

Worth 81

Chapter 81: Hey, Student, Say Something!

The first match was over!

To Wang Baole, this battle was extremely easy. He only needed to step into the arena and immediately scored a point!

This match involved 2,000 people battling each other simultaneously in 1,000 battles. In other words, after this match, half of the people would gain a point, and the other half would not receive any points!

The difference between the winners and losers could clearly be seen through this first match!

In the second stage of the competition, it was based on cumulative points to a certain extent. Every victory added one point, while every loss carried no penalties. This way, if someone accumulated five points, meaning that they had won five matches, they would definitely gain a good position in the rankings.

After thinking about the rules of the second stage of the competition in his mind, Wang Baole swaggered off the arena. Under the attention and whispers of the onlooking students, he greeted everyone with a polite smile. When he returned to the cave abode, he opened a bag of snacks in satisfaction, munching on them as he browsed the Spirit Intranet to watch the competition of the others.

The Spirit Intranet was busy with activity right now. Students who were watching the different matches were discussing wildly. That was especially so for the contenders who were famous as they garnered the attention of many.

“Latest news! Wang Baole is victorious! His opponent was Wu Haisen from the Dharmic Armament faculty, who conceded defeat!

“Zhuo Yifan is victorious! He used less than thirty breaths and won head-on against the Traps faculty’s senior student Sun Yan!”

Seeing how news about himself had gained so much attention, Wang Baole was delighted. However, realizing that Zhuo Yifan had won, his eyebrows jumped.

This Zhuo Yifan has improved. Not only did he become one of the Head Prefects of the Combat faculty, he even obtained the first victory. However, he is still a far cry from me, Wang Baole thought as he twisted a bottle of Ice Spirit Water open and drank from it smugly. Suddenly, the hand he was using to hold the bottle of Ice Spirit Water paused, his face revealing a look of surprise as he stared at a new message posted just recently.

“Dark horse! Chen Ziheng was defeated by a lesser known senior student from the Alchemy faculty, Li Nan!”

“Gosh! Chen Ziheng is someone who competed with Zhuo Yifan for the position of Head Prefect! In less time than it takes to burn a stick of incense ¹, he was defeated by this Li Nan!”

“This was the match that I watched! Li Nan swallowed a mysterious pill, became extremely savage, and attacked Chen Ziheng head on!”

Discussion regarding the match involving Chen Ziheng was bountiful on the Spirit Intranet. Regrettably, in order to prevent the strategies of the elite students from being revealed in the second stage of the competition, the Dao College worked doubly hard to prevent recordings from being leaked. The moment a video was found, the culprit was punished immediately. Therefore, there was no footage available. Unless one watched the match in person, there was no way one could see the match process.

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes when he read the discussion. He knew that Chen Ziheng’s cultivation had already surpassed the Physical Seal stage, reaching the Pulse Enrichment stage. He was obviously no small fry, but he had still lost to the Alchemy faculty.

There are many elites here! I need to be alert! Wang Baole thought, as if he had gained a deep realization. After reading a few more posts, his attention was suddenly fixated on another post.

“Zhao Yameng, who went against Zheng Liang, the Vegetation Head Prefect in the Alchemy faculty, assembled a formation within three breaths and floated away! Zheng Liang bitterly concedes defeat!

Many people were discussing on the thread, but most people were focused on how they did not understand Zhao Yameng’s moves. However, there were students from the Array Formation faculty who explained that someone who could assemble a formation within three breaths had never been seen before in the whole Array Formation faculty!

This news quickly roused excitement within the Array Formation faculty and spread rapidly throughout the whole Spirit Intranet. After Wang Baole read the explanation from the Array Formation faculty students, he revealed a concerned gaze.

Zhao Yameng... Wang Baole set the bottle of Ice Spirit Water down. He was stressed out over the messages posted on the Spirit Intranet. In reality, other than the people hotly discussed, there were also other elite senior students who had suddenly appeared, and they were all strong contenders.

The next match will take place tomorrow, and there isn’t much time.

The outcome of the competition affected one’s ability to enter the mystic realm. No matter how confident Wang Baole was, he could not become complacent. After shutting off the Spirit Intranet, he began meditating to calm his mind so that he would be in tip-top condition.

A day passed just like that. Even when all the matches ended, the discussions within Ethereal Dao College and on the Spirit Intranet never ended and became even more prominent if anything.

Very quickly, the second day arrived. An hour before the match began, Wang Baole received the notification that the draws had begun. He opened his eyes and drew his lot.

The ninth fighting ring in the Array Formation faculty. Who could the lucky one challenging me be? Wang Baole laughed. After the draws ended, he planned his time, and after deciding to head to the ring early, he stepped out of his cave abode.

He quickly reached the peak of the mountain where the Array Formation faculty was located. This was the first time that Wang Baole had been in the Array Formation faculty. This place was different from

the Alchemy and Dharmic Armament faculty. There seemed to be an order to the whole faculty, from the architecture to the natural environment. Even the vegetation of the surroundings was not grown haphazardly and seemed to harbor an aura that Wang Baole could not describe.

Synergizing into one! After a few steps, Wang Baole took a deep breath, having found the phrase that could perfectly describe what he was feeling.

That was the aura given off by the entire Array Formation faculty. If someone not from the Array Formation faculty entered the premises, it was as if they would be severely rejected by the entire peak. It was an indescribable, pressurizing feeling.

That was especially so when he noticed that the surrounding rocks had residual Spirit Qi wafting around them. It seemed like many regions had already been influenced by the array formations but were being forcefully suppressed so that they would not erupt.

The people in this Array Formation faculty couldn't have the habit of forming arrays randomly, could they? Why does it feel like danger's lurking everywhere? If I were to meet someone from the Array Formation faculty in the future, I must be cautious. These guys are scheming, setting up traps everywhere... Wang Baole was cautious even when walking. Because of that, when he arrived at the ninth fighting ring, there was not much time left before the match began.

The moment he appeared, he immediately caught the attention of students looking on from the periphery of the fighting ring. They all looked toward him, and as they reeled in surprise, Wang Baole jumped directly onto the ring in a swift motion, his arms behind his back.

He had just steadied himself when whispers arose from the surroundings.

"So, Wang Baole is participating in this match!"

"This fella's opponent surrendered in the first match. This time, I wonder who will go against him!"

With discussion abound, Wang Baole reveled in the attention. He felt a myriad of emotions. Even though he kept a low profile, he felt that his dashing appearance inevitably caused commotion anywhere he went.

Therefore, he raised his hand to greet the spectators. However, very suddenly, an excited roar spread from afar, and as it reverberated, a figure emerged. It originally seemed to be at a distance, but it approached and rapidly arrived on the ring.

"Wang Baole, my opponent is you! Hah, the heavens are watching indeed, and this is the result of my destiny!" It was a long-haired youth, dressed in a student's Daoist robe. He was agitated and anticipating what was to come as he shouted excitedly once he stepped onto the ring.

Looking at this cheerful, enthusiastic youth, Wang Baole was confused for a moment, and doubts arose in his mind. He had little impression of the youth and began to speak hesitantly.

"Schoolmate... you are?"

"I am from the Dao Enlightenment faculty! Wang Baole, stand there and do not move. Let me gain Dao enlightenment for a few hours. Don't worry, victory is yours this round!" The youth could not hide his excitement in his words. Enthusiastically, he stepped forward toward Wang Baole.

His words surprised everyone. The spectators widened their eyes, and a loud boom sounded in their minds, causing them to take a uniform step backward, as if they were possessed!

“The Dao Enlightenment faculty!”

“Gosh! There was actually someone from the Dao Enlightenment faculty who made it to the top 2,000!”

Everyone was taken aback. Even Wang Baole was incredulous.

“They cannot be chased away!”

“Wang Baole, please grant me my wish!”

In his enthusiasm, the youth took a big step forward as he rushed toward Wang Baole.

How did this lunatic pass the preliminary screening? The match had not even begun, but that insane youth was charging right at him.

The teachers who were watching outside the ring stood up immediately, but when they attempted to stop what was to happen, the youth turned his head abruptly and snidely shouted, “Teachers, I am enlightening myself on the Dao!”

The moment he spoke, the teachers did not know whether to laugh or cry; all of them stopped in their tracks, giving up on their attempt to stop the youth.

The youth roared as he neared. His fearless attitude toward whatever was to come his way caused the spectators to look at each other in confusion.

We have a lunatic here! Wang Baole stared, and the instant that the youth approached, he kicked him directly.

Bang!

The powerful kick sent the lunatic from the Dao Enlightenment faculty falling heavily to the floor.

Upon impact, the facial expression of the youth from the Dao Enlightenment faculty changed. He lowered his head and looked at his belly, sitting on the floor without speaking a word, as if he was gaining Dao enlightenment.

Wang Baole saw what happened and momentarily felt immense fear. The spectators, including the teachers, had their eyes glued to the stage.

It couldn't be that he has really succeeded in enlightening himself on the Dao, could it? I only gave him a kick.

As Wang Baole contemplated whether or not to interrupt the youth's Dao enlightenment process, this youth from Dao Enlightenment faculty suddenly raised his head, laughing as he looked upwards. He no longer cared about people around him and turned about, jumping off the arena directly, running far away as he laughed manically.

Listening to his laughter and looking at his back, Wang Baole rushed to raise his hand and speak loudly.

“Schoolmate, have you succeeded in gaining enlightenment?”

However, the youth from the Dao Enlightenment faculty seemed oblivious to everything as he continued laughing hysterically, disappearing into the distance without turning his head.

Darn it, would it kill you to reply? So, did you succeed in gaining enlightenment or not? Wang Baole felt his frustration welling up. He could not understand why Ethereal Dao College needed a Dao Enlightenment faculty—it was obviously a faculty for the insane.

As he thought about the possibility and effects of the youth really gaining Dao enlightenment by virtue of his kick, Wang Baole instantly felt troubled. He slapped his forehead and looked disappointedly at the teachers who were refereeing.

“Teachers, the lunatic has left. What is the verdict of this match?”

The three teachers looked at Wang Baole with weird expressions on their faces. They turned to look at each other before announcing the result.

“Wang Baole is the winner!”

Chapter 82: Dharmic Artifacts Can Be Used in This Manner

“Darn it, why did it have to be someone from the Dao Enlightenment faculty?” After returning to the cave abode, Wang Baole did not feel the euphoria of winning the second match. He simply sat there, deeply troubled.

“That maniac! Did he actually succeed in Dao enlightenment?” Wang Baole was most concerned about that. He was extremely uneasy and quickly accessed the Spirit Intranet to search things up.

He did not even care about the outcome of the other matches. All his attention was on posts regarding the Dao Enlightenment faculty. He browsed for a long time, and it was only when there was no indication of anything untoward that he slightly relaxed.

However, he was still unsettled. After a brief moment, he clenched his teeth, his eyes revealing a gleam of determination.

I can't care much anymore. If he really succeeded, and people from the Dao Enlightenment faculty come and request that I hit them, then I shall fulfill their request! All I have to do is hit them, right?

Thinking that, Wang Baole was quite proud of the idea.

Therefore, he grabbed hold of the remaining time to meditate. Very quickly, the third day arrived, and he began his third match.

This time, the arena was located in the Traps faculty!

To a certain degree, the Traps faculty had similarities to the Dharmic Armament faculty. In areas concerning puppets, the Traps faculty could be considered to be more specialized compared to the Dharmic Armament faculty. In terms of the laying of traps, the lethality was increased if the Traps faculty and the Dharmic Armament faculty joined forces.

Fatso Forefathers, please bless me such that my future opponents will not be anyone from the Dao Enlightenment faculty! Wang Baole prayed silently in his heart as he made his way toward the arena. Even though having an opponent from the Dao Enlightenment faculty was almost like gaining victory automatically, the ramifications were difficult to determine, so he would rather not have the easy victory.

Perhaps his Fatso Forefathers heard his prayers, for he heaved a sigh of relief when he arrived at the arena in the Traps faculty, saw his opponent for the match, and heard the conversations by the spectators.

As long as it's not the lunatics from the Dao Enlightenment faculty, anything goes!

The third match was about to begin. The crowd's enthusiasm skyrocketed with every step that Wang Baole and his opponent took toward the arena.

"Wang Baole!"

"Li Nan!"

"It's the dark horse, Li Nan, who emerged victorious against Chen Ziheng!"

"This Li Nan has already won two consecutive matches. His last opponent was a senior student Head Prefect from the Array Formation faculty, whom he beat using his pills like the first time!"

"It is definitely going to be a close and fierce battle between him and Wang Baole!"

News of this match spread like wildfire as the spectators commented on the pairing. Wang Baole and Li Nan were both prominent characters who had won their previous two matches. Their battle was definitely a match to be anticipated.

Therefore, numerous other spectators gathered there, rushing from the fighting arenas of the other faculties.

On the arena, Li Nan, who had just arrived, did not even bother to look at Wang Baole. He simply sat down directly, crossed his legs, and began meditating with closed eyes. He looked extremely formidable, and Wang Baole, who had wanted to exchange greetings with him, was surprised.

"Is this his way of having an opening gambit?" Wang Baole muttered as he swept his gaze on Li Nan. He puffed up his chest, his hands behind his back.

Just like that, the pair, one sitting and one standing, began the match when the three teachers announced its commencement, with an ever-increasing number of spectators gathering in the background.

The very instant the match was announced to have begun, Li Nan opened his eyes, revealing a cold, powerful gaze. As he raised his right hand, a crimson red-colored pill appeared immediately in his palm. Without hesitation, Li Nan smashed the pill toward the area in front of Wang Baole!

With a loud bang, the pill exploded! As it transformed into a dissipating red fog, another pill appeared in Li Nan's left hand. He swallowed it in a single mouthful, causing his eyes to turn red. To begin with, he

was already in the Pulse Enrichment stage, but now that he had suddenly evolved, his mightiness went through the roof!

In that moment, his Blood Qi rose high, spreading out in all directions. Even illusory hurricanes were created from the impact of his Blood Qi, causing destruction everywhere.

All this happened even before the sound of the word "Start!" that marked the commencement of the match ended. These events took place continuously one after another, causing all the spectators to draw a deep breath. Even the three teachers were captivated by the sight.

"What an amazing move by Li Nan!"

"First, it was the poisonous pill, followed by a pill that improved his competency. I've heard that he made all his pills himself!"

With the praises from the spectators, Li Nan grinned as he headed straight toward Wang Baole with intense speed.

Wang Baole's pupils constricted immediately. The crimson red poisonous fog surrounding him made him cautious, and the imposing manner given off by Li Nan, who had just swallowed the pill, intensified his sense of alertness.

"Formidable! However, was that considered cheating?" Wang Baole could see that Li Nan, who had just swallowed the pill, showed a significant improvement in both speed and strength, making him swift and powerful. Therefore, in response, Wang Baole's gaze turned, and he returned with a loud roar as he rushed toward Li Nan rapidly, unleashing his speed.

Li Nan laughed coldly. Even though he was not a head prefect, his enhancing pills gave him an advantage. He felt that if he wanted to become the Head Prefect, it would be an easy feat. Right now, although he was determined to obtain the chance to enter the mystic realm, he also wanted to stand out.

Wang Baole, the Head Prefect of the Dharmic Armament faculty? Today, I will let you realize that with me around, you are nothing but a scum! Li Nan thought, laughing silently inside as he increased his speed, unleashing his full potential. He became even more imposing as his Blood Qi spread further, throwing every spectator off their feet.

Suddenly, as the pair approached each other, Li Nan let out a low growl.

"Wang Baole, you're destined to lose!"

As Li Nan spoke, his fist emerged, crushing a pill hidden in his palm. Immediately, copious amounts of green fog emerged from his fists, spreading like countless small snakes in an intimidating manner.

However, the moment he approached, Wang Baole raised his right hand as well. A golden glow spread from his palm like a protective shield.

"Shielding yourself with Dharmic artifacts? It is useless! Let me see how many times your Dharmic artifacts can withstand my attacks!" Li Nan laughed loudly, increasing his speed, but the moment they made contact with each other physically, that seemingly protective golden glow was thrown out by Wang Baole. He was not using the glow to protect himself but it to envelope Li Nan.

“This Dharmic artifact was made specially for you!” Wang Baole gloated. Immediately, the golden ray shining on Li Nan instantly turned into a big, golden bell. A loud boom was heard the moment it landed on the floor, trapping Li Nan within.

At the same time, Wang Baole did not pause. He quickly retrieved numerous beads that were giving off a golden glow and threw them over. With a deafening bang, numerous other restrictive layers were added to the Golden Bell Shield, enveloping Li Nan!

In those few moments, the Golden Bell Shield sitting on the arena was like a gigantic light bulb, shining brightly!

That scene caused all the spectators and teachers standing around to freeze. Their eyes widened in disbelief as they felt that something did not add up. As it turned out, it was Wang Baole who was too unpredictable.

To anyone, the moment they saw the protective golden glow, they naturally would have thought that it was used for self-protection. Few would have expected that this protective tool, when used by Wang Baole, was not for personal protection but was instead to be used on his opponent.

He had actually turned this protective Dharmic artifact into a containment Dharmic artifact, trapping Li Nan in it!

“There’s such a use as well!”

“What actually went through Wang Baole’s mind to use the Dharmic artifact this way?”

“Isn’t this despicable? I feel that even without the Dharmic artifact, Li Nan would not be an equal opponent to Wang Baole in the first place.”

As the spectators reveled in shock, Li Nan, who was trapped in the golden glow, recovered from his surprise and was extremely furious.

“Wang Baole, you’re so despicable! If you have the ability, fight me head on!” he growled with a low voice as he attacked the golden glow in all directions, attempting to destroy the protective shield. However, it was too thick, for Wang Baole had strengthened it to the point where there was no way that Li Nan could break through it within a short period of time.

Listening to Li Nan’s angry shouts, Wang Baole cleared his throat. He was proud of his wit and his ability to have thought of this solution. With his hands behind his back again, he began to speak righteously and seriously.

“I am from the Dharmic Armament faculty. Naturally, we are physically weak, and we do not advocate physical fights. We depend on Dharmic artifacts to gain victory. Didn’t you become formidable by consuming those pills? I don’t believe that they don’t have an effective time limit. I’ve trapped you in there, and I shall wait until the effects of your pills fade before I fight you!”

After Wang Baole finished speaking, he sat right down, retrieving a bag of snacks from his storage bracelet, and began munching on them as he looked at Li Nan.

The scene and his words caused the spectators’ facial expressions to change and reveal looks of disgust. They felt that it was acceptable if other students from the Dharmic Armament faculty said that they

were weak, but hearing those words from Wang Baole, they could not help but feel that Wang Baole was being too despicable.

“Him? Weak? He stayed in the Lava Chamber for three days, and even those from the Combat faculty were no match for him in terms of speed!”

“This fellow is so physically strong. Even the teachers from the Combat faculty have commented regrettably that Wang Baole entered the wrong faculty.”

“Is he actually snacking in the middle of a fight?”

The referees did not know whether to laugh or cry as well. They pitifully looked at Li Nan, who was uncontrollably attacking the golden glow that he was trapped in with no signs of stopping.

Li Nan was driven nuts. He cursed, but every time that he managed to destroy a golden glow, Wang Baole strengthened it with another layer with a wave of his hand, as if trying to convey the message that no matter how quickly Li Nan attacked the shield, he was no match for the number of Dharmic treasures that Wang Baole had.

That was especially so when Wang Baole noticed Li Nan unending attacks. He retrieved tens of beads, showing them to Li Nan, sending the message that all his attempts to escape were futile.

“Despicable!” Looking at those beads, blue veins emerged on Li Nan’s forehead, and his breathing hastened. He was exasperated as he felt the effects of his pills fading away and his body becoming weaker. He eventually broke out in cold sweat and, with no other choice, began speaking indignantly.

“I admit defeat!”

Chapter 83: Battle of the Ancient Martial Arts

Li Nan’s anger level was through the roof, but there was nothing he could do. Those enhancement pills could not be taken continuously, especially since they all came with side effects.

If the pills were used by people from the other faculties, they would definitely be mocked. Only students from the Alchemy faculty who were using pills that they had personally manufactured was acceptable.

Originally, he had planned to use this pill throughout the match to emerge in the top 1,000. In his previous two matches, he had also been ruthless and fierce in his moves, with the aim of exalting himself. He had thought everything through, planning to defeat Wang Baole and ride on that victory to shoot himself to fame.

He had also prepared himself for failure, but he had thought that any failure would come in the form of Wang Baole physically defeating him. This way, he could argue that Wang Baole had only won due to his physical prowess.

He was from the Alchemy faculty; therefore, his use of pills was considered legitimate. On the other hand, the Head Prefect of the Dharmic Armament faculty had relied on his fists instead of his Dharmic Armaments... This issue was tricky and difficult to resolve since no proper limits regarding it had been laid out for the tournament. Furthermore, if one were to engage in a life-and-death battle, there would

be no rules laid out either. However, playing to the gallery for a short period of time was effective and possible. It would be nothing but helpful for his own fame.

His plan was brilliant, but Wang Baole was the unpredictable one, creatively making use of the protective Dharmic artifacts to put up an elaborate and classical match representing the Dharmic Armament faculty!

Li Nan could only bitterly concede defeat. When the match has concluded, the Spirit Intranet of Ethereal Dao College was exploding with discussion about it, the number of posts far exceeding those regarding the other matches.

“Wang Baole was despicable! We from the Alchemy faculty express our indignation!”

“That’s right! It could be understood if he used his real abilities. Instead, he trapped our contender from the Alchemy faculty! What is that? Does he think he is from the Array Formation faculty?”

Many from the Alchemy faculty were quick to fault Wang Baole for not playing fair. Wang Baole’s tactic used in the match caused goosebumps in the students from the Alchemy faculty, paralyzing them in fear as he had provided the other faculties with an example of how to go against the Alchemy faculty.

On the other hand, the students from the Dharmic Armament were all exhilarated. They all argued against the comments from the Alchemy faculty, as the alternate use of the protective Dharmic artifact was seemingly simple, having been briefly suggested by others before. However, most people could only think of using it to protect themselves, for it was a deeply entrenched preconception. Therefore, to be able to change one’s mindset in the urgency of the match and use the Dharmic artifacts to their fullest potential was something that was easier said than done.

“Our Head Prefect was legitimate in his use of the Dharmic artifact in defeating the Alchemy faculty!”

“Who told you that a protective Dharmic artifact could only be used on oneself? Be glad that this was just a tournament organized by the Dao College, which allowed you to understand how useful and powerful it can be to use the Dharmic artifact in a different manner. If you met with a real life-and death battle, none of you would have time to complain!”

“How laughable! I’ve never heard of someone being insulted for his flexible use of Dharmic artifacts. The pills that the Alchemy faculty made yourselves were not able to land your faculty a victory, and you came here to create trouble by pushing the blame onto us, is that it?”

Seeing how the students from the Dharmic Armament faculty were standing up for him, Wang Baole was delighted. Rubbing his belly in his cave abode, he was heartened as he felt that he still had popularity among the masses.

The support that everyone has given is the most significant recognition to me, the Head Prefect!

In the midst of the increasingly heated discussion between the two sides, the fourth match of the tournament that could determine one’s admission into the mystic realm arrived!

In this match, Wang Baole’s arena was located in the Dao Enlightenment faculty!

When he appeared in the Dao Enlightenment faculty, it immediately caused a commotion. No one was interested in the other arenas within the Dao Enlightenment faculty—almost all the students from the

Dao Enlightenment faculty had gathered around the arena where Wang Baole would compete. They all sat down with their legs crossed and began gaining Dao enlightenment as they stared at Wang Baole.

Wang Baole feigned ignorance toward the unwanted attention given to him by the Dao Enlightenment faculty. Very quickly, his opponent for the match appeared.

That person was burly. His body was like a mountain, giving off an imposing vibe that transformed into a suppressive force. He seemed to bring his surroundings along with him, creating waves of pressure.

“I am Song Pinlong, the Head Prefect from the Strength Hall of the Combat faculty. Greetings!” the burly youth said in a low voice while cupping his fists after emotionlessly stepping onto the arena.

The moment he finished his sentence, the imposing aura he gave off seemed to instantly dissipate. However, the more it appeared this way, the more Song Pinlong seemed unpredictable. It was like the calm before the storm. Even when he looked toward Wang Baole, his gaze was as peaceful as a lake.

Wang Baole also became unusually serious. Suppressing his discomfort toward the Dao Enlightenment faculty, he could feel that Song Pinlong was not a simple character. His proficiency and cultivation at the Pulse Enrichment peak made him an opponent that surpassed all the people whom he had met in the tournament so far.

To a certain extent, even though Song Pinlong could not be compared to the elder leading the men in black whom he had met in the Pond Cloud Rainforest, he was far stronger than the men in black who were at peak Pulse Enrichment.

In other words, the peak Pulse Enrichment men in black in the Pond Cloud Rainforest mostly comprised of people of varying origins. As for Song Pinlong, the fact that he could become one of the Head Prefects of the Combat faculty meant that both his cultivation and potential had already reached the peak in the Dao College.

“Head Prefect of the Dharmic Armament, Wang Baole here! I look forward to learning from you!” Wang Baole took a deep breath and returned the greeting with cupped fists.

“I have long heard that Head Prefect Wang Baole has formidable Dharmic artifacts as well as an astounding fighting capability. Today, I would like to challenge Schoolmate Wang’s fighting prowess and was wondering if you could spare the use of Dharmic artifacts. Let’s have a battle of flesh and blood!” The moment Song Pinlong finished his sentence, it was as if his entire body had been transformed into a heavy sword that was removed from its sheath. His gaze became sharp, and he stepped forward.

It was a series of seven steps, each wider than the previous one. The ground shook as he moved, and the students from the Dao Enlightenment faculty who were watching all held their breath as their minds reverberated from shock.

Song Pinlong’s imposing manner increased with every step he took. On his last step, his Blood Qi soared. Physically, he looked the same, but it felt like he had transformed into a giant. Like a tsunami, he suddenly directed a punch toward Wang Baole.

“Tsunami Punch!”

An illusion of a vast ocean immediately appeared behind him. It was almost like his punch harnessed the power of the ocean, shaking the heaven and earth. The teachers standing around were all momentarily taken aback.

At that moment, Wang Baole's gaze sharpened. His desire to fight was piqued since the previous three matches could not even be considered a warm up to him. He did not flinch a single bit, nor did he use any Dharmic artifacts. Rather, he began moving, taking a big step forward.

"Sure!" As he spoke, he raised his right fist, throwing a punch just like Song Pinlong at the exact moment he approached!

Song Pinlong was more focused than ever. His power increased by a third, and he put in his best effort. The two fists connected with each other, the loud bang reverberating as the ground under them cracked. Rock and debris flew in all directions. Song Pinlong's facial expression changed instantly as he felt a formidable force rushing toward and enveloping him. In the intense vibrations, he was forced to retreat several steps. When he raised his head to look at Wang Baole, his gaze was one of surprise.

"You're strong!" That was the only thought in his mind.

Wang Baole also moved behind uncontrollably, but he stopped after just a few steps. As his eyes met Song Pinlong's, his lips curled into a smile, his desire for combat intensifying as he leaped with unbelievable speed and retaliated.

Song Pinlong laughed with his head held high. Not only did he not retreat, his desire to fight was awakened as well, gushing out of his heart. In that moment, the pair was in battle again. As the sound of impacts spread, the both of them exchanged more than a hundred punches in just over ten breaths!

Even if they were pushed back, they immediately rushed forward again. It was as if a match between two individuals from the Combat faculty was unraveling in that very arena!

The spectators were tense beyond words at what they saw. Other than students from the Dao Enlightenment faculty, there were also spectators comprising of students from the other faculties. They all stared, flabbergasted. Even though there had been news that Wang Baole's combat capabilities were high, they were not from the Dharmic Armament faculty after all and did not have a good understanding. As they watched Wang Baole's moves, all of them were deeply shaken.

"This Wang Baole... is truly capable!"

"Depending purely on his fighting capabilities, he can actually effectively suppress the Combat faculty, even without using his Dharma treasures!"

"This... Is he from the Combat faculty or the Dharmic Armament faculty?"

At this moment, Song Pinlong, the Head Prefect of the Strength Hall of the Combat faculty, was obviously losing under the continuous attacks from Wang Baole. Crimson blood was flowing from the corner of his mouth while Wang Baole remained unscathed.

As the spectators watched, frozen, Song Pinlong charged as he increased his speed. He appeared to have recognized that he had insufficient strength; therefore, he activated his mystic technique as he increased his speed in order to boost his power. He even began raised his hand to strike his entire body

so that his speed could increase more. With his reddened body, he charged toward Wang Baole with a low growl.

From afar, it appears as if a red eagle was swooping down on its prey.

“Speed?” Wang Baole’s gaze flashed momentarily. His cultivation was increased relying on the Great Void Qi Devouring Art through the absorption of spirit fat. He had long recognized that using this method to cultivate himself allowed him to physically surpass peers at his realm.

Now, he had not activated the devouring seed, nor did he begin his take down of his opponent. Since his opponent had requested to compete purely based on their physical abilities, Wang Baole was also interested in seeing his capabilities and his level of Pulse Enrichment!

He took a deep breath, causing his speed to increase. He instantly charged forward, but this time, he did not use his fists, instead leaping the moment his speed peaked, kicking Song Pinlong directly!

A boom louder than those heard previously erupted. Blood spurted out of Song Pinlong’s mouth as his body was thrown back. This time, he landed outside the arena, stopping tens of feet outside the boundary. He was pale as he vomited another mouthful of blood. However, his eyes were shining bright, and he acknowledged Wang Baole, who was standing on the arena, with cupped fists again.

“You rightfully deserve your fame! I am convinced. Wang Baole, when I attain my True Breath, I will definitely fight you again!” After finishing his sentence, Song Pinlong turned to leave.

On the arena, Wang Baole looked at Song Pinlong’s back. He felt great respect toward Song Pinlong as he could see that Song Pinlong was someone who someone dedicated to martial arts.

My opponents are becoming more and more powerful. I wonder who I’ll meet in the final match! Wang Baole finally relaxed as he turned around to leave the Dao Enlightenment faculty as well.

Chapter 84: Assembling Spirit into Arrays

After the match was concluded, the scores of the various contenders were updated on the Spirit Intranet. There had been over a hundred people who had managed to emerge victorious in the four matches so far.

Each of these hundred contestants received great attention. However, since they had never battled against each other before, it was difficult to distinguish who was superior. This was actually a deliberate arrangement by the Dao College, as the goal of the tournament was not to let one single person emerge champion but to see who was within the top thousand.

Even though that was the intention, students from the Dao College were still analyzing the results of the contenders by faculty. They eventually produced a ranking and estimated the fighting capabilities of everyone on the list.

The name sitting at the top of the list was not a senior student, nor was it Wang Baole. It was Zhao Yameng!

Her moves were too unpredictable. From the start to end, she only needed single a wave of her hand to create an array formation in seconds. Regardless of who went against her, they were unable to escape her clutches. She did not even need to use a second attack as her opponents were trapped in the array formation, eventually conceding defeat when they could no longer withstand the suppressive force.

None of her opponents were weaklings. These contenders who had made it to the fourth round, even if they were Head Prefects from the same faculty, were defeated within three breaths!

As a result, Zhao Yameng's fame rose exponentially. Some even said that she was the top performer among everyone of Ethereal Dao College in these recent years!

Other than Zhao Yameng, Zhuo Yifan and several elite senior students also won all four matches consecutively, but their fame was nothing compared to Zhao Yameng's.

Even though Wang Baole had won four consecutive matches as well, he had not gotten serious in the previous three matches. Therefore, his ranking was not high, trailing behind Zhuo Yifan and several others. However, with his recent victory in the fourth match, his ranking was raised by numerous students.

"Winning five out of five matches would be an easy feat for these people!"

"In the final match to come, the main focus will be to see who out of these hundred will go against each other!"

"That's right! It is only considered a true battle if they go against each other! Even if they lose, they will still receive a ranking. It is just that no one would willingly lose!"

With everyone's anticipating the battles to come, the final match that determined one's ranking and ability to enter the mystic realm finally arrived!

The arena of Wang Baole's fifth match was arena Number One, located within the Combat faculty!

Wang Baole was in his peak state. When he arrived and appeared at the arena, the student spectators all had their eyes fixed on him.

They watched as Wang Baole neared the arena step by step. When he finally put his foot on the arena, there were still no whispers or discussion from the spectators. However, suddenly, expressions of shock and surprise spread from afar.

"Gosh! Wang Baole's opponent..."

"It's..."

"Zhao Yameng!"

As the commotion rippled through the crowd, the beautiful Zhao Yameng, dressed in her Head Prefect Daoist robe, slowly approached from the opposite direction with the company of many other students. When she noticed Wang Baole standing on the arena, the calm and elegant Zhao Yameng let out a curious gaze.

Noticing Zhao Yameng, Wang Baole momentarily gasped.

It's her!

He had been guessing who he would meet on the arena on his journey there, but he had never thought that he would actually meet Zhao Yameng! In reality, the person that Wang Baole was dreading meeting most was Zhao Yameng.

Wang Baole had never seen Zhao Yameng's array formation abilities in person, but based on the description by people on the Spirit Intranet, he got a sense of how bizarre and frightening it could be.

"I'm either the unlucky one, or she's the unfortunate one," Wang Baole mumbled to himself. The pair looked directly at each other as Zhao Yameng finally stepped onto the arena.

Before they could even speak, the excitement of the spectators went out of control, spreading in all directions. Immediately, on the Spirit Intranet, numerous pieces of news of the match was spreading like wildfire.

After all, Zhao Yameng's fame had skyrocketed after her four previous battles, catching the attention of many. Wang Baole was also immensely famous as well. Therefore, their meeting generated great excitement among the masses.

"The match between Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng is probably the most exciting out of all the matches in this tournament!"

"Wang Baole specializes in using Dharmic artifacts, and his physical body could withstand attacks from a Head Prefect of the Combat faculty. Zhao Yameng, on the other hand, is mysterious and unpredictable, and she did not need to use a second attack in order to win in any of her previous four matches!"

"Does anyone want to bet who will win? My bet is on Wang Baole!"

"Ha, my bet goes to Zhao Yameng, my goddess!"

As the entire Dao College got riled up, people who had won four matches consecutively, such as Zhuo Yifan, also began to hear news of the matter. Some of them had already met their opponents while those who had not all heaved a sigh of relief.

Similar to Wang Baole, the other contenders also did not wish to meet Zhao Yameng. However, Wang Baole was another individual that they were very reluctant to meet in the arena.

"It's great that these two monsters are going against each other!"

"Haha, it seems like I can win five out of five matches!"

"I hope that this match can be over quickly so that I can go over to watch their battle for myself!"

Even the teachers of Dao College, as well as the Deans and the Chancellor, all headed toward the arena located within the Combat faculty. They seemed to want to watch the match in person so as to ensure that no unexpected situations occurred.

As the number of spectators grew, the teachers presiding over the match also felt rising stress. Looking at the two individuals, who were looking at each other silently, they finally announced the commencement of the battle in a low, serious voice!

With the announcement, everyone quietened down immediately, focusing all their attention on the pair.

Noticing that Zhao Yameng, ever since stepping into the arena, had been looking at him peacefully, without blinking even once, Wang Baole cleared his throat and began speaking. "Hey, Zhao Yameng, we're both from the same batch, and we already have a place on the rankings. Furthermore, I am so good looking. What do you think? Let's just take this match easy. I'll treat you to a meal next time."

These shameless words caused some to burst out in laughter when it was heard by the spectators watching from the sidelines. Some looked at Wang Baole with derision. This unexpected move by Wang Baole made the teachers inevitably puzzled as well.

"Wang Baole, I can feel that you're powerful... very powerful!" Zhao Yameng ignored Wang Baole's words. She looked serious as she gazed at Wang Baole and spoke softly.

"Will you battle me with all your might?" Zhao Yameng's voice was sweet and pleasant, reverberating around the arena.

Wang Baole looked closely at Zhao Yameng and sensed her determination. He thought for a moment and became serious. Wang Baole was usually a facetious person, but he knew that when some people were determined, they should be respected. People like that included the combat fanatic from the Combat faculty in the previous match and this straightforward Zhao Yameng standing in front of him right now.

Actually, Wang Baole felt that Zhao Yameng was obviously weak and no match for him physically. However, his intuition told him that Zhao Yameng was someone extremely dangerous.

This sense of danger was similar to what he had felt when he met the elder leading the men in black.

A spirit body by birth... Wang Baole thought about back to the time when this woman arrived in the Dao College. She had generated much fanfare and discussion on the Spirit Intranet. A desire to battle slowly developed within Wang Baole, and he nodded in agreement.

"Please guide me!" Zhao Yameng broke into a grin as she slowly raised her right hand, pointing a finger directly at Wang Baole. With her action, the Spirit Qi lingering in the surroundings gathered, forming an invisible vortex.

Wang Baole's expression changed. He did not hesitate and immediately rushed forward, not in a straight line, but in a curved path toward Zhao Yameng. However, it was still too late. Zhao Yameng let out a curious gaze, raising her slender fingers on her right hand, as she grabbed tightly in that very instant.

With her grasp, a loud boom arose from nowhere. That invisible vortex made of Spirit Qi was instantly transformed into an array formation through some mysterious means by Zhao Yameng. Out of thin air, an array formation trapped Wang Baole from within!

At that moment, the Spirit Qi surrounding Wang Baole exploded into an invisible hurricane, sweeping in all directions, forcing Wang Baole to stop, both in his track and in his breathing. When he looked at the surroundings, all he could see was a fog, and the outside world was no longer visible.

It's no wonder that her opponents from her previous four matches were defeated. She could actually gather the Spirit Qi into an array formation. That's a sick move!

The other students could not figure out Zhao Yameng's moves, but since Wang Baole was trained in the Great Void Qi Devouring Art, he was highly sensitive to Spirit Qi, which allowed him to see through her act.

Right now, with his eyes shimmering, Wang Baole quickly found an area where the Spirit Qi was weaker based on his confidence in his sensitivity toward the Spirit Qi.

Five areas! After recognizing the areas that were weaker in Spirit Qi that were being reinforced at a rapid speed, Wang Baole rushed to throw a punch. At the same time, several Dharmic artifacts were flung out of his storage bracelet, landing all around him.

As the loud boom reverberated, every onlooking student was flabbergasted as they watched the match outside the array formation made of Spirit Qi.

"It's that move again!"

"In the previous four match, Zhao Yameng trapped her opponents by waving her hand to summon the array formations!"

"Zhao Yameng is so strong that even Wang Baole is trapped by the array formation!"

As the students discussed among themselves, the Chancellor and other teachers, especially the Dean of the Array Formation faculty, all turned to look at Zhao Yameng in amazement.

"Zhao Yameng was born with a spirit body, giving her the extraordinary ability to surpass others through her knowledge of array formation. If she is further groomed, she will definitely become the elite of the Federation in the future! As for Wang Baole, he is another prominent figure as well, but he just does not compare to Zhao Yameng!"

When the Array Formation Dean finished his sentence, Goatee from the Dharmic Armament faculty, who was standing nearby, grunted in a low voice.

"It was just a rough start. Once the Dharmic Armament faculty is prepared, your array formations will be useless!"

The two showed no sign of backing down. Now that their most cherished students were in battle, an argument immediately emerged.

The Chancellor, who was standing and watching by the sidelines, noticed Wang Baole's moves and was filled with anticipation.

To be able to see where the Spirit Qi is weak in such a short period of time shows that Wang Baole's sensitivity toward Spirit Qi is high as well!

On the arena, Zhao Yameng was shocked that Wang Baole was so sensitive and quick at noticing. Weak areas of the array formation were shut dead by Wang Baole even before they were completed successfully, and they were being transformed into an ever-present loophole.

Zhao Yameng's eyes lit up as she raised her right hand, pointing directly at Wang Baole. That was the first time, in the entire tournament, that she had made a second move!

Chapter 85: Intense Match!

At almost the same moment that Zhao Yameng made her move, the Spirit Qi array formation surrounding Wang Baole immediately began to waver. As the array formation moved, the five weak spots that Wang Baole initially identified started to become blurry and slowly disappeared.

As the array formation spun, the Spirit Qi was being carried along, creating a suppressive force in all corners. The suppressive force grew increasingly stronger as it spun around, directly arriving in waves toward Wang Baole.

Wang Baole frowned as he raised his right hand and flung his sleeve, instantly retrieving a jade pendant. Spirit forces blended into the jade pendant, causing it to give off a purplish glow that morphed into a small purple dragon. As the dragon made a silent growl, the suppressive force lingering in all corners began to be suppressed.

Since it's a challenge to break out of this from within... I shall use its own force against it! Wang Baole narrowed his eyes, and a Rainbow Spirit Stone appeared immediately when he raised his right hand.

With his head lowered, he ignored the suppressive force spreading from the array formation and began writing inscriptions on the Spirit Stone. His actions bewildered the spectators, and they all gawked in surprise.

"Wang Baole is... carving inscriptions?"

"What does this mean? Could it be that he intends to make Dharmic artifacts? The most he can create should be Spirit Kernels. Can Spirit Kernels break the array formation?"

As the students discussed back and forth, the Chancellor and the other faculty members were impressed. Goatee was especially glad, his eyes brightening up and his mouth curling into a smile. The Dean from the Array Formation faculty, on the other hand, furrowed his eyebrows with concern.

Noticing the scene before her eyes, Zhao Yameng immediately reacted, her hands waving as she deployed more array formations. That was her third move, but at that instant, very suddenly, Wang Baole, who was trapped within the array formation, abruptly raised his head. The Rainbow Spirit Stone in his hands was now covered in a large number of inscriptions. In a short time, he had already carved over three thousand inscriptions.

Those inscriptions had not been randomly carved. Every single one of them was related to the gathering of Spirit Qi. More accurately, it could be considered a simple Spirit Kernel made by Wang Baole.

This Spirit Kernel could not really create any Dharmic artifacts. Its only use was to gather all the Spirit Qi in the surroundings. Furthermore, since there were over three thousand inscriptions overlapping with each other, the accumulation of Spirit Qi had reached the maximum, and the Spirit Kernel would implode after just one use.

However, to Wang Baole, once was sufficient!

“Activate!” Wang Baole roared in his low voice. Without a hint of hesitation, he pressed the Spirit Stone in his hand directly on the floor. Regardless of the consequences, even if the stone broke apart, he wanted to drive it to release all its suppressed Spirit Qi, using the agitation inscriptions on the stone to spread the Spirit Qi as far as possible!

Momentarily, a glaring rainbow-colored beam emerged from the Spirit Stone. The inscriptions on the stone were also glowing, transforming into an intense suction force that emanated in all directions with a loud boom, directly passing through the array formation and into the outside world.

Immediately, the entire arena seemed to have transformed into a gigantic vortex, absorbing all the Spirit Qi surrounding the Combat faculty peak!

Accompanying the vortex were tremendous tremors. Spirit Qi from all directions was rushing in turbulently, directly into the vortex created on the arena. Even though Wang Baole was within the vortex, there was also the Spirit Qi array formation present!

The array formation surrounding Wang Baole was, to a certain degree, a protective shield blocking the force of the roiling Spirit Qi. It was like the fragile breakwater taking the impact of the crashing waves. No matter how strong and sturdy it was, it could not withstand the powerful waves.

It was only then that the spectators understood what was going on, and they gasped in response.

“Wang Baole has managed to break out!”

“His method of breaking free was actually to create an inscription-filled Spirit Kernel that could gather all the Spirit Qi so as to harness its energy to blow the array formation apart!”

“How ingenious! How did he think of that?”

The Chancellor was also impressed, and his praise for Wang Baole revealed itself in his eyes. Goatee laughed heartily while the Dean of the Array Formation faculty had a nasty expression.

In reality, Wang Baole had managed to think of this solution precisely because of his devouring seed. If he did not want to reveal the absorption abilities of his devouring seed, he would not have needed to go through such trouble in order to handle the array formation.

This series of changes appeared slow, but in reality, the total time it took from the moment Wang Baole pressed the Spirit Stone to the instant the Spirit Qi exploded like crashing waves was incredibly short. The facial expression of Zhao Yameng, who was standing on the arena, changed completely. It was too late for her to prevent it and reverse the situation. Her breathing was rapid, and she stepped backward.

The moment that she backed up, a rapturous roar immediately erupted. The Spirit Qi in the surroundings, akin to the turbulent ocean, destroyed the resistance created by the array formation with the intense force it carried. As the array formation surrounding Wang Baole broke down layer by layer, it could no longer withstand the force and was instantly destroyed!

At that very moment, Wang Baole emerged!

Behind him, as the Spirit Qi was no longer suppressed, it was directly absorbed into the Rainbow Spirit Stone. The Spirit Stone had a strong absorptive force, but it could not withstand the forces for too long. After all, it only had an absorption function. Thus, it eventually imploded!

With a loud boom, the ground of the arena cracked into a million pieces. Wang Baole activated all his defenses around him, and riding on the driving force emerging from the Rainbow Spirit Stone, his speed doubled. Like a streak of lightning, he rapidly approached Zhao Yameng and threw a powerful punch at her with his right fist.

This speed of this retaliation, coupled with the impact of the breaking array formation, significantly exceeded what the students thought was possible!

Zhao Yameng was immensely shocked. As her body flew backward, she began forming seals with her hand. Instantly, layers of array formation appeared in front of her, blocking Wang Baole's punch.

Bang!

Zhao Yameng turned pale. With the array formation blocking the forces, she moved back immediately, successfully avoiding the surprise punch thrown by Wang Baole after he broke free. However, Wang Baole had rich experience in combat. The moment Zhao Yameng ducked, the small purple dragon beside him roared, charging toward Zhao Yameng.

At the same time, Wang Baole's storage bracelet flashed and dozens of flying swords emerged, shooting straight for Zhao Yameng.

The flying swords were fast and especially sharp, breaking through the air and generating sharp sounds as they flew!

Zhao Yameng's breathing was rapid. She did not care much about the flying swords. However, the appearance of the small purple dragon made her feel threatened. Immediately, she extended her interlocked hands, drawing in the surrounding Spirit Qi and gathering them. The Spirit Qi morphed into an invisible, gigantic hand that slammed right at the small purple dragon.

As the noise reverberated, the small purple dragon dissipated, together with the flying swords!

However, at that instant, Wang Baole's eyes shimmered. He raised his right hand and pointed at the flying swords that had been sent scattering in all directions. The swords immediately trembled, as if they were once again under Wang Baole's control. They stopped in their trajectories before turning right around and flying directly toward Zhao Yameng!

All this made Zhao Yameng freeze in shock, and her expression dropped. The spectators—including the teachers, Deans, and the Chancellor—were all captivated in surprise and gasped in silence.

"Sword Kinesis! He's actually controlling them by Sword Kinesis!"

"How could that be possible? In the Ancient Martial realm, the most that can be accomplished is the control of a single flying sword. It is definitely impossible to control dozens of swords!"

As the spectators reeled in shock, Zhao Yameng experienced a strong threat of possible death. She had made a bad call. The flying swords, which she had thought were of little harm, turned out to be the biggest crisis. The fact that Wang Baole could so deftly control the flying swords was out of her expectations.

Even when an expert in the Ancient Martial realm controlled a single flying sword, they could not flexibly influence its direction. In the case of dozens of swords, the most that could usually be accomplished was sending them flying in a straight line after agitating them.

At this critical juncture, the Chancellor and other prominent figures stepped forward, attempting to stop the battle. However, at that moment, a blue glow appeared in Zhao Yameng's two eyes like a gem. An eerie vibe spread from within, causing Wang Baole to be taken by shock.

In that instant, the invisible Spirit Qi wafting around became extremely turbulent. With Zhao Yameng as the focal point, it became a hurricane rising toward the sky. As the flying swords were sent flying in all directions once again, Zhao Yameng emerged. With the augmentation of the hurricane, she approached Wang Baole at top speed.

Using her hand seals, the Spirit Qi hurricane transformed into several array formations again in an imposing manner.

Wang Baole's breathing froze. Regardless of whether it was the hurricane or the array formation, the surrounding students were unable to see them. Even if they felt it, it was not distinct. However, to Wang Baole, it was as clear as glass. Even though he could not visually see it, based on his sensitivity toward Spirit Qi, he had already visualized the exact scene in his mind.

In that mental image, Zhao Yameng's Spirit Qi hurricane was rampaging. A huge number of array formations were forming, charging toward him as Zhao Yameng approached.

The blue glow reflecting off Zhao Yameng's eyes was immensely frightening, as if she had lost her sense of self, giving off a scary vibe that far exceeded what she had previously given off.

In this urgent crisis, Wang Baole gave off a sharp air of determination. Originally, he had not intended to use the devouring seed for uses other than life-and-death battles, but this time, it seemed necessary!

Just as Wang Baole prepared to make his move, the Chancellor appeared, raising his right hand and pressing hard to summon a suppressive force far stronger than what Zhao Yameng had created. It directly fixed Zhao Yameng and Wang Baole in their positions!

"Alright, that's the end of this match."

At this moment, the Dean of the Array Formation faculty and Goatee approached quickly. They each held onto the Head Prefect from their faculty, pulling them apart.

As they moved backward, the Chancellor raised his right hand again to retract the suppressive force. The blue glow in Zhao Yameng's eyes disappeared, and she immediately fell unconscious.

Wang Baole broke out in cold sweat as well. He felt intense fear, looking at the blue glow from Zhao Yameng's eyes. Even the Spirit Qi within his body became unstable. Thankfully, the slight movements of the devouring seed suppressed the Spirit Qi, causing it to calm down.

"Zhao Yameng used a mystic art that was uncontrollable and lost herself in the process. That mystic art shouldn't be executed unless it is a life-or-death situation. As the Chancellor, I judge that Wang Baole wins this match!"

The Chancellor turned to look at Wang Baole, his eyes revealing a look of incredulity. He had guessed the secret behind the flying swords, concluding that it might have been the force of magnetism. Even if that was the case, he still felt that Wang Baole had outdone himself again and again at surprising him.

Chapter 86: Gao Quan's Plan

With the conclusion of the match, Ethereal Dao College's tournament had passed its half way mark. What was to follow were the additional matches held between those who had won three matches for the few remaining slots.

Seventy-four contenders had won all five matches that they competed in!

Of those seventy-four, many were senior students while first and second year students made up the minority. After all, no matter how outstanding they were, they were still lacking compared to the senior students who had honed their skills for many years. Therefore, the number of new students who had won all five matches only made up about ten percent of the group.

In this tournament, however, no matter how extraordinary seventy-two of those people were, they were but mere accompaniments simply because of the groundbreaking match that had happened between Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng!

The match between Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng had shaken the entire Dao College, throwing many students into amazement and astounding them. There had not been many paying attention to it at first, but as tales spread and the match was being vividly described, those who had been unable to watch the match managed to gain a relatively complete picture of it from the descriptions of the masses.

Even though their match had only progressed past its midpoint and was not considered completed to a certain extent, the combat abilities that they had both demonstrated in this match astounded everyone. Even other contenders like Zhuo Yifan, who had won all five matches, felt chills down their spine, their emotions turbulent, as any kind of competition always incited agitation. Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng were far too superior!

The methods and responses that both Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng adopted in this match were summarized by countless students on the Spirit Intranet. Discussion was bountiful, and the entire Spirit Intranet was hot with activity. As a result, there were not many spectators watching the additional follow-up matches.

"Zhao Yameng's method of forming arrays within three breaths was actually through the manipulation of Spirit Qi. Her natural spirit body isn't for nothing! When she's in the True Breath realm, her sensitivity for Spirit Qi will greatly surpass her peers!"

"Wang Baole is impressive, too. He actually depended on refining Spirit Kernels to absorb the Spirit Qi from all directions so that the array formation would implode from within in order to create a path out for himself! He really lives up to his name as the Dharmic Armament faculty's only Head Prefect!"

"Also, Zhao Yameng's ability to react swiftly to Wang Baole's retaliation is a valuable skill that is rarely seen!"

In the innumerable discussions, there were two points... two key points that made everyone shake with excitement. The first was the emergence of the blue glow in Zhao Yameng's eyes at the final moments of the match, and the second was the dexterity with which Wang Baole manipulated the dozens of flying swords.

These two aspects were also the areas that made everyone immensely amazed!

"Zhao Yameng's burst at the end must be a secret technique that carries immense power!"

"What was it that Wang Baole used that allowed him to manipulate the flying swords so nimbly? This... this is not something we can achieve in the Ancient Martial realm!"

Countless discussions emerged unendingly. With the ending of the additional matches, Ethereal Dao College's tournament finally came to an end. The list of the top one thousand contenders had been tabulated and would be announced three days later.

In reality, there was little significance regardless of whether the names on the list were announced. Long before the list was formed, there were already people who had summarized the accumulated points on the Spirit Intranet. Everyone knew deep in their hearts who would make it to the top 1,000.

Of everyone, the most despondent would be those who were ranked just after the 1,000th position and those who had been eliminated in the additional matches. However, there was nothing that they could do. Sometimes, the seemingly small distance of a single step could feel like the distance between heaven and earth.

With the conclusion of the matches, the atmosphere in the Dao College significantly livened up. It was as if everyone could finally take a breather and relax. Wang Baole also took the time to recuperate in his own cave abode in order to replenish the energy that he had spent battling Zhao Yameng.

However, he did not head outside. Rather, even after his rest, the scene of Zhao Yameng's burst in the final moments of the match replayed itself in his mind recurrently.

With a blue glow in her eyes, she seemed to have lost control. It is also definite that the mystic technique has already far exceeded what she can withstand, explaining why she fell unconscious after that. Wang Baole was still shaken even after analyzing the scenario. If the Chancellor had not stepped forward to put a halt on matters, Wang Baole was unable to imagine what would eventually have happened.

In that state, Zhao Yameng is too powerful. It's as if... she became one with the Spirit Qi! Wang Baole became solemn and took a seat on the veranda before closing his eyes. The events of the match between him and Zhao Yameng were continuously replayed in his mind as he thought about how his performance could have been better.

Wang Baole liked to reflect. This was something that he had learned from the high officials' autobiographies. Whether it was in the way he treated others or the way he trained his skills, reflection had always been an important component.

...

At the center of the Chancellor's peak was a great hall made of jade carvings. This great hall was not as grand as the Chancellor's hall, but it was still extremely majestic.

That great hall was where the Vice-Chancellor worked and lived.

Even if his authority in the College Discipline Department had been stripped and transferred to others due to the incident involving Wang Baole in the Pond Cloud Rainforest, he was still the Vice-Chancellor and possessed a level of authority.

Right now, in the attic behind the great hall overlooking the land afar, there was a middle-aged man in black standing silently behind him. That man was the teacher of the Dao College who was currently leading the College Discipline Department. At the same time, he was also the person who had publicly announced that Wang Baole had cheated a year ago. He hesitated but eventually still decided to speak, his voice low.

“Chancellor... do you really want to handle the matter this way?”

Looking at the sky faraway, without turning his head, the Vice-Chancellor replied calmly, “Are you afraid?”

“A little bit, yes.” The middle-aged man in black laughed bitterly. “Wang Baole is now the only Head Prefect of the Dharmic Armament faculty, and he amazed everyone with his moves in the match several days ago. Therefore, he can be considered a hot favorite in the Dao College right now, so why should we find trouble with him again?”

“Even if we cancel his eligibility in the rankings, it will be little use. The very next day, the Chancellor will definitely be angered, not only punishing you, but also restoring his eligibility instantly.”

The middle-aged man in black was confused as he tried to persuade the Vice-Chancellor after mustering his courage.

“What’s more... Lin Tianhao’s student status has already been revoked...”

The middle-aged man in black did not complete his sentence. In reality, he would never have dared mention it previously. However, he genuinely did not want to provoke Wang Baole any further, and he had long ascertained that Wang Baole would definitely gain admission to the Upper Academy island. It was not worthwhile for him to form another enemy this way. However, he was also helpless as he had to obey the Vice-Chancellor. Therefore, he wanted to try to persuade the Vice-Chancellor to change his mind.

“Lin Tianhao?” Hearing the man in black’s words, the Vice-Chancellor laughed, a look of disdain that was not visible to others forming in his eyes. “Say no more. You only need to tell me whether you will do it or not.”

Turning his head, Gao Quan stared coldly at the middle-aged man in black. Immediately, the middle-aged man in black felt immense pressure, as beads of perspiration formed on his forehead.

After a brief moment, he gritted his teeth and replied, “Yes, sir!”

“Then do it. You have three days. Once the rankings are out, I want to see results.” Retracting his glare, Gao Quan spoke emotionlessly. The middle-aged man in black felt terrible, but he knew that he had no other choice as he nodded and quickly left to prepare for his tasks.

The look of disdain in Gao Quan's eyes became more obvious when the middle-aged man in black had left.

Do you really think that I am so lowly to go to the extent of pleasing the son in order to suck up to the senator?

I am without a choice, since that Chancellor who thinks that everything is under his control wants to see me adding value to myself.

That old man... he thinks that I don't know that it's his tactic to keep subordinates close before killing them, Gao Quan thought as the look of disdain disappeared, replaced by a gloomy ferocity.

Wang Baole's position will indeed be restored quickly, but if I don't try to suppress it, if I don't create enemies, if I don't add value to myself... the old Chancellor will see the value of his fruit of labor diminishing. He will definitely be unhappy, and if he abandons me for cheap, won't he lose out?

Gao Quan clenched his fists.

The more enemies I have and the more people I provoke, the more others will want to eliminate me. However, even before they can do anything, they will need the Chancellor's approval. After all, on the Lower Academy Island, even though the Chancellor is not absolute, he is still extremely powerful.

As long as someone wants to come after me, they must negotiate with the Chancellor. The more enemies that I have and the more ruthless and thorough I am, the more people will hate me. This way, my value will increase, such that when he is negotiating with others, his gains will be greater. This is especially so as I can see that the Chancellor is of the view that Wang Baole will become the one negotiating with him in the future.

Following this logic, the greater my value, the fewer people will be able to afford to come after me. I will then have more time to plan for the future.

Just give me more time so that I can escape this place!

The ferocity in Gao Quan's eyes intensified, and he became even more ruthless. He already felt threatened, worrying that he would be eliminated by the Chancellor even before he was posted elsewhere. That was why he wanted to bank on Wang Baole's matter to increase his personal value. He knew the Chancellor like the back of his hand, understanding that his moves would definitely halt the thought of the Chancellor eliminating him in favor of reaping greater benefits.

As for Wang Baole, he was indeed no small fry. However, Wang Baole was nothing compared to his own past.

Even if he's the only Head Prefect of the Dharmic Armament, even if he amazed everyone in his match, so what? I might only be in the early-stage of True Breath while he's at the peak of the Ancient Martial realm, but there will definitely be differences in our skill. His failure at retaliating means that he can only bear with it for the time moment since he has not reached True Breath yet!

So what if I find trouble with him? Even if he really attains True Breath in the future and wants to seek vengeance, he will have to wait until he gains firm footing on the Upper Academy Island. By then, I will have long since left. As for what happens after that...

Gao Quan closed his eyes, his lips curling into a smirk.

He might have lost the right to take revenge then!

Chapter 87: Unbearable!

A night passed.

When Wang Baole finished his reflection and meditation, he received a notification from the Chancellor informing him that the mystic realm of the four great Dao Colleges would open a month later and that he should make preparations as soon as possible.

There was only one month for him to prepare himself.

I'm going to each the True Breath realm! Wang Baole was determined and immediately contacted Xie Haiyang. Regardless of the consequences, he threw out numerous Spirit Stones in exchange for pills and materials to refine Dharmic artifacts.

Wang Baole was hell-bent on grabbing hold of this opportunity.

Xie Haiyang had been incredibly busy recently. After all, regardless of whether it was a major examination or the upcoming mystic realm, countless people wanted to trade. In Ethereal Dao College, the name 'Xie Haiyang' was famous and reliable. No matter how busy he was, however, Xie Haiyang perked up the moment he received Wang Baole's voice transmission.

Wang Baole had always been generous, and Xie Haiyang had long placed his bets on Wang Baole as he thought that Wang Baole would definitely make it to the Upper Academy Island. If he maintained a good relationship with him, his business could be expanded in the Upper Academy Island as well.

Therefore, he promised that he would be able to deliver everything that Wang Baole needed and even gave him a discount.

"Schoolmate Baole, so long as it's me, Xie Haiyang, handling it, you can rest assured that you'll get everything you need in no more than seven days!"

Wang Baole was surprised hearing Xie Haiyang's promise. Not only was the number of items he ordered large, they were also superior goods. The fact that Xie Haiyang could deliver his request heartened Wang Baole, for he felt that Xie Haiyang's existence in the Dao College definitely made things easier.

Just like that, as Wang Baole waited, days went by. Finally, the one thousand individuals who had made it to the mystic realm of the four Dao Colleges were confirmed, and their names were announced on the Spirit Intranet.

To most people, the ranking list was no mystery. However, that did not stop people from looking it up the moment it was announced. At first glance, nothing seemed unexpected, but very quickly, their eyes widened as they shrieked and hyperventilated with surprise.

"Wang Baole's actually not in the list!"

"Gosh! How is that even possible?"

“Wang Baole won five out of five matches and demonstrated such amazing techniques. How is he not in the list?”

As everyone felt incredulous, the Spirit Intranet was heated with discussion. After seeing the list, Liu Daobin was severely taken aback and contacted Wang Baole immediately.

Wang Baole, who was meditating, did not look at the ranking list at all. The moment he received Liu Daobin’s voice transmission, he froze. Even before he could open the Spirit Intranet, he began to receive innumerable voice transmissions continuously, all telling him that his name was nowhere to be seen on the rankings.

“Impossible!” Wang Baole could not believe it. His heart pounding, he immediately looked it up on the Spirit Intranet. After a brief moment, his expression turned awful. On that ranking list, his name really was nowhere to be found.

The very moment that the matter caused a commotion, the College Discipline Department of the Dao College sent out a notification.

That notification specifically addressed the reasons and explanations as to why Wang Baole was not on the list.

“After investigations, it was found that in the first match, Wang Baole made use of his official authority and colluded with Wu Haisen so that Wu Haisen would concede. This is against the rules of the Collage, and therefore, Wang Baole’s eligibility is revoked!”

Without excessive explanation or effort to hide anything, the announcement was made with a couple of simple sentences. However, there was a clip that followed, which showed the student named Wu Haisen maligning Wang Baole and admitting that he conceded defeat under the threat and request of Wang Baole.

There were definitely people who believed in the truth of the matter, but most of the people who came to know of the news all thought that it was too absurd.

“That’s ridiculous!”

“A ploy, it must be a ploy!”

“The Vice-Chancellor Gao Quan bears a grudge against Head Prefect Wang Baole, so this must be his doing!”

“It’s not fair!”

Witnessing everything unfolding before his eyes, Wang Baole, who was sitting in the cave abode, was fuming with anger. His breathing intensified, and blue veins bulged prominently on his forehead. His eyes were full of rage, and his first instinct was to open his voice transmission ring to send a voice transmission to the Chancellor, but he stopped himself.

I cannot be rash. I must calm down. Wang Baole took a deep breath. Even though he was angry, he was not worried about his position in the ranking list as the explanation given by the College Discipline Department was not legitimate.

What he needed to focus on now was to find out who the mastermind behind this whole incident was. He was well versed in the high officials' autobiographies, and he instinctively felt that the entire matter was too suspicious.

Lin Tianhao? Gao Quan? The Chancellor? Wang Baole thought, furrowing his brows as he put away his voice transmission ring. His gaze shimmered, and he decided to wait and see.

He did not have to wait for long as within the time needed to burn an incense, the Chancellor's peak released another notice to announce that Wang Baole had not broken the rules, and his eligibility was restored!

Furthermore, the tone of the notice was harsh as it reprimanded those in charge of the College Discipline Department strictly.

The speed with which the matter was resolved and the harsh criticism immediately excited the students within the Dao College. On the Spirit Intranet, everyone was exhilarated as the highly suspicious incident that angered the masses was quickly resolved, and the Chancellor's mighty impression and authority was showcased once again.

"The Chancellor is so mighty!"

"Haha, this is Ethereal Dao College for me!"

"Peace, clarity, and justice are presented right before our eyes!"

Liu Daobin and company all heaved a sigh of relief. Only Wang Baole remained solemn, with his head lowered as he looked at the voice transmission ring. When the second notice was being sent out, he received a message from the Chancellor, which contained a name.

Gao Quan! Wang Baole rage intensified. Even if the matter had been resolved, it was obvious that he had been made use of, and he had experienced a significant threat.

Lin Tianhao has already been expelled; therefore, it is unlikely that he would be the one behind this as it would be meaningless. The most it would do is incite disgust within me. As for the Chancellor, he didn't need to make use of me to showcase his power and authority. Following this argument, it is highly likely that Gao Quan is the one behind all these!

Damn this Gao Quan, using this matter to disgust me and at the same time giving the Chancellor an opportunity to show off his prowess. Other than that, I believe that he has other motives. No matter what, he had been trying to harm me time and again, that despicable fella!

Wang Baole punched the floor. As he adjusted his breathing slowly, he clenched his fist tight.

The first time, he wanted to expel me for cheating... that I can bear. The second time, he spread fake news that almost sent me to death, but I swallowed it for he was the Vice-Chancellor. Twice is pushing it, but thrice is too much!

Wang Baole found it hard to swallow his anger but was unable to release it, making him feel extremely uncomfortable.

In reality, there were people in the Dao College who could deduce exactly what happened. It was just that the matter had nothing to do with them, and they did not need to boast about their understanding either. After all, people understood the matter all had positions in the various departments and would not create trouble for themselves in order to show off.

Now, Wang Baole was extremely troubled. Based on his usual temperament, he would have long taken action. However, he had gained some understanding of the Vice-Chancellor's cultivation after the incident in the Pond Cloud Rainforest, and he knew that the Vice-Chancellor was in the True Breath realm.

Wang Baole felt that he was no match for a True Breath expert. With his anger becoming increasingly unbearable, Wang Baole shook his head strongly as he retrieved the secret mask and headed directly into the hallucination realm.

On the ice plains of the hallucination realm, Wang Baole began speaking to the mask while trying to suppress the anger that was threatening to explode within him.

"Little Missy, a True Breath realm expert is trying to go against me. Do you have any means for me to break through to the True Breath realm right now?"

The mask flashed, revealing the answer instantly.

"No!"

"Then... is there a way for Ancient Martial Arts warriors to defeat True Breath experts?"

"No!"

The mask gave the same answer. Wang Baole was despondent, looking at the replies. He shook his head, suppressing his disappointment, as he prepared himself to swallow the indignation. He had wanted to wait till he acquired True Breath before taking revenge on Gao Quan.

However, just as he was about to give up and leave the hallucination realm, the secret mask flashed indiscernibly. If a Little Missy really lived in the mask as Wang Baole had hypothesized, the flash by the mask would be akin to her gaze—a sly one to be specific—as if an opportunity for a prank has arisen.

Very quickly, a sentence surfaced on the surface of the mask. A bolt of lightning accompanied it in order to catch Wang Baole's attention and to serve as a reminder for him.

The disappointed Wang Baole was mumbling in his heart and was frightened by the sudden bolt of lightning. The moment he lowered his head, he saw the words on the mask and immediately stopped in his tracks, his eyes widening as he quickly grew excited.

"Ancient Martial Arts is a process of refinement, and the epitome of this refinement is known as the Golden Body. If you are able to achieve a Golden Body, you would stand a chance against a True Breath expert!"

As if the seduction was not strong enough, a second sentence immediately appeared on the mask.

"What's more, if you reach the True Breath realm with a Golden Body, you will reap unexpected benefits!"

Chapter 88: Golden Body?

“What benefits?” Wang Baole blinked several times and immediately began inquiring.

This time, however, the mask did not give a clear answer, instead merely telling him that all would be revealed when he absorbed the True Breath.

If it had been any other time, Wang Baole definitely would have found a way to press for an answer. In this case, he knew that the benefits would be guaranteed. Furthermore, his rage toward Gao Quan the Vice-Chancellor had occupied all his thoughts, so he did not question further, instead only gritting his teeth.

“I’ll cultivate myself for it. What do I have to do? I’ll tolerate it even if the lightning continues.”

Wang Baole’s steadfast attitude as he said those words caused the mask to flash and vibrate several times. Lines of words appeared afterward. Considering just the types of cultivation techniques alone, there were already several listings. There were also numerous pills that Wang Baole had not even heard of. Lastly, a time period was stated, informing Wang Baole that if he followed the plan, he would only need three years to reach the Golden Body realm.

Looking at the cultivation techniques listed, Wang Baole was already troubled. As he saw the list of pills, his heart pounded. When his gaze finally landed on the time period of three years, his eyes nearly fell out of their sockets, and he began laughing bitterly.

“You must have another way. Alright, Little Missy, let’s stop fooling around. As long as you’re able to allow me to attain a Golden Body within a month and defeat the True Breath expert, I’ll do it, no matter what it is!” Wang Baole was straightforward in his words because he could no longer withstand the indignation.

The moment Wang Baole completed his sentence, the mask flashed again. This time, without taking very long, a solution that could allow Wang Baole to attain the Golden Body was listed!

It was a challenge to become the Golden Body within a month through legitimate means. One would have to go through hellish cultivation methods in order to reduce their original cultivation to Pulse Enrichment, regain their Physical Seal, before breaking through the Physical Seal back into the Pulse Enrichment stage. It was all a cycle.

A cycle like that needed to be repeated dozens of times. The entire process was akin to smithing, with the repeated tempering eventually resulting in steel being forged! Furthermore, regarding the point of reducing his original cultivation into Pulse Enrichment, it was possible to cause actual harm to him even in the hallucination realm.

Even though it was unorthodox, there were no repercussions to this method. The only challenge was withstanding the indescribable hardship throughout the entire process!

The solution that flashed on the mask right now made Wang Baole’s heart pound furiously. He exhaled deeply, looking cautiously at the mask.

“Actual harm? Little Missy, we’re not enemies, are we? I merely want to get back at him. This method of yours seems... too ruthless.”

Hearing Wang Baole words, the mask flashed once again. It appeared that it had been angered as numerous curved lightning bolts that were on the brink of eruption appeared on the mask. Frightened, Wang Baole immediately stepped back and left the hallucination realm.

When everything disappeared and Wang Baole reappeared in the cave abode, he sat there with frustration all over his face. On the one hand, he wanted to take revenge, but on the other hand, the solution given by the mask was something that he felt was unreliable. He was truly caught between a rock and a hard place.

Looking to escape from his frustration, he began browsing through the Spirit Intranet. However, as he read through the discussions about his eligibility being revoked and reinstated, his frustration only grew.

Without thinking much, he turned on the voice transmission ring to send a voice transmission to Vice-Chancellor Gao Quan.

“Vice-Chancellor Gao, I can bear with your earlier attempts to expel me and your collusion with Lin Tianhao to have me killed, but this time, I want an explanation!”

Gao Quan had previously been overseeing the College Discipline Department of the entire Dao College, making Wang Baole his subordinate. That was why Wang Baole had the voice transmission details of Gao Quan.

Right after he sent the voice transmission, Wang Baole stared at the voice transmission ring, waiting for Gao Quan’s reply. However, after an hour of waiting without any response, Wang Baole revealed a fierce gaze as he gritted his teeth.

No matter. Since you are unwilling to give me an explanation now, I’ll beat you up until you explain yourself!

Wang Baole carried a ruthless expression as he immediately sent a voice transmission to Xie Haiyang, requesting to borrow the numinous treasure that could deceive one’s mind again!

It was a smooth process of borrowing the numinous treasure this time. Before long, Xie Haiyang arrived and passed Wang Baole the numinous treasure. After he saw the expressionless Wang Baole, he knew better than to ask the reasons behind his request and left quickly after a few words of consolation.

After sending Xie Haiyang off, Wang Baole sat solemnly with his legs crossed in the cave abode. Closing his eyes, the solution presented by the mask floated in his mind. After a brief moment, his eyes opened suddenly, and he retrieved several Rainbow Spirit Stones to begin carving inscriptions that could allow him to gather Spirit Qi.

The purpose of the inscriptions was to empower the Rainbow Spirit Stones to absorb most of the Spirit Qi from the surroundings. Only when he had carved sufficient inscriptions on the Rainbow Spirit Stones did Wang Baole put them aside, drawing a deep breath to ready himself, and enter the hallucination realm.

“Little Missy, let’s begin!”

The instant Wang Baole said those words, a bright glow flashed from the mysterious mask. A black flash of lightning shot out immediately, striking Wang Baole, who was too slow to hide or react.

As the lightning traveled through his body, an indescribable, excruciating pain that far exceeded what Wang Baole had experienced before erupted continuously in waves, overwhelming Wang Baole's body and mind.

He could clearly feel that the lightning carried a destructive power, tearing apart his flesh, breaking his bones, and severing his meridians the moment it entered his body. It was as if he was being sculpted from the very beginning, undergoing a remolding process that would transform him completely!

The pain was too overwhelming. Even he was screaming in agony, spurting out bright red blood as his body fell to the floor, convulsing. The pressure created by the transformation process was continuously compressing his Blood Qi and his cultivation. After suppressing his Pulse Enrichment cultivation to the fullest and compressing his Blood Qi to solidness, he went from Pulse Enrichment to Physical Seal!

The entire process continued for an entire hour. Wang Baole's screams gradually weakened, but he did not once fall unconscious. After going through the entire process of compression and falling, he picked himself up weakly when everything ended, his body trembling and drenched in sweat. With a will to not collapse, he left the hallucination realm.

After reappearing in the cave abode, Wang Baole was pale and ashen but revealed a look of ruthlessness in his eyes. He began refining Spirit Stones. Right now, refining the Spirit Stones were not the key—his focus was to boost his spirit fat!

Using this method, he wanted to accumulate sufficient spirit fat in the shortest time possible before breaking through to the Pulse Enrichment realm again. The Rainbow Spirit Stones surrounding him were boosting the surrounding Spirit Qi so that the devouring seed in his body could increase its rate of absorption!

"Gao Quan, just you wait!" Wang Baole growled with a low voice. The devouring seed in his body exploded outward for the first time, releasing all restraints and absorbing Spirit Qi from all directions as if it was torturing itself. The Rainbow Spirit Stones surrounding Wang Baole were all shimmering as Spirit Qi was sucked in with breathtaking speed similar to a churning wave. Wang Baole's body was like a black hole, devouring all the Spirit Qi it could.

Everything happened at lightning speed, and if anyone had been watching, they would have been able to see Wang Baole's body expanding ceaselessly. After an unknown period of time, all the Rainbow Spirit Stones surrounding him had broken down while Wang Baole's body had grown so huge that he was occupying more than half of the cave abode.

It was difficult for him to even open his eyes. As he clenched his jaw, mustering all his capabilities to pick up the numinous treasure that could deceive his mind, he adjusted himself slightly and sent an order to his brain.

He told his own brain that he had already continuously run for more than a year at his top speed.

The moment the order was given, Wang Baole's eyes stared wide open, his mind so busy with activity that it was about to explode. Within his humongous body that was trembling vigorously, spirit fat was dissolving quickly, transforming into Spirit Qi that was being absorbed, causing his Blood Qi to burst from within.

The entire process continued for a long while. When everything ended, Wang Baole's cultivation had broken through again, reaching the Pulse Enrichment realm. He sat there, giving off an entirely different vibe, as if his abilities had advanced even more, to the extent that he seemed to carry the ferocious air given off by the half-step True Breath elder who had previously led the men in black.

That was especially so when the mysterious mask released strikes of black lightning once again in order to suppress his cultivation. In the process, countless mysterious substances were produced, slowing being absorbed by and integrating into his body!

It really works! Wang Baole began to feel excited as he took a deep breath, entering the hallucination realm once again to start the cycle that would transform him into the Golden Body.

Just like that, Wang Baole relentlessly underwent the processes of compression under the effects of the black lightning. His cultivation continued alternating between the stages of being compressed into the Physical Seal from the Pulse Enrichment realm before breaking through, then being compressed once again...

The torturous feeling of the entire process almost drove Wang Baole crazy, but his characteristic ruthlessness was extremely prominent, especially when he recognized that the method that he was adopting was feasible. Therefore, no matter how painful the torture, he persevered. At the peak of the pain, he managed by imagining himself attacking Gao Quan.

The Golden Body can defeat a True Breath expert! Gao Quan, this time I will shatter your balls!

As the days went by, the month-long time limit gradually approached. Wang Baole's cultivation had already reached the apex. Even though he was disheveled and beaten, if one could see him, they would definitely be taken aback by Wang Baole's aura.

This aura had already far surpassed the Pulse Enrichment realm. Under the continuous cycles of compression, even Wang Baole was not sure of the status of his Blood Qi. Faintly, on the surface of his skin, a golden glow seemed to be given off.

Even the mysterious mask seemed to be at a loss. If there was really a spirit within it, it would definitely gasp in shock, surprised that Wang Baole could persist for so long and for so many times. That was simply unimaginable.

There had been one time when the black lightning was suppressing Wang Baole's cultivation that a soft mumble of hesitation from a woman had emerged from the mask, but it had not been registered by Wang Baole.

"Could it be that the Golden Body is an actual thing? Impossible! What background does this Fatso have? I merely wanted to trick him since he is such an eyesore, but it seems like he really attained the Golden Body state!"

Chapter 89: Battling a True Breath Expert

In the three days before Ethereal Dao College headed to the mystic realm, Wang Baole, who had gone through innumerable cycles of compression and pain, was now dressed in shorts as he sat within the

cave abode. He was agitated, looking at his body—which had significantly slimmed down—and staring at his suave looks in the mirror.

This method actually allowed me to lose weight!

In his agitation, Wang Baole also noticed that a golden glow was emanating from his skin. He was extremely excited, especially when the slightest release of his Blood Qi could already warp his surroundings.

I'm so strong! Hah, this must be the Golden Body!

Jumping for joy, Wang Baole quickly entered the hallucination realm and began shouting at the top of his voice the moment he stepped in.

“Little Missy, there is a golden glow from my body! Look at it! Am I within the Golden Body realm yet?”

The moment Wang Baole spoke, the mysterious mask flashed several times. A while passed without any words appearing, causing Wang Baole to grow nervous as he grew uncertain of himself. Then, a few words emerged—seemingly reluctantly—from the mysterious mask.

“Congratulations, you have already entered the legendary Golden Body realm!”

“Really?” Looking at those words, Wang Baole was exhilarated, but he was still slightly suspicious considering the mask’s response.

“Yes, you can now battle that True Breath expert! Go and have your revenge!” The message appeared immediately on the mask.

Reading it, Wang Baole felt encouraged, and he looked to the sky laughing heartily with his hands on his hips.

Gao Quan, the mighty Wang Baole is here for you!

Wang Baole was in high spirits. He tried to estimate his level of cultivation, and though he was unable to do it accurately, he could feel that the aura given off by the elder leading the men in black was not exactly insignificant but was at least ten times weaker than what he possessed now!

That was especially so for his Blood Qi. Even when he was trying to sense it, he was left gawking in disbelief—the viscosity of his Blood Qi was shockingly high, providing protection to his body that far exceeded what he had experienced before.

He could even smell a peculiar scent emanating from his body that was different from all the food and snacks that he had eaten before. This further made Wang Baole think that he had become extremely superior right now.

Both his speed and strength made him extremely agitated. After receiving confirmation from the mask, Wang Baole was even more confident. Shaking his body, he left the hallucination realm and dashed out of the cave abode after a change of clothes.

He had already waited for almost a month and could no longer wait. He wanted to seek revenge from Gao Quan right now!

Well, well, Gao Quan. You have bullied me repeatedly, and today, I will let you experience the prowess of Grandpa Wang!

Wang Baole was raging with power, and with incredible speed, he sped along. As he ran, he actually produced sonic booms, his velocity far exceeding that of someone at peak Pulse Enrichment realm.

The sound that accompanied his movements reverberated, inciting surprise in countless students. Even before they could take a good look at what was happening, Wang Baole had already rushed down the peak, heading straight to the Chancellor's peak.

Very quickly, as his speed broke the sound barrier, he arrived at the great hall in the Chancellor's peak, where Gao Quan was located. When he arrived, he began to feel that the air within the great hall was filled with a suppressive force.

Before attaining the Golden Body, he had never experienced this force when he met Gao Quan. Now that his realm had been elevated, his sensitivity to forces around him had also advanced, and that caused him to stop in his tracks.

What if... Little Missy lied to me? Wang Baole blinked several times, a look of steadfastness emerging in his eyes.

I must not withdraw. I have attained the Golden Body, and I will definitely defeat Gao Quan! Furthermore, there are so many people around—he wouldn't dare kill me!

Recalling that he possessed the Golden Body, Wang Baole's confidence was regained. However, between his steps, he still retrieved his megaphone and began to call Gao Quan names with a low growl.

"Gao Quan, you bully! I'll fight you till the end!" His voice exploded, carrying the unlimited Blood Qi power that was stored within his body. His voice was already like thunder by itself, but as it was amplified by the megaphone that he had refined again, his words appeared to be like an announcement from the heavens, blasting through the entire Chancellor's peak.

Furthermore, it was extremely impactful. In the direction where Wang Baole directed his words, it was as if a hurricane had swept through, uprooting countless plants and hurling them into the great hall, causing it to vibrate. The main gate was immediately thrown open, revealing a Gao Quan who had opened his eyes in shock after being interrupted abruptly from meditation.

"You..."

Subconsciously, Gao Quan began speaking, but even before he could finish, Wang Baole's body was like a flash of lightning, rushing into the hall at an unimaginable speed and arriving right in front of Gao Quan. He immediately threw a punch at Gao Quan with his right fist!

The series of events from Wang Baole's howling to his punch happened too quickly, within the blink of an eye. Gao Quan could not even react in time, nor had he thought that Wang Baole would actually dare lay a finger on him. As Wang Baole's roar traveled into his ears, he was thrown off the ground by Wang Baole's punch.

“Kneel and address me as Daddy!” Wang Baole roared. Gao Quan’s body flew off the ground due to the impact of Wang Baole’s punch, and he landed heavily, creating a hole within the great hall as he was thrown outside.

As the entire great hall tremored, Wang Baole revealed a look of ferocity as he swiftly followed behind.

At the same time, a loud boom was heard, alerting everyone on the Chancellor’s peak. The instant the Chancellor experienced it, his facial expression changed, and he immediately rushed out. There were also many teachers on the Chancellor’s peak then, and the moment they heard the noise, they all widened their eyes and quickly rushed out.

The faces of the students who happened to be on the peak turned white with shock as they heard the commotion. They ran from all directions toward the Vice-Chancellor’s great hall.

The moment they arrived, an angry roar immediately erupted.

“Wang Baole, are you seeking death?” Following the angry roar, a savage aura immediately spread out. Instantly, the surrounding plants withered under the impact, and Gao Quan emerged directly from the vegetation.

His hair was a mess, and he looked beaten with his clothes thorn. Rage surfaced in his eyes, his anger capable of scorching the heavens and earth.

He, the Vice-Chancellor, had been attacked by a student, and that made him incredibly embarrassed and angry. It was a difficult feeling to describe, and as he rushed out, he looked at Wang Baole with a strong desire to kill.

“Wang Baole!”

As he spoke, Gao Quan raised his hands, releasing the aura of the True Breath realm that was stored within him. Even though it was not impactful enough to transform the heaven and earth, it was still sufficiently powerful to further wither the surrounding plants. This was especially so for the aura of his True Breath, which had an indescribable suppressive force on an Ancient Martial Arts warrior. As the air spread, he appeared like a god in the eyes of the common man, giving off an extraordinarily scary aura.

Right now, accompanying his rage, the suppressive force from his True Breath charged toward Wang Baole directly, landing impactfully on him.

“Kneel!”

At this instant, Wang Baole had just rushed out of the hole in the great hall. After seeing Gao Quan and experiencing the suppressive force, as well as the invisible force that had transformed from it pushing directly on his body, his expression changed.

It was like the weight of a gigantic mountain landing on his body, causing him to be completely compressed. Even reflexively, he felt a strong resistance!

That was... the repression of the True Breath realm on the Ancient Martial Arts realm!

That was... the repression of a cultivator on a common mortal!

Ancient Martial Arts meant mortality, while True Breath implied that one was a cultivator. These two terms only differed slightly, but they were fundamentally different and carried a completely different meaning.

True Breath was superior to Ancient Martial Arts precisely because of the repression emerging from the aura, which could cause all Ancient Martial Arts warriors to become incapable of retaliating when facing a cultivator.

Under the suppressive force of the True Breath, his waist was being contorted, and his head was deeply lowered. All his bones were rattling. It was obvious that Gao Quan's move was not merely aimed at making Wang Baole kneel... he wanted to compress Wang Baole to a state where all his bones had broken!

The moment that Gao Quan's suppressive force spread to suppress Wang Baole, the Chancellor and teachers, as well as the students who were nearby, all rushed onto the scene. Witnessing everything, their facial expressions changed, and the Chancellor was raging.

"Gao Quan, stop!" The moment he spoke, the Chancellor made his move to prevent things from happening.

However, right at this moment, Wang Baole, who was being repressed by Gao Quan's True Breath aura, suddenly raised his head, his gaze carrying a look of ruthlessness. An air of resistance and strength was given off as he let out a low growl.

"Thinking of suppressing me?" Wang Baole shouted, and his Blood Qi completely erupted at that instant. Blasts immediately emerged as his frightening Blood Qi shot out. The Blood Qi was intense and viscous, and the moment it spread, an imaginary sea of blood seemed to have formed behind Wang Baole!

In that sea of blood, there were mysterious substances that were produced from the absorption of the black lightning existing within. Even the Chancellor was unable to discern it!

Even though the sea of blood was imaginary, formed by the frightening Blood Qi, the moment it appeared, it astounded everyone. What was even more shocking was that the moment the Blood Qi erupted, it became a resistive force, fighting the might of Gao Quan's True Breath!

In his resistance, Wang Baole's body shook, but his bent waist was immediately straightened, and his head was slowly raised as he began to step forward.

"So what if you're in the True Breath realm?"

This scene instantly threw everyone into astonishment and unbelievable shock!

Chapter 90: Extreme Blood Qi!

"Gosh, my eyes aren't playing tricks on me, are they?"

"How could that even be possible? Ancient Martial Arts can actually resist the repressive force of the True Breath realm?"

“That Blood Qi... Wang Baole’s Blood Qi is so heaven-defying. He actually didn’t unleash all his power in his previous match against Zhao Yameng!”

The teachers standing around were all shaken with surprise, and the students felt even more so. Everyone standing there had their mouths agape, their minds blown by what they had just seen.

The difference between the Ancient Martial Arts and the True Breath realm was like comparing a child to a well-built man. There was no means of resistance. However, the scene unfolding before their eyes, with Wang Baole straightening his waist and raising his head, coupled with his sharp gaze, actually meant that Gao Quan’s True Breath suppressive force had lost all its effect!

Even the Chancellor was taken aback by the series of events. He stared with his eyes wide open, unable to hide his shock.

Legend has it that if someone manages to cultivate their Blood Qi to the extreme, it is possible to resist the suppressive force from a True Breath expert for a short period of time. However, it still requires a bloodline that is difficult to find, even with today’s techniques.

Could it be that... Wang Baole’s bloodline is unique?

The Chancellor stopped in his tracks, halting his attempt to prevent the battle between Wang Baole and Gao Quan. He wanted to see for himself where Wang Baole’s limits were.

The suspicious thoughts of whether Wang Baole possessed rare treasures or the greedy intentions toward his bloodline were not unexpected, and they could arise in the minds of anyone in power, even if they were from the four major Dao Colleges. However, on the whole, the four major Dao Colleges in the federation were places where talents were cultivated. Their main focus was developing a sense of belonging toward the Dao College among the students and not vying for obvious benefits.

If what they wanted were benefits, the four major Dao College would not have risen to their current statuses and would not become the highly coveted halls of ivory that many could only dream of in the Federation. Therefore, in the Chancellor’s view, even though he was only Chancellor of the Lower Academy Island, he was cognizant of this point, like the rest of the senior management of the entire Ethereal Dao College.

After all, since the beginning of the Spirit Inception Era, many have had experienced life-changing opportunities, and even he had experienced a unique opportunity himself.

Who doesn’t have secrets? As long as he has a sense of recognition and belonging toward the Dao College, that is sufficient!

The Chancellor was full of anticipation as he watched Wang Baole and Gao Quan.

Right now, Gao Quan was more surprised than every onlooker combined.

“Impossible!” Gao Quan’s breathing was irregular as he shrieked. Wang Baole’s incredible Blood Qi had actually managed to resist the suppressive force of his True Breath, and that was something that he had never seen or heard in his whole life!

“Nothing is impossible!” Wang Baole raised his head, his gaze becoming even sharper. He was extremely agitated and excited, his self-confidence growing exponentially.

He thought about how Little Missy had not lied to him. A Golden Body could indeed battle a True Breath expert!

Under his hyperinflated self-confidence, Wang Baole let out a low growl before his body shot forward, heading directly at Gao Quan. His speed was at its maximum, making his entire body seem like it was moving at the speed of lightning as he quickly approached Gao Quan.

“Even if you can resist True Breath, the Ancient Martial Arts still remain the inadequate Ancient Martial Arts!” Gao Quan’s eyes were reddened. There were too many onlookers, and he felt increasingly embarrassed. The feeling of being challenged by such a student made him furious and ashamed at the same time. Killing intent surfaced in his eyes, and the moment Wang Baole arrived before him, Gao Quan suddenly flailed his right hand, revealing three talismans in his palm!

The three talismans did not seem to be physical entities, almost ethereal. Inscriptions and mysterious colors covered the talismans, and the moment they were taken out, they actually influenced the surrounding Spirit Qi, making them circulate with the talismans.

Gao Quan’s eyes shimmered, and he announced with a low voice at the same moment he threw the three talismans out, “Fireball!”

Instantly, the three talismans began moving by themselves before setting themselves on fire. As they burned, they began absorbing the Spirit Qi in the surroundings, and in a blink of an eye, they were transformed into three fist-sized fireballs!

It was not an ordinary flame but was instead one that carried a blue glow and had a temperature high enough to burn not just the human body, even through metal. One could definitely imagine that once contact was made with the fireballs, they would be burned to ashes immediately!

The moment they flew, the surrounding temperature rose exponentially, becoming a heat wave. As the atmosphere began burning, the three fireballs headed directly toward Wang Baole!

Wang Baole was flabbergasted. He had seen recordings of True Breath experts in action captured by others, but right now, it was the first time he had witnessed a cultivator’s spell.

The students standing around had also been gasping in shock from the moment they saw the talismans.

“True Breath spells!”

That was an authentic spell of True Breath’s early stages. Apart from the physical transformation and the True Breath’s suppressive force, another key difference in the outward presentation between the True Breath realm and the Ancient Martial realm laid in the spells!

The Ancient Martial realm made use of Blood Qi to create an illusion, but that was merely a secret technique of the Ancient Martial Arts in order to utilize the Blood Qi. The destructive power was not significant, and one still had to depend heavily on his own physical body.

However, for the True Breath realm, spells were techniques that were many times stronger than one’s physical body, and that was also the fundamental difference between a cultivator and a mortal!

The three fireballs moved at rapid speed, burning everything in their path as they charged toward Wang Baole, trapping him in a corner, without giving him an opportunity to hide. The heat wave inundated him directly.

The Chancellor wanted to stop the turn of events, but he stopped himself. He looked at Wang Baole and felt that he was not a rash person. The fact that he had the courage to begin the battle indicated that he had a method of retaliation!

Looking at the approaching fireballs, Wang Baole held his breath as he raised his right hand. As his storage bracelet shimmered, several flying swords emerged, charging directly at the fireballs.

Tens of small seals were also thrown out, and as they surrounded him, the purple jade pendant started to glow, and the small purple dragon began growling as it started circling him.

The flying swords and fireballs hit each other. However, the flying swords, which could withstand any form of damage under usual circumstances, actually began to melt after clashing with the fireballs!

The materials that Wang Baole had used to refine the flying sword were ordinary metals, which were sufficient to give him an edge in the Ancient Martial Arts realm. However, when used against the True Breath spells, the advantage practically disappeared. Even though the material was inferior, a Spirit Kernel made from Rainbow Spirit Stones was rarely seen. Even if the flying swords were melting, the Spirit Kernels contained within would be stimulated to implode, slowing down the arriving speed of the three fireballs.

In that moment, the small seals surrounding Wang Baole imploded as he leapt and neared the three fireballs. A strong driving force resulted, stopping the fireball momentarily and changing its direction. The distance between them were sufficient to fit in a person.

It was difficult to explain everything, but in the snap of a finger, from the moment the flying swords were thrown out, Wang Baole had already unleashed all his speed, charging toward Gao Quan. The implosion by the flying swords and the small seal caused the fireballs to be slowed down, and the distance created gave Wang Baole a chance to slip past the three fireballs.

The small purple dragon surrounding him also gave him protection. Even though it only lightly touched the fireball, the purple dragon was immensely distressed. However, for Wang Baole, it allowed him to narrowly avoid the fireballs, arriving in front of Gao Quan with incredible speed.

Gao Quan was taken aback, for Wang Baole's reaction, breakthrough, and speed were too fast to handle. He was unable to react in time and could only take a step back. His protective numinous treasure was transformed into a small shield, but even that was blasted by Wang Baole's punch as he approached.

That punch landed on the shield, but the immense force caused the small shield to be swept backwards as it vibrated intensely. The small shield smashed into Gao Quan's chest, causing his internal organs to vibrate. As his body moved backward, Wang Baole was disappointed and not yet satisfied as he charged forward once again!

This very scene caused everyone to hold their breath while the glow in the Chancellor's eyes grew.

As for Gao Quan, who had retreated, he was now looking at Wang Baole with disbelief. He had never encountered such powerful Ancient Martial Arts. As he witnessed Wang Baole arriving right before his eyes, Gao Quan's gaze flashed.

His physical body is too strong. I cannot let him approach, and I must create distance between us!

With a snap of his fingers, four talismans appeared in the air surrounding him immediately!

The four talismans instantly began burning, but they did not transform into fireballs. Instead, they formed four wind blades, cutting through the air at a speed greater than that of the fireballs and charged directly at Wang Baole.

Their speed was so intense that it broke the sound barrier!

At the same time, Gao Quan quickly retreated, and snapping his fingers again, three flying swords emerged from his storage bag. They were all extremely sharp and headed directly toward Wang Baole!