

I Have A Cultivation World

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Chen Mobai seemed to be very lucky recently.

In Southstream Market, his talismans have opened up the market, and after returning to Di Yuan Star, Qing Nu also brought good news.

Treasure Bottle Pharmacy has an unused alchemy room, fully equipped with a medicine pool and other equipment, which can be used to start producing Qi-replenishing Spirit Water again.

This indeed made Chen Mobai breathe a sigh of relief.

In recent days, without this Spirit Water, his cultivation speed has significantly slowed down, making him, who had been accustomed to high efficiency, feel at

a loss.

However, after Qing Nu began preparing the second batch of Qi-replenishing Spirit Water, Chen Mobai had another problem.

That was, where would the Good Deed Points for purchasing the main medicine and auxiliary medicine come from next time?

Although he now has 24 Spirit Stones on him, he is already a little afraid to go to the bank and exchange Spirit Stones for Good Deed Points.

The intermediate-Rank-1 Qi-replenishing Spirit Water requires about five days to refine after completion.

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The alchemy room rented from Treasure Bottle Pharmacy is for a month, and Qing Nu's idea is to make the most out of it by buying more medicine materials so that within this month, enough Qi – replenishing Spirit Water can be prepared to support Chen Mobai's cultivation until he reaches the seventh level of Qi Cultivation.

According to Qing Nu's efficiency, at least three batches of medicine materials

are needed.

After much thinking, Chen Mobai still didn't come up with a good solution. He could only take out one Spirit Stone, for which he got gold in exchange at the Silver Shop of the Five Elements Sect in Southstream Market, and went to find

Wu Wan.

"The quality of the gold is the same, but I can only purchase the same amount as last time, that is, 40 pieces, priced at 4300 Good Deed Points."

After Wu Wan measured the weight and purity, he hesitated for a moment when looking at the hundred gold bars in front of him. Still, he decided to be a good person and only took 40 of them.

"Oh, what do you mean by this, Master Wu?"

Chen Mobai was a bit confused and asked.

"As you know, gold is controlled by the Immortal Gate, and all of us goldsmiths have registered at the Immortal Trade Bureau. Before getting our business licenses, we were told that if the same person trades gold cumulatively more than 10,000 Good Deed Points with us, we need to report to the market supervision department and law enforcement police department."

Chen Mobai broke into a cold sweat after Wu Wan finished speaking.

"Thankyou, Master Wu."

He gave Wu Wan a solemn thank you, who responded by lightly shaking his hand, putting the 40 gold bars in his safe with gloved hands, and then transferring 4300 Good Deed Points to Chen Mobai through his phone.

"You've traded gold twice with me, and you're only 4850 points away from the 10,000 Good Deed Points limit. If you're really short of Good Deed Points, I can take 5 more, which will just fall within the 10,000 limit."

"However, if the Immortal Trade Bureau randomly checks my little shop's accounts at the end of the year, your transaction just hitting the 10,000 Good Deed Points limit will be a bit conspicuous and might be targeted."

"So my suggestion is to just trade 40 more this time. In case we are selected for inspection, I have several customers like you, and with some adjustment in the account books and tax forms, the Immortal Gate will most likely turn a blind eye."

After failing the Foundation Establishment, Wu Wan seemed to have let go and was ready to be more devoted to treasure appraisal and business. He earnestly advised Chen Mobai on trading gold, taking the initiative to remind him.

“Of course, if you’re desperate for Good Deed Points, I can also introduce you to some of my contacts. You just have to be careful not to exceed 10,000 Good Deed Points. However, if you, a new face, go to trade gold, some bosses will report to the Immortal Gate just in case.”

After hearing all of this, Chen Mobai felt quite alarmed.

His possessions were already a bit illegally obtained, and if they were targeted by the relevant departments of the Immortal Gate, it would be disastrous. ■’I almost forgot. If you register a company, you can avoid this 10,000 limit, and our transactions would then be on a B2B bill. At the end of the year, when the accumulated points are returned, there might even be a discount.”

Wu Wan proposed another method, but Chen Mobai immediately shook his head.

He is only eighteen years old. If he rashly registers a company specifically for gold trading, wouldn’t that attract more attention?

Before leaving, Chen Mobai thanked Wu Wan again, and also gave up the idea of exchanging more gold from the Tianhe Realm.

If it can’t be done here, then it might be worth trying the previous idea.

Southstream Market.

Chen Mobai, dressed in ancient-style clothes, walked into a store opened by a local Immortal Cultivation family.

Because Yun Country is located near the Yunmengze River, it is rich in Spiritual Energy. Many Immortal Cultivation families rely on the local Water Vein to open Medicine Fields, which can not only train their own Alchemists but also be sold to major Alchemy Sects like Back to Sky Valley.

Moreover, after cultivating Thousand-Year Spirit Medicine, they can exchange it for Foundation Building Pills, so practically all the Immortal Cultivation families here have a Medicine Field as a family treasure.

But Back to Sky Valley only accepts top-grade medical materials, so a lot of lowly rated materials harvested after maturity fall into the hands of local market shops for sale.

The three-story shop is called “Siqi Pavilion” and is one of the industries of the Lou family, one of the four major Foundation Establishment families in the market.

Chen Mobai heard from Qing Nu that there are four types of medicine properties: cold, hot, warm and cool, referred as the Four Qi, and that's probably where this shop got its name.

"Do you need spiritual medicine, or Spirit Pill?"

As soon as he entered the shop, a beautiful female cultivator who was at the third level of Qi Cultivation greeted him. She took a look at Chen Mobai's exquisitely stitched clothes and had a smiling face.

-I have these three kinds of medicinal herbs which my elders need for Alchemy. But I don't exactly know what they are. Could you please check if you have them here?"

Chen Mobai took out the three main medicinal herbs used for the refining of Qi-replenishing Spirit Water from Qing Nu and handed it over to the female cultivator of the Siqu Pavilion, who nodded, took a tray and received the medicines.

"This is Bai Ji, Chui Zhu Grass, Zhe Li, very common types of Spirit Grass. We have all of them in our store. How much do you need?"

The female cultivator seemed to have a good knowledge of medicinal herbs, looked carefully, smelled, and felt them and finally, with a charming smile, named three types of medicinal herbs that had completely different names on Di Yuan Star.

"What are the prices?"

-They are all very common medicinal herbs, but the starting price is 1 Spirit Stone per pound. The prices for the three herbs are all the same."

Chen Mobai calculated that one pound of medicinal herbs could be used to refine five times. Even if Qing Nu could only be successful ten times in one go, it could still support his cultivation up to the seventh level of Qi Cultivation. The price is also entirely acceptable. With these, he only needs to buy four types of auxiliary medicines from the Di Yuan Star.

"Then let's start by buying one pound each."

Upon hearing this, the beautiful female cultivator still had the same smile on her face, and she immediately invited Chen Mobai to the second floor.

After her introduction, Chen Mobai learned that the second floor was where Spirit Grass and medicinal herbs were sold. The third floor was for selling their family's handmade Spirit Pill. Recently, a new batch of Juling Pills had been put on the shelves, and they wanted to promote it to see if Chen Mobai was interested.

However, the Spirit Pills in Tianhe Realm all have a history of exceeding the standard toxin measures, and Chen Mobai wouldn't dare to buy these. The Spirit Pills were abandoned, and after paying for the medicinal herbs in Spirit Stones, Chen Mobai left directly..

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Treasure Bottle Alchemy Room.

Chen Mobai looked at the sign on the door, pulled out the access card given to him by Qing Nu, and the doorman let him in after a quick swipe.

“You're just in time, this is the successfully blended spiritual water. All you have to do is pour it into its packaging.”

As one of the top pharmacies in Red Sandstone City, the rented Treasure Bottle Alchemy Room was fully equipped. Dressed in a white lab coat, Qing Nu handed a kettle of standard Qi-replenishing Spirit Water to Chen Mobai and pointed to a dozen glass tubes plugged into slots on the table nearby.

“What about the rest?”

Chen Mobai placed the three large bags of medicinal herbs he was holding onto the table, grabbed the spout pot to start packaging, and looked at the remaining half of the medicinal liquid that had been separated in the pool.

“These original liquids exceed the standard for pill poison content. After collection, they need to be put into special packaging bags. Before you leave, give them to the recycling officer of the Treasure Bottle Pharmacy. They'll take care of their disposal.”

As she spoke, Qing Nu took a rolled-up plastic bag from a cabinet on the wall. With a bit of spiritual power injected, it immediately inflated and turned into a square packaging bag.

“You've improved, there are 20 tubes this time.”

Chen Mobai steadily poured the diluted spiritual water from the spout pot into the standard glass tubes. Then, he stopped up the tube orifices, sealing them.

“The equipment in this alchemy room is better than what my old master used. Plus, I have practical experience now. I would definitely have improved. If I wasn’t unfamiliar with this alchemy room, there would have been 25 tubes, nearly a 50% success rate.”

As she spoke, Qing Nu had already packaged the original liquid that didn’t meet the standard and put it into a trash bin marked “poison”.

“Is this the next batch of medicinal herbs? Let me take a look.”

Saying so, Qing Nu opened up the main medicinal herbs that Chen Mobai had brought over from Tianhe Realm, took a whiff, and her eyes lit up.

“The age and medicinal properties of these herbs are more substantial than the ones we bought online the last two times. We might be able to yield 30 tubes in the next refinement.”

Hearing her words, Chen Mobai also smiled. He had been afraid that items from the Tianhe Realm might not meet the criteria here.

“However, these herbs have been preserved poorly, some of the medicinal properties have already vanished. They need to be used up quickly.”

After confirming all three types of medicinal herbs, Qing Nu gave Chen Mobai some less-than-uplifting news.

This was expected, after all, in Dihuan Star, the alchemy techniques have reached an apex, and there are classified preservation methods for different properties of medicinal herbs. Some even have specifically designed medicine warehouses set at different temperatures just to best preserve the medicinal properties.

However, in the Tianhe Realm, the best-case scenario they have is likely just dry, ventilated, and cool storage. If over half the medicinal properties can be preserved, it’s already the result of the cultivators’ hard work.

“By the way, how does your master usually charge the Treasure Bottle Pharmacy for selling these bottles of Qi-replenishing Spirit Water?”

Chen Mobai asked. Recently, he was planning to buy a strong amulet to break through the Ren Water Thunder Method inside the Water Mansion, but he was short on Good Deed Points.

“My master only charges a processing fee. The party providing the medicinal herbs pays for them. Regardless of the final production rate, he charges 1000 Good Deed Points per processing session.”

“1000 per session, that’s easy money.”

Upon hearing Chen Mobai’s words, Qing Nu pulled out a calculator and did some math for him.

“Treasure Bottle Pharmacy has its own medicinal fields and factories, and the cost of the main and auxiliary medicinal herbs add up to around 2000 points at most.”

“My master crafts rank-1, intermediate grade Qi-replenishing Spirit Water with 95% or more success rate each time, handing over 40 tubes to them. With the market price of 200 Good Deed Points per tube, they can sell them for a total of 8000 points.”

“Minus the 1000-point processing fee, the 2000-point material cost, and a bit of costs for other channels, Treasure Bottle Pharmacy makes at least 4000 points in profit per processing session.”

After hearing all this, Chen Mobai couldn’t help but sigh, “Selling medicine really is profitable.”

“However, we also can’t ignore the cost of maintaining such a large scale operation for Treasure Bottle Pharmacy, or the salary costs at the medicinal fields and factories. But regardless, selling medicine is acknowledged as the easiest way to get rich in the Immortal World.”

In the four disciplines of the Immortal World – Technique, Pill, Instrument, Array-

The talismans representing spells only sell well if they are for daily life. As the barriers of entry are low and competition is high, the profit margin is usually slim.

It’s the same for magic artifacts, those used for combat generally don’t sell well. Only kitchen tools, airships, cars, and these sorts of transportation tools allow one to make money.

Formations are even higher-end products. Most are custom-made private orders for entire houses. Branding is vital there, and very few manufacturers tackle this field.

Only in the domain of medicinal pills is the industry exceedingly mature. Everyone needs them when cultivating and progressing, but the barriers to entry are strictly monitored by the Immortal World, raising the standards constantly. After thousands of years of internal competition, six large-scale pharmaceutical institutions, including Treasure Bottle Pharmacy, emerged.

These large-scale pharmaceutical companies are practically monopolies. If not for the Immortal World's strict control on prices, ordinary cultivators like Chen Mobai might not be able to afford them even if they managed to secure some.

"It's a shame that they're not refining Qi-replenishing Spirit Water for the Treasure Bottle Pharmacy. Otherwise, they would provide 'Spiritual Extracts,' which could help ensure a success rate of over 80% each time."

Looking at the original liquid in the trash bin waiting to be discarded, Qing Nu couldn't help but sigh.

"Spiritual Extract? What's that? Is it a type of auxiliary medicinal herb?"

Chen Mobai asked.

"Yes, something like that. It's an auxiliary herb that large pharmacies use specifically for filtering pill poison. The reason my master has a success rate of over 95% every time is not only due to her superb skills but also because of the 'Spiritual Extract' provided by the Treasure Bottle Pharmacy."

"Can you buy 'Spiritual Extract'?"

"You're making it sound simpler than it actually is. That 'Spiritual Extract' is precisely why these large-scale pharmaceutical firms stand out amidst the fierce competition in the Immortal World's marketplace. Any ordinary pharmacy, despite having a rank-4 alchemist, wouldn't last long in the competitive pharmaceutical industry due to the lack of 'Spiritual Extract'."

Chen Mobai thought about all the alchemists in the Immortal World. These alchemists usually join one of the six major pharmaceutical firms to better their opportunities in the end.

"So, this 'Spiritual Extract' is only available in the six major pharmaceutical firms?"

"Not necessarily, 'Spiritual Extract' is obtained by ground-up spiritual stones that have been drained of their spiritual energy. It can be collected from various channels, but only the six major pharmaceutical firms, supported by either the Immortal World or one of the four Daoist Academies, have a vast reserve of spiritual stones."

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai was taken aback.

"What did you say?"

"What?"

“Spiritual Extract is crushed spiritual stones that have been drained of their spiritual energy?! That thing can be reused like that?!”

Chen Mobai was once again moved to tears by the thriftiness of Dihuan Star’s cultivators..

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Chen Mobai remembered that there was still a used spirit stone in the drawer of his room. Full of energy, he immediately ran back to retrieve it.

“Crushing this into a spiritual extract will filter out the toxic remnants of two doses of raw medicine, but we still need a reactant.”

Qing Nu didn’t question why Chen Mobai had such an item. She had simply assumed his family once produced a great cultivator and now he was a somewhat downcast young master.

“Can the reactant be purchased?”

“It’s cheap. You can buy a large jar for 100 Good Deed Points, which is enough to compound 50 doses of spiritual extract.”

Qing Nu’s words eased Chen Mobai’s worries. His Good Deed Points were not in abundance and while the three main elements needed to make Qi-replemshing Spirit Water could be purchased in the Tianhe Realm, the four auxiliary ones could only be bought here on Earth. His remaining Good Deed Points would only be enough to purchase enough for three doses.

“Do I no longer need a flavor modifier?”

Qing Nu noted the omission and Chen Mobai shook his head, indicating that he had run out of pocket money. He had no choice but to cut back on expenses in any way possible.

“Then I’ll first refine a dose of Spirit Water without flavor modifiers for you to try. If you can tolerate the taste, we’ll continue in this way for the rest.” As she said this, Qing Nu was still apprehensive. She had tasted it before and found it unbearably bitter.

Chen Mobai nodded. At the same time, he was thinking of going to Southstream Market to collect some used spirit stones. He packed away the 20 tubes of Qi-replenishing Spirit Water that was successfully refined and prepared to leave.

“Right, you’re the same age as me. How are your preparations for the college entrance exam going?”

At this point, Chen Mobai remembered this detail and asked with a touch of concern.

“Whether I take the exams or not, it doesn’t matter. I’ve already been given a direct admission.”

“Really? Which university have you been admitted to?”

“Jumang Daoist Academy!”

“Oh, that’s a great university...wait, what academy did you say...?”

Chen Mobai’s eyes widened in disbelief as he looked at Qing Nu, unsure if he had heard her correctly.

“Jumang Daoist Academy. Why else would you think the Baoping Pharmacy would rent me this alchemy room? I’m essentially using the facilities of my own school.”

After a long silence, Chen Mobai took a good look at Qing Nu. Remembering their first encounter at the top-tier high school, she had always concealed her face with a mask and hat.

Originally, he thought it was because she was beautiful and had many suitors at school.

Now it seemed more likely that she was simply too famous within the school. “Now it makes sense why Gu Changfeng, a cultivator who has reached the Foundation Establishment realm, could not resist taking you as a disciple when he came to give a lecture at the school. Even if a Golden Core realm expert met you, they would probably not be able to resist. Your spiritual root is indeed a Heavenly Spiritual Root.”

Chen Mobai sighed and felt foolish for not realizing this sooner. “Actually, that’s not the case. Although those with Heavenly Spiritual Roots cultivate quickly before core formation, the absence of obstacles and bottlenecks in the early stage inhibits the success rate of Nascent Soul Formation. It’s not as high as those with ordinary spiritual roots who climb step-by-step. Among the Nascent Soul realm cultivators today, only four started off as Heavenly Spiritual Roots. So if there are sufficient resources, my future achievements might not even surpass yours.

Qing Nu shook her head. Her words rendered Chen Mobai speechless. Only a short while ago, his sole ambition was to successfully establish his foundation within his lifetime.

“What realm are you in now?”

“Qi Cultivation Rank-6.”

Hearing this, Chen Mobai finally felt a bit better – he was at the same level as her.

However, considering that the spiritual energy in Qing Nu’s apartment was only Rank-1 Lower-grade and she could only practice Qi cultivation two hours a day in the cultivation room at her school, it was undoubtedly impressive that she could reach Rank-6 under such conditions.

“You carry on then. I’m going back to review.”

“Alright, come back for the Qi-replenishing Spirit Water tomorrow. After filtering out the toxic residues with spiritual extract, we should still have enough left to compound about fifteen more tubes.

Chen Mobai nodded appreciatively. He reminded himself that he now had the good fortune of the Tianhe Realm. If he became a major trader between the two realms in the future, there would be an endless supply of spirit stones. Even though he didn’t possess a Heavenly Spiritual Root, he still had a promising future.

The next day, Chen Mobai went to Southstream Market and happened to run into Qi Er at the entrance. Qi Er was very grateful, saying that he would have died in Yun Meng Ze if it hadn’t been for the Green Arrow Talisman.

in the course of their conversation, Qi Er wanted to give Chen Mobai the two spirit stones he had earned as a reward, but Chen Mobai shook his head and declined.

Afterwards, Chen Mobai enlisted Qi Er’s help to buy some used spirit stones, preferably those depleted of spiritual energy.

Even though Qi Er found the request odd, he successfully collected the used spirit stones from several small loose cultivators in his network in less than half a day, totaling seventeen.

Qi Er informed him that he had purchased each spirit stone for 10 taels of gold. Chen Mobai nodded and handed him a 500 tael gold note.

With this amount of spiritual extract, Qing Nu had more than enough for refinement, so Chen Mobai didn’t linger any longer in the market.

Spurred on by the news that Qing Nu had already secured a place at Jumang Daoist Academy, he devoted himself even more assiduously to his studies over the next two months.

After acquiring a sufficient amount of Qi-replenishing Spirit Water, he stopped wasting time peddling goods altogether, focusing solely on studying and cultivation in the hopes of achieving a high score in the college entrance exam. If he couldn't make it to the four top Daoist academies, he at least wanted to get into one of the top ten academies.

For now, his goal was set on the Pure Yang Academy!

Thus, Chen Mobai embarked on the most hardworking and upwardly mobile time of his life.

Every night, he would cultivate Qi in the Water Mansion. In the mornings, while attentively listening to lessons at school, he also reviewed the basic knowledge from the past three years for all four subjects.

Nurturing divine sense, or in ancient times referred to as 'enlightenment', opened up the door of wisdom.

The spells, formulas, talismans, formations he had once found complicated and difficult to understand became intelligible with a few reads, coupled with his consistent consulting of teachings from the educators. His foundations solidified over time, and he gradually became more scholarly.

The most surprising thing for Chen Mobai was his breakthrough in his realm of cultivation.

Perhaps due to his consistent practice of the Nourishing Thought Forge God Technique and the early readiness of his divine sense, the bottleneck of the later stage of Qi Cultivation didn't exist; coupled with a steady supply of Qi-replenishing Spirit Water and Rank-2 spiritual energy from the Water Mansion, he broke through to the 7th realm of Qi Cultivation a week before the college entrance examination.

Henceforth, Chen Mobai finally gained confidence that he could try for entrance to the Four Great Daoist Academies.

However, after reaching the 7th realm of Qi Cultivation, he was once again confronted with a crucial question.

Should he continue practicing the "Five Elements Cultivation," or shift to the "Pure Yang Scrolls"?

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Water Mansion.

After watering the Green Paulownia seedling, he opened his personal panel.

[Name: Chen Mobai]

[Age: 18 years old]

[Realm: Qi Cultivation Seventh Level]

[Spiritual Root: Gold 23, Wood 27, Water 30, Fire 17, Earth 10]

[Cultivation Technique: Five Elements Cultivation]

[Skills: Propulsion Technique, Cleaning Technique, Spiritual Force Shield, Qi Nourishing Technique, Water Controlling Technique, Water Elemental Shield] Though Five Elements Cultivation was rather ordinary, it had one advantage: it could use spells of any attribute.

Even though Chen Mobai hadn't practiced Blackwater Cultivation, within the Water Mansion, an environment with rich resources, he had integrated all three spells recorded there.

Among them, "Water Controlling Technique" was simplest, and he had now mastered it.

The "Water Elemental Shield", originally beginner-level, made significant progress after reaching the divine sense realm. He was only one step away from casting it, which required condensing a spiritual water known as "Black Water".

The only exception was the last, "Cold Ice Technique". He had always failed to grasp it, so he hadn't included this spell in his own skill list yet.

After some thought, Chen Mobai decided it was best to be cautious about cultivation. He decided to continue practicing the "Five Elements Cultivation" for now and consult the professors at the Daoist Academy after he passed the entrance exam.

If he could be admitted to the Pure Yang Academy, there would be no doubt; he would immediately switch to the "Pure Yang Scroll".

But what if he showed great potential and was admitted to one of the four major Daoist Academies? There might be even better cultivation techniques than the “Pure Yang Scroll”!

In any case, Five Elements Cultivation can be seamlessly converted into any of the Five Elements attributes. There was no hurry to switch techniques.

Like Qing Ping, who achieved “Nascent Soul Formation” through Five Elements Cultivation and then transitioned to the Elemental Soul Cultivation Technique of Jade Purity Scripture, he was reputed to be the weakest among his contemporaries. However, he was the only one who had reached that realm. Judging by his achievements, Qing Ping had surpassed ten generations of spiritual root cultivators, and may even hope for Primordial Spirit transformation.

Chen Mobai took Qing Ping as a model, understood this point, and instantly felt enlightened.

Anyway, the college entrance examination was just a week away. Even rushing now wouldn’t allow him to start cultivating the “Three Sun Body” in time. He could let go for the time being, and consider this problem again after the entrance examination of the various Daoist Academies.

Then he remembered another matter, opened the Turtle Treasure, and sure enough, the “Proxy” button was protruding and glowing.

“I’ve broken through to Qi Cultivation Seventh Level, and can represent another app. Which one should I choose?”

He returned to his apps list, scrolled through it, and kept looking. He was inclined to pick the comprehensive shopping app “Immortal Portal”, but was equally attracted to “Library of Immortal Spells”.

The Library of Immortal Spells contains all the spells from the four great Daoist Academies, ten academies, and one hundred and twenty prefectures of the Lower Land Star.

It was reported to contain one million spells.

Alongside the “National Library”, they were known as the two major secrets of the Immortal Sect. It’s said that it also collects some divine skills inspired by ancient scriptures, such as the Immortal Technique – Mending the Heaven.

However, after carefully considering it, Chen Mobai still chose the “Immortal Portal”.

Because he didn’t have much desire for spells at the moment.

He preferred something more practical.

He clicked the “Proxy” button on the Turtle Treasure, then selected the icon for “Immortal Portal”. The cute turtle logo appeared in the center of the screen, rotating once before disappearing into the profile picture of the newly registered user in the top right corner.

It was still the turtle immortality.

After the representation was completed, Chen Mobai opened up this new profile to take a look. As expected, it only had rank-3 permissions.

It seemed the software developed by the Immortal Sect had different protection measures than those from the public.

But the rank-3 permissions were sufficient.

Chen Mobai opened the official Immortal Sect flagship store page, and, as expected, he had many new permissions.

For example, free shipping. Usually, when he purchased items, he only dared to buy from addresses in Red Sandstone City or nearby cities. This was because, when shipped from other major cities, the cost of freight could sometimes be nearly as high as the value of the goods themselves.

This was largely because all the oil and gas resources on Lower Land Star had been exhausted. Now, vehicles and planes were all powered by spiritual liquid and spirit stones. The price to make a round trip quickly, was quite expensive. In addition to free shipping, he’s also able to know about items that will be available for purchase a month in advance.

However, the best rank-3 user privilege was that, each month, they could pre-order one item officially released by the Immortal Sect. It could be a pill or a magic artifact. As soon as it was available for grab, it would appear on a user’s order page. The official system assumed you had grabbed it; all you needed to do was pay for it.

After looking into this, Chen Mobai couldn’t help but marvel.

But he could only look at these. He didn’t dare to use this permission for actual purchases.

Because once he made a purchase with this account, it would be revealed immediately.

However, knowing a month in advance about the items that would be listed by the various flagship stores on the Immortal Portal was already very useful to him.

But Chen Mobai guessed that the early information available via proxy might only include details programmed in advance. If there were last-minute changes by the flagship stores, it probably wouldn't be included.

As he was thinking, he began to browse a list of elixirs the Immortal Sect's official flagship store would be selling in the coming month.

On the 5th, 18th, and 26th of next month, a triad of Foundation Establishment enhancers will be available. The timing of their releases will vary between morning, afternoon, and evening.

in Chen Mobai's heart, a fervor ignited. If he could grab these items and resell them, he could make at least a 20% profit. Based on the official price of 800,000 Good Deed Points per item, that means a gain of over one hundred thousand Good Deed Points per item.

The only problem was that he didn't have enough capital to make the purchases.

But now that he knew this information, he had time to figure out a solution. He could even post online that he had grabbed the items but didn't have the money to buy them. If anyone was interested, they could wire him the money. Although this may seem somewhat deceptive, as long as he got someone familiar to guarantee him, there would certainly be people willing to take up the offer.

For example, Wu Wan. He handled business and likely had a broad network of contacts.

Even though Chen Mobai had been diligently cultivating recently, he had also been contemplating how to make money on Lower Land Star.

Exchanging spirit stones and selling gold were definitely not options anymore. He had also thought about selling the Qi-replenishing Spirit Water produced by Qing Nu on his online store. However, since Qing Nu didn't have the qualification to apply for the Alchemist registration certificate yet, no one would dare to buy the spirit water, even though it met the standards.

The first choice for cultivators on Lower Land Star to buy elixirs were the direct supply stores run by the six giant pharmaceutical factories, followed by the stores of famous Alchemists. Small pharmacies could only do business among acquaintances.

Gu Changfeng, a Foundation Establishment cultivator who ran a pharmacy, didn't have a thriving business. Therefore, Chen Mobai's business wouldn't fare any better.

That's why he chose to proxy for the Immortal Portal. After a lot of pondering, he decided that this was a solution to his embarrassing financial constraints on Lower Land Star.

He had already tasted poverty for a month, and dealing with untreated Qi-replenishing Spirit Water was too bitter..

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One day left until the college entrance exam!

In the classroom, the usually stern head teacher, Chai Deyun, began to froth at the mouth, emphasizing to all the students the importance of the college test.

“According to statistics, the success rate of Foundation Establishment among students of the Cinnabarite Red Dawn Institution is 2%. In other words, only two out of a hundred people can successfully establish their foundation.”

“For students of the top ten colleges, the success rate of Foundation Establishment is 20%. Taking our class of 49 people as an example, if all of them are admitted to the top ten universities, then ten people will successfully establish their foundation. Isn’t that an exceptional achievement!”

“And if you are admitted to the Four Great Daoist Academies, that’s even more incredible. Although, the Foundation Establishment success rate for students from these four universities hit a new low last year, even at this new low, it stands at 75%!”

“The benefits of successful Foundation Establishment need not be mentioned by me, right? Not to mention the significant increase in lifespan, you can also apply for a Rank-2 Spirit Vein from the immortal sect, and even access more powerful spells and stronger cultivation techniques in the Immortal Sect’s spell library and the national library.”

“After establishing your foundation, even if you want to become the principal of your alma mater, I guess the principal would be more than happy to give up his position to you.”

While listening to Chai Deyun, Chen Mobai was playing with his phone.

He was trying to snap up the “Spirit Ascension Powder” that the Immortal Sect’s official flagship store had released today. Although he knew in advance that it would be listed at 9:38 in the morning, he had been refreshing and waiting since half past eight.

After all, there are not a few Gold Core cultivators in the Immortal Sect. Although they have long lost interest in Foundation Establishment treasures like this, what if their later generations need them?

However, he was quite lucky. Perhaps due to his sincerity, the Immortal Sect was touched by him waiting for an hour before it listed. The moment the 10,000 shares of "Spirit Ascension Powder" were listed, his quick order placement got him one.

Yay!

If he weren't in the classroom, Chen Mobai couldn't help but want to jump for joy.

"What are you so happy about?"

However, his expression caught the attention of the person sitting next to him. Lu Hongsheng, who had completely forgotten about the previous incident, asked softly.

"I was randomly scrolling through the Immortal Sect's website today and luckily came across a newly listed batch of 'Spirit Ascension Powder.' I was lucky enough to snag one."

Chen Mobai didn't hide anything, pretentiously showing Lu Hongsheng the unfinalized purchase on his phone screen.

"Your luck is unbelievable."

Lu Hongsheng's eyes widened, and he spoke with a hint of sourness.

"You actually got one!?"

By this time, the head teacher on the stage had finished speaking, and it was time for a break. The two girls sitting in front of them who heard their conversation also turned around, looking incredulously at Chen Mobai. Chen Mobai shrugged, letting the students around him look at the order page on his phone.

"Wow!"

Afterwards, everyone looked at Chen Mobai with envious eyes.

One quick-thinking student took out his phone and started trying to snap up the product. It was like a chain reaction, everyone began logging onto the Immortal Sect's website, trying to grab the newly listed batch of Spirit Ascension Powder.

"Oh no, I was so close, I clearly saw there were three left in stock a moment ago!"

The first girl who reacted hit the desk in annoyance.

“How could I be so stupid!”

The first one who found out, Lu Hongsheng, wanted to bang his head against the wall. If he had tried to grab it right after Chen Mobai told him, maybe he could've gotten one too.

Whether he could afford it was another story, plenty of people would help him pay.

The only person in the entire class who sat still, as unmovable as a mountain, was Song Zheng.

He believed he could at least get into one of the top ten colleges. By then, he could get two items for the Foundation Establishment for free the first time. If he had enough Good Deed Points, he could also buy from the school to complete the Foundation Establishment treasures.

So, Song Zheng had absolutely no interest in a trifling single piece of “Spirit Ascension Powder.”

The commotion also attracted the head teacher, who originally wanted to pack up his textbooks and leave. When he found out that Chen Mobai had gotten the “Spirit Ascension Powder,” his face changed a bit. If his first opportunity to establish his foundation in the school hadn't been used up, he might have wanted to buy it from this student.

However, some quick-witted students had already picked up their mobile phones and quickly spread the news.

After all, there are many teachers at the Qi Cultivation stage in the school.

Ding!

Just before the second class, Chen Mobai suddenly received a text message.

The sender was Chansi.

[I have a Senior Sister who is preparing for Foundation Establishment. If you want to resell your ‘Spirit Ascension Powder’, you might want to consider me.]

Chen Mobai didn't expect the first person to approach him would be this teacher. He was originally intending to let the whole class know, after all, selling it to a school teacher is better than selling it to someone he doesn't know outside.

Although the faculty of the Fifth High School of the Immortal Sect is mediocre, these teachers who have been hired to teach them are top choices in terms of character and

cultivation. Selling to them means not having to worry about them defaulting on the payment.

If it had been another teacher, Chen Mobai definitely would have held out for a better price.

But since it was Chansi who had contacted him, after a little consideration, he replied with a [Sure].

Luckily, Mr. Ding's term had already passed, and he didn't need the Foundation Establishment Treasures. Otherwise, if both these teachers needed to buy Spirit Ascension Powder, he wouldn't know who to give it to.

After class, head teacher Chai Deyun called Chen Mobai to the office.

He was introducing another teacher who wanted to purchase the "Spirit Ascension Powder," but Chen Mobai said that he had already promised Chansi. After hearing that, the former teacher left with regret.

"If I'm not mistaken, Mr. Chansi hasn't undergone Foundation Establishment yet, if he needs it, he can buy the complete Foundation Establishment Treasures from the Cinnabarite Institute."

As the other teacher left, Chai Deyun suddenly brought up this matter. Chen Mobai hesitated a moment before explaining that Chansi was buying it for a senior sister. Chai Deyun nodded in understanding after hearing this.

Conveniently, Chansi was teaching a neighboring class that day and was also at the school. The two of them agreed to meet after the morning classes ended.

"The Foundation Establishment Treasures are usually marked up about 20% on the market. I'll transfer you 160,000 Good Deed Points. How does that sound?"

In the office, Chen Mobai heard Chansi's words and nodded.

Among the three treasures, the demand for "Spirit Ascension Powder" is slightly lower. After all, compared to "Vein Protection Pill" and "Solidifying Qi Liquid," there are plenty of pills and magic artifacts that could replace it. Even if he handed it to Wu Wan for resale, it might not even fetch this price.

After Chen Mobai changed the delivery information on the order and handed it to Chansi to pay, the latter used his credit card to quickly transfer him 160,000 Good Deed Points.

Looking at the new message about the bank balance on his phone, Chen Mobai's hands were shaking a little from never having had so many Good Deed Points before.

He laughed at how unsophisticated he was, getting this excited over a mere 160,000 Good Deed Points.

“By the way, the college entrance exam is the day after tomorrow. How are your preparations going?”

All of a sudden, Chansi asked about this. Chen Mobai replied with a self-effacing smile.

“I should have no problem at least participating in the entrance exam for the Four Great Daoist Academies and the top Ten Colleges.”

“Oh, congratulations. But this year’s entrance examination is a bit special, I’m afraid your chances of passing are slim.”

“Huh?”

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Questions_I

“I can’t give specifics, but it’ll be happening in a few days. The details of the enrollment exam will be announced after the high-school exam.”

Chan Ssu was tight-lipped, so all Chen Mobai could do was restrain his curiosity and leave her office.

Back in the school’s cultivation room, Chen Mobai wasted no time.

After practicing the “Nourishing Thought Forge God technique” for a while and sensing his mind beginning to tire, he stopped and went online to search for information about the enrollment exams of the various academies over the last few years.

Last year’s entrance exam was arranged by representatives from each Daoist academy, forming nine interconnected formations, ranging from simple to complex. The qualification for admission to the four major Daoist academies was to solve seven formation problems.

However, among all the students in Red Sandstone City, the best result was solving six formations. In the end, that student could only go to the Astral Observation Academy among the top ten academies.

Chen Mobai frowned as soon as he saw this. He wasn't completely ignorant about formations. As he persisted in asking Chan Ssu for guidance over time, he had mastered the Azure Water Formation of the Rank-2 Water Mansion.

Due to his knowledge, he felt he ranked in the top three in his class in terms of proficiency in formations.

Thus, with confidence, he spent 100 points to download the real entrance test papers from the fairy's test bank for the most recent ten years.

Nine interconnected formations, as intricate as pearls.

The real test paper was named quite aptly, Chen Mobai thought to himself, then took out his stationary from his bag, ready to start solving the formation problems.

Half an hour later, wiping cold sweat from his forehead, he slumped down and put down the paper and pen in his hand.

He had barely cracked the first two formations. By the third formation, nearly half of the knowledge and formation patterns contained therein exceeded his understanding, surpassing the content in the compulsory education textbooks for grades one through nine.

According to last year's results, cracking two formations would qualify one to choose to study at any of the 120 houses of Xianmen.

In other words, this was as far as Chen Mobai could go.

But Chen Mobai didn't admit this. He believed that the school taught too little about formations; he had no interest in formations and had not taken the time to delve into and expand upon his knowledge in this area.

So he switched to another set of real questions from the year before.

That year, the four major Daoist academies held separate exams. Jumang Daoist Academy tested a kind of spiritual medicine cultivation technique, requiring that this spiritual medicine be upgraded from Rank-1 to Rank-2 within a month.

Chen Mobai, unfamiliar with the concept of spiritual worth, skipped this entirely.

Dance Tool Dao Academy sent every eligible student a piece of iron essence weighing six liang (about 225 grams) and required them to refine it into a flying sword. The requirement was that the sword be of at least Rank-2.

He skipped this as well.

The entrance exam for the Repairing Heaven Institute was to repair a defective array plate...

Why is it formations again, skip!

Chen Mobai looked with last hope at the entrance exam question for the Kunpeng Daoist Academy: each student takes a piece of Rank-2 beryl wutong tree bark, inscribes talismans on it, collects essence of thunderfire, and if the talisman reaches Rank-2, they may enroll.

He skipped with a blank face and opened up the day's entrance exam real questions from three years ago.

That year, the format was even more diverse: they needed to form teams of ten to cooperate in cultivating a spirit vein, evolving a Rank-1 spirit vein into Rank-2. This process was recorded in its entirety. If the cultivation was successful, the academy representative would grade each member of the team on their leadership, cooperation, and skills.

Still, everyone failed, with not a single person admitted into the four major Daoist academies.

Three years ago, four years ago...

After viewing the real exam questions from the past ten years, Chen Mobai was left in a daze.

He couldn't solve a single year's entrance exam questions.

However, Chen Mobai himself never had any hope of getting into the four major Daoist academies; his target has always been the top ten academies.

More accurately, the Pure Yang Academy and the Primordial Elemental Academy.

After all, the artificial spiritual root from the national library advised Chen Mobai to practice the "Pure Yang Scroll" and the "Jade Purity Scripture" based on his spiritual root talent, giving him a slim chance of reaching the realm of the primordial spirit.

Trust in the nation.

Chen Mobai, who had comforted himself in this way, then looked at the real questions from when the Pure Yang Academy and the Primordial Elemental Academy had separate entrance exams among the top ten academies.

After seeing this, he finally had a little confidence.

At least compared to the entrance exams of the four major Daoist academies which basically required at least a Rank-2 realm knowledge, the top ten academies only required knowledge of Rank-1. Occasionally, if there were too many applicants in a certain year, the threshold would be raised to Rank-2.

However, after looking through ten years of real questions, Chen Mobai had also figured out some patterns.

If the four major Daoist academies and the top ten academies jointly held the entrance exam, it would typically be in the four major subjects, Technique, Pill, Instrument, and Array since these were the basics that could easily distinguish the students' levels of talent.

If they held separate exams, all sorts of strange and varied content could arise.

For example, the Pure Yang Academy emphasized mental state, the Primordial Elemental Academy valued background and powerful Divine Sense, the Five Thunder Academy would admit Thunder Spiritual Root for free, the Nature Studies Academy would admit Different Spiritual Root for free, and the Mountain Sea Academy would select potential Sword Cultivators...

Chen Mobai set his first choice as the Pure Yang Academy, his second choice was the Primordial Elemental Academy, and his third choice was the local Red Dawn Institution.

As for the four major Daoist academies, he didn't have much confidence after seeing the real questions from the past years.

Checking the time and seeing he had a bit left, Chen Mobai started browsing various flagship stores on the Immortal Gate's website again.

He had his eye on a lower-grade Rank-2 "Mysterious Yang Purple Fire Talisman". The Pure Yang Academy's official flagship store would be launching a hundred of them at 6:45 tonight.

The price was 68,000 Good Deed Points.

The timing was a bit awkward, normally at that time Chen Mobai would be in his Water Mansion, but he could understand the reason.

In order to accommodate as many cultivators as possible and give everyone a chance, and limited by the finite resources on Earth Star, each time the Immortal Gate released pills, talismans, magic artifacts, and such, the time was uncertain.

Which meant that every minute of the 1440 minutes in a day, all the flagship stores might launch good items.

Even though you were guaranteed to get something good if you kept a constant watch, pills like the Three Treasures of Foundation Establishment that Qi practitioners loved most would only be stocked three times a month. Even Foundation Establishment cultivators couldn't stay up all month, vigilantly watching the screen and waiting for items to be listed.

This was the greatest fairness that the Immortal Gate could achieve under the circumstances of limited resources.

Chen Mobai set an alarm for himself to remind him to grab the "Mysterious Yang Purple Fire Talisman" made by the Pure Yang Academy in the evening.

After leaving school, he decided not to cultivate today.

The high school exam was in two days, and even if he did cultivate, his mind wouldn't calm down.

He called Qing Nu and invited her for dinner in the evening.

He had promised her before to treat her to grilled fish.

After getting home, Chen Mobai made a trip to the Water Mansion and caught two descendants of the Azure Blood Carp. He didn't kill them, but directly handed them over to the helpful owner of the grilled fish restaurant.

After eating, Qing Nu couldn't stop praising the food.

She said she had never eaten such delicious fish in her life..

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On the day of the high school graduation exam.

Chen Xinglan also specially rushed over from the Red Dawn Institution to cheer her son on.

Compared to his parents, Chen Mobai looked relaxed, carrying his admission ticket and a pencil case, walking into the examination room with composure.

Ever since he achieved Divine Sense, he has been reviewing the knowledge in the textbooks, and he has mastered it all within two months.

Although it can't be said that he has completely grasped everything, he at least understood every single point of knowledge, and when encountering a related question, he could easily retrieve the corresponding content from his memory.

On the first morning, the Technique paper.

Chen Mobai kept filling in smoothly from beginning to end, only stumbling slightly at the very last question.

This final comprehensive question exceeded the scope of high school knowledge, but Chen Mobai was prepared. He used the knowledge stored in his mind to deduce the omissions in this spell, completed it, and although he couldn't say it was the standard answer, he filled in every blank space.

Among the students with worried looks, he calmly turned in his paper and left.

In the afternoon were questions on Bane.

Although he hadn't studied this area in-depth, his interactions with Qing Nu had taught him some extracurricular knowledge. After writing all the answers he knew on the paper, he didn't bother to exert himself further and stopped writing, waiting until the bell rang for the end of the exam.

On the next morning was the Vessel paper.

He had no idea about the final comprehensive question, so he had to fill it out to the best of his abilities.

Lastly was the Formation paper.

Chen Mobai smoothly completed the penultimate question, then tackled the final comprehensive question with a let's-see-what-happens attitude.

After three different papers, he had deciphered the pattern: the last comprehensive question involved knowledge beyond the textbooks, which was designed to separate the high-grade papers.

Each paper is scored out of too.

According to previous years' cutoffs, generally, a score of 330 and above would allow one to apply to the top ten academies and take the entrance exams. As for entrance to the four Great Daoist Academies, last year's cutoff was 350 points.

However, these scores fluctuate, depending on the number of candidates.

At this point, Chen Mobai finished reading the final comprehensive question regarding formation and couldn't help but show a look of delight when he understood it.

[10. Please provide at least two methods of repairing the incomplete Array Plate for the Overwhelming Sea Formation. Also, specify the effects of the five different Array Flags in the Overwhelming Sea Formation and arrange them in the order of the diagram in Example 1 to form the complete Formation. (This question is worth 20 points and no points will be deducted for incorrect answers.)]

"If I score over 90 points on this test, I'm definitely treating Teacher Chan to a meal."

Chen Mobai muttered to himself, took out his ruler, and based on his understanding of the Azure Water Formation, he integrated it into the Overwhelming Sea Formation. First, he completed the design of the entire formation and then began answering the question according to the diagram.

The rules of formation may change, but the principles remain the same. The Overwhelming Sea Formation, like the Azure Water Formation, is a Rank-2 formation rooted in the Water Vein.

Chen Mobai reviewed the functions of the Azure Water Formation's Array Flags, then filled out their corresponding names in the Overwhelming Sea Formation diagram.

Finally came the methods of repairing the Array Plate. Having directly repaired an Azure Water Array before and subsequently confirmed his findings online as well as consulted with Chan Si, he had stored several methods of repairing large formations in his mind.

Chen Mobai was a forward-thinking person and in fear of encountering problems with the Azure Water Large Formation again, he had stored more than two formation repairing methods in his mind.

Given the incomplete Array Plate of the Overwhelming Sea Formation in the question stem, Chen Mobai selected the two most suitable repair methods from his memory and filled them out satisfactorily.

This Formation paper was the one that took him the longest and required the most effort. He only finished just before the bell rang five minutes before the end of the paper.

Finally, he used his Divine Sense to review it once, then put down his pen with relief.

"Phew! I should have scored about 15 points."

Although Chen Mobai had confidence in the final comprehensive question of this Formation paper, in the end, the Azure Water Formation was a formation from the Tianhe Realm. Even though Chan Si had helped him understand it with Earth Origin Star's knowledge, it still differed from the Overwhelming Sea Formation.

If he could score 15 out of 20 points, he would be very satisfied.

For the four papers, there were 320 points for knowledge from the textbooks, of which he was confident of scoring full marks. Aside from the final comprehensive question on the Vessel Paper which he had no idea about and could only fill in to the best of his abilities, he believed he should be able to score some points for the small questions on the Technique Paper and Elixir Paper.

If he performed well, he might just scrape 350 points, qualifying for the entrance exams to the four Great Daoist Academies.

For cultivators who have achieved Divine Sense, the moment they finish the exam, they can estimate their scores with a high degree of accuracy.

Chen Mobai was no exception.

However, he did not check his answers, wanting to leave himself with some hope to keep his mood up during the vacation.

“Freedom at last!”

“Finally, it’s over!”

“Damn that Overwhelming Sea Formation...”

After the high school graduation exam ended, all the various faces of the students in the Immortal Gate High School N0.5 were revealed. Chen Mobai leaned against a pillar in the corridor, watching the emotional rollercoaster of his classmates laughing, cursing, or shouting in victory, and suddenly felt out of place.

After achieving Divine Sense, these emotional ups and downs had become food for his Divine Sense, leaving him constantly calm but also gradually losing the normal joys and sorrows of a common person.

Is this what it means to practice Immortal Cultivation?

Suddenly, Chen Mobai understood why the higher the level of cultivation achieved, the lesser the person liked to interact within society.

But he had the feeling that this was not right.

If cultivating to become an Immortal resulted in losing what it means to be human, then what’s the point of becoming an Immortal?

Or is it that Immortals are supposed to leave behind worldly desires and materialistic pleasures?

As he pondered, a gaze fell on him. Chen Mobai looked up and saw Song Zheng.

They nodded at each other and then left the bustling classroom together, heading for the playing field outside.

“You just achieved Divine Sense, so it’s normal if you’re not used to it. Yan Bingxuan and I decided to pretend to be aloof and limit our interaction with you to avoid this issue.”

Song Zheng spoke, indicating that it wasn’t just Chen Mobai—they had felt the same.

“Is Cultivation all about retreating from society in the end?”

“My teacher said that most Cultivators in the Immortal Gate cultivate amidst the mundane world. Those who wish to become Hermits usually end up dying alone.”

Upon hearing Song Zheng’s words, Chen Mobai couldn’t help but laugh. Considering the scarcity of resources and the Spirit Veins wholly held by the Immortal Gate, if someone truly wished to retreat to a mountaintop, the lack of Spiritual Energy supply might genuinely lead to such a fate.

“Which one of the top ten academies do you choose?”

Song Zheng asked again.

“Oh, so you have that much faith in me?”

Chen Mobai looked surprised. He wasn’t very familiar with Song Zheng.

“Our teacher said you often ask him questions about Spells. If you wish, we can call each other brothers. If we can go to the same academy in the future, it would be better, so we can look out for each other.”

“Isn’t your goal one of the four Great Daoist Academies?”

“I only managed to answer the last question on the Technique Paper, so my points might not reach 350.”

As he spoke, the always proud Song Zheng suddenly sighed and showed a solemn expression that Chen Mobai had never seen before.

“I should probably choose between the Pure Yang Academy and the Primordial Elemental Academy. I just don’t know if they’ll accept me.”

Chen Mobai also spoke up. Even though he and Song Zheng were not close, old man Ding had treated him very well.

“My three choices of preference are: Primordial Elemental Academy, Nature Studies Academy, and Heavenly Book Academy. I hope we can go to the Primordial Elemental Academy together..”

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Chapter 68 - 68: Magic Duel I

[1,436 words]

Chapter 68: Magic Duel I

When Chen Mobai and Song Zheng returned, the entire class was looking at them in astonishment.

Song Zheng’s arrogance was well-known in the class. Previously, when Yan Bingxuan was still there, the two would often compete against each other. After Yan Bingxuan dropped out, Song Zheng had become a solitary figure of pride, hardly interacting with anyone else in the class.

“Well then, now that you two are here, please have your seats.”

On the podium, the class teacher Chai Deyun, upon seeing Chen Mobai and Song Zheng, signaled for them to return to their seats.

“I have both good news and bad news. Which one do you want to hear first?”

Chai Deyun, usually quite serious, displayed a rare hint of humor, perhaps due to the impending departure of the students he had taught.

“Good news!!”

The students chorused.

“This year, the top ten schools are expanding their enrolment, potentially lowering their admission thresholds. Those at Qi Cultivation Level Six, if they are lucky, may even be admitted.”

As soon as Chai Deyun announced this, half the class erupted in cheers, but Lu Hongsheng, sitting next to Chen Mobai, deflated. He was only at Qi Cultivation Level Five. No matter how much the top ten schools expanded their enrollment, it had nothing to do with him.

“Having shared the good news, it’s now time for the bad news.”

Chai Deyun continued speaking. Everyone in the class looked up at him. He cleared his throat.

“The admission test content of the Four Great Daoist Academies and the Ten Schools were sent to all high schools two days ago. For students who are devoted to cultivation, it may pose some challenges. We didn’t tell you earlier for fear it would affect your mindset for regular school exams. Now is a good time to inform you.”

Hearing this, most of the students’ hearts shot up in their chests, including Chen Mobai and Song Zheng.

“The theme is two words: Magic Duel!”

“It’s about testing your Spell mastery. Each student will only rely on Spells in combat, without using any Magic Artifacts, elixirs, or Formations. The students who manage to go far in the competition will be scored by representatives from the Four Great Daoist Academies and Ten Schools.”

“However, the detailed order of the competition and rules will be announced after the cutoff scores are released, and after the Cinnabarite Institute arranges their venue. Possible candidates for the Four Great Daoist Academies and Ten Schools will be divided and put into Magic Duels according to their cutoff score.”

After Chai Deyun finished speaking, everyone was stunned.

Magic Duel!?

It seemed like it had been nearly a hundred years since there was such a bare-bones admission test. Were they aiming to select students with exceptional combat talents?

“Is there a major war brewing?”

Song Zheng mumbled to himself, but his eyes quickly lit up. He found his Element in Spells under the guidance of Ding Jinglue. Even Yan Bingxuan had been defeated by him.

If the test was really about Magic Duel, his chances of getting into the school he had his heart set on were practically certain.

If his score is high enough, gaining admission to one of the Four Great Daoist Academies might not be a far-fetched idea.

“Teacher, may we use talismans during the Magic Duel?”

Chen Mobai abruptly raised his hand and asked a question.

“Theoretically, talismans are solidified Spells and are within the scope of a Magic Duel. However, if talismans can be used, it would be too advantageous for students from wealthy families with long legacies. I believe they will be banned from use. Still, we’ll have to wait for the official announcement from the Cinnabarite Institute.”

Answering Chen Mobai’s question, Chai Deyun hesitated before replying. His answer lined up with what Chen Mobai had been thinking.

In the world of Cultivators, talismans were classified under techniques. However, since they only required a minimal amount of Spiritual Power to activate and didn’t need preparation time, unrestricted use of them would obviously be a guaranteed pass for the rich kids.

Next, Chai Deyun answered a few more questions from the students, then gazed sorrowfully at the 49 familiar faces below.

“Although I would really like to go on this journey with you all, every journey must eventually come to an end. From here on, it’s your path to walk.”

Having said this, Chai Deyun declared the end of class for the last time.

Afterward, he forced down the wave of regret welling up in his heart and turned toward the door to exit.

“Everybody up!”

At the class monitor’s command, all the students rose to their feet and gave a deep bow to this class teacher who had been with them for three years.

Chai Deyun paused in his steps for a moment but then quickly strode out of the classroom. He didn’t want his emotional departure to rub off on his students.

Chen Mobai felt a strong wave of emotion welling up in the sea of his heart. After closing his eyes and concentrating, he found that his Divine Sense had increased by a tenth. He was beginning to understand why his spirit might ascend following a profound realization.

Each strong emotion pushes them to grow.

No wonder Immortal Cultivation protagonists in TV dramas always go through Refining Heart in the Mundane World when they're stuck at a bottleneck in their cultivation, regardless of their gender. Indeed, this is a way to make a breakthrough. However, it's also possible to lose yourself completely, leading to a shattered state of mind.

"Shall we all have a farewell dinner in two days?"

At this point, class monitor Mo Simin stood up and shouted towards the class. The majority cheered in agreement, and a minority of introverts hesitated, though they remained silent.

"Old Chen, let's attend together. We're about to part ways, and who knows when we'll meet again."

Lu Hongsheng, a sociable person, came over when he saw Chen Mobai unresponsive. He then began persuading him.

The two beauties Pu Jiangxue and Yu Shu from the neighboring desks also came over to persuade him.

Chen Mobai thought for a moment before finally agreeing.

While on the other side, Song Zheng promptly declined. He wanted to seize this time to practice a powerful Spell.

After all, his determination is stronger than mine.

Chen Mobai watched Song Zheng get up and leave without hesitation and couldn't help but shake his head and smile bitterly.

It's not that he lacked emotional intelligence, but being someone with high EQ often meant compromising one's own feelings to accommodate others. Therefore, he usually expressed himself directly and honestly, like first time he and Qing Nu went out for grilled fish.

Cultivators seek a clear and open mind to remove the source of their Heart Demons.

If they were to build up a host of upset feelings in their hearts, it would undoubtedly cause them to stumble or even shatter their state of mind when the time comes for a breakthrough.

"I'll take my leave now. Once you all decide, just notify me of the time and place."

Chen Mobai notified Lu Hongsheng before getting up to leave. Lu Hongsheng was left speechless, his mouth hung open, wanting to say something. Somehow, recalling the

scene of Song Zheng and himself walking into the classroom together earlier, he had a rough understanding of what was happening. Eventually, he quietly nodded.

After returning home, Chen Mobai started researching information about Magic Duels in the Immortal School entrance examination.

Sixty-nine years ago, there was a Magic Duel in the entrance examination for Wangwu Cave Sky School.

The winner at that time was a student from a military family.

After all, a Magic Duel is, in laymen's terms, a fight.

And who could fight better than a soldier? Even though there hadn't been any life-or-death battles for the Cultivators in the military in the last hundred years, the spirit of valor and combat had always been upheld. Being in genuine fights every day, of course, they would be skilled in Magic Duels.

Chen Mobai eventually found a news interview with the winner.

["If you want to be good at Magic Duels, real combat experience is the most important. Three years of Spell practice does not compare to three months of intensive military training. You all only see my victory, but not the numerous scars that I've healed and accumulated since childhood through my rigorous training."]

The name of the winner was one that Chen Mobai surprisingly recognized, Lan Haitian..

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Chapter 69 - 69 Cold Ice Technique__I

[1,397 words]

Chapter 69: Cold Ice Technique__I

Magic Duel.

Chen Mobai was pondering on how to improve in this area. For now, he would not consider the use of talismans. All the major Daoist academies and institutions within the

Immortal Sect wouldn't favor the children of wealthy families. Even if they could use talismans, restrictions would certainly be placed.

So, firstly, he had to cultivate some spells suitable for combat.

Thinking of this, he opened his personal panel.

[Name: Chen Mobai]

[Age: 18]

[Realm: Qi Cultivation Seventh Level]

[Spiritual Roots: Gold 23, Wood 27, Water 30, Fire 17, Earth 10]

[Cultivation Technique: Five Elements Cultivation]

[Skills: Propulsion Technique, Cleaning Technique, Spiritual Force Shield, Qi Nourishing Technique, Water Controlling Technique, Water Elemental Shield]

The only ones suitable for combat are "Spiritual Force Shield", "Water Controlling Technique", and "Water Elemental Shield".

Among them, "Water Elemental Shield" requires the refinement of a spiritual water named "Dark Water". The method of refinement is recorded in the notes that Liu Yanpei left behind, which involve the use of the "Water Controlling Technique". However, Chen Mobai was distressed.

Based on the records in the Blackwater Cultivation notes, the refinement of Dark Water requires finding a spiritual spring that has been stained by the Water Pulse Spirit Qi for a long time, then refining its essence with the Water Controlling Technique. Further processing is then done with a spirit stone and six types of medicinal plants from the Tianhe Realm. The quickest refinement process takes a month.

About 20 days after the university entrance exam, the scores can be checked, along with the preparation work for registration and group assignments based on grading lines. Chen Mobai figured he would just have enough time to prepare for a month.

However, even if he had good fortune and the refinement was successful within one try, he did not plan to waste a precious month on refining Dark

Water.

At the very least, he needed to practice a powerful offensive spell. After all, the spells he currently knew, be it the Spiritual Force Shield or the Water Elemental Shield, were all for defense purposes. The Water Controlling

Technique was inclined more towards auxiliary usage.

Perhaps due to the extended peace in the Immortal Sect, Chen Mobai never felt the need to cultivate destructive spells.

Even if combat was needed, he could substitute it with talismans. Little did he know, the entrance exam of this year's Daoist Academy would adopt such a crude and simple method of a "Magic Duel".

His current situation compelled Chen Mobai to cultivate an offensive spell. Immediately, he opened the "Immortal Sect Spell Library" software. He wanted to find a spell that was suitable for himself, could be quickly mastered, had notable power, and preferably would fit with his current skill set.

However, he was merely a Qi practitioner and didn't have the authority to let the "Immortal Sect Spell Library" 's artificial spirit make such a precise judgment for him.

At this moment, Chen Mobai regretted not becoming a proxy for the "Immortal Sect Spell Library" when he broke through to the seventh level of Qi cultivation.

But it was too late for regrets now. All he could do was to look for the software that aids in cultivation.

Searching for the strongest spell that a Five Elements Cultivation practitioner can cultivate, what would it be?

The results were plentiful. However, most of them were Rank-2 spells and above he couldn't practice. Some of the Five Elements Cultivation practitioners shared the spell systems they had built from Qi Cultivation to Foundation Establishment.

But upon looking into it, Chen Mobai was utterly disappointed.

Most of them did not particularly focus on combat. Many of them were for the ease of cultivation. While there were a small portion of combat spells, none of them could be mastered within a short month.

And to create a balanced system of offense and defense, at least two or more spells would have to be cultivated, which would leave him no time.

After looking around online, Chen Mobai was compelled to return to Blackwater Cultivation.

The spells recorded in this Qi Cultivation method from the Tianhe Realm, started from "Water Controlling Technique" to "Water Elemental Shield", then to "Cold Ice Technique", are sequentially progressive, forming a complete system. After the "Cold

Ice Technique”, there was the “Ren Water Thunder Method” that Liu Yanpei had left in his notes.

However, Chen Mobai had absolutely no ideas about this method of water and thunder. He only hoped that he could master the “Cold Ice Technique” within one month.

According to Liu Yanpei’s notes, the “Cold Ice Technique” also requires water to cast. If “Dark Water” is used, its power would double.

Dark Water, again!

When Chen Mobai thought of these two words, he felt a toothache.

But he soon thought of a good solution – to get Dark Water without refining it himself.

When Chen Mobai previously sold the Blackwater Cultivation to Old Man He, he clearly remembered Qi Er mentioning that he was practicing this technique. Also, being at the seventh level of Qi Cultivation, Qi Er must have also mastered the Water Elemental Shield.

Based on this inference, given the unique social environment of the Tianhe Realm, He Qun would undoubtedly do everything she could to augment her combat abilities. Perhaps, she had already refined Dark Water.

Thought breeds action.

Chen Mobai immediately left the Water Mansion and rushed to Southstream Market, hoping to rely on his luck to make a purchase.

“You want to buy Dark Water?”

Hearing Chen Mobai’s words, He Qun, the stall vendor selling cultivation techniques, was stunned. He then shook his head and declined.

“You’re right. I did refine a few bottles of Dark Water myself, but they are my most valuable assets. I don’t even have enough for myself, let alone sell them

to you.”

Chen Mobai persistently pleaded, but Old Man He was annoyed and directly proposed twenty spirit stones per bottle as an outrageous price to dissuade him.

“Kid, don’t blame me for being heartless, the refinement of Dark Water is just too difficult.”

“To gather six medicine plants for refining, I need to hire an alchemist. Old Man Liu’s alchemy skills aren’t so refined; three out of every four attempts result in failure, and he still charges me one spirit stone for each attempt.” “Altogether, the production cost of one bottle of Dark Water rounds up to about five spirit stones. And as you know, the power of the Cold Ice Technique practiced in the Blackwater Cultivation is doubled when backed by Dark Water. Recently, I planned to hunt Cold Snakes in Yun Meng Ze. Once successful, I will fear no one in the same realm.”

Having recognized Chen Mobai, He Qun knew that he had a lot of powerful talismans and didn’t want to refuse him completely. After quoting an outrageous price, he started explaining.

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai became even more depressed. If he hadn’t sold the Cold Ice Technique to Old Man He, the latter probably wouldn’t have valued Dark Water so much.

It can only be said that every sip and every bite is ordained by heaven.

“Oh, the Cold Snakes in Yun Meng Ze, can they help in mastering the Cold Ice Technique?”

However, Chen Mobai immediately noticed another piece of information in Old Man He’s words and asked urgently.

“Yes, the gallbladder of the Cold Snakes contains a unique Cold Ice True Intent. They possess the ability to freeze water and spit out arrows. After consuming a few, practitioners of Blackwater Cultivation can basically comprehend the Ice Breath and subsequently master the Cold Ice Technique.

“Is Yun Meng Ze dangerous?”

“It can be dangerous, but also safe, depending on which area you go to and whether you go alone or in a team.”

“Does it help in improving a cultivator’s combat abilities?”

This was the question that Chen Mobai cared about the most.

After reading the interview article about Lan Haitian’s victory in the magic duel and his admission to Kunpeng Daoist Institute, he knew that real combat was the best way to train. There were no real combat conditions on Planet Di Yuan, while in Tianhe Realm, it was everywhere. Also, knowing the shortcut to mastering the Cold Ice Technique, it felt like heaven was encouraging him to make a move..

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[1,377 words]

Chapter 70: Five Elements Sect Shop 1

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He Qun nodded in agreement after listening.

“Of course, if you want to gain something in Yun Meng Ze, you generally need to battle with demonic beasts.”

The deeper you go, the stronger the demonic beasts. Correspondingly, the rewards you get after victory become greater. Beasts of Rank-2 and above have their inner cores, which are necessary for alchemy. Every major sect would purchase them at a high price.”

“Many lone cultivators, if they want to exchange for Foundation Building Pills from major sect trade associations, can only risk their lives to delve deeper and hunt beasts of Rank-3 and above for their inner cores.”

Listening to this, Chen Mobai couldn't help but be taken aback.

He hadn't thought that alchemy in the Tianhe Realm would utilize demonic beasts' inner cores. This was completely different from how it was done in Di Yuan star.

However, thinking about it more in-depth, it was understandable. On Di Yuan star, high-rank beasts were rare. Most of them were on the verge of extinction and were listed as protected spirit beasts by the fairy sects. Mention not killing them for their inner cores. Even hurting one would make big news.”

It seemed that the alchemy method in the Tianhe Realm had its merits if it was up to par in terms of dan poison control.”

Thinking this, Chen Mobai asked how to get to Yun Meng Ze.

■I am planning to form a team to hunt Cold Snakes, and you're welcome to join if you follow commands.”

He Qun had some knowledge about Chen Mobai. He knew that he was at least at the Qi Cultivation level of six, and he had many powerful talismans. If his team could recruit Chen Mobai, it would be a big help.”

“When will fellow cultivator depart?”

Chen Mobai was tempted but decided to remain cautious instead of accepting the offer outright.

“Three days from now. With you included, there will be seven people. After hunting the Cold Snake, the spoils will be divided equally. However, the snake gall must be handed to me. If there’s any difference in value, it can be compensated with Spirit Stones.”

“I will consider it and give fellow cultivator my reply tomorrow.”

Having said that, Chen Mobai left He Qun’s stall.

Afterward, he first asked Qi Er about He Qun’s reputation in the Southstream Market and found it to be quite good. Cultivators who went out with him were generally able to return safely. Only occasionally would someone perish. However, given the treacherous nature of Yun Meng Ze, his team had an impressively high survival rate.

Chen Mobai was relieved. At this point, one of his stall neighbors returned. It was Lu Shu. Chen Mobai curiously asked him for his opinion.

You re referring to old man He? He is somewhat suspicious.”

“Oh? How so?”

Immediately, Chen Mobai widened his eyes and leaned in closer to Lu Shu. “His team has too high a survival rate. Although I just operate at the border market of Yun Meng Ze, I know that every team that enters typically suffers a 100/0 to 20% casualty rate. However, his team can generally return completely intact, which I find very peculiar.”

After Lu Shu’s statement, Chen Mobai started to ponder the reasons behind it. There were only two explanations if almost everyone in the team could return safely.

First, they did not go beyond their capabilities; second, the overall cultivation level of the team was high, their preparations were adequate, and the team coordinated well to handle various emergencies.

After hearing his analysis, Lu Shu shook his head, presenting a chilling possibility.

“Perhaps this team was purposely created to establish a good reputation to attract outsiders to join.”

Upon hearing this, Chen Mobai was reminded of the time when he first entered the Water Mansion. An old man and a young man who were supposed to cooperate attacked each other when it came to distribution of the spoils. He shuddered at the recollection.

No, he needed to be more cautious.

After thanking Lu Shu, the latter proceeded to inform him about various things to be aware of when going to Yun Meng Ze. He also gave Chen Mobai a small biography.

“Record of the Descent of the Dragon in Yunmeng River by True Monarch Yi Yuan”

This palm-sized book was a tale of a legend in the Cultivation world that Lu Shu used to pass the time while peddling. Having finished it, he casually gave it to Chen Mobai, who thanked him before pocketing the book.

By the way, Brother Lu, do you know of anyone else in the Fang Market who practices the ‘Blackwater Cultivation’ technique?”

Chen Mobai asked another critical question.

In this Eastern Wasteland, where people value courage and aggressiveness, cultivators generally need to practice a fair number of techniques for self-protection. If anyone has practiced the ‘Blackwater Cultivation’ to the later stages of Qi Cultivation, they should have refined some Dark Water within them.

There are many since the Cultivation Technique originates from the Five Elements Sect of the Water Vein. It’s complete and orderly system. However, lone cultivators who practice this technique would undoubtedly have to join the Five Elements Sect if they wish to establish their foundation. It is a way for these dominant sects of the Eastern Wilderness to control the lone cultivators.” This Dark Water you speak of, I do have an impression. I have seen cultivators of the Five Elements Sect use it in Yun Meng Ze. However, I am unsure about whether it can be traded.”

“Right, aren’t there stores opened by the Five Elements Sect in the market? You can ask them.”

Lu Shu’s words reminded Chen Mobai, and he hurriedly excused himself and headed towards the large shops in the market main street with enthusiasm.

The Five Elements Sect is one of the powers that rule over Southstream Market. They own five shops here, each selling Spirit Stone Gold, Medicinal Pills and Spirit Grass, Talismans, Magic Artifacts, Formations. They have vast resources and robust strength.

Chen Mobai went to the shop that sold Medicinal Pills and Spirit Grass.

“Dear customer, regarding the Dark Water you mentioned, indeed our sect does have it available for exchange. However, our shop doesn’t have it in stock, I’m sorry.”

The Shopkeeper of the Medicinal Pill and Spirit Grass store was a middle-aged man at the Qi Cultivation level of six. He was not arrogant like the people from the major sects. After listening to Chen Mobai, he looked apologetic.

“Shopkeeper, could you bring in stocks from your sect’s headquarters?”

Chen Mobai asked again, only to be met with the shopkeeper’s shake of the head.

“Customer, we don’t have the authority to call for stocks. Everything sold in the market is surplus from our sect’s stores, which is then passed to us to handle. This Dark Water is generally only used by people from the Water Vein, and any surplus will only be taken to the market in Yun Meng Ze.”

After hearing what the shopkeeper said, Chen Mobai understood that he needed to go to Yun Meng Ze regardless.

However, he definitely could not join He Qun’s team.

Before leaving, he asked the Five Elements Sect about the price of this Dark Water. It was not cheap, priced at 10 Spirit Stones a bottle. This was the internal price. If it were sold in the market outside the Sect, it would cost at least 15 Spirit Stones.

“Thank you, Shopkeeper.”

After obtaining the information he wanted, Chen Mobai found He Qun at his stall and told him he changed his mind about joining his team to hunt Cold Snakes in Yun Meng Ze due to a sudden matter. Upon hearing this, He Qun frowned but said nothing.

Chen Mobai did not mind his reaction. Following Lu Shu’s instructions, he found a caravanning team in the Market that offered rides on Spirit Camels.

There were three ways to reach Yun Meng Ze.

The first is to walk; the second is to join one of these caravanning teams; the third is to pay Spirit Stones to use a Teleportation Array, which costs 10 Spirit Stones per use..

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