feelings on the matter, the Nascent Soul realm cultivators surrounding them echoed her words in perfect synchrony and with deference.

"Grand Supreme Elder Wang, please step forward!"

A multitude of voices rose and fell, a majestic aural wave that surged outwards and spread across the heavens. Everyone's eyes turned towards the bottom of the main mountain peak and landed on the solitary figure standing there.

Wang Baole had white robes on. Sewn to the chest was the image of an ancient greenish-bronze sword. It looked surreal, flickering in and out of sight. His robes seemed to be imbued with a certain strange power. Dressed in those robes, Wang Baole looked like he was exuding a bright light that prevented everyone from looking directly at him.

These were the robes that only a Grand Supreme Elder was privileged to wear—the Grand Supreme Dao Robes!

The ceremony was divided into two parts. First, Wang Baole was to ascend the mountain with the entire sect as witness. He was to reach the core of the sect—under the Hyacinthus Tree. It was a spot reserved for the Grand Supreme Elders!

Then, he was to greet the Hyacinthus Tree!

Countless pairs of eyes stared at him. Wang Baole took a deep breath and ignored the array of emotions displayed in those eyes—envy, jealousy, confusion, and so on—and marched forward. He ascended through the skies, reached the top of the mountain with the tens of thousands of people watching, and arrived before the three Grand Supreme Elders. He straightened his back and looked at them.

They looked back at him, Mie Liezi with mixed feelings and a sense of powerlessness, Feng Qiuran with sincere joy, and Daoist You Ran with extreme calm. Daoist You Ran had his usual gentle smile on his face, and his eyes looked back at Wang Baole with encouragement.

Wang Baole couldn't help feeling slightly bothered by Daoist You Ran though. He didn't know where this feeling was coming from.

“Elder Wang, please extend your greetings to the Hyacinthus Tree. With the Hyacinthus Tree as your witness, you shall become the fourth Grand Supreme Elder of our Vast Expanse Dao Palace!” Feng Qiuran said softly, a serious look on her face.

Wang Baole nodded. He first turned and looked at the sea of Dao Palace disciples surrounding him. He could feel their eyes on him. Then, he turned back and stared at the enormous Hyacinthus Tree before him.

It was an ancient tree, and time had clearly left its mark on its thick and rough bark lined with numerous cracks. It was like an elder who had been around for a very, very long time, serving as both protector and witness for the Dao Palace.

Wang Baole stared at the Hyacinthus Tree and took a deep breath. He stepped forward towards the tree and, before the eyes of the Dao Palace disciples around him, cupped his fist and extended a deep bow towards the tree.

As soon as he extended his greeting, the Hyacinthus Tree suddenly swayed violently. The heavens and earth stirred. The air stilled while clouds came to a halt in the sky. The Vast Expanse Dao Palace's array formation appeared, and the surrounding Sea of Fire erupted. The whole world seemed to be shaking.

Shock flashed across everyone's faces. Those who had been reluctant to accept Wang Baole as their Grand Supreme Elder were all stunned. They stared at Wang Baole with shock and disbelief.

“He really achieved resonance with the Hyacinthus Tree!”

“He was able to affect the sect's array formation!”

“Everything that happened that day was real!”

This had happened when Wang Baole had first revealed his adopted disciple identity token. Not everyone had witnessed that scene though. That was why there hadn't been as great a reaction then. Now that everyone saw this with their own eyes, they were instantly flooded with a torrent of emotions.

The resonance he achieved with the Hyacinthus Tree seemed to be greater than the previous round. The three Grand Supreme Elders were standing the nearest to the tree and possessed the highest cultivation. They could sense that the most clearly.

As surprise flashed across their faces, Wang Baole trembled fiercely. He could sense a strange consciousness separating from the tree. It wormed into his storage bag swiftly and entered his adopted disciple identity token!

It seemed to be checking something. The consciousness soon left his identity token. The tree seemed to have ascertained Wang Baole's identity. It began to shake more fiercely. The same consciousness shot into Wang Baole's mind, forming images in his head!

Surprise flashed across Wang Baole's face. He saw in the images... Feng Qiuran—or perhaps, he should say that he saw the giant tree's memories, and in those memories, he saw a Feng Qiuran who had stood before the tree on a certain day in the past!

Feng Qiuran looked younger than she was now, and she had an infant in her arms!

She knelt before the Hyacinthus Tree with a look of bewilderment on her face, murmuring quietly to the tree!

Wang Baole's breathing quickened. There was something strange going on here. It was then that he caught what Feng Qiuran was muttering...

"Ancient Hyacinthus Tree, the Never-Ending Clan ambushed us during our journey. The elders were badly injured and went into deep slumber. The ancient sword deviated from its flight trajectory and entered a region called the Solar System. There is a civilization found in this galaxy called the Federation. Contact with shards of the ancient sword has initiated the age of cultivation in the Federation... I wish to guide them on the path of cultivation. Once they have grown stronger, they will be able to help and repay the Dao Palace... The Dao Palace will be able to assimilate fully into this galaxy and find new roots here. We will be able to prosper and thrive, plant new seeds of civilization!

"In addition, I suspect that there are still remnants of the Never-Ending Clan hidden amongst us in the Dao Palace. I will find them all!

"That is the reason why I do not dare... to leave this child with me. I wish to send him away with the visiting Federation cultivators, to the Federation. He shall grow up there.

"He is too important. I am the only person in the entire Dao Palace who knows his true identity. He is... the reincarnation of the previous Dao Disciple, Wu Chen. He shall regain his memories once he reaches the Soul Conduit realm. I dare not let him remain in the Dao Palace. I seek your permission to send him away!

"Please bear a single fruit as a show of your approval..."

Chapter 620: The Federation Lineage!

The images flashed clearly in Wang Baole's head. It was as if he had become the Hyacinthus Tree that instant and was witnessing the actual scene himself!

Waves of emotions surged inside Wang Baole as he listened to Feng Qiuran's words. His breath froze. He stared at the infant in Feng Qiuran's arms. He had only one name in his head—Wuchen!

The image blurred. Next, he saw a fruit ripen on the Hyacinthus Tree. It fell and landed before Feng Qiuran. Feng Qiuran picked the fruit up and placed it in the infant's mouth. It melted swiftly and disappeared quickly as the child sucked at it hungrily.

Feng Qiuran bowed again and finally left. The last image was of Feng Qiuran's retreating back. That too grew blurry. Wang Baole shook again, as if he had just awakened from a walk down the Hyacinthus Tree's memory lane. His eyes cleared. He was back, standing on the mountain peak, with a million Dao Palace cultivators watching him.

Wang Baole was silent for a long moment. He took a while to recover from his shock. He straightened his back, turned, and looked at the three Grand Supreme Elders. They looked as if nothing had happened.

Wang Baole came to a conclusion, that perhaps... he was the only one who had access to the Hyacinthus Tree's memories during the resonance he had achieved with it. This was because he was an adopted disciple, while the other three elders were only inner sect disciples. They couldn't achieve such a strong resonance with the Hyacinthus Tree. The likelihood of them seeing what he had seen earlier was low.

This meant that perhaps Feng Qiuran had really been the only person who knew the identity and whereabouts of this infant. Now, he knew as well.

Wang Baole had no idea how the Dao Disciple Wuchen had turned up in Feng Qiuran's hands or how Feng Qiuran had explained the infant's appearance. What he knew was when the previous Federation President Li Xingwen had left the ancient greenish-bronze sword, he had returned to the Federation with an infant in his arms.

Wang Baole silently decided to set the entire matter aside for the moment. He took a deep breath, then looked at the Dao Palace cultivators around him. They watched as he walked towards the three Grand Supreme Elders, cupped his fists, and extended a deep bow towards them.

"Greetings to the three Grand Supreme Elders!"

Feng Qiuran smiled. She returned the greetings. A reluctant Mie Liezi bowed back, while the mild-mannered Daoist You Ran cupped his fists and returned the greetings as well.

"Greetings to Grand Supreme Elder Wang Baole!"

They stood together on the mountain top, their greetings immortalized in that moment and seared into the memories of the surrounding disciples. The surrounding disciples saluted the next moment!

"Greetings to Grand Supreme Elder Wang Baole!"

Their voices boomed like thunder, rippling across the skies in an endless echo. The bells of the Dao Palace began to chime. The ceremony had come to an end.

Henceforth, the Vast Expanse Dao Palace was no longer divided into three factions. They had just received their fourth Grand Supreme Elder!

The Federation disciples were the loudest and most excited during their greetings. The four Grand Supreme Elders smiled and nodded at one another. Feng Qiuran then represented the sect and announced a series of changes and promotions!

Green Fire Island was to become Wang Baole's private island. A dozen other large islands near the Vast Expanse Dao Palace would also fall under his jurisdiction. A fourth palace for the fourth Grand Supreme Elder would also be constructed on the main island.

The palace would serve as a place for Wang Baole to carry out his daily cultivation. Its size and model would adhere to their sect's highest standards. The sect would also be responsible for acquiring all the materials needed for construction.

There was also the matter of tribute. He would receive the same deferential treatment as the other Grand Supreme Elders, as well as a vote in determining the sect's developmental strategies. He would be taking over the foreign relations between the Federation and the Vast Expanse Dao Palace as well.

There were other miscellaneous access rights granted too. Currently, at least in name, Wang Baole was one of the four sovereigns governing the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

This was something no one had expected. No one could have known that within a mere two years, Wang Baole would transform from an outsider to someone who held such power and authority in the sect.

In fact, should Wang Baole's cultivation breakthrough from the Nascent Soul realm to the Soul Conduit realm, he would have a chance of becoming the sect's sole authority!

Feng Qiuran completed her announcements, and the ceremony was coming to an end. Everyone watched as the four Grand Supreme Elders stood together. Feng Qiuran smiled and handed a jade slip to Wang Baole.

"Elder Wang, next is the conferment of new positions. You should announce them. If you have anything you want changed, you can delay the announcement first. We can discuss the changes after."

Wang Baole stared at Feng Qiuran. The Hyacinthus Tree's memories surfaced in his mind. He nodded, saluted her politely, then took the jade slip from her. After reading the contents, he lifted his head and stared at her, surprised.

Feng Qiuran smiled quietly while Mie Liezi remained expressionless. Daoist You Ran was his usual mild-mannered self. There was even encouragement in his eyes.

Wang Baole's eyes swept across the three elders before he turned and gazed at the disciples around him. After a bout of silence, he opened his mouth. His voice rang out, bright as it echoed in the air.

"Kong Dao, step forward!"

Kong Dao, who had been standing amongst his fellow Federation disciples, froze. He hurriedly dashed out into the air. He cupped his fists and saluted Wang Baole.

"Greetings to the Grand Supreme Elder!"

“I confer upon Kong Dao the position of acting elder. He shall be promoted immediately to the position of elder upon reaching the Nascent Soul realm!”

Kong Dao shook, then immediately voiced his thanks. He knew that only Nascent Soul realm cultivators could advance to become an elder in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Those who reached the Soul Conduit realm would then be promoted to Grand Supreme Elder.

The privileges awarded to an elder were vastly different than those enjoyed by a mere disciple. Even though he was only an acting elder, he too could enjoy most of the privileges an elder had. It wasn't exactly an accelerated progression, but it was still a key step forward for him.

“Zhao Yameng, step forward!” Wang Baole wasn't done yet. He called out another name after Kong Dao stepped back.

Zhao Yameng took a deep breath upon being called. She leapt into the sky and cupped her fists.

“I confer upon Zhao Yameng the position of elder in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!”

The surrounding disciples voiced their surprise quietly as Wang Baole's voice rang out. The elders of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace were all at the Nascent Soul realm. Zhao Yameng was only at the Core Formation realm. However, there were many who knew that Zhao Yameng had earned the rank of an inner sect disciple at the Worship Palace Pavilion. They understood why the sect was doing this.

The rank of an inner sect disciple was extremely high. It wouldn't be appropriate for someone holding that rank to remain as an ordinary disciple or even as an acting elder.

Zhao Yameng's breathing quickened. She lifted her head and stared at Wang Baole. Then, with a faint smile, she cupped her fists and expressed her thanks. She left, but Wang Baole wasn't done yet.

“From today, all Federation cultivators who have reached the perfected Foundation Establishment realm will be given three opportunities to enter the Core Realm Pavilion and seek any assistance provided within to reach a breakthrough to the Core Formation realm!”

“Sect Lord Xu, you previously submitted a request to enter the Nascent Art Chamber in order to reach a breakthrough in cultivation. Your request is approved!”

The series of announcements sent the entire Dao Palace spiraling into shock yet again. The Federation cultivators were overcome with excitement. This was an extremely generous gift that Feng Qiuran had given Wang Baole. She had given him the chance to make the announcements, and through that, the opportunity to show his authority and affirm his status!

The ceremony finally came to an end, and the crowd began to disperse. Afterward, the construction of the fourth hall commenced. Wang Baole was to return to Green Fire Island first while awaiting the completion of his palace. Sect Lord Xu would naturally be taking over all administrative matters.

Upon returning to Green Fire Island, Wang Baole went back to his cave abode. He began heaving. It was as if he had been holding something inside him back for too long. That something finally exploded as his breathing grew heavy, and thoughts started rushing through his head.

Li Wuchen... it must be him. To think that he's actually... the reincarnation of the Vast Expanse Dao Disciple! The revelation was too great a shock. Wang Baole still couldn't accept it. Part of it was because

of his experience in the Worship Palace Pavilion. He knew exactly how much power and authority a Dao Disciple had. A Dao Disciple held the world in his hand.

He simply couldn't accept it. He thought about all the hard work he had put in and the near-deaths he had escaped to become an adopted disciple. Li Wuchen, on the other hand, had been born a Dao Disciple... What made things worse was the conflict between the both of them. Wang Baole's head began to hurt at that thought.

Anyone with eyes can see that Li Wuchen isn't good-looking, forgiving, or open-minded like I am. He's petty and holds grudges. Who knows if he won't come looking for trouble once his memories return... Wang Baole fretted.