

A Father 841

Chapter 841: Xi Xi and Her Underworld Masters, Qingming Divine Sect Ancestor Worship Great God Accepts Disciples (4)

The next moment, his pupils contracted once more.

Because, behind the Bull Demon, one figure after another appeared.

A lean and cold persona wearing a Horse Face Mask.

A persona wearing the Divine Monkey Mask, carrying a staff, exuding wild arrogance.

And another, standing with hands clasped behind his back, donning a ferocious Thunder Dragon Mask, lightning arcs coursing across, radiating unparalleled dominance.

"The... Underworld villains?!"

Hong Lei's face turned ashen...

These were the ones who had executed the Western Camp General of the Divine Guard Army, You Liqing, on the spot, injured a Martial Saint, and aided in the assault and killing of a Martial Saint!

Elusive, their tracks impossible to capture!

What right did he, Hong Lei, have to be able to confront the villains directly?!

The Bull Demon, towering like Tower Mountain, slightly lowered his head, his gaze falling on Hong Lei.

A raspy voice, like the edge of a blade, gently scraped against Hong Lei's throat.

"Bet everything on number ten..."

"Li Nuanxi."

...

...

"The Underworld villains appeared together at the Qiankun Gambling House? To bet on Li Nuanxi?"

"And the Underworld Horse Face placed a bet with a Fifth-Order Middle-Level Divinity Crystal? Betting so big?"

"If the Underworld villains' gamble proves correct, and the Qiankun Gambling House refuses to pay out, or if they call upon the Su Family's Martial Saints and Divine Fetus to encircle and kill the villains... would the Underworld dare to come then?"

"What do you think? Would the Underworld dare?"

...

The news of the Underworld villains openly placing bets spread like a storm, almost overshadowing the momentum of the Sect Master's Direct Disciple Examination.

However, it was well-known among major forces that the Bull Demon had always had a close relationship with Li Nuanxi.

Thus, the Bull Demon rallying the Underworld villains to bet on Li Nuanxi wasn't entirely shocking.

What startled people was the way the villains swaggered publicly, acting unrestrained and fearless.

After all, the Underworld, in collaboration with the Yellow Sword Wine, had slaughtered the Su Family's disciples and even killed the Su Family Patriarch, Su Wenxi, completely severing ties with the Su Family.

So many were curious—how did the Underworld villains dare to act with such brazen audacity?

But upon reflection, the Underworld's actions seemed to show that they did not regard the Su Family at all.

And indeed, the Underworld had the capital to be this arrogant.

By the time Su Family Patriarch Su Daoling arrived, the Underworld villains had long since disappeared without a trace.

Qian Yuan Divine Sect.

Inner Sect, Divine Talisman Tower.

"Husband~~~!"

"You must take good care of Xi Xi. Xi Xi is, after all, my disciple, Xuan Qisha. If she gets eliminated during the Direct Disciple Examination, it would be such a loss of face for your wife!"

"Husband, let me pull some strings, okay?"

Xuan Qisha clasped her hands together, her watery eyes filled with a pitiful plea.

Lv Taibai, with a doting smile, rubbed her head affectionately.

"My dear, don't be naughty."

"Xi Xi doesn't need shortcuts."

"That little girl..."

"Someone will naturally help her."

...

...

February 26, Qingming Festival.

During Qingming, the drizzling rain falls incessantly, the travelers on the road feel their spirits consumed by sorrow.

The spring rain continued to fall lightly, and in the depths of Qianyuan Taoist City, a sprawling mountain range resembling a giant dragon coiled between the city was shrouded in misty rain, with a faint glimpse of a peak adorned with blooming red plum blossoms.

Dong!

A resonant chime echoed from within the Qian Yuan Divine Sect Mountain Gate.

This was an ancient Divine Bell that only rang for events of monumental importance, said to have been left by the founding ancestor of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect.

It carried a unique significance.

The bell sound rippled across the city, dislodging two or three peach petals from the peach trees lining the streets.

The petals fell to the rain-soaked ground, dampened by the raindrops, and were subsequently crushed by the wheels of passing carriages, sticking to them as they rolled forward.

Today was Qingming, a special time of the year, and also the day for an event that had captured the city's full attention.

The Qian Yuan Divine Sect Master, Lv Taibai, was about to conduct the final Direct Disciple Examination.

This would be the last disciple Lv Taibai took under his wing as a Direct Disciple, and although no one understood why Lv Taibai had made such a decision, no one doubted its authenticity once he had declared it.

The broad avenue of Qianyuan Taoist City, wide enough for a dozen luxurious carriages to travel side-by-side, was wet from the rain and bustling with activity.

Many children who hadn't been recorded in the Qiankun Gambling House's Divine Child List were still being escorted by their families toward the mountain range where the Qianyuan Divine Sect Mountain Gate was located.

Of course, only those with Divine Child talent were permitted; bringing a Spirit Child who hadn't achieved Divine Child level to participate in the examination...

Would be a grave disrespect to the Divine Sect Master, the Divine Fetus Great God Lv Taibai, ranked fifth on the Great God List.

Moreover, as of now...

No one knew what exactly the examination entailed. Lv Taibai hadn't revealed a single detail—not even to the elders of the Inner Sect.

Because the rules of the examination were personally set by Lv Taibai without consulting others.

Thus, it differed significantly from past Sect Master Direct Disciple Examinations.

Regardless, this examination carried profound significance. Becoming a Direct Disciple could bring about a situation akin to "one person ascends, all rise."

After all, should this Direct Disciple hail from the Great Vista, they might even...

Become the future successor of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect!

Qian Yuan Divine Sect.

Outer Sect, Disciple City, Elder Court.

Nie Yang had long driven the carriage to wait at the gate, while Li Chengzhou sat leaning against the shaft with his sword, eyes closed, bearing a maturity far beyond his age.

Xi Xi, after eating three large bowls of longevity noodles with added eggs prepared by Zhang Ya, contentedly patted her round little belly.

"Xi Xi can already feel Mommy's love! Let's set off, Emperor Xi Xi is ready to conquer!"

Hands on her hips, belly puffed out, Xi Xi radiated fighting spirit!

Though she really should've wiped away the noodle dangling at the corner of her mouth.

Li Che emerged from the house with a laugh, picked Xi Xi up, and together they entered the carriage.

"Time to go or we'll be late."

"Your poor old dad has staked almost everything he owns on this."

Li Che chuckled.

Hearing this, Xi Xi, held in Li Che's arms, confidently patted her chest like a drum.

"Daddy, don't worry, Emperor Xi Xi has been waiting so long to fight someone!"

"Today, I'm going to shock everyone!"

Xi Xi was brimming with confidence.

Li Che ruffled her hair. When it came to fighting, this little girl truly didn't back down—she was like the Number-One Tough Fighter of the world.

However, this Direct Disciple Examination wasn't about who could fight better.

Nie Yang, now elevated to Supreme Grandmaster, cracked the whip and the carriage set off.

Old Chen, puffing on his pipe, drove another carriage behind them, inside of which sat Xi Xi's little support crew—Gong Yang Xiu, Gong Yuanliang, Hai Chao Sheng, Huang Si Xiang, and others.

They were companions from the Golden Light Sub-sect who had come to the Qian Yuan Divine Sect together.

Though unqualified to partake in the Sect Master Direct Disciple Examination, they were eager to cheer for Emperor Xi Xi and boost her morale!

The carriages emerged from the Divine Sect Mountain Gate.

But they weren't the only ones; one carriage after another split through the spring rain, speeding along the mountain path.

From inside the Mountain Gate...

And from outside it...

Carriages moved as if twin currents, all converging on the Qiankun White Jade Arch imbued with the Founding Ancestor's Dao Yun—the designated site for Lv Taibai's Direct Disciple Examination.

On this Qingming day, to commemorate the ancestor.

And to accept one more Direct Disciple.

The spring breeze caressed willows, raindrops veiled the air.

Plum blossoms adorned the mountains.

Amidst the fine spring rain, the ancient Divine Bell rang once more.

Chapter 842: Emperor Xi Xi Sets Out Again to Talent Pass, Impressing the Grandmaster

February 26th, Qingming.

Suitable for: Cleaning, priesthood, seeking medical advice, treating illnesses. Avoid all other tasks.

Flowers fall while grass grows anew, orioles fly as butterflies frolic in pairs.

Light rain flutters incessantly.

The ancient mountains resemble a slumbering dragon, coiled deep within Qianyuan Taoist City, monopolizing the territories behind it.

It is akin to a dragon halberd spanning the human world.

The Qingshan seem eager to converse with those of great stature, endless steeds gallop forth in streams.

"Dong"

From deep within the mountains, the resonant toll of an ancient bell echoed.

The sound invisibly warped the air, like ripples of energy stirring a gentle breeze, tilting the Spring Rain and piercing through the heavens and earth.

The peach trees lining both sides of the Qianyuan Taoist City's main boulevard swayed gently in the spring wind, their blossoms falling petal by petal, adhering to the rain-soaked ground.

The petals stuck to hastily passing carriages as they threaded their way toward the Divine Sect.

The sky was dim, clouds densely layered, obscuring the radiant sun beyond.

Amidst the world, spring's chill carried a cutting sharpness.

Horse hooves lightly descended, striking the green stone pavement before the Qianyuan Divine Sect Mountain Gate's white jade archway, producing an ancient resonant sound akin to a bell being chimed.

Li Che held Xi Xi in his arms. Inside the carriage, the furnace was glowing warmly, banishing spring's chill from entering.

Zhang Ya sat across from Li Che. Today, she was adorned in lavish attire and delicate makeup. Her nervousness was visibly apparent.

She clenched her fists, whispering encouragement to herself repeatedly.

"My daughter Xi Xi can definitely do it! She'll surely pass the assessment and become a direct disciple of the Sect Master Great God! She can do it!"

Li Che hugged Xi Xi close as the father and daughter pair stared at the overly tense Zhang Ya, which made her slightly exasperated from their gaze.

"I'm not talking to the two of you anymore! Don't you ever feel nervous?"

Zhang Ya tightened her fists, shaking them slightly.

Xi Xi crawled out from Li Che's embrace and burrowed into Zhang Ya's arms, playfully nudging her. With surprising maturity, she patted Zhang Ya's shoulder to comfort her.

"Mother, please don't worry. Even if Xi Xi doesn't pass the assessment, Xi Xi is still a disciple of the Sect Master's wife. I can study Divine Talisman arts with her master, and Divine Talismans are really interesting!"

"Xi Xi is amazing now; I can even write my full name without making mistakes!"

As Xi Xi spoke, a proud grin blossomed across her face.

Then she climbed toward the carriage window, stood on tiptoes, and lifted the silk curtain.

The soft, cool spring breeze and rain poured in through the window, carrying hints of refreshing chill.

"So many people!"

Xi Xi exclaimed in surprise, twisting her tiny frame with excitement rather than any hint of anxiety, eager to dive into the scene.

With so many people gathered, Emperor Xi Xi was certain she'd have plenty of fun in battle today!

Nie Yang, expertly maneuvering the carriage, drove steadily along the wide, smooth avenue leading to the Divine Sect Mountain Gate.

Soon, they arrived at the vast flatland before the white jade archway.

The white jade archway stood tall and imposing, droplets of accumulated water from the Spring Rain clinging to its edges, occasionally dripping down like crystals.

The lingering chill of Qingming's spring cold spread throughout, and the mountain—full of flora—further amplified the icy sensation.

Yet today, before the white jade archway of Qianyuan Divine Sect's Mountain Gate, the scene was brimming with activity.

Endless streams of carriages and crowds bustled about.

The forceful qi-blood emanating from the gathered martial artists surged like a furnace stoked with fresh embers, banishing the chill long ago.

The luxurious carriages pulled up one by one, each halting atop the vast flatland before the jade archway.

The symbols engraved upon these carriages indicated that their occupants were undoubtedly privileged or wealthy.

The Su Family, Yun Family, Zhou Family, and Zhong Family—four top noble families of Qianyuan Taoist City—had their carriages parked at prime locations.

Next came the carriages from the Daoist Master Mansion and others, equally ornate yet with identities unknown.

Since only Divine Children were eligible to participate in the Sect Master's direct disciple assessment, the actual number of participants was quite limited.

Despite the thronging crowds, most were mere spectators eager for a glimpse of the spectacle.

When their carriage stopped, the aged Old Chen maneuvered expertly, halting with a sharp "Hee-yah!"

Rustle.

An oiled paper umbrella opened, shaking off the raindrops and keeping the Spring Rain at bay.

Zhang Ya stepped off the carriage, carrying Xi Xi. Li Che held up the umbrella for the mother and daughter, extending his arm to shield them. The family appeared harmonious amidst the hazy drizzle.

"Emperor Xi Xi shall set forth! Go, invincible Emperor Xi Xi!"

Once the carriage came to a halt.

Gong Yuanliang and Gong Yang Xiu, two lively characters, immediately popped out from their carriage, clenching their fists and shouting with excitement.

Xi Xi twisted and turned in Zhang Ya's arms, placing her hands on her hips, puffing up her chest proudly!

"Just you wait and see!"

Xi Xi was brimming with confidence.

In the distance.

From within the luxurious carriages now parked in neat rows, the Divine Children from various noble families began stepping out. Under the guidance of their respective family patriarchs, they lined up orderly.

"Hey, chubby kid!"

"Sister Yun E!"

Xi Xi's eyes lit up as she spotted Zhou Peng emerging from the Zhou Family's carriage and the ever-beautiful Ms. Yun E. Enthusiastically, she waved her chubby little arms.

Beside Yun E stood an elderly man with flowing white hair wearing a cyan robe of distinction, who also glanced over.

Yun E smiled sweetly, her dimples blooming like spring waters, replying with a wave toward Xi Xi.

The Yun Family's patriarch, Yun He, stood with his hands behind his back and turned his head when he heard Xi Xi's tender cries.

"E'er, is that Li Nuanxi..."

"The Divine Child who came to Qianyuan Taoist City from Golden Light Prefecture?"

The elder's eyes flickered with a hint of intrigue.

Li Nuanxi's name had gradually gained fame in Qianyuan Taoist City these past days.

The Sect Master's wife had personally intervened for this disciple, suppressing Ji Moli's Dragon Queen Consort in the bustling streets.

Additionally, some days ago, Earthly Hell's Evil bet collectively at Qiankun Gambling House that Li Nuanxi, ranked only tenth, would triumph. For a time, Divine Child Li Nuanxi's name resonated entirely.

Chapter 843: Emperor Xi Xi Sets Out Again to Talent Pass, Impressing the Grandmaster - Part 2

"A promising child."

"However, this time, you and she are competitors, and you must not hold back."

"You understand, this time... it's your only chance to change your fate

"Otherwise, as a clan junior, your life is not your own."

Yun He said softly.

Yun E's parents passed away early, and combined with her stunning beauty and special constitution.

If she can become the direct disciple of the Sect Master this time, her status will rise significantly, bringing great benefits to the Yun Family, and only then can she break free from the shackles of the Noble Families, to control her own destiny.

But if she fails...

Yun E's long eyelashes trembled slightly as she lowered her head: "Family Head, Yun E understands."

Yun He nodded.

On the other side, Zhou Peng happily greeted Xi Xi and then, under Xi Xi's envious gaze, casually grabbed a hot meat bun, stuffing it into his mouth to chew.

"Xi Xi!"

In the distance, a burly figure broke through the wind and rain, accompanied by a graceful figure in a pale yellow dress.

It was Xi Xi's senior brother Bian Yuanlong and senior sister Sang Guanyin.

Beside Sang Guanyin, dressed in a white robe of a Minor Supervisor of the Qintian Observatory, Sang Yu leisurely followed, gently waving a paper fan.

"Elder Li."

Bian Yuanlong saw Li Che, saluting respectfully with clasped fists.

The current Li Che is the Fifth Elder of Divine Carving Ridge, a very prestigious position within the Qian Yuan Divine Sect.

Li Che wore a gentle smile, nodding slightly.

Xi Xi, seeing Sang Guanyin and Bian Yuanlong, immediately became happy, burrowing into Sang Guanyin's embrace. She was always with Sang Guanyin in the Golden Light Prefecture, so they were very close.

"Xi Xi, you have to work hard. If you become the Sect Master's direct disciple, your senior sister will have someone to rely on within the Divine Sect!"

Sang Guanyin gently ruffled Xi Xi's head.

Xi Xi suddenly became spirited, puffing out her small belly, patting her chest loudly.

"Don't worry, Senior Sister Yin Yin! Xi Xi is very strong now!"

"Against opponents like Hai Chao Sheng, Xi Xi can kick them away, one at a time!"

Xi Xi was very proud, raising her chin with confidence.

Sang Guanyin chuckled lightly.

The robust Bian Yuanlong followed them, chuckling foolishly.

"Xi Xi, your talent and strength are undeniable, but you must recognize your opponents clearly

Sang Guanyin said very seriously.

She pointed to the distance, where a luxurious carriage was parked. On the shaft of the carriage, a young man dressed in plain clothes sat quietly, holding an engraving knife in his hand, constantly turning it, letting the shavings fall as he carved a Divine Sculpture.

"He is Gongshu Wentian, from the Divine Capital Gongsu Family, a family stronger than the Su Family, rumored to have blood relations with the Chief of the Qintian Observatory... your biggest rival."

Sang Guanyin introduced solemnly to Xi Xi.

Upon hearing this, Xi Xi couldn't help but look over.

The young man in plain clothes had a ponytail, and as if sensing Xi Xi's gaze, slightly lifted his eyelids, revealing a handsomely sculpted face.

"Wow! So handsome!"

Xi Xi covered her mouth.

Li Che, who was beside her, turned dark-faced.

Xi Huangmao, enough is enough!

Sang Guanyin was also speechless, though she was used to Xi Xi's personality, this little girl... unlike Uncle Li's gentle and elegant manner, she might grow up to be a little ruffian.

"You can't slack off just because he looks good, give it your all, understand?"

Sang Guanyin advised.

"Don't worry, Senior Sister Yin Yin, someone this handsome, if beaten up, would surely look good even when crying!"

Xi Xi clenched her little fist.

Bian Yuanlong behind her rubbed his close-cropped hair, his eyes widening.

Is this what my junior sister really is?

Gongshu Wentian's engraving knife trembled slightly, vaguely sensing Xi Xi's aggressive gaze.

"That Heavenly Sculpture prodigy, the youngest ever Elder of Divine Carving Ridge, Li Che's daughter?"

Gongshu Wentian's lips curled slightly.

A five-year-old girl posed no threat to him.

In fact, Gongshu Wentian never considered anyone present to be his rival.

The ancient He of the Heavenly Pill Divine Sect was not up to par, nor was Xuan Yue of the Xuanfu Divine Sect, the Seven Treasures Divine Sect's Ning Caihe couldn't compare, and neither could Lv Qingxuan of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect...

Gongshu Wentian was too proud.

After all, he hailed from the Gongshu Family.

One of the Great Vista's three ancient families, the Gongshu Family, a family that bore the Great Supervising Minister!

There is a saying in the world.

A court as ephemeral as flowing water, but an ancient family as firm as iron.

And among the three ancient families, one is the Gongshu Family.

Thus, Gongshu Wentian did not consider Xi Xi as a rival.

Compared to Li Nuanxi, Gongshu Wentian... was more interested in her father, the Divine Sculpture Master Li Che!

It was heard that Li Che might have a chance to break through to the realm of the Divine Sculpture Half-Saint in the future, and seemed to have acquired the Tang Family's mechanical techniques' legacy... Gongshu Wentian was extremely interested, and with the thought, his engraving knife worked faster, every hair on his body trembled in excitement.

Spirit Wood Shavings fell and swirled around.

Gongshu Wentian shifted his gaze to Li Che, his mouth slowly curving into a grin.

Li Che was holding an umbrella for Zhang Ya when he suddenly sensed a heated gaze.

His eyes swept over, and he saw Gongshu Wentian's wolf-like eyes.

Facing Li Che's gaze, Gongshu Wentian raised the wood carving in his hand.

The wood carving...

It depicted the Temple God, the Two-Minded Great Sage, from the Mysterious Temple suppressed by the Divine Carving Ridge.

Gongshu Family...

What is their relation with Gongshu Jingjun?

Li Che gave a gentle smile, not paying too much attention.

Sang Guanyin held Xi Xi, introducing each opponent to her.

Gu He, Xuan Yue, Lv Qingxuan, Ning Caihe...

Chapter 844: Emperor Xi Xi Sets Out Again to Talent Pass, Impressing the Grandmaster - Part 3

"This is the Young Prince Lu Chi Sang Guanyin saw Lu Chi, paused, and spoke softly.

Xi Xi, however, snorted and said, "Hmph! Ignore him!"

Turning her head, she began to observe the other Divine Children.

Lu Chi slightly tilted his head, saw Xi Xi ignoring him, pressed his lips together, and then calmed his gaze, looking straight ahead.

While Xi Xi was being led by Sang Guanyin to size up the opponents, the opponents were also scrutinizing each other.

Spring Rain became a bit more solemn, as if a powder keg was about to erupt between them.

Suddenly, Xi Xi, in Sang Guanyin's arms, felt a gaze full of resentment.

A luxurious carriage slowly broke through the wind and rain, its curtains lifted, revealing the Dragon Queen Consort with horns on her forehead and a face full of coldness.

Inside the carriage, Little Dragon Girl Ao Qingqing and the son of Young Taoist Master Yue Weizheng, Yue Linghu, sat together.

Yue Linghu, handsome in appearance, gazed at Little Dragon Girl Ao Qingqing, as if his eyes were glowing slightly.

Ao Qingqing had been under intense pressure from the Dragon Queen Consort recently, and she knew why—it was all because of the pressure Li Nuanxi brought upon the Princess Consort. Thus, Ao Qingqing harbored some resentment toward Li Nuanxi.

Because of her, these recent times were so tough, and her aunt who always pampered her had suddenly transferred all the pressure onto her.

"Qingqing, don't worry, I will definitely help you suppress Li Nuanxi in the assessment!"

Yue Linghu said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, Ao Qingqing's voice immediately softened, "Thank you, Brother Linghu."

Hearing her tender voice, Yue Linghu's smile widened.

He liked Ao Qingqing's soft voice, it made him feel as if even his bones were melting, and coupled with the task assigned by his father, Yue Linghu was convinced that Ao Qingqing would be his future wife.

Many Divine Children got off the carriages and stood on the rain-soaked blue-stone Daping.

Some Inner and Outer Sect disciples wearing the Divine Sect's robes set up a perimeter to keep the onlookers at bay, preventing them from getting too close.

But even so, it couldn't dampen the Jianghu guests' enthusiasm for spectating.

The mountain path was almost completely blocked by crowds, layer upon layer, inside and out, all filled with people.

"Dong

Another muffled ancient bell rang out, reverberating mightily.

This time, it was different from the previous two occasions.

It seemed to carry a sense of solemnity, rolling through the air.

In an instant, the noisy Qiankun Archway area in front of the Divine Sect Mountain Gate fell silent.

Everyone's gaze fell on the blue-stone mountain path shrouded in mist and clouds of Qian Yuan Divine Sect.

For a moment, the atmosphere at the mountain gate's Daping seemed serene.

Everyone fell into a solemn silence.

The pitter-patter of spring rain on the ground sounded like the grains in an hourglass rolling gently.

Suddenly.

Everyone's eyes focused, feeling as though their vision was blurring.

The seemingly dragon-like winding mountain range of the Divine Sect Mountain Gate appeared to come alive, shaking fiercely.

Countless clouds were abruptly torn apart.

An overwhelming pressure swept across, descending out of nowhere.

Countless raindrops suddenly froze in mid-air, as if glued and suspended by an invisible force.

"It's here!"

Someone lifted the curtains of their luxurious carriage, their eyes narrowing.

At the Divine Sect Inner Gate, on the mountain peak blossoming with plum flowers.

Suddenly, a sword light shot up towards the sky.

Then it seemed as though a figure in white rode the wind within the sword light, arriving by sword, suspending in the sky high above.

An oppressive Rank pressure, making everyone feel stifled and unable to breathe, spread like ripples in all directions.

It was the terrifying pressure belonging solely to a Divine Fetus Great God!

Just by sensing it, it felt like facing a vast ocean.

"Lu Taibai!"

"Qian Yuan Divine Sect Master!"

"A pinnacle figure on the fifth of the Great God List!"

...

Sounds of gasping echoed everywhere.

Many people opened the curtains, directly facing the sharp figure, simply appearing there made everyone feel an immense sense of oppression.

The Princess Consort stared at Divine Sect Master Lu Taibai, her heart slightly shaken.

Such grandeur...

She had only seen this on her man Ji Moli.

The current Family Head of the Su Family, Divine Talisman Semi-Saint Su Daoling's eyes deepened slightly.

"Unfathomable... Lu Taibai has become even more terrifying after decades of seclusion

...

Qian Yuan Divine Sect Master Lu Taibai finally showed up amidst everyone's eager anticipation, seemingly like a Sword Immortal standing high above, overlooking the mortal world.

"Ancestor Worship."

Lu Taibai transformed into sword light, swiftly descending in front of the Qiankun Arch.

Within the Divine Sect, Great Elder Fang Hanshu, Second Elder Zhao Fangzhou, Third Elder Ding Zi, Fourth Elder Ji Heshan...

One by one, the Inner Sect Elders floated out from the mountain gate, gathering in front of the Qiankun Arch.

Meanwhile, the Outer Elders who had been waiting in front of the arch, all dressed in simple long robes, stepped forward, lining up behind.

Li Che was watching intently from below.

Suddenly, a voice transmission echoed in his ear.

"A Che, come up."

"You are the Divine Carving Ridge Elder, you should come up here."

Li Che was startled, looking at the Master of the Divine Carving Ridge, Gongshu Jingjun, waiting in the distance.

Behind him stood Great Elder Tang Xiejia and three other aged Elders from the Divine Carving Ridge.

Upon hearing this, Li Che saw Lu Qingti approaching swiftly, respectfully saluting before guiding Li Che to ascend the stage.

Li Che didn't resist or hesitate, handing the oil-paper umbrella to Zhang Ya.

Then he came to Sang Guanyin's side, pinching Xi Xi's cheek, "Don't be careless, perform well."

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Li Che smiled faintly, then straightened his spine, brushed off a raindrop from his Mo Shan robe, and followed Lu Qingti. They passed through the crowd, accompanied by many startled and curious gazes, heading towards the Qiankun Arch.

Under countless surprised and respectful stares, Li Che arrived at the ranks of Gongshu Jingjun and the Divine Eagle Ridge Elders.

Following that, the Divine Eagle Ridge Elders also stepped forward one by one, joining the many elders of the Qianyuan Divine Sect, aligning themselves neatly in front of the Qiankun Arch.

The Sect Master Lv Taibai stood tall in pristine white robes, his silver hair flowing freely as his gaze landed on Li Che, whose entrance into the ranks was rather remarkable.

"Elder Li."

Lv Taibai's eyes gleamed profoundly, a Godly Pattern visible at the center of his brow.

The corners of his lips lifted with a trace of amusement: "Not bad."

Li Che felt a jolt in his heart, as though every Dao Fruit within his chest quivered intensely at that moment, warning him of the unparalleled danger emanating from this person before him.

Even within the Heaven and Earth chessboard's [Equal to Heaven's Face], the Prison Lotus Yin Divine Sword trembled uncontrollably.

Likewise, the Three-point double-edged knife embedded in his left arm quivered faintly.

Li Che took a deep breath—he couldn't fight and win...

Facing such a being head-on right now, he certainly couldn't win!

Even a sneak attack wouldn't work!

Suppressing the unease in his heart, he clasped his fists and bowed: "Newly appointed Elder of Divine Eagle Ridge, Li Che, pays respect to the Sect Master."

Sect Master Lv Taibai nodded slightly, refraining from further pleasantries.

Following that, he led the many elders to begin their ceremonial tribute to the Grandmaster.

The process of the ancestral tribute was presided over by Jiao Shaoqiu. Though meticulous, it was not overly complicated. After completing a series of rituals, each elder placed a stick of incense in their designated bronze incense burner, marking the conclusion of the act.

Not much time was wasted.

Upon completing the tribute, the elders dispersed to either side of the arch, where their designated Taishi Chairs awaited them.

Li Che was guided to one such chair, seated at the furthest end designated for the Divine Eagle Ridge elders.

Being the fifth elder, he was seated in the sixth chair accordingly.

However, among the other four aged, white-haired elders of Divine Eagle Ridge, the youthful presence of Li Che stood out, appearing vibrant and conspicuous.

Li Che turned to survey the crowd below, an oppressive sea of black faces, countless gazes fixated on him, stirring a peculiar sensation within him.

Through the crowd, Li Che noticed Xi Xi, held in Sang Guanyin's arms. Xi Xi's bright eyes blinked rapidly, her red-flushed cheeks radiating excitement as she waved her arms incessantly.

"Yin Yin Senior Sister, that's Daddy! That's my Daddy!"

Xi Xi's voice was brimming with joy and exhilaration.

Indeed, as Emperor Xi Xi's father, he truly lived up to the grandeur!

"Silence

Below the arch.

Jiao Shaoqiu, with a weathered frame draped in traditional robes, spoke solemnly and gravely, his voice resonating deeply, silencing the murmurs and whispers surging through the crowd.

"The tribute to the ancestors has concluded."

"Qianyuan Divine Sect Sect Master Lv Taibai's sixth direct disciple assessment will now commence."

Jiao Shaoqiu's resonant voice echoed through the gathering.

As his words fell.

The gathered Divine Children on the great plaza trembled slightly, their eyes reflecting profound solemnity and focus.

Amidst the tense atmosphere, the chill of the spring breeze swept over them.

Jiao Shaoqiu stepped aside.

Lv Taibai rose leisurely from his Taishi Chair, appearing without the slightest edge or aggression.

Draped in white robes billowing in the breeze, he strode to the foot of the Qiankun Arch.

His deep gaze swept across the assembly, akin to an infinite vortex, drawing in each individual's spirit.

"This will be Lv Taibai's final disciple. You all know that Taibai's principles of accepting disciples remain inclusive—within Qianyuan Divine Sect, we welcome talent from all nations. No matter where you come from, if you meet the qualifications, you're eligible to join."

"Moreover, the final direct disciple selected today will hold the position of future Young Sect Master of Qianyuan Divine Sect."

Lv Taibai stated faintly.

With those words.

The atmosphere over the great plaza seemed to ignite like a barrel of dynamite, nearly exploding!

No one had anticipated Lv Taibai would directly confirm this claim with his own words.

Rumors were one matter, but their confirmation was something entirely different.

"Even if

"This disciple of mine is not from the Grand Prospect Dynasty."

Upon hearing this.

The spring breeze seemed to turn murderous, while spring rain became sharp and torrential!

Many tranquil carriages nearby quaked violently, their curtains flapping wildly under the impact of an unseen Qi Force.

Clearly, Lv Taibai's statement stirred too many hearts, throwing countless minds into turmoil!

Madness?!

Lv Taibai... truly insane!

This decision was nothing short of audacious!

Should Lv Taibai truly appoint a non-dynasty candidate as the Young Sect Master, the Imperial Court of the Grand Prospect Dynasty would certainly not idly stand by.

However, among those present for Lv Taibai's final direct disciple evaluation, non-dynasty Divine Children were a minority.

Thus, the likelihood of a non-dynasty candidate being chosen was quite slim.

Though the Dragon Maiden Ao Qingqing's heart soared instinctively.

She felt her chances had suddenly become much brighter!

Lv Taibai paid no heed to the varied emotional responses and shifting attitudes among the Divine Children.

He scanned the crowd, his gaze akin to a serene pool of sword light, calm and unwavering.

"Hence, this direct disciple evaluation will consist of three stages: testing talent, testing heart, and the temple trial

"Each stage will serve as a filter to weed out candidates."

"The first stage, testing talent, will ultimately permit only ten candidates to proceed to the next stage."

"After the heart test stage, only three will remain for the temple trial

Lv Taibai spoke indifferently.

He finally revealed the long-speculated rules of the evaluation.

Immediately, the atmosphere over the great plaza heated intensely.

Eyes brimming with curiosity and intrigue, as although these rules differed slightly from Lv Taixuan's past evaluation process, the core structure remained quite similar.

"Since my final disciple will become the Young Sect Master of Qianyuan Divine Sect, the first talent test and second heart test will be evaluated by the recently honored Grandmaster."

As his words concluded.

Lv Taibai flicked his fingers, unleashing a burst of sword light that shot swiftly into the bronze incense burners filled with incense sticks.

It reverberated akin to an ancient ceremonial bell struck heavily.

The incense burner trembled violently as countless smoke columns were swept up by sword light, spiraling toward the Qiankun Dao Yun Plaque.

Roaring—

Above the Heavenly Dome, dark clouds gathered and a clap of spring thunder rolled dramatically!

Instantly, the Qiankun Dao Yun Plaque unleashed a torrent of concentrated Divinity, flooding outward relentlessly!

That Divinity radiated in pure white form, infused with sharp sword Qi.

Around the Mountain Gate, it spiraled ceaselessly, gradually morphing into a vortex.

"The first test, the talent test, does not impose restrictions—not bound to the Observation Skill's Purple Aura Divinity Column

"Martial Arts, Divinity, Divine Sculpture, Divine Pill, Divine Talisman, Divine Weapon—these six aspects of talent can all serve as determining factors."

"The Grandmaster will judge comprehensively."

"Show your utmost; let your talent shine to its fullest. Be it Blood Burning, summoning the temple god, sacrificial talisman usage, burst seeds, or even cheating—it's all permissible

"Don't fret over shocking the Grandmaster

Lv Taibai's white robes flapped violently in the wind, his silver hair dancing chaotically as his gaze pierced like lightning, his voice resonating with gravity.

The words thundered through everyone's ears vividly.

Almost every Divine Child trembled utterly, their faces flushed with determination and vigor.

Completely different!

This direct disciple evaluation—completely unprecedented!

Testing talent now extended beyond merely Observation Skill or Martial Arts innate aptitude!

Wasn't this their opportunity knocking?!

Seated among the elders, Li Che's Mo Shan robe fluttered wildly in the fierce wind, his jet-black hair whipping around like lightning strikes.

He gazed at the vortex formed from the Divinity spiraling out of the Qiankun Dao Yun Plaque.

Within, it seemed to contain an entire Heaven and Earth realm.

Listening to Sect Master Lv Taibai unveil the rules, his expression turned somewhat peculiar.

No restrictions?

No objections to cheating?

Exhibit any method to enhance talent?

Li Che glanced at Lv Taibai.

Did the Sect Master's wife convince him with a pillow talk...?

Or perhaps, the last time Xi Xi passed the Sect Master's wife's Divine Talisman test with Li Che's unseen intervention, the Sect Master had uncovered his little trick?

These rules—weren't they tailored for him and Xi Xi?

What kind of man could endure such trials?!

Lv Taibai stood smiling faintly.

Observing the now chaotic and roaring great plaza.

Witnessing the excitement and eagerness igniting in the eyes of each Divine Child.

Lv Taibai gently stepped back to his rightful place as Sect Master.

Gracefully seated, his white robes cascading elegantly.

"Little ones, spare no effort to show your utmost potential."

"With your talent

"Amaze the Grandmaster."

Chapter 846: First Temple God's Enforcer Third Crown Prince, Snacks Prepared by the Boss for Xi Xi

The endless mountain range stretches deep into the Qianyuan Dao City.

The thick leaden clouds pile heavily, like a mirror in water reflecting the smoke-enshrouded Qianyuan Mountain Range, making it hard to distinguish between sky and earth.

The spring rain continues to drizzle, adorning the blossoming plum blossoms on the peaks, as though splashes of color in an ink wash painting.

In front of the Divine Sect Mountain Gate, the White Jade Arch stands, with the two characters "Qiankun" shimmering brilliantly.

A majestic divinity flows out, converging into a massive white vortex of divinity ahead, as if reflecting a scene resembling the Strange Que.

Through the whirlpool of divinity, it seems like there's a Small Cave Heaven beyond.

In the Daping before the Mountain Gate Arch, the rain drizzles down as though ox hair, unable to extinguish the enthusiasm bubbling in the Divine Children's hearts.

"To open the Grandmaster's eyes?"

"How to open eyes? Take medicine, does that work?"

"Sure, didn't the Taibai Sect Master say? The talent test here concerns the six aspects of Martial Path, Divinity, Divine Sculpture, Divine Talisman, Divine Weapon, the main aspects the world cultivates in nowadays."

"There are no restrictions on methods, as long as you can show the limits of your talent, but if you use talent burst methods, it could be harmful to your body, right?"

Many Divine Children gathered, chattering among themselves.

They are all children at heart, unable to suppress their curiosity when faced with intriguing things.

Apart from the children, many parents accompanying them also showed slight changes in their expressions.

Lv Taibai, seated in the sect master position, his white robe fluttering from the airflow stirred by the Qiankun Arch, smiled faintly: "Rest assured, the Qiankun Small Heaven that the Grandmaster opened up is suffused with Dao Yun. Any effects of talent burst you experience within it, any side effects will be negated by the mystical power of Dao Yun, bringing no harm to your body."

Dao Yun, a power only touchable by those in the Divine Tribulation Realm.

Since Lv Taibai claims there's Dao Yun power as assurance, it won't be wild talk.

The minds of many Divine Children were also moved.

Protectors from the Divine Capital Gongsu Family, Heavenly Pill Divine Sect, and Xuanfu Divine Sect, their eyes flickered, as they summoned the Divine Children, secretly arranging talent burst treasures, elixirs, divine talismans, and so on.

Almost all of the Divine Children's elders started preparing and arranging.

Sang Guanyin stood holding Xi Xi in the wind and rain, feeling somewhat bewildered at the moment.

Xi Xi also opened her eyes wide, blinking a few times, looking somewhat dumbfounded.

"Sister Yin Yin, Xi Xi is going to be at a big disadvantage!" f

Xi Xi pursed her lips.

"Xi Xi's family is really poor, and daddy just became an elder. How could there be any elixirs or divine talismans to enhance talent... It's over, Emperor Xi Xi is going to be suppressed."

Xi Xi said pitifully.

Daddy is such an honest and simple man, how could he come up with good things to enhance talent?

Xi Xi is so pitiful.

Sang Guanyin was speechless, unsure how to respond.

This change of rules caught Sang Guanyin off guard.

Though her parents held a decent position in the Sang Family, even a short-term enhancement or burst of talent with divine pills and talismans was a rare treasure not easily given away.

Sang Guanyin turned to look at Bian Yuanlong behind her.

Bian Yuanlong rubbed his big head, feeling dumbstruck.

He was nearly part of the Moonlight Clan regarding resources for cultivation in the Qian Yuan Divine Sect, where would he find good things to alter talent?

For a moment, the atmosphere grew heavy.

Zhang Ya, standing beside the two, also showed slight changes in her expression.

Supreme Grandmaster Nie Yang frowned, not expecting such a step in the direct disciple examination.

He, Nie Yang...

Is quite poor as well.

"What should we do?" Zhang Ya's face suddenly showed a bit of anxiety.

Her daughter is not losing on talent but on the cultivation resources they can provide, causing Zhang Ya to feel deeply guilty and pained.

"Mother... Mother will take you to find your father."

Zhang Ya took Xi Xi from Sang Guanyin's arms, hurriedly squeezing through the crowd towards Li Che, who was seated under the arch in the position of Divine Eagle Ridge Elder.

"Husband!"

Zhang Ya called out quietly.

But as soon as she spoke, it instantly drew everyone's attention because Li Che's position... was too conspicuous.

In an instant, it was as if thousands of gazes fell upon her, making the hairs stand on end on her fair neck, as if crushed by overwhelming pressure.

However, just for a moment, a warm aura enveloped her, dispelling her tension and sense of oppression.

Li Che already descended from the elder position, wrapped his arm around Zhang Ya's waist, and took Xi Xi from her arms.

"Husband

Zhang Ya couldn't care about being the center of attention, calling softly.

"Don't worry, I know

Li Che affectionately ruffled Zhang Ya's head, then turned to Xi Xi.

"Dear, you should trust our Xi Xi's talent. Even without enhancing talent methods, our Xi Xi won't be weak... There's still a chance to stand out in the first round of talent assessment."

"Perhaps while everyone uses talent enhancement methods, but our Xi Xi uses nothing, relying solely on her unparalleled talent to surpass opponents, wouldn't that even more shock the Grandmaster, opening the Grandmaster's eyes?"

Chapter 847: First Temple God's Enforcer Third Crown Prince, Snacks Prepared by the Boss for Xi Xi (2)

Xi Xi's eyes lit up brightly upon hearing the words.

"Xi Xi, do you have confidence?!"

"Although our family is poor, though we lack the elixirs, divine talismans, secret techniques, and so forth to enhance your talent... but your father has a heart full of burning faith in you!"

"We will use true talent to defeat the opponents and show them... what real genius is!"

"Let the Grandmaster open his eyes and see what pure and unparalleled aptitude truly means!"

"My Emperor Xi Xi will crush them with pure talent!"

Li Che placed his hand firmly on Xi Xi's small shoulder, his tone resolute, his gaze like iron!

The Immaculate Heart Divinity surged madly into Xi Xi's body, accompanied by several Flying Thunder Chess Pieces.

Xi Xi's little face immediately turned bright red.

Her small body started trembling violently.

Ah—!

Emperor Xi Xi is about to ignite!

Father's words make so much sense. Emperor Xi Xi... needs no cheats! No divine pills, talismans, or secret techniques to awaken talents!

What's so terrifying about poverty?!

Emperor Xi Xi's talent is strong—she definitely can advance to the second round of assessment!

"Father, Xi Xi will try her best!"

Xi Xi clenched her small fist tightly and spoke with great seriousness.

Beneath the arch.

The elders of Divine Carving Ridge looked at each other upon hearing the words and sighed softly.

"Elder Li... is truly upright."

"It's a pity Elder Li just became an elder of Divine Carving Ridge; he hasn't earned many resources. Otherwise, he might have been able to gather a divine pill to enhance talent. Additionally... Elder Li likely hasn't tried carving a talent-enhancement divine sculpture, has he?"

"Xi Xi, such a good child... persevering despite poverty! Her future holds limitless potential!"

Several elders conversed softly.

Master Gongshu Jingjun of Divine Carving Ridge furrowed his brows lightly and stood up, drawing a black jade vase from the Qiankun Jade with a flick of his hand.

"Che, this is a divine pill that can temporarily amplify divinity, increasing the Purple Aura Divinity Column's height by about ten feet... Give it to the child. I'm afraid if the grade is too high, Xi Xi's small body may not be able to handle it."

Gongshu Jingjun said solemnly.

Li Che's eyes gleamed with surprise upon hearing these words.

He quickly expressed his gratitude.

However, Xi Xi, incited by Li Che's encouragement, seemed like a fiery little flame, gripping her small fists tightly.

"No! Father, Xi Xi doesn't need it!"

"Emperor Xi Xi wants to rely on her own abilities!"

Xi Xi said in a childlike yet determined voice.

Gongshu Jingjun froze for a moment, while Li Che smiled slightly, hugging Xi Xi and addressing Gongshu Jingjun: "Thank you, Ridge Master, for your generosity; but as Xi Xi said, she is confident and wants to depend on herself."

"Such ambition!"

"Xi Xi, if you fail to become the Sect Master's true successor, then come to Divine Carving Ridge. I will personally teach you in the future."

Gongshu Jingjun laughed heartily as he stroked his beard.

Because standing with Xi Xi under the arch, amidst the crowd, Li Che essentially rejected Gongshu Jingjun's assistance in front of everyone's eyes.

Many Divine Children immediately furrowed their brows.

Even Gongshu Wentian, the Divine Child of the Gongshu Family, had accepted the temporary talent-enhancing divine sculpture and pill provided by his family's protector. Seeing Xi Xi decline the pill, he promptly pushed the elixir away as well.

"If Li Nuanxi doesn't need it, why would Gongshu Wentian require it?"

Gongshu Wentian chuckled faintly, brimming with confidence.

"She believes she can suppress others with her innate talent. I, Gongshu Wentian... naturally can do so as well."

Gongshu Wentian was too proud.

His family's protector wore a helpless expression: "Young master, please don't play around. If you can become the Taibai Sect Master's direct disciple, it will greatly aid your future bid for the position of Family Head."

"I, Wentian, do not need it!" On Gongshu Wentian's handsome face, a trace of disdain appeared.

"Then, young master, take the divine pill and sculpture with you. If you truly don't need them, then don't use them—but if you do need them at some point... you can salvage the situation."

Hearing this, Gongshu Wentian stopped rejecting outright. With a sweep of the Qiankun Jade, he collected these excellent items.

Many Divine Children as proud as Gongshu Wentian were present, all shouting about relying on their innate talent to make the Grandmaster take notice.

Yet, after being scolded by their elders, they all calmed down.

Near the parked carriages.

Old Chen sat on the shaft, puffing on his tobacco pipe and let out a long sigh.

"Xi Xi, truly understanding beyond her years."

"Children from poor homes grow up early

Inside the carriage, Nurse Momo also sighed with deep sympathy, her heart aching for little Xi Xi.

As someone who had watched Xi Xi grow up, Nurse Momo knew all too well the hardships of Xi Xi's family. Reaching their current height had already taken every ounce of strength.

Seated alongside Nurse Momo in the carriage, Li Qingshan rolled his eyes.

You've all been fooled by Li Che...

As someone most familiar with Li Che's methods and strength, Cat Face Li Qingshan did not believe that Li Che hadn't prepared any aces for Xi Xi.

Bull Demon... was the Underworld's top trickster!

Look at that—the tournament's top seed, Gongshu Wentian, was already half-baited.

Beneath the Dao Yun Arch of Jade Qiankun.

Lv Taibai sat on a Taishi Chair, his mouth twitching slightly.

Among everyone present, only his Divine Sense was the sharpest, discerning perfectly that while Li Che righteously inspired Xi Xi to rely on her own talent, his hands hadn't stopped tinkering.

"What did Li Che instill into Xi Xi's body? Divinity?"

Lv Taibai's gaze flashed with odd brilliance.

"Dong—!!!"

A bell rang.

The sound wave burst outward, as spring rain exploded in the air.

Lv Taibai, seated in his chair, spoke in a resonant voice as if sword qi erupted forth from his lips, the sharpness momentarily sufficing to quiet the crowd and suppress any commotion.

Chapter 848: First Temple God's Enforcer Third Crown Prince, Snacks Prepared by the Boss for Xi Xi (3)

"Alright, the preparation time is over. Now... all Divine Children who wish to participate in the trial, enter the Qiankun Small Cave Heaven."

Lv Taibai said.

As his words fell, it was like Sword Qi cutting through iron and gold—sharp and ringing, resounding with authority!

The already battle-driven Xi Xi, upon hearing Lv Taibai's words, immediately slipped out of Li Che's arms. Conveniently, she was closest to the vortex entrance of the Small Cave Heaven. Her tiny feet stomped, and then she dashed toward the entrance.

Buzz, buzz, buzz

The entrance to the Cave Heaven swirled, its divinity surging. Without hesitation, Xi Xi dove headfirst into the vortex.

No hindrance whatsoever—she effortlessly darted inside.

Lv Taibai, sitting on his chair, suddenly shifted his hips, staring blankly at the little girl who had passed through the entrance with no resistance.

This little one...

Gongshu Wentian frowned slightly as he saw Xi Xi rush into the Small Cave Heaven ahead of everyone.

This Li Nuanxi... what a cheat!

She had snuck to the front row, stealing the best entry spot.

With a short, dagger-like engraving knife in hand, Gongshu Wentian spun it in a flashy butterfly knife trick. Then, with a sharp click, he clenched the knife tightly in his palm, tapping his toes against the ground. His body erupted with ferocious Qi-Blood, surging powerfully.

The accumulated Spring Rain on the ground exploded, spattering countless white droplets into the air.

Like an arrow shot from a bow, he bolted through the crowd, soaring upward with consecutive leaps. His feet seemed to tread upon the rain as he triggered a chain of water explosions with every step.

Just as Gongshu Wentian moved, Gu He, the Divine Child of the Heavenly Pill Divine Sect—a youth with eight sheep-fat jade vases hanging from his waist—smirked faintly, flicked his finger, and sent a bean-like Elixir soaring high. With a quick swallow, he consumed it.

A fierce wind surrounded him instantly, propelling him forward. He closely pursued Gongshu Wentian, charging straight toward the entrance of Qiankun Small Cave Heaven.

Lv Qingxuan, the top-ranked Chulong of Qian Yuan Divine Sect's Dragon List, had a sword hanging from his waist. With a single step, Sword Light erupted beneath his soles, shimmering like radiant ripples.

Accompanied by the brilliant song of the blade, he moved as though flying atop his sword.

From the Xuanfu Divine Sect, Xuan Yue—a playful and adorable young girl—stuck out her tongue, slapped a Divine Talisman, and disappeared in a flash of divine energy. When she reappeared, she had somehow gotten ahead of everyone else.

Divine Children such as Ning Caihe from Seven Treasures Divine Sect, Yang Yi ranked second on the Dragon List, Yue Linghu the grandson of Master Qian Yuan, Tie Shancai, and many others prominent on the betting boards all dashed forward together.

Boom, boom, boom, boom!

The atmosphere instantly surged with heat, wild winds howled, and torrential Qi streams roared!

From the leaden clouds high above, countless streams of Spring Rain poured down, bursting into fine mist on impact.

Gongshu Wentian sneered coldly as he glimpsed Xuan Yue overtaking him. “Divine Talisman users—always cheating.”

His five fingers clenched tightly as his Qi-Blood surged violently, propelling his speed to an even greater height. He plowed through the rushing air, stirring up white turbulence that twisted wildly around him.

In a flash, he overtook Xuan Yue, who had only just teleported forward via her Divine Talisman. He crashed headfirst into the swirling vortex of Qiankun Small Cave Heaven’s entrance.

In the next moment

Gongshu Wentian’s pupils narrowed sharply, the cold, disdainful smile on his face vanishing in an instant. He felt an overwhelming, mountain-crushing force—a pressure as immense as collapsing peaks and trembling earth—slam down on him!

Then came the sensation of an invisible Air Wall blocking his path.

The Air Wall wasn’t solid, yet it felt as though his body had embedded itself into it.

Crunch, crunch!

His muscles and bones groaned under unbearable strain, his skin trembling and rippling like waves from the tremendous barrier force.

The worst part was Gongshu Wentian's otherwise handsome features—his proud, high-bridged nose warped dramatically in an instant, and his lips, squashed by the external pressure, bent unnaturally upwards!

Bam!

A violent crash resounded—like a speeding carriage slamming into a mountain wall, resulting in catastrophic destruction.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh

Behind Gongshu Wentian, the Divine Children froze, their scalps tingling as they witnessed his disastrous situation. One by one, they halted mid-flight.

But their speeds were too fast; those who relied on Divine Pills, Divine Talismans, or Sword Light barely managed to stop in time.

However, those pushing forward with sheer Qi-Blood and physical strength weren't as fortunate.

This included Yue Linghu, the grandson of the Dao Master, and Ao Qingqing—the Little Dragon Girl of the Dragon God Lineage.

These two followed closely behind Gongshu Wentian, crashing into the invisible barrier of the entrance.

Feeling the countless gazes fixed upon him, Gongshu Wentian's proud Dao Heart felt like shattered glass—fractured and riddled with cracks.

The proud-hearted can't bear even a moment of public humiliation.

Adjusting his breath and standing firmly, Gongshu Wentian's expression twitched uncontrollably. His immense physical strength enabled him to realign his distorted lips and nose back into place.

"Why?"

"Why did that little girl wiggle her hips and waltz through so effortlessly?"

Gongshu Wentian inhaled deeply. Slowing down, he finally sensed the massive oppressive force emanating from the Qiankun Small Cave Heaven's entrance.

That little girl...

What's going on?

Did she bribe the Grandmaster?

Frowning, Gongshu Wentian steadied himself under the pressure, took slow and deliberate steps, and eventually passed through the invisible Air Wall.

Soon after, Gu He, Xuan Yue, Lv Qingxuan, and other Divine Children also followed suit.

Such a seemingly ordinary entrance into Qiankun Small Cave Heaven left many of the powerful cultivators present slightly astir.

They had sensed something unusual.

"That little girl

"She seemed to enter quite effortlessly, didn't she?"

Chapter 849: The No.1 Enforcer of Temple God Clashes with the 3rd Crown Prince, Snacks Prepared by the Boss for Xi Xi (4)

Many powerful figures from prominent factions seemed to notice something peculiar.

They thought of that little girl who defiantly declared she would use her talent to suppress all the so-called Divine Children favored by fate.

In their hearts, many couldn't help but feel a twinge of unease.

...

...

The Spring Rain grew heavier, cascading down in torrents, drumming against the black tiles of the octagonal, multistory Treasure Tower at the Qintian Observatory, creating a misty haze, as though cloaking the entire building in a layer of white gauze.

Atop the high tower, leaning against the railing.

The gentle spring breeze wafted through the corridors, tilting the rising steam from the boiling water on the charcoal stove.

Rainwater gathered into a curtain, pouring in rhythmic beads from the edge of the Treasure Tower's overhanging eaves.

Supervisor Hong Shifu of the Dao City Qintian Observatory sat cross-legged on a chair, with a black wooden chessboard laid out before him. It was clearly a new board—his previous game with Lv Taibai had split the last one in half, and it now lay discarded in the corner.

Suddenly.

The dense weave of the rain curtain was forcibly torn apart.

A rotund and prosperous figure, beaming with a radiant smile, pulsing with vibrant qi-blood, tore through the rain curtain beneath the eaves of the Qintian Observatory. Clad in luxurious silk robes, the figure hovered in the air.

"Supervisor, might I have the honor of challenging you to a game?"

Daoist Master Yue Huanglong asked with a mischievous grin.

"If you're going to play, then play. Spare me the insincere smile—after all these years, who doesn't know who?"

The Supervisor shook his head, tidying up the chess pieces on the board and sighing, as though resigned to the fact that another chessboard would soon meet its demise.

Yue Huanglong found a spot and sat down. The faint aroma of sandalwood filled the air as his chubby fingers pinched a white chess piece and placed it on the chessboard's stellar position.

Supervisor Hong Shifu likewise picked up a piece and placed it on the board.

Plop. Plop...

Inside the tower, it was so quiet that the subtle sound of chess pieces landing on the board echoed faintly.

The Supervisor squinted, placed his black piece, and captured one of Yue Huanglong's white pieces.

Yue Huanglong, still smiling, picked up another piece and countered by capturing one of the Supervisor's pieces.

"Supervisor, isn't the Qintian Observatory sending a Divine Child to compete this time?"

"The Taibai Sect Master is recruiting a Direct Disciple... it's nothing short of a grand selection for the next heir to the Qian Yuan Divine Sect."

"Even the Small Cave Heaven within the Qiankun Dao Yun Plaque has been opened

Yue Huanglong remarked with a smile.

The old Supervisor's face grew solemn as he placed a chess piece, squinting, "Compete for what? Dao City Qintian Observatory... we don't have any promising candidates."

"And there's no need to compete. If Lv Taibai chooses on his own, at least you could argue 'no discriminations in teaching,' but that guy's sword has never cared for rules

Supervisor Hong Shifu fixed his gaze on Yue Huanglong's pudgy fingers as they plucked a swath of his chess pieces from the board, his face twitching slightly, briefly tempted to pick up the chessboard and smash it into Yue Huanglong's insufferably fake smile.

Eating his chess pieces with that cheerful grin.

Smiling, my ass!

"Oh? Surely you wouldn't want the position of Qian Yuan Divine Sect's Young Sect Master to fall into the hands of an Alien Race?"

Yue Huanglong placed another piece, aiming to sever the Supervisor's mighty dragon formation.

Damn it!

The old Supervisor Hong Shifu felt the chessboard summoning his hand with violent vindication.

"That little loach? Worthy?"

The old Supervisor sneered.

"Oh?"

Yue Huanglong's pudgy fingers dropped a chess piece onto the board, deliberately making a bad move, allowing the Supervisor's dragon to revive.

Then he asked, "May I ask... who does the Supervisor favor?"

The Supervisor glanced at the bad move, stroked his beard with a smile, and loosened his grip on the chessboard.

"Gongshu Wentian? Gu He? Xuan Yue? Or... Lv Qingxuan?"

Yue Huanglong inquired.

"Gongshu Wentian? That arrogant tofu-hearted lad from the Gongshu family?"

Supervisor Hong Shifu let out a mocking laugh, shaking his head lightly, "He might pass the Talent Test, but the Heart Test will be a challenge. If he can endure the Heart Test, he might have a sliver of potential."

Hearing this, Yue Huanglong placed another piece.

"As for your guy, even less chance—he might not even pass the Talent Test."

Yue Huanglong frowned and made another bad move.

This allowed Hong Shifu's dragon to rejuvenate fully and begin a rampage across the board.

"So, who does the Supervisor... think stands the best chance among this batch of Divine Children?"

Yue Huanglong tossed two chess pieces onto the board.

Supervisor Hong Shifu stroked his beard, laughing heartily. As expected, a Daoist Master was more congenial than a sword-wielding free spirit.

"Who do I favor most?"

Hong Shifu rose, walked to the railing, and looked out at the misty rain filling the sky.

"The Great Dao conceals like fog."

"I've pinched my fingers to divine the truth until they're cramped

"Still, I can't see through it

...

...

Qian Yuan Dao City.

Outer City.

Deep within Thunder Alley.

A mass of smoke churned, diffusing outward in overlapping circles, akin to spreading donuts, before falling apart under the pelting rain.

A big black dog lay on the ground, raising its head high, its two black ears perked up.

The dog's eyes gleamed with a sharp light.

It got up and circled the restaurant's owner, who, seated casually by the entrance, had one leg crossed over the other, smoking a rolled cigarette and relaxedly watching the curtain of spring rain.

"Alright, I got it."

"Don't worry, I've prepared a snack for Xi Xi."

"Opening eyes, is it?"

"No problem, it's a done deal."

The owner rubbed the black dog's head, flicked the ash off his cigarette, and spoke nonchalantly.

Upon hearing this, the black dog let out a relieved exhale.

Yawning widely, it shook its fur vigorously.

Then it lazily returned to its original spot and curled up for a nap.

The dog eagerly dreamed of playing with Emperor Xi Xi.

...

...

Xi Xi charged into the Qiankun Small Cave Heaven.

Upon slamming into the Small Cave Heaven's invisible barrier, she did feel some resistance and pressure.

But with soaring determination, her powerful physical body bore through the obstruction and pain, forcing her way through the barrier at the entrance.

Chapter 850: First Temple God's Enforcer Third Crown Prince, Snacks Prepared by the Boss for Xi Xi (5)

Xi Xi knew that without hidden ace-in-the-hole talents to rely on, she could only depend on the pure innate talent of Emperor Xi Xi!

There was no other way. As a child, Emperor Xi Xi grew up in poverty and could only rely on her own talent—she couldn't exactly rely on mutations, could she?

"Xi Xi must not disappoint Father and Mother!"

"You can do it! You were the Xi Xi Emperor who ranked first in the Temple God Resonance at the Third Prince Temple, praised by Father as a Three-Good Genius!"

Xi Xi flipped her arms outward, clenched her little fists, her jet-black hair flaring wildly in the wind, her wide eyes shining brightly, a fiery determination blazing within her!

Upon stepping into the Qiankun Small Cave Heaven, she looked around and saw a staircase unfurling and stretching out right before her.

Xi Xi tilted her head upward, gazing toward the top of the staircase. One, two, three...

Too many. Xi Xi lost count.

She gave up counting after a few steps, squinting her eyes to peer farther ahead. In the highest reaches of the staircase, there sat a Divine Sculpture in a meditative pose, gazing into the vast horizon.

Could that be the Grandmaster?

Did she need to sprint up to the Grandmaster's feet and compel him to open his eyes?

If so, would her talent finally earn recognition, allowing her to pass the talent trial?!

Xi Xi stepped forward with her small feet onto the White Jade Staircase. Instantly, an invisible pressure descended upon her.

Tilting her head upward, Xi Xi saw a dense Purple Divine Pillar erupt skyward above her head, counteracting a portion of the invisible pressure emanating from the White Jade Staircase.

Step. Step. Step—

After climbing several steps in succession, Xi Xi saw her Purple Divine Pillar quiver violently, weakened further with each passing step.

"If the Purple Divine Pillar is completely diminished... does that mean the talent trial's evaluation will end?"

Xi Xi mused to herself.

Ah, so that's how it worked.

The Sect Master had mentioned there were no restrictions on methods to push talent limits—now it made sense...

To continuously bolster the Purple Divine Pillar, she needed to extract every ounce of her talent. By any means necessary, it didn't matter how.

The Martial Path, Divinity, Divine Talismans, Divine Pills, Divine Sculptures, Divine Weapons...

Her aptitude in all six domains could serve to reinforce and augment the Purple Divine Pillar.

But each person's talent in any single domain was inherently finite. Therefore, the true evaluation seemed to measure one's absolute talent ceiling.

Taking a deep breath, Xi Xi did not rush to ascend the staircase.

Instead, she remained in place and began attuning herself to the power within her Little Spear and Gold Brick gripped in her two hands.

First, she decided to max out her Divine Weapon-related talent!

Though Xi Xi came from humble beginnings, the Divine Weapons already residing within her—those belonged to her, counted as her innate gifts!

That wasn't cheating!

Xi Xi's achievements today relied entirely on her own efforts!

BOOM—!!!

Extremely dense violet divinity surged violently out from the Purple Flame Serpentine Spear and the God-beating Gold Brick.

At the same time—

The Prison Lotus Wind Fire Golden Light Wheel hidden within her tiny feet also began humming, radiating violet divinity and channeling it into the Purple Divine Pillar above her head!

The Divinity Column thickened significantly.

From the thickness of a finger, it rapidly grew to the girth of an infant's arm.

Xi Xi's eyes sparkled with excitement.

She began pondering what other hidden aces she might have...

Suddenly—

A white chess piece appeared in the palm of Xi Xi's hand.

She blinked her large eyes, immediately realizing... this was something her father had left her.

Crush it!

It was as if her father's voice resounded clearly in her ears.

Xi Xi, Daddy's most obedient and cherished child!

The next instant, Xi Xi did not hesitate for a moment.

She crushed the white chess piece in her hand without a second thought.

...

...

At the summit of the staircase—

The Divine Sculpture of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect's Grandmaster gleamed with radiant light.

Purple Flame Serpentine Spear?

God-beating Gold Brick?!

A Prison Lotus Wind Fire Golden Light Wheel?!!

Did the Third Crown Prince, the renowned enforcement deity of the First Temple God of the Golden Light Prefecture, come running here?!

Suddenly—

The Divine Sculpture of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect's Grandmaster began to tremble violently...

Wait!

Is this...

Dao Yun?!