

Ability 111

Chapter 111: Accidental Exposure, Internet Uproar!_3

Wu Meng laughed and said, "Lin Beichen, what are your expectations for the upcoming 125th anniversary of the school?"

"I have high expectations for everything."

Lin Beichen, who had been interviewed a few times before, spoke like a star, flawless: "I am very happy and honored to be able to celebrate the 125th anniversary just as a freshman. I've never participated in such a celebration, so I'm really looking forward to it."

Wu Meng raised an eyebrow in surprise; she didn't expect such a high-level response from Lin Beichen.

Wu Meng glanced at the barrage, thinking of picking out a few questions from it to ask.

However, at this moment, the barrage...

Most people were wondering why Lin Beichen was here and why he was cleaning.

The same question had puzzled her throughout the way here.

Although it had nothing to do with the anniversary.

But...

She seized the moment to ask, "Lin Beichen, I see the viewers are very curious. This sports hall looks like it's been out of use for a long time. Why did you come here to clean?"

"Because this is my research lab."

Lin Beichen smiled and said, "I just applied to the principal this morning to use this place as my research lab and got his approval. Now, I'm cleaning it up, hoping to put it to use quickly."

In the live broadcast room.

The barrage suddenly became crowded.

"Research lab? Oh boy, is Lin Beichen getting a bit ahead of himself? The semester hasn't been going on for long, and he's already applying for a lab? What kind of research needs a lab?"

"No way, are there no labs left at Imperial Capital University? Why use a sports hall as a research lab?"

"..."

On-site, Wu Meng slightly furrowed her brows, acting as the spokesperson for the viewers' doubts: "Lin Beichen, why would you use a sports hall as a research lab? Couldn't you just apply for a regular lab?"

"Of course you could."

Lin Beichen saw the doubts in the barrage and the misunderstandings about Imperial Capital University, so he explained: "The principal proposed to approve a dedicated lab for me. However, my research might attract thunder and lightning. Since this place is remote, with all surrounding buildings being abandoned and rarely visited, I declined the principal's kind offer and chose this place as my lab, to avoid accidental injuries."

In the live broadcast room.

The barrage surged!

"What kind of research is this, attracting thunder and lightning?"

"What kind of exciting research is this?"

"..."

Wu Meng curiously asked, "Lin Beichen, what kind of research are you doing that could attract thunder and lightning?"

As she asked the question.

Hao Jianhua, standing nearby, felt a jolt in his heart. He knew Lin Beichen's answer and wanted to signal Lin Beichen to be more tactful or say it differently. But Lin Beichen had already given his answer.

"I'm researching how to use human power to draw thunder from the sky."

Wu Meng and the rest of the Chaopai News staff: ???

Live broadcast viewers: ???

Hao Jianhua: ...

No prevention!

He inwardly thought that this kind of statement would cause a commotion.

In the live broadcast room.

The barrage paused for a second, then it exploded!

"Did I hear it right? Lin Beichen is researching what??"

"Isn't he just daydreaming?"

"They say geniuses are on the left and madmen are on the right. It's true!"

"Isn't this guy mixing reality with fantasy? Thinking he's a character in a supernatural novel, calling down lightning with a wave of his hand?"

"Is he joking?"

"..."

The audience had considered countless answers from Lin Beichen, but they never expected this one. Each person seemed to have been struck by lightning, left speechless.

Many people immediately clipped the replay of the live broadcast and shared it on their social media platforms.

The speed of information dissemination nowadays is terrifyingly fast.

The interview with Lin Beichen wasn't even finished yet, and on the other side, a hot topic on Weibo had already emerged regarding this live interview.

#Highest Score in College Entrance Exam, Not Doing Research, Switching to Mysticism#

Click into the topic.

Almost all the content in the topic was the snippet of Lin Beichen's interview with Wu Meng, in addition to his statement "I'm researching how to use human power to draw thunder from the sky," which was separately screenshot and accompanied by text.

Initially, if you only looked at the latter half of the topic, it wouldn't really attract much attention.

But...

Add the first half.

And it's completely different! Highly attention-grabbing!

More and more people clicked on the topic to learn about this matter.

Initially, perhaps many people tried, like Principal Hao Jianhua, to understand Lin Beichen's wild ideas, but this trending topic was so provocative that it made netizens unwilling or unable to comprehend Lin Beichen.

Word spread quickly...

Just as Hao Jianhua had feared.

It caused a huge commotion on the internet!

"Highest scorer in the history of college entrance exams, starting to research mysticism? Isn't this truly lamentable!"

"Isn't this a real-life version of 'The Fall of Zhongyong'? No, this is much worse; Zhongyong eventually just faded into obscurity. Lin Beichen seems to have mental issues."

"Isn't this madness? Using human power to draw thunder? Does he think he's a mythical thunder deity?"

Chapter 112: Accidental Exposure, Internet Uproar!_4

"I'm telling you now, if he succeeds, I'll stand on my head and eat three kilograms of shit!"

"It's hard to believe that such an outrageous statement came from the mouth of a top student who scored full marks in the college entrance exam. If this is the cost of becoming the number one in the history of the exam, then it's not worth it!"

"Wildly unrealistic, too absurd. How could he have such thoughts?"

"Has he been too repressed before college, and now that he's relaxed in university, his taut nerves finally snapped, leading to some mental issues?"

"Honestly, I wouldn't even dare to dream of doing something like this."

"..."

None of the videos in the topic were lacking comments.

Comment sections with 999+ comments were everywhere.

Soon, some comments stood out from the crowd and caught the netizens' attention.

[Swallow Swallow]: "I remember right after the college entrance exam, I was playing on North Mountain. It was pouring rain, and over ten people were stuck in a pavilion at the top of the mountain. Lin Beichen, of course at that time I didn't know it was him, came up later. We kindly invited him into the pavilion, but he refused, saying he was there to watch the thunderstorm. I guess he already had these thoughts and started researching at that time."

[Trainee with Two and a Half Years of Practice]: "I heard from my friend who was in the same class as Lin Beichen in high school. After the college entrance exam, they went out to play, but Lin Beichen didn't join them, saying he was at home researching lightning. By coincidence, the next day they saw Lin Beichen at the entrance of Yida Square with a bag full of electric batons and similar things. Thinking back now... could he have been using those for his research?"

[Let's Chat Baby]: "I have a friend who works at the East Mountain Province TV station. That day we were drinking, and he told me that right after the exam results were out, he went to interview Lin Beichen. But Lin Beichen wasn't home, so they called him, and guess what? He said he was on the mountain researching thunder. My friend thought it was scientific research at the time, but now looking at this... that wasn't the case at all!"

"..."

All these were revelations!

The internet users were rational as they gossiped. At first, they thought it was just people trying to ride the wave of popularity, but after going through all the revelations, they found some of them connected with the basic facts from back then. This forced them to consider the possibility of the revelations being true.

One wave hadn't even calmed before another wave hit.

For a moment, the already lively internet was in chaos!

"So you're saying... Lin Beichen wasn't just talking nonsense but had actually begun his research long ago? Is he seriously doing this?"

"Could some media interview Lin Beichen and ask him what he's researched from the end of the college entrance exam until now? I'm genuinely curious what he's discovered!"

"Lin Beichen is truly something. He started researching all sorts of weird things right after the exam, meaning he was already pondering over these before the exam. And yet he still scored full marks in all subjects; this is unbelievable. What's more unbelievable is that despite researching lightning for so long, he hasn't been struck by lightning yet!"

"..."

At this point, it wasn't just on Weibo; platforms like TikTok, Kuaishou, and Little Red Book were all buzzing with this story.

Imperial Capital University Forum.

[Huaqing University Here, Uninvited]: "Heard that the top scorer in your school's history is researching metaphysics? Is he going to become the male lead in a fantasy novel and start immortality cultivation?"

[Everyone Knows]: "Folks, our school's Lin Beichen is famous again, and this time for something darkly humorous!"

[No Way]: "Lin Beichen, really? How can he have such absurd ideas?"

[...]

Posts appeared one after another.

Soon, a post titled "Revelations Summary Post" was quickly pinned to the top and stayed there.

Click into [Revelations Summary Post].

It summarized all the online revelations.

And...

The comment section under the post had more people adding supplemental details.

[Fawn in the Woods]: "I've seen Lin Beichen several times at school before. Each time he seemed to be in a rush, and the direction he headed to were always some hidden places. Thinking back now, he must have been going to research how to summon thunder with human power, right?"

[Fleeting Moment]: "The person above reminded me, I've also seen Lin Beichen in those remote places a few times, and each time he looked in terrible pain, like he was on the verge of collapse. Was his research causing problems?"

[Damper]: "Once, I saw the school nurse going to a very remote open field in the southwest part of the school to give first aid to Lin Beichen. The scene was quite frightening."

"..."

More and more supplements allowed Imperial Capital University's students to gain a clearer understanding of Lin Beichen's case. They privately found his research to be both incomprehensible and absurd, believing it not only impossible but extremely dangerous.

For a time, it seemed like the whole world was questioning and denying Lin Beichen.

Meanwhile, pushed into the eye of the storm, he was still being interviewed by Wu Meng.

About all this...

He remained completely unaware.

Chapter 113: Immortal Cultivation Research Association!

Wu Meng is a very professional journalist.

After a brief moment of bewilderment, she quickly adjusted her mentality. Although her facial expression was somewhat stiff and not as natural as at the start, she still smiled and asked Lin Beichen a few more questions.

At this moment, the interview was nearing its end.

She directed her gaze towards the live stream comments.

At this moment, the real-time viewers in the live stream had soared from thousands to tens of thousands!

All of them were netizens who had seen the trending topic on various social platforms and rushed over.

The comment section was many times more lively than before.

The comments were densely packed.

None of the comments had anything to do with the school anniversary; all of them were about curiosity and skepticism towards Lin Beichen.

After looking through the comments, Wu Meng couldn't hold back and asked a question that her professional conduct should have prevented her from asking.

"Lin Beichen, when you mentioned using human powers to summon celestial thunder, are you talking about the kind of scene in TV dramas and movies where thunder strikes down at the wave of a hand?"

"Pretty much, similar to what you described."

Lin Beichen nodded without any hesitation and said, "Or you could call it the Five Thunders Technique."

"..."

Wu Meng was completely stunned.

The Five Thunders Technique?

Just those three words.

Immediately, a vivid scene appeared in her mind.

The dark, gray clouds in the sky turned into a spinning column, like a tornado.

Giant purple lightning bolts struck down from the sky with fierce speed, like a thunderstorm prison!

It was like the end of the world!

Wu Meng instinctively blurted out, "Are you trying to cultivate immortality?"

Cultivate immortality?

Lin Beichen thought to himself, isn't my unique method just what ordinary people would call immortality?

So he nodded and said, "You could say that."

"?????"

Not only was Wu Meng left speechless by his frankness, but the tens of thousands of viewers in the live stream were also shocked, he admitted it himself?!

All of a sudden, it stirred up waves again!

The online buzz about "Lin Beichen" not only didn't die down but actually increased. Leveraging this momentum, the news of "Lin Beichen admitting to cultivating immortality" spread across the internet within an instant, like a giant wave surging on a stormy sea.

"Cultivate immortality? He's gone mad!"

"The top scorer in the college entrance exams, now obsessed with cultivating immortality!"

"This is absurd, how could the idea of cultivating immortality occur to the first in the history of the college entrance exams?"

"Admitting to wanting to cultivate immortality? He needs treatment right away!"

"..."

The internet's negative and skeptical comments about Lin Beichen reached a new level.

However, their remarks didn't have the slightest impact on Lin Beichen, because until now, he had just seen off Wu Meng, the staff from Chaopai News, and the principal and hadn't even looked at his phone.

"Will there be any problems with my interview?"

The principal's expression when he looked back before leaving, that expression was constantly in Lin Beichen's mind.

That expression was indescribably strange.

It was speechless and helpless.

The more he thought about it, the stranger it seemed.

He thought, wait a minute, after the staff from Chaopai News leave, and the principal has time, I will go find him to talk.

At this moment, looking at the half-cleaned gymnasium, Lin Beichen picked up the mop again.

Just as he was about to finish the unfinished work.

The phone notification sound echoed.

"Ding dong ding... ding dong ding..."

Lin Beichen glanced at it, it was a video call from Han Yuan, what could be so urgent that he needed to make a video call?

With a hint of doubt.

He answered the video call.

Instantly!

The three roommates appeared on the video call screen, their faces full of concern.

The matter of Lin Beichen was causing a huge stir on the internet, as his roommates, they were the first to know about it.

Seeing the overwhelming skepticism and denial of Lin Beichen on the internet.

They were very worried that Lin Beichen couldn't handle the immense pressure, so after seeing Wu Meng finish the interview with him, they immediately called him, intending to comfort him.

Liang Dong was the first to ask with concern, "Beichen, are you okay?"

"I'm fine."

Lin Beichen looked puzzled, "What could be wrong with me?"

Han Yuan questioned back, "You don't know yet?"

"Know what?"

"The interview you just did with Chaopai News has already spread on the internet, and the online feedback, well, how should I put it..."

Han Yuan awkwardly scratched his head, not knowing how to continue.

Wu You waved his hand and took over, "Beichen, you don't need to care about what those people say online; even if you see it, don't take it to heart, don't mind it."

Hearing them say this.

Lin Beichen immediately understood why the principal looked at him that way before leaving. Did what he said in the interview cause quite a reaction online?

He smiled and nodded, "Okay, I got it."

"Uh..."

Just then, Liang Dong grinned and said, "You need to be careful when doing your research, don't get hurt."

"Yes, yes, safety first!"

"That's right, good luck, I'm still waiting for you to teach me how to cultivate immortality."

"..."

Wu You and Han Yuan quickly echoed.

Compared to the netizens, the three of them, like the principal Hao Jianhua, were willing and tried to understand Lin Beichen's wild ideas. Although they also found his idea or final goal to be very far-fetched and impossible to achieve, they didn't discourage him but instead offered their encouragement and reminders.

Chapter 114: Immortal Cultivation Research Association!_2

"Han Yuan, I told you, you don't have that talent, just forget it."

Lin Beichen laughed and teased Han Yuan, then chatted with his roommates for a while. Seeing that he looked fine, his roommates hung up the video call, reassured.

"Let me check what's being said online."

Lin Beichen was genuinely curious.

However, before he could find the Weibo app icon, another call came in.

"Ring... Ring..."

It was Zhou Ya's call.

At this time, calling him...

Lin Beichen didn't need to think to know why she was calling.

He answered the phone.

Zhou Ya's voice came from the phone, "Lin, did you know? You're trending online again."

Surprisingly to Lin Beichen, he initially thought Zhou Ya would be as worried and urgent as his roommates, showing concern and worry in her voice.

But now it sounded...

It seemed completely different!

Her voice sounded relaxed, even a bit playful.

Lin Beichen: ?

This threw him off.

"I know, my roommates just called and told me."

"Oh, I see. I was wondering why I couldn't get through to you earlier."

On the other end, Zhou Ya sat in front of her computer, looking at the comments on Weibo, then she laughed, "Lin, since you have the courage to say such things, you must also have the courage to face the pressure from netizens."

"..."

Lin Beichen didn't know what to say for a moment.

Before he could speak, Zhou Ya continued, "Alright, alright, I'm not teasing you anymore. I have things to do, I'll go take care of them first."

She called just to listen to Lin Beichen's voice, to judge his condition and see if he was affected by the comments online.

Hearing his voice and tone was fine, she felt relieved.

They said their goodbyes to each other.

Zhou Ya hung up the call and switched to the video of Lin Beichen being interviewed by Hu Meng, watching him speaking confidently in the video.

Thinking back to the constant static electricity on him at the thank-you banquet, the failed attempts of the thief trying to steal from him on the way home from the banquet, and the human trafficker who was struck by lightning in the park near Xiaoqianmen...

Recalling these scenes.

A mysterious sparkle appeared in her eyes, choosing to believe in him, unlike others who doubted him. She thought, he can definitely succeed!

Meanwhile, Lin Beichen, whom she believed in, was facing a very difficult choice.

To answer or not to answer?

"Ring... Ring..."

The phone kept ringing uninterruptedly.

The screen displayed "Mom" in stark characters.

By now, he didn't need to answer to know why his mother was calling.

"How much fuss has this caused online?"

"How did it spread so quickly..."

"Does everyone know what I said?"

Lin Beichen didn't expect all this, there was no time to think it through, but as the call was about to disconnect automatically, he decided to answer.

"Hello, Mom."

"Lin Beichen!!!"

Zheng Xia's angry and worried voice came through the phone.

On the other end.

Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong sat gravely on the sofa at home.

Both were working when suddenly someone showed them the trending search online and relatives and friends sent them private messages, bringing them up to date with the online fuss.

They didn't want to know but found out anyway.

Upon knowing, they couldn't continue working. They immediately took leave and the first thing they did when they got home was to call him.

Fortunately, Lin Beichen had anticipated this and moved the phone away from his ear ahead of time. Otherwise, his ears would be ringing from the loud voice by now.

"Mom, I know you're anxious, but please, don't worry. Listen to what I have to say."

Lin Beichen quickly comforted her while explaining what he had prepared to say before answering the call: "What I said was actually to help boost our school's 125th-anniversary celebration, to attract more attention to it."

"???"

Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong weren't stubborn old folks, they understood publicity stunts.

They didn't know Imperial Capital University was about to celebrate its 125th anniversary, but they learned about it indirectly through their son's trending topic and interview about the anniversary.

In this light, it made sense.

They exchanged glances.

Then, Zheng Xia asked for confirmation, "Is what you're saying true?"

"Of course, Mom."

Lin Beichen could hear the change in her tone, and took advantage, "Every word is true. How could I dare to lie to you?"

"You brat, haven't you lied to me enough? When you were little..."

"Alright, alright, Mom, I have something to do, let's talk later, okay."

Having achieved his goal, Lin Beichen didn't want to listen to old stories. Amidst Zheng Xia's reminders, he said several goodbyes before hanging up.

"Beep... Beep..."

The busy tone came through.

Zheng Xia put down her phone, turned to Lin Xiangdong, and frowned, "Do you think what he said can be true? Something feels off."

"I also feel something's off."

Lin Xiangdong nodded.

What they worried about most was a relapse in Lin Beichen's condition.

"I won't be at ease unless I see that kid myself."

That said, an idea struck her, and Zheng Xia's eyes lit up. "Old Lin, isn't Imperial Capital University's founding anniversary coming up? Let's use this opportunity to arrange some time off, go to the Imperial Capital and see our son. We haven't seen him for a long time, we miss him, and we can check on his situation too."

Chapter 115: Immortal Cultivation Research Association!_3

She and Lin Xiangdong were discussing their trip to the Imperial Capital.

In the gymnasium.

There were no more phone calls.

Lin Beichen finally had the chance to open all the major social media platforms and browse through the trending topics about himself.

"Good gracious!"

"It's so lively."

He finally understood why so many people immediately knew about his interview. With this level of attention... it would be strange if no one knew.

However, with his elevated mental state, the doubts and dismissals online did not cause even the slightest ripple in his heart. It was as if the discussions were about someone else and had nothing to do with him.

Having understood the situation online,

Lin Beichen was no longer curious.

He first cleaned the remaining half of the gymnasium, then wasted no time, sitting cross-legged and starting his cultivation.

What he didn't know was that at this moment...

The northeastern corner, once considered a "deserted area," was suddenly flooded with people from all directions. Judging by their movement, they were all heading toward the gymnasium.

They were all students of Imperial Capital University.

Seeing the trending topic online and the posts in the school forum, they were all curious about Lin Beichen's method of immortal cultivation. Learning that his research room was in the gymnasium, they

came over to try their luck and see if they could catch a glimpse of Lin Beichen's so-called "immortal cultivation."

"Hey, Chen Bin, you're here too?"

"Wang Guoqi, I didn't expect to see you here!"

"What's happening? Why are there so many people here all of a sudden? Are they all here to see Lin Beichen?"

"No way, I thought I would be the only one interested in coming to take a look, but it turns out everyone had the same idea?"

"Ha ha ha, Lin Beichen is so funny, saying something about immortal cultivation. I came to see how he does it."

"Seems like everyone else thought the same thing?"

"I hope he's really cultivating when we get there, so our trip won't be in vain."

"Eh, if he's not there cultivating this time, we can come back another time. We'll see it eventually, unless he was totally making things up during the interview."

"..."

They chatted amongst themselves.

Soon, this large group of people reached the gymnasium. They didn't push the door open but surrounded the building and peered inside through the aged, tea-colored glass windows.

Lin Beichen was sitting cross-legged, five centers facing the sky, completely still, like an old monk in meditation.

"Look, that's Lin Beichen! He's really here!"

"What is he doing now? Could this be immortal cultivation?"

"Is this immortal cultivation? No way! Just sitting with crossed legs... that's cultivation?"

"If this is cultivation, then I'm sorry... I can 'cultivate' too."

"This is totally different from what I imagined. Even though immortal cultivation sounds like a joke, it shouldn't look like a joke too, should it?"

"..."

The whispering never stopped.

Seeing Lin Beichen sitting motionless in the gymnasium, the students were extremely disappointed with his so-called "immortal cultivation," which was completely different from what they had imagined.

Many of them weren't just talking but also started recording.

They took out their phones and began filming Lin Beichen inside the gymnasium, then quickly posted the videos online, hoping to ride the wave of popularity and gain more followers.

[Mouse Hunter]: "Suspected Lin Beichen's Secret Immortal Technique!"

[Galactic Fall to Earth]: "I saw Lin Beichen seemingly cultivating in the gymnasium. This must be his method of immortal cultivation."

"..."

Once the accompanying texts and videos were posted, they were wildly shared, like gasoline poured onto a blazing fire, making Lin Beichen even more popular online.

#LinBeichenImmortalCultivationMethod#

The topic quickly appeared on the trending searches.

More and more netizens saw the videos recorded by the students through this trending topic.

"Guys, who gets this? They said it's immortal cultivation, but it's just sitting meditating?"

"Is this for real? This is supposed to be immortal cultivation? Look at my kid doing the same thing! [Five-year-old child sitting cross-legged].JPG."

"This is immortal cultivation? So, I get it, this means everyone can cultivate?"

"If this is Lin Beichen's so-called immortal cultivation, then sorry, but I think he's kind of deceiving us, attracting attention and gaining traffic!"

"University recon team, keep observing and share information!"

"Never thought I'd see someone 'cultivating' online one day. Haha, this is too real!"

"..."

The students who posted the videos were thrilled to see their Weibo comments instantly exceed 999+ and their followers skyrocketing. They were ecstatic and felt encouraged, with no intention of leaving, continuing to record.

At the same time.

Lin Beichen, having finished a round of cultivation, noticed that the gymnasium was surrounded by people.

If he hadn't known about the current situation online, he might have wondered what was going on. But now, he instantly understood they were here to see him and the excitement.

"However..."

"Among these people, besides those just here for the spectacle, could there be someone genuinely interested in what I call 'immortal cultivation,' even if they don't believe it but are still interested?"

Thinking this, an image suddenly flashed through Lin Beichen's mind.

In the dormitory, he had just told the principal about using his body as a medium to control thunder, and Han Yuan laughed, telling him to teach him.

Chapter 116: Immortal Cultivation Research Association!_4

He knew that at the moment, in this world, he was the only one who practiced this method, and he was as clear as a mirror inside. Even if he taught others all his cultivation steps hand in hand, others probably wouldn't be able to learn.

But...

At this moment, he became curious.

If he taught others his cultivation steps, they wouldn't be able to learn Thunder Skill or anything, but could it inspire something else?

If they followed his cultivation steps...

What would be the result in the end?

"How about..."

"Starting a club in the school?"

This thought flashed in his mind.

Lin Beichen thought it was feasible. By starting a club, he could attract people interested in what he called "immortal cultivation," then teach them his cultivation steps exhaustively to see if his members could learn anything in the end.

Do it as soon as you think of it!

He cultivated for a few more rounds.

Feeling that the staff from Chaopai News were almost gone and the principal should have time now, he got up and headed straight to the principal's office.

Principal's office.

Hao Jianhua was sitting in front of the computer, looking at the trending searches about Lin Beichen on the screen. His brows were tightly furrowed, and his expression was indescribably troubled.

"How did it turn out like this?"

He had anticipated some reaction to Lin Beichen's words online, but he didn't expect the reaction to be so huge.

Moreover...

This sort of reaction had purely negative impacts on the school.

"Had I known, I wouldn't have agreed to let the journalist interview Lin Beichen.

Hao Jianhua was filled with regret.

However, regret was useless now, and there were no remedies for regret in the world.

He didn't blame Lin Beichen. After all, Lin Beichen had already told him those thoughts, and he was merely expressing his inner thoughts normally.

What was wrong with that?

If there was anyone to blame, it should be himself.

Just then, there was a knock on the door.

"Knock, knock, knock—"

"Come in."

"Creak—"

Lin Beichen pushed the door open and came in.

Hao Jianhua forced a smile despite his troubled expression and said warmly, "Lin Beichen, you've been coming to my office quite frequently today. What's the matter this time?"

Lin Beichen immediately saw his worry and understood that it must be related to the current online discussions about him.

He didn't think there was anything wrong with himself; the problem should be with those netizens discussing him.

But...

This indeed affected the school.

Lin Beichen apologized, "I'm sorry, Principal, for causing trouble for you and the school."

"No trouble at all."

Hao Jianhua smiled and even comforted him, "Everyone has freedom of speech. What you say is your right, and what the netizens want to express is their right. You should keep a calm mind and not take it to heart."

He didn't want to dwell on this topic any longer, so he continued to ask, "You haven't said why you came to see me. Tell me."

Lin Beichen didn't hesitate and said directly, "Principal, I want to start a club and hope you can approve it."

"A club?"

Hao Jianhua thought Imperial Capital University was already the university with the most clubs in the country. Wasn't that enough?

He asked in confusion, "What kind of club do you want to start?"

"A club for researching Thunder."

"???"

Hao Jianhua had a strange expression as he confirmed, "You mean research on Thunder, the kind of 'using human power to invoke heaven's Thunder' that you talked about?"

"That's right, Principal."

Lin Beichen nodded, then added, "I've already thought of a name for the club. It will be called the Immortal Cultivation Research Association."

Hao Jianhua: ...

Chapter 117: Dragons have reverse scales, touch them and you shall die!

Hao Jianhua felt awful and thought to himself: You're already making such a big commotion just by "cultivating" alone, and you want to involve other students too?

Just look at the current public opinion on the internet.

He could already foresee...

If he really agreed to the establishment of this club.

The comments about Imperial Capital University online would definitely be overwhelmingly negative, and Imperial Capital University would become a laughingstock among other universities across the country, especially its arch-rival Huaqing University.

Completely become a joke!

He couldn't let that happen!

Hao Jianhua didn't want the hundred-year-old reputation of Imperial Capital University to be seriously damaged under his watch.

However, he had just said something reassuring like "freedom of speech, don't worry" to comfort Lin Beichen, so he couldn't reveal his true thoughts.

He would talk with him properly after this period.

Hao Jianhua smiled and said, "Lin Beichen, your idea is good, but the establishment of a club is a very serious matter, I need to think about it more."

He really needed to consider it carefully.

If this decision wasn't made well...

It would truly cause big trouble.

Seeing the public opinion online, Lin Beichen had already anticipated that creating this club wouldn't be an easy task, and didn't expect that just by coming to the principal now, he would get approval.

But not being refused was a good sign, and it looked like the principal might agree.

Lin Beichen knew how to advance and retreat, so he didn't persist. He stood up with a smile and said, "Alright, Principal, I won't disturb you any longer then."

After saying this, he walked towards the office door.

At the moment he opened the door.

An elder was standing outside, with a slightly surprised expression on his face, raising his hand in the act of knocking.

The elder was lean, energetic, with kind eyes.

And he...

Was the old man who had previously taken his granddaughter to Shangqing Ancient Town and Dragon Tiger Mountain, Elder Cai.

They exchanged glances.

Lin Beichen paused for a moment, then turned his entire body sideways, nodding slightly to indicate for him to go ahead first.

Elder Cai smiled and walked into the office. Lin Beichen brushed past him, closing the door behind him.

"Click——"

Hao Jianhua had already stepped forward, holding one of the elder's hands with both of his, respectfully saying, "Teacher, what brings you here?"

"Why, can't I come?"

Elder Cai joked.

He was Hao Jianhua's mentor and also had another identity—the former principal of Imperial Capital University, Cai Peiyuan.

"Of course, you definitely can."

Hao Jianhua, in front of Cai Peiyuan, seemed like a child, completely devoid of the principal's imposing presence.

"I wish you could come every day."

"Come on, my old bones can't take that much."

Cai Peiyuan laughed and then said, "I saw the trending topic on the internet, and since I had some errands nearby the Imperial Capital University, I thought I'd drop by."

"Teacher, about this matter..."

"Where do you think the problem lies?"

Before Hao Jianhua could say anything, Cai Peiyuan threw him a question.

Hao Jianhua sighed, "The problem lies with me. I shouldn't have allowed Reporter Hu to interview Lin Beichen."

"Then the problem lies with Reporter Hu?"

"This..."

"Actually, it's not anyone's fault."

Cai Peiyuan smiled kindly, explaining, "It's the societal atmosphere at fault—too impetuous, too noisy. The slightest stir causes an uproar, which is truly incomprehensible. Imperial Capital University is situated within society, indeed at its very center. We might not be able to change the entire societal atmosphere, but at least we should remain untainted amidst the noise, being a sanctuary in this chaotic world."

"Teacher, I understand."

Hao Jianhua bowed sincerely to Cai Peiyuan. freewebnovel.com

The issues that had troubled him due to the internet's trending topics dissipated with Cai Peiyuan's explanation.

The problem wasn't solved, but it was no longer a problem in itself!

"A promising student."

Cai Peiyuan patted his shoulder, then remembered something and asked, "When I arrived just now, I saw Lin Beichen leaving. What did he come to see you for?"

"Oh, that's it, Teacher. Lin Beichen wants to establish an Immortal Cultivation Club."

"Immortal Cultivation Club?"

Cai Peiyuan instantly recalled the scene of Lin Beichen observing the landscape on the Observation Platform at Dragon Tiger Mountain, the figure as if transcending worldly matters, and thought of the Celestial Master's evaluation of him. In a moment of reflection, he subconsciously said, "Not a bad idea."

If it was before Cai Peiyuan's clarification.

Hao Jianhua would definitely be completely baffled by his words, but now, he could understand.

It doesn't matter what the secular opinion is.

Hao Jianhua comprehended this point, and no longer had any qualms about Lin Beichen establishing the club. He nodded in agreement, saying, "Yes, I think it's good too."

...

...

After leaving the principal's office, Lin Beichen returned to the empty dormitory to retrieve his Thunderstruck Wood, and carried it to the sports hall.

At this time, the crowd outside the sports hall hadn't dispersed despite his absence. Instead, it had grown larger.

"He's back, look, he's back again."

"And he brought something with him."

"Did he leave just to get what he's holding?"

"..."

The previously quiet surroundings suddenly buzzed with murmurs.

Lin Beichen didn't mind and went straight into the sports hall. He took the Thunderstruck Wood out of the canvas and placed it on the ground, then crossed his legs and started cultivating.

Chapter 118: Dragons have reverse scales, touch them and you shall die!_2

"Starting to meditate again, is immortal cultivation just about meditating?"

"Hey? What's that thing?"

"Looks like a big piece of charcoal."

"Does your charcoal start sprouting?"

"Hey? Charcoal sprouting? Could it be Thunderstruck Wood?"

"Thunderstruck Wood? Is that even real?"

"..."

The Thunderstruck Wood attracted the attention of people outside the gymnasium.

The discussions grew louder and louder.

It even made the entire gym buzz, like countless flies were flying around.

Lin Beichen, who was immersed in cultivation, seemed to have a self-shielding barrier and was not disturbed at all.

He continued his cultivation.

He practiced until the sun set and the moon hung high in the night sky. Realizing that he had reached his limit for the day, he came out of his absorbed state, and the noisy discussions outside the gym finally reached his ears.

"I'm numb, I've been watching all day, and Lin Beichen has just been meditating here all day."

"Lin Beichen did nothing all day, just meditated. Is this how immortal cultivation works?"

"What a waste of time."

"Does Lin Beichen even have any real skills?"

"I think so too. He must have boasted and now doesn't know how to wrap it up, pretending to be mysterious while we all watch."

"That piece of wood he got halfway through, I don't think it's Thunderstruck Wood. It's probably just a prop for his trickery."

"Boring."

"..."

In response to the doubts of the onlookers.

Lin Beichen simply smiled and felt no emotional disturbance inside.

Just as he was about to leave the gym.

Suddenly!

His phone rang.

"Ring ring... ring ring..."

It was the principal.

Lin Beichen glanced at the time. It was past seven in the evening. Why was the principal calling him so late?

Feeling puzzled.

He answered the call.

"Hello, Principal, you called me."

"Student Lin Beichen, you came to see me this afternoon about establishing this Immortal Cultivation Club. I've thought it over and agreed. I've already added it to the school's list of clubs."

This matter was actually handled by Hao Jianhua a few hours ago. He had just finished chatting and having tea with Cai Peiyuan, then escorted him safely home, which gave him a chance to inform Lin Beichen.

Lin Beichen: ?

He agreed just like that?

Now I have my own club?

Elated, he quickly said, "Thank you, Principal!"

He hung up the phone.

Looking at the crowd of students outside the gym.

Lin Beichen's eyes lit up, thinking of something, and walked out of the gym holding the Thunderstruck Wood.

The discussions outside the gym quieted down.

Everyone looked at him.

Under their puzzled gazes.

Lin Beichen proclaimed loudly, "Dear students, senior brothers and sisters, just now, the club I applied to establish has been approved, and the Immortal Cultivation Research Association is officially founded!"

Everyone: ???

A club?

Immortal Cultivation Research Association??

For a moment, they felt like their brains were about to explode. How could a club like this be approved?

It's like a knife cutting the butt, truly eye-opening!

Before they could react.

Lin Beichen continued, "The Immortal Cultivation Research Association is now recruiting new members. Anyone interested in studying immortal cultivation can sign up on the campus website. Tomorrow at seven in the morning, I'll be teaching everyone how to cultivate here at the gym!"

Finished speaking, he left without asking everyone to spread the word.

He believed that with his current popularity, the news would soon spread far and wide.

As he anticipated.

Within minutes.

The Imperial Capital University's forum was filled with posts about this.

[Big News! Lin Beichen has founded a club called the Immortal Cultivation Research Association, and they're recruiting new members now!]

[Video of Lin Beichen announcing the founding of the Immortal Cultivation Club!]

[Shock to the senses, there's actually an Immortal Cultivation Club, truly impressive my Imperial University!]

[Immortal Cultivation Club...? How did the school approve this kind of club? Can't believe it.]

[Is Imperial Capital University the only university in the country with an Immortal Cultivation Club? Just asking, who else?]

[Heard that Lin Beichen has founded this Immortal Cultivation Research Association, and they're recruiting new members. Anyone signing up? They start teaching cultivation tomorrow morning.]

[...]

As it fermented on the Imperial Capital University's forum, the news quickly spread across major social media platforms.

On Weibo.

#ImperialCapitalUniversityLinBeichenImmortalCultivationClub# quickly soared up the trending list, with its popularity continuing to rise, and its ranking on the trending list kept climbing.

Clicking into the topic.

The content was extremely diverse.

There were screenshots of the forum posts, videos of Lin Beichen making the announcement in front of the gym, screenshots of the club list on the university's website, specifically marking the Immortal Cultivation Research Association founded by Lin Beichen... and more!

"No way, no way, is Imperial Capital University seriously approving an Immortal Cultivation Club?"

"Damn, I regret not studying well and not getting into Imperial Capital University. Otherwise, I could have signed up for this club, so curious about the core of this club, hahaha!"

"Amazing, even an Immortal Cultivation Club has been established. Isn't this just messing around?"

"Is there any good brother from Imperial Capital University? Can you sign up and record a video tomorrow, so I can see what's being taught in cultivation?"

Chapter 119: Dragons have reverse scales, touch them and you shall die!_3

"Immortal Cultivation Club? This is hilarious, Imperial Capital University has truly become a joke! Huaqing University next door must be laughing their heads off in their sleep!"

"I can't stop laughing! Can anyone believe it? The highest academic institution in Huaxia actually started an Immortal Cultivation Club. Isn't this like adding a category for feudal superstitions in the Nobel Prize awards?"

"..."

Just as Hao Jianhua had feared and predicted from the beginning.

All online comments about this matter were unanimously negative. They were all about denying, attacking, questioning, and laughing at the idea.

And the one who caused all this.

Lin Beichen was in his dorm, sitting in front of his computer, organizing the application forms.

At that moment, amidst a flurry of hasty and chaotic footsteps.

His roommates, who had finished their evening classes, rushed into the dormitory.

Han Yuan leaned over next to Lin Beichen and clicked his tongue in amazement. "Beichen, haven't you seen the comments online, or is your mental resilience that strong? When we called you, we thought you were just pretending to be strong. Who would've thought you were actually fine and even started an Immortal Cultivation Club!"

Lin Beichen said indifferently, "Those people online have nothing to do with me. Let them say whatever they want."

"Impressive!"

Han Yuan gave a thumbs-up, then teased, "But I think you rushed into creating this Immortal Cultivation Club. Who else but us would support you? Do you really expect others to sign up?"

"..."

Lin Beichen looked at him with an expression as if he were staring at a clown, then pointed at the computer screen. "See for yourself."

As he spoke, he scrolled the mouse wheel.

On the computer screen was a list of personal information: names, student ID numbers, majors, and so on.

Han Yuan was dumbfounded. He couldn't believe it. "Are these... are these all people who've signed up for your Immortal Cultivation Club?"

"Yes."

Lin Beichen nodded. "There are already nearly eighty people signed up."

Among these people, many were curious students who had observed Lin Beichen in the gymnasium all day. Unable to figure out what he was up to, they decided to sign up so they could see for themselves the next day. Others were simply curious about how he would teach Immortal Techniques.

The number of applicants continued to rise...

Steadily increasing!

Early the next morning.

Lin Beichen came to the gymnasium with the Thunderstruck Wood in his arms.

Although it was still over ten minutes before the agreed time of seven o'clock, there were already twenty to thirty people at the gym's entrance.

"Here he comes, here he comes."

"Look, Lin Beichen is here."

"..."

Amidst the chatter.

Lin Beichen invited them into the gym.

After another ten minutes, it was seven o'clock, and during that time, about ten more people had arrived.

By now, around fifty people were sitting in the gymnasium.

What had looked empty the previous day now seemed quite crowded.

Lin Beichen took a quick headcount, a bit surprised.

Almost two hundred people had registered for the club.

Considering that some people might have signed up impulsively without intending to participate in the activities and that others might have classes to attend.

He had expected only a dozen or so to show up.

"I'm glad to see you all."

Lin Beichen greeted them, then said, "Since you all came here early in the morning, I assume you're interested in seeing what I'll be teaching about Immortal Cultivation, right?"

"Right!"

Everyone replied with laughter and in unison.

Lin Beichen nodded. "In that case, I won't waste time with unnecessary words. Let me prepare, and we'll get started."

With that, he placed the Thunderstruck Wood at a central spot among the crowd.

To help them better experience the Electric Element, he specifically brought the Thunderstruck Wood.

At that moment, a voice from the crowd asked, "Lin, oh, I mean, President, is that Thunderstruck Wood?"

Upon hearing this, everyone perked up. Yesterday, they had seen this black, gnarly piece of wood and had been curious about it, discussing it for a long time without any conclusions.

Lin Beichen put the Thunderstruck Wood on the ground and walked around, saying, "Yes, this is Thunderstruck Wood."

Hearing this.

Everyone's eyes were fixed on the Thunderstruck Wood.

"It really is Thunderstruck Wood!"

"First time seeing it. It looks just like the descriptions in the legends."

"..."

At this point, another voice rose from the murmuring crowd, "President, what's the use of Thunderstruck Wood?"

"It will aid your upcoming Immortal Cultivation."

Lin Beichen didn't go into detail; even if he did, they wouldn't understand, and it would be a waste of breath.

After speaking, he raised his hand to quiet everyone down and then said, "Alright, next I'll teach you the first step in Immortal Cultivation: Visualization. What is Visualization? It's to imagine as clearly as possible an unknown energy appearing within your body..."

While Lin Beichen explained the key points and his experiences in mastering the Visualization Realm, others started to mimic his actions.

Soon, everyone was trying hard to visualize, and Lin Beichen himself entered a state of cultivating the Thunder Skill.

One minute...

Two minutes...

...

Time ticked by second by second.

Who knows how long had passed.

Finally, someone couldn't take it anymore.

"What is this? I can't feel anything."

"Yeah, we can all imagine, but nothing happens in our bodies. Isn't this just a scam?"

"I bet he's always meditating because he's just sitting there daydreaming."

"This is frustrating! If I knew all we had to do was daydream, I'd have stayed in bed!"

"Okay, I'm convinced. This whole Immortal Cultivation thing is a scam."

"..."

Voices of dissatisfaction and disappointment echoed one after another.

They were just in it for the novelty and curiosity.

As time went on, the sense of novelty and curiosity wore off...

One by one, they left the gym.

Even though Lin Beichen was deep in cultivation, he was aware of what was happening in the gym. However, he didn't intervene.

Those who left either lacked determination and followed others out or didn't have enough comprehension and mistook daydreaming for visualization.

Even if they stayed, it wouldn't accomplish anything.

As time passed, more people left.

Of course, not everyone left. Throughout the day, some club members trickled in, either after finishing their classes or because they were bored and decided to check it out since they had signed up.

In and out they went...

Lin Beichen remained unaffected, methodically doing his own thing—cultivating, and during breaks, explaining the visualization process to new members and answering questions for those who hadn't left.

Repeating...

From morning until evening.

Other than Lin Beichen, three people stayed in the gym until then. Although they had been sitting there all day, trying to visualize, they hadn't felt anything.

Seeing the time, Lin Beichen said to them, "Alright, let's call it a day. Cultivation isn't achieved overnight. Keep a calm mindset; you might suddenly have an enlightenment one day."

He saw them off.

Then he tidied up the gym.

As he was about to leave.

His phone rang.

"Ring ring... ring ring..."

Lin Beichen glanced at the screen. It was his mom!

Without thinking, he answered the call.

"Hi, mom."

"I am not your mom, Lin Beichen."

A raspy laugh came from the other end of the line, like sandpaper scraping the ground, making it unpleasant to hear. The voice continued, "However, your parents are in my hands."

Chapter 120: Thunder Tribulation Sword!

"???"

Lin Beichen's brows instantly furrowed. How could his grown-up parents suddenly be kidnapped?

Moreover...

They were kidnapped together?

Isn't that ridiculous?

He felt it was very illogical.

"Could it be that my mom lost her phone, someone picked it up, cracked the password, and then called to scam money?"

Lin Beichen thought it was similar to the scams he often saw on TV news, but thinking deeper, he found it off.

He clearly remembered that in his mom's phone, his name was saved as "Precious Son". How did the other party know his name was Lin Beichen?

"Could it be..."

A sinking feeling hit Lin Beichen's heart. Was the other party targeting him all along? Were his parents really kidnapped because of him?

The other party...

Was it a foreign organization?

He wasn't sure if his thoughts were correct, but he knew for certain that he needed to confirm whether his parents were really in their hands first.

"Just because you say they're in your hands, they are?"

Lin Beichen's tone was filled with disbelief. He then said, "Let my mom take the call, then I'll believe you."

On the other end of the line.

On the highway leading from the Imperial Capital to Yanjiao in Beihai Province.

A taxi sped along.

Inside the taxi.

Three people sat in the back seat.

The person in the middle wore a baseball cap pulled down low, clutching a man and a woman on either side. By the intermittent lights coming in, in the flickering shadows, he could see that the man and woman were none other than Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong.

The two looked like they'd drunk to the point of blackout, eyes closed, bodies limp and swaying with the car's movement.

They were drugged unconscious!

It turns out, just after calling Lin Beichen yesterday.

The two, discussing attending the school celebration, couldn't stop worrying about their son, fearing something might happen to him, so they immediately took leave from their workplaces, buying today's flight tickets to fly over.

After getting off the plane, just outside the terminal.

They half-heartedly got into this taxi to head to Imperial Capital University to find their son.

Before they could react, they were knocked out with chloroform by the three people in the taxi.

And these three people in the taxi were members of the foreign organization.

The reason they were able to accurately track Lin Beichen's parents and successfully kidnap them was all because of the boss's instructions.

This traces back to yesterday...

After seeing the online trending topic about "Lin Beichen", the boss learned about his research and thoughts, immediately thinking of capturing him and the child together to the base for experiments, possibly leading to unexpected results.

However, Lin Beichen stayed inside the school all the time, leaving no opportunity to take him.

The boss knew the police were actively searching for him and was aware that keeping Tang Ru at the exchange point without moving her back to the base always carried the risk of getting discovered.

Time was running out!

They couldn't drag it on any longer!

After some thought and searching...

Finally, they decided to use Lin Beichen's parents as a breakthrough point, making Lin Beichen obediently leave the school.

Just as he found the three people in the taxi near the Imperial Capital, he contacted them to assist Alek, kidnap Lin Beichen's parents, capture Lin Beichen, and finally return to the base with Lin Beichen and Tang Ru together.

At this moment, in the front passenger seat.

The masked man, with sinister eyes, took the call.

Hearing what Lin Beichen said on the phone.

He turned to the back seat, looking at the unconscious Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong, and sneered: "Your parents are sleeping very soundly right now. There's no way they can take a call."

Saying that, he took a photo of each of them and sent it to Lin Beichen, "But you can see how they sleep."

"!!!!"

Lin Beichen's pupils contracted the moment he saw the photos.

Before he could think further.

The raspy voice came again from the other end: "How about now, do you believe I have your parents?"

"Why did you kidnap my parents? Do you want money? How much do you want?"

"It seems you believe me now, so things will be easier."

The raspy voice carried disdain and mockery, then in a cold tone said, "I don't want money. I want you to be at the No. 1 entrance of Yida Square in Dongdan at 12 noon tomorrow. Keep your phone on at all times."

After saying that, as if thinking of something, he added: "Of course, you can choose to call the police, but you can try and see if I wouldn't know, then your parents..."

The man didn't continue, just let out a chilling laugh like a night raven.

"You...!!!"

"Beep beep beep—"

Lin Beichen was about to say something when the other side had already hung up the phone.

The annoying busy signal echoed in his ear.

His heart was in turmoil.

"I can't panic!"

"I must not lose my head!"

"..."

Lin Beichen continuously calmed himself down, and after a moment, he forced himself to stay composed and started pondering the whole situation.

"The kidnappers didn't even want money, only asking me to go to Yida Square tomorrow. It seems their target is me."

"And the kidnappers must be the foreign organization!"

"They seek revenge on me!"

Lin Beichen now realized everything was just as he had thought. For a moment, his heart was full of self-blame.

"The kidnappers are not afraid of me calling the police..."

Thinking of this, Lin Beichen remembered that on the day he went out to buy a phone, someone had been following him. It was no coincidence; that person was from the foreign organization!